

Theology Simply Explained — WSC99 “Prayer Is an Offering”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 99—especially explaining how God has given His Word to abide in us and lead us in prayer, and Jesus has summed up praying from the Bible in one form of prayer to teach us how to do so.

Q99. What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer? ***The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught His disciples, commonly called the Lord's prayer.***

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

All right, catechism question this week is What rule has god given for our direction in prayer. And the answer is The whole word of god is of used to direct us in prayer. But the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which christ taught his disciples. Commonly called the lord's prayer.

The whole word of god is of use to direct us in prayer. And run 15 verse 7. The lord jesus says that if we abide in him, And his words abide in us, we will ask For whatever we desire, there's A variant there if you're using a Critical text.

Translation like the esv or in the nibby. Um, any of those? Then it's A command. Now, ask Uh, for whatever you will, and it will be given you. Um, but it's actually A a future indicative. The explaining, what happens? When jesus's words abide in you. Because one of the things that jesus's word does when it abides in us, Is the spirit uses his word to convince us of who christ is Who we are in christ, and especially of Who god is to us.

That he is our heavenly father. And so, as, as our life as united to christ and as jesus's words, Abide in us in the spirit, uses them to conform us more and more unto christ prayer becomes natural to us. As it is to the lord, jesus prayer, is the natural.

As natural to the christian soul as breathing is To the human body. It is. An expression. Of. Well, what we are in relationship to our father, in the knowledge of him, the knowledge that he rules and overrules, all things knowledge that he cares about is the knowledge that he is god, who is glorified by hearing and answering prayer.

It exalts his His omniscience. That he hears us and is omnipresence that wherever we are, he can hear us his omniscience. That he knows not only what we are asking, but also The right and best and wisest way to answer and his omnipotence is able to do. Uh, whatever we ask according to his perfect wisdom.

Is much glorified by praying? And so jesus's word abiding in us will produce prayer. It also, of course, will form the mind with which we pray. Everything in the bible. Then is given. Uh, to us as material for prayer. In the way that john 15 verse 7. Describes. Now, one of the things When the disciples ask.

The lord jesus to to teach them how to pray. And he gives them a form as an example. We do see that what's called the lord's prayer. What will form? The basis of the next, several questions and answers of the catechism in the various Petitions. Of the lord's prayer and introduction to lord's prayer and so forth.

That the lord's prayer does take. The whole of scripture. And distills the priorities of the bible. And all of reality. Into. Who just a few. Petitions with which to address our lord force. The form is not given to us. Merely to repeat. Or. Or to limit us to such short prayers.

It's not an example of how long you should pray, for instance. Uh, but it is a form that is a guide. That will shape our brain. The lord jesus would pray all night. Sadly. Uh, we are not well instructed. And so, we'll take things like the form that the lord jesus has given us And we'll make it.

Something that is a rote. Prayer. And either. Repeat the same thing over and over or just have a short prayer and 30 seconds of communion with god. But that is not what the lord's prayer was given us for. It is a form that teaches us how to take all of the bible teaches.

All that the bible tells us, Of who God is to us. And who we are to him. And forming it in prayer. Unto God. So what role has got given for our direction and prayer. The whole word of god, those have used to direct disincet prayer, but The special rule of direction.

Is that form of prayer? Which christ taught his disciples commonly called. The Lord's prayer. The lord's prayer as a special rule. That shows us what it looks like to take the word of god. And, Form it in foreign prayers from it. Unto God.