

Go Ask Your Father!
The Lord's Prayer – Part 2

Luke 11:2; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 9-24-17

1. This is the model prayer.

And He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. - Luke 11:1

“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. – Matthew 6:9

What is a ‘model’? An example for imitation or emulation. – Webster’s dictionary

It is a pattern that we are to follow. The closer we get to the pattern, the better the prayer!

We can pray this prayer word for word or we can use it as a guide.

Our praying can be rote and meaningless (not from the heart).

But using the same wording does not automatically make it empty and without meaning (for instance, in wedding vows).

2. We are to pray to the Father.

*And He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘**Father**, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. - Luke 11:1*

Are we only to pray to the Father? We are to pray to the Father as a rule, especially when we are asking for what we need or desire. But that does not mean we can’t address Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

“You sum up the whole of New Testament religion if you describe it as the knowledge of God as one’s holy Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all. For everything that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament new, and better than the Old, everything that is distinctively Christian as opposed to merely Jewish, is summed up in the knowledge of the Fatherhood of God. ‘Father’ is the Christian name for God. Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption.” –J.I. Packer, Knowing God

3. We are to pray in the name of Jesus.

*And He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘**Father**, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. - Luke 11:1*

Where does it say we need to pray in the name of Jesus? It is implied in our coming to God as our Father, that the only way we can confidently do that is through faith in Jesus.

‘Calvin explains that to call God ‘Father’ is to pray in Jesus’ name. ‘Who would break forth into such rashness as to claim for himself the honor of a son of God unless we had been adopted as children of grace in Christ?’ – quoted by Tim Keller, Prayer

Jesus commands us to pray in His name. – John 16:23-27

We often forget the danger of appearing before the King on our own. – Esther 4:10-11, 15-16; 5:1-3

4. We are to trust in the love of God for us.

*And He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘**Father**, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. - Luke 11:1*

To call God ‘Father’ is to highlight His love and goodness and kindness toward us as His adopted children and His willingness to answer our prayers.

Divine commands reveal willingness. – Psalm 50:15; Psalm 116:2

We should worship before we ask. – Psalm 100:4-5

The willingness of a loving Father is to encourage us not to lose heart. – Luke 18:1-8

Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance. It is laying hold of His willingness. - Martin Luther

Prayer is climbing up into the heart of God. - Martin Luther

5. We are to trust in the power of God for us.

*And He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘**Father**, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. - Luke 11:1*

*“Pray, then, in this way: ‘**Our Father who is in heaven**, Hallowed be Your name. – Matthew 6:9*

To think of God as ‘in heaven’ is to remember that He is the Almighty Sovereign who reigns over all and that He is able to answer our prayers. – Ephesians 3:20-21; Mark 9:14-29

Does our habit of praying (and our prayers) show that we understand both God’s ‘wealth’ (power) and ‘generosity’ (fatherly love)?