

# UNENCUMBERING OUR PRAYERS WITH HUMILITY

---

Matthew 6:7-15

From: Scott Carlson

September 24, 2023

---

? How should we understand the Lord's Prayer?

I found 3 different ways people use Lord's Prayer.

1. Mystical

## Ascension Temple of Purification

[The Lord's Prayer in Aramaic] is a stairway to 'heaven' --higher consciousness and vibration, activating all chakras and leading one into the soul plane and beyond.

2. Ritual

3. Formulaic

## gotquestions.org

The Lord's Prayer should be understood as an example, a pattern, of how to pray. It gives us the "ingredients" that should go into prayer.

? Why did Jesus give us the Lord's prayer? To combat wrong attitudes.

## Hypocrisy

Lying to others about how important you are.

## Sincerity

Being genuine with others about who you are.

## Pride

Lying to yourself about how important you are.

? Where do we see pride in the text?

**Action:** v. 7 meaningless repetition, meaningless words -> coercion

**Attitude:** thinking of God as (lowering Him to be) someone who can be coerced -> pride

**Action:** vv. 14, 15 unforgiveness

**Attitude:** Exalting self to be like God, condemning others ->pride

? What attitude is the opposite of pride?

## Humility

Accurately understanding who you are in relation to God and others.

## I. HUMBLE PRAYER UNDERSTANDS GOD'S GREATNESS, VV. 6-10

The pride of the pagan is seen in their wrong ideas about God. People sometimes lower God in their minds to a person who can be bought.

? How do people do that?

### A. KNOW THE GOD TO WHOM YOU PRAY, V. 9

1. Our Father
2. In Heaven

#### **Psalm 115:3**

But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

3. Hallowed Be Your Name

#### **John 17:17**

Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

### B. PRAY THE PURPOSES OF GOD, V. 10A

#### **Isaiah 46:10b**

My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure;

### C. PRAY THE PRIORITIES OF GOD, V. 10B

#### **Isaiah 48:11**

For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; For how can *My name* be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.

Humble prayer focuses on the holiness of God, is on track with the purposes of God and immensely satisfied with the will of God.

## **II. HUMBLE PRAYER UNDERSTANDS MY DEPENDENCE, VV. 11-15**

The second part of the Lord's Prayer is the person praying making requests of God.

### **A. CRY TO GOD AS PROVIDER, V. 11**

#### **Proverbs 30:8b-9**

Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion,  
That I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the Lord?"  
Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.

We need bread, but ultimately what we need is God. If we get too much bread, we might start thinking that we are self-sufficient.

You cannot pray humbly and retain an attitude of self-sufficiency.

### **B. CRY TO GOD AS PARDONER OF DEBT, V. 12**

### **C. CRY TO GOD FOR PERSEVERENCE, V. 13**

#### **1. God, You Direct Our Steps**

Proverbs 16:4, 9; 19:21; 20:24; 21:30

#### **2. God, Use This To Grow Me**

1 Peter 1:3-9

3. God, Don't Lead Us Where We will fail

D. THE TEST OF HUMILITY, VV. 14, 15

? How can I know if I am praying with humility?

### **James 2:13**

For judgment *will be* merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

I don't think Jesus could have been clearer.

Matthew 5:23, 24; 18:15-35

## **CONCLUSION: PRAYING WITH HUMILITY**

Humility recognizes the greatness of who God is and our utter dependence on Him.

James 4

God can work whenever and however He wishes, but we should not expect Him to work if we don't pray. We should not expect our prayers to be answered if we come to Him in pride.

James 4:6

God hears the prayers of the humble.

Luke 18:13, 14

### **2 Kings 22:19-20**

"...because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before the Lord...your eyes will not see all the evil which I will bring on this place."

### **Psalms 10:17**

O Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble;  
You will strengthen their heart, You will incline Your ear