

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:5–15

MPSeries Jesus teaches Christ-followers to pray as the source of all life with God, for intimacy, peace and power.

SERIES INTRO We are walking through the Lord's Prayer phrase-by-phrase to deepen our practice of daily, practical prayer that changes our lives, and impacts the world by God's power. I want us to strive toward what I believe to be Jesus' aim in His teaching, to make our prayers real & relational, divinely powerful, spiritually personal & practical, daily & continual, redemptive for our lives & impactful in the world.

Jesus teaches Christ-followers to pray as the source of all life with God, for intimacy, peace and power.

Matthew 6:9-15

Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

10Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

11Give us this day our daily bread,

12and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

14For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Mission

Matt 6:10

MPS True Christian prayer frames our perspective on God's Kingdom in the world brought to fruition by our participation in His mission.

OBJ Every Christian should remember three truths frame our perspective to serve God's Kingdom mission in the world.

READ Matthew 6:10

Pray then like this: 10Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matt 6:10

Jesus' teaching on how to prayer tells us that we have a divine purpose in our praying. As the prayer builds, we petition God for the reality of heaven to become the reality on earth. *In today's phrase Jesus teaches that God engages His people to participate in His work in the world.*

True Christian prayer frames our perspective on God's Kingdom in the world brought to fruition by our participation in His mission.

It has been said of Christians that, "You will never live better than you pray. And, you will never pray better than you live." This captures well the aim of Jesus' teaching. I do not say this to condemn anyone who does not feel like they have a strong prayer life. Jesus is not simply teaching the way we pray as a ritual form, but that the way we pray should shape the way we live our life. *Jesus wants our prayers to build and shape our whole life, the way we live!*

TRANS First, let's consider what Jesus teaches us to pray. Then we will consider how our prayers should shape our life.

Kingdom references God's perfect, sovereign rule. When Jesus introduced His earthly ministry, he pronounced it this way, "From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt4:17 Jesus announces that the Kingdom of God has come in Him. **What does He mean by this?** Jesus served a unique role in God's mission, as the Christ or promised Messiah. But He also served to show the way we are to live in God's kingdom. Jesus



modeled the perfect expression of life under the rule and reign of God's Kingdom. And, Jesus modeled the perfect expression of living in God's will. He communed with the Father, sought the Father's will in all things, humbled Himself and obeyed the Father's every command perfectly, and loved others through it all. [Jesus models the perfect manifestation of God's Kingdom come and will done on earth.](#)

When Christians pray in this way, we petition God to bring His Kingdom more fully to and His will done on earth.

We are petitioning God to act, for His power and rule to be made known more fully in the world¹, and that the reality on earth would come to be more like Heaven, where God's rule is in its most perfect state.² We pray for God's will to be made perfectly manifest in the world, in the way all things operate, in the way people act and live, in the way all creation functions. We are entertaining to petition that all things in this world would operate and function in perfect obedience to the divine will of God. **Is that too much to ask?** For us, yes, but not for God. We pray not only to the ultimate end for which we know God has promised, but also for our immediate present in which we see such great divide between our reality and God's divine will. [Christian, pray for God's Kingdom to become a greater reality in this world and watch for His will being done.](#)

Our petition is for God to bring His Kingdom and will on earth, and our request to do this through our lives. The reason Jesus teaches us to pray this is because God wants us to engage and participate IN this prayer! This is what Jesus modeled when he walked on earth. He lived under all the realities of this physical universe, but operated completely under the divine authority of the Father's heaven. At all times and in every situation, Jesus lived on earth with the full recognition that God sent Him here with a specific mission. He is teaching us to pray and live for God's Kingdom mission to become reality in the world, just as it is in Heaven. [Christian, pray that your life will be found being used by God for His Kingdom in this world.](#)

[Pray for heaven to come down, for God's will to be revealed all around, and your life to be found serving His Kingdom on earth. Pray, Invest and Engage for more Jesus.](#)

[True Christian prayer frames our perspective on God's Kingdom in the world brought to fruition by our participation in His mission.](#)

TRANS Jesus teaches us to identify ourselves with God by understanding our whole life immersed IN His Will coming to full fruition in this world.³ This begins in our prayers and shapes our whole life. [The Kingdom of God and His perfect will being made known on earth becomes the framework for every Christ-followers' perspective of life.](#)

APPL **Is this the way you pray? More importantly, Christ-follower, is THIS the way you are living?**

Christ-follower, the commission from our Lord remains! Are you ready to be God's instrument through which His power and kingdom come upon the earth? This is our petition! This is our hour, when what we have claimed about God becomes the reality of God for our lives.

This is no small phrase for us to pray. When Jesus prayed this prayer practically in His time on earth, it cost Him His life. Jesus demonstrated how His teaching in the Lord's prayer applies to our life in praying it when He appeals to God's will for His own life, Luke 22:42; *"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."*

¹ Leon Morris, [The Gospel according to Matthew](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992), 145. Morris notes, "The prayer looks for God to take action, not for worshipers to bring the kingdom into being."

² John R. W. Stott and John R. W. Stott, [The Message of the Sermon on the Mount \(Matthew 5-7\): Christian Counter-Culture](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 147. Stott states, "What Jesus bids us pray is that life on earth may come to approximate more nearly to life in heaven."

³ Leon Morris, [The Gospel according to Matthew](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992), 145-146. Morris exhorts, "The prayer looks for the perfect accomplishment of what God wills, and that in the deeds of those he has created as well as in what he does himself. It points to no passive acquiescence but to an active identification of the worshiper with the working out of the divine purpose; if we pray that way we must live that way."



Jesus lived in this one reality that formed his whole perspective for how he understood all things in this world; **He lived sent by God as the defining purpose of His life.**

ILLUS I'm hearing many say in these days, "If staying home will help save one person, then it is worth it." IF this is even partially true, then HOW MUCH MORE TRUE is it to say, "if my faithfully sharing the gospel and serving to point people to Jesus for hope MIGHT impact even one, then it is worth it." YES, it is worth it!

Satan wants you to believe that a catastrophic storm of destruction looms. People are walking around overcome by a sense of helplessness and hopelessness, with no direction or certainty, no confidence or hope. God is looking at us, Christ-follower, and pointing to the world to say, "Look at the fields! They are white for harvest!" **Matt9:35-38 Whose reality is determining what you see today, Satan's or God's? Are you preparing for an apocalypse, or laboring for the harvest?**

ILLUS Don't let "The Walking Dead" determine how and what you see. Let the cross of Jesus Christ and the empty tomb determine what your life proclaims in this hour, in this season of life. In Him we are overcomers. Let's labor for the overcoming that is coming!^{1John5:4}

True Christian prayer frames our perspective on God's Kingdom in the world brought to fruition by our participation in His mission.

How does prayer shape our life? It "frame our perspective" to understand and walk faithfully with Jesus in these days.

OBJ: Three truths frame our perspective for God's Kingdom mission in the world.

1. In God's Kingdom, I am His Beloved.

Remember, the way we pray shapes the way we live. When we begin "Our Father", it declares our relationship with God and our identity in Jesus Christ. We know we are God's Beloved because His Word says this.^{Jude1} We must establish our heart in His truth so our mind can be de-cluttered to think clearly on the light of His truth, to discern and walk faithfully in His wisdom.^{Romans12:2} In God's Kingdom we are His Beloved, and called to live as imitators of Him.^{Eph5:1}

This truth frames our perspective because we "imitate" God in the world when we live according to the truth of His Word in the Bible. God's Word "frames our lives" (defines our perspective, how we see, interpret, understand, find meaning and apply). God's Word works in us by renewing our mind to test and discern His will through the actions and activities in the world according to the Word of God.

APPL **You are the Beloved of God!** Before you listen to everything going on around you, ask yourself, "What is God's Word saying?" Then, ask Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and heart, and guide your attitude and actions to walk in His truth daily.

2. God is working out His will in the world.

Jesus tells us that God is working in the world. "But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."(John 5:17) And it was the work of the Father that Jesus looked for and His voice that He listened to in order to know what He was supposed to be doing. Christ-follower, NOTHING has changed for us! Jesus model is the same for us today; we look for God at work and listen to His Word to guide you.

God IS working! He is working in the world. And He is working in you!^{Eph2:12-13} He is the One working to manifest His will on the earth. Before you go do anything, before you even think anything about all that is going on, STOP and remember, God IS working! He does not sleep nor slumber, but He is our Helper and our keeper.^{.Psalm124} If watched for the Father at work was good for Jesus, it is sufficient for us today.

Christ-follower, are you watching for the Father' work? Here are some questions to guide your answer:



- **Is your first priority to seek the Father or 'react to the headline' in this season?**

"Jesus tells the disciples to 'watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.'" Matthew 26:41

You don't need the latest stat on the curve progression of the quarantined, infected, ill or dying. We run after endless amounts of information like we can handle it, but we can't because we are not omniscient. We don't need to be omniscient. We need to trust the One who is.

You NEED the One who is the Word of life. **Which are you most looking for and to?**

- **Is the Lord's joy increasing in you, His peace keeping you, His love flowing from you?**

You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. Psalm 4:7

He did it for David, and He will do it for you too, every day.

"yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

God, the Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places." Hab 3:18-19

Christ-follower, "yet" yourself where you know you will receive His joy. Jesus is your mountain-top experience in the midst of worldly calamity.

God is working out His will in the world!

3. I am God's Ambassador of reconciliation in the world.

When we pray, "*on earth as it is in heaven*", we must remember that God's plan is to fulfill this through His people. Christ-followers live by this one, defining conviction, that because One has died for all [2Cor5:14](#), we live for that One. Our One that we live for is Jesus; we are His ambassadors!

Every Christ-follower should be asking themselves every day, "**How can I serve others to show God's love in Jesus today?**" and "**Who can I share God's love in Jesus with?**"

Jesus is teaching us to think about how we pray and how that shapes the way we live. Because of Jesus, we are not helpless and we are never hopeless! [Pray for heaven to come down, for God's will to be revealed all around, and your life to be found serving His Kingdom on earth.](#) Pray, Invest and Engage for more Jesus.

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THIS WEEK

- Pay attention to the posture of your heart as you begin to pray. What motives are driving you?
- Don't simply speak words, but speak to the Father, to Jesus the Son, to Holy Spirit.
- Pause every time and ask Holy Spirit to guide you. Then listen and follow as He guides and leads.

