

Resources on The Lord's Prayer

Devotional Books

Gonzalez, Justo L. *Teach Us to Pray: The Lord's Prayer in the Early Church and Today* (Eerdmans, 2020)
ISBN: 978-0-8028-7796-3

Church Historian Justo Gonzalez follows the familiar pattern of walking devotionally through the Lord's Prayer, but with wonderfully liberal inclusion of quotes from the Church Fathers. This approach reminds us that the Prayer has been greatly loved, expounded, and meditated upon by the Church for two thousand years to great benefit.

Packer, J. I. *Praying the Lord's Prayer* (Crossway, 2007)
ISBN: 978-1-5813-4963-4

Packer briefly but beautifully walks through the Lord's Prayer devotionally and with a few simple prompts for meditation at the end of each chapter.

Watson, Thomas. *The Lord's Prayer* (Banner of Truth, 1965)
ISBN: 0-85151-664-5

Watson is one of the greatest Puritan writers for clarity and beauty of expression. This volume, originally published as a part of his larger work *A Body of Practical Divinity* in 1692, is a typically Puritan exhaustive consideration of the Lord's Prayer.

Witsius, Herman. *Sacred Dissertations on the Lord's Prayer* (Reformation Heritage Books, 2010)
ISBN: 978-1-60178-097-3

Witsius' work is probably not best thought of as devotional. It is more scholarly. Witsius is Dutch and frankly lacks the pathos that is characteristic of the Puritan tradition in Britain. Nonetheless, it is excellent work on the Lord's Prayer and cannot be ignored by any serious student of the Prayer.

Confessional Works (most of these works can be easily found online for free)

The Westminster Larger Catechism, Questions 178-196 (186-196)

The Larger Catechism begins its section on prayer with Question 178. It turns its attention specifically to the Lord's Prayer with Question 186 and concludes with 196.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions 98-107 (99-107)

The Shorter Catechism asks a single question on prayer generally (98) and then immediately moves to the Lord's Prayer (99-107).

The Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 116-129 (119-129)

While the Westminster Confession represents the British Reformed tradition, the Heidelberg Catechism represents the Dutch Reformed. It precedes Westminster by almost 100 years (1560s) and the Westminster Divines knew and respected the Dutch confessional works (which also included the Belgic Confession and the Canons of Dort).

John Calvin's Genevan Catechism (*Catechism of the Church of Geneva being a form of instruction for children in the doctrine of Christ*)

This work can be found in Volume 2 of the 8-volume series, *John Calvin: Tracts and Letters*.

Volume 2 ISBN: 978-0-85151-989-0

Series ISBN: 978-0-85151-987-6

Calvin's Catechism is part question and answer and part conversation. There are no question numbers. He expounds the Creed, the Ten Commandments, and then comes to prayer in which he unpacks the Lord's Prayer. This preceded the Dutch works by about 20 years (1541).

Luther's Small Catechism, Section 1

In Section 1 of Luther's Small Catechism he unpacks the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments. While our understanding of Scripture does not always agree with Luther, his exposition of the Lord's Prayer is a wonderful, brief resource.