

The Lord's (Disciple's) Prayer as a Daily Discipline

Annotated

Our¹ Father² in heaven³,
May Your name be revered as holy,
May Your Kingdom come
May Your will be done on earth,
As it is in heaven⁴.
⁵Give us today our bread for the coming day⁶,
And forgive us of our sin-debts⁷,
As we have forgiven those who are sin-indebted to us⁸.
And bring us not into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one⁹.

"As we pray, we are 'unpacking' the parts of this prayer, and discovering in them the heart of God."

- ¹ We come, not alone, but as members of your church, as part of something bigger than ourselves, and as those united in offering up, and living in light of, the petitions of this prayer.
- ² We are astounded that, through the sacrificial work of your merciful Son, we can call you *Abba*, "Papa", as adopted sons and daughters. We are comforted by your perfect, fatherly care; by your perfect provision and protection in all things. We look to your perfect example, Father. We want to be like you and give evidence of our sonship as we reflect your distinct character.
- ³ We remember that the unparalleled privilege of coming to you as Father does not mean coming with a casual familiarity, but with a grateful reverence, recognizing you are "exalted above the heavens, O God" (Ps. 57:5)
- ⁴ We pray for all creation to once again be aligned with your perfect desires and design. We pray you would extinguish every rebel impulse in this universe, beginning with those that remain in our own hearts. We pray that, this day, the extension of your blessed rule would be accomplished through us; that we would demonstrate the joy of serving the one, true King, and that others would be won to your service. Nevertheless, we long for that day of judgment and redemption in which this plea will be perfectly realized. We pray this great request because we know that only as it is answered, will we and the world around us be restored from what is, to what ought to be.
- ⁵ We understand, O Lord, that the needs for which we pray are the needs by which we can accomplish your kingdom work. Remind us that when our purpose is not your kingdom work, we will inevitably attempt to redefine our needs in accordance with our wisdom, and not yours.
- ⁶ We trust that you, as our heavenly Father, will perfectly provide us with exactly what we need to sustain us this day. We are not ashamed to ask for such things because we know that You know we "need all these things" (Matthew 6:32). We pray, therefore, in faith that as we serve you, "all these things shall be added" (Matthew 6:33). As we pray this day, help us to believe that if we serve You, "tomorrow will care for itself." (Matthew 6:34). O Father, cultivate within us this kind of daily dependence upon your care. May our longings and our losses be tempered by our trust that you will always give us precisely what we need for accomplishing your will.
- ⁷ We recognize that we have failed to do your will "on earth, as it is heaven". Today, as hard as it might be for us, help us to see all of the ways in which this is true. In light of our reality of rebellion, but also in light of your Son's cross, we pray that, this day, you would forgive our sins.
- ⁸ We remember that if the repentance you desire of us is genuine, then we will recognize the smallness of those sins committed "against us" in comparison with the terrible weight of our own sins committed against you (Matthew 18:21-35). Help us to forgive as you forgive, that we might bear witness of your grace to all men.
- ⁹ We know, O sovereign King, that while we might plan our way, it is you who directs our steps (Proverbs 16:9). Therefore, we pray that we would not come under the power of temptation. We ask that you would rescue us from the grip of the Tempter. In all of our trials, Father, may our faith be the evidence of your perfect protection, and our obedience the evidence of your perfect deliverance.