

## **CONFESSING OUR BELIEFS**

Matthew 6:9-13 ... "...Our Father in heaven, hallowed by Your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

We usually think of confession as the admission that we are sinners. The broad definition of "confession," is to simply acknowledge something. For instance, I can confess that the weather is hot and humid today. It is not a confession of sin, because I have no control over the weather. My confession is merely a statement of fact.

Creeds, which many churches use to state their doctrines, are themselves confessions. They state a particular belief in something. When we look at the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9-13, we find that this prayer is not a series of requests, but confessions of fact:

Verse 9 is our acknowledgment that Father God is to be revered.

Verse 10 is a confession that God's plans will be accomplished in the universe, regardless of our cooperation or participation; nothing can stop God and his plans.

Verse 11 reminds us that God has already promised to meet our needs, even before we ask.

Verse 12 expresses our gratefulness for his forgiveness, while reminding us that God's forgiveness of us is in exchange for our forgiveness of others.

Verse 13 glorifies God for his faithfulness, states that God cannot and will not tempt us, and assures us that God will protect us from Satan's deadly threats. It also confesses that God's kingdom is everlasting and his power unstoppable.

Why did Jesus, when asked by his disciples to teach them how to pray, give them a model of confession, rather than how to request things of God? We need no training on how to ask for things. We enter the world begging and demanding; it is very natural for us. Plus, confession – our confessions of sin AND our confessions of truth – are the elements of our harmony with Christ. We confess our sins to a God we cannot see because he has proven himself as our worthy Lord and Savior. He has already promised to meet your needs, to bless you with his promises, and spend eternity with you if you confess to him your sins and his faithfulness. Everything else falls neatly into place when you do that.

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