

THE LORD'S PRAYER – PART 3

Matthew 6:9-13 ... “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be 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.”

Today we conclude our study of the Lord's prayer with verse 13.

As we stated previously about the Lord's prayer, we must understand two things: 1) This is a model of prayer that helps us understand the type of prayer God listens to and appreciates, and 2) this prayer asks for nothing from God; it is our confession of his sovereignty and our praise for his promises to us. The Lord's prayer is really an act of worship, not a plea for help. If you believe what Jesus says in verse 8, that “your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask him,” then it is unnecessary to ask God for what you need. You can put away the temptation to beg, and simply worship him.

Jesus begins verse 13 with “And do not lead us into temptation.” In James 1:13 we read: “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God;’ for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he himself tempt anyone.”

Verse 13 is our confession that God does not tempt us, and it goes on to say “but deliver us from the evil one.” If you pray according to the model of verse 13, you are telling God that you understand that no temptation you are faced with comes from him, and then you ask God to protect you from satan's temptations. That it is one of the roles of the Holy Spirit in your life. If you ask the Holy Spirit for protection from the devil, He will warn you when temptation comes knocking at your door. You still must decide to listen to the Holy Spirit or not, but he will warn you.

Jesus ends this model prayer with: “For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen”. It is a fitting summary to the other tributes to God in the prayer. By praying in this manner, you: honor God by hallowing (or reverencing) his name, acknowledge that God is in control of the universe, thank God in advance for providing your needs, understand that God will forgive you if you forgive others, agree that God cannot tempt you, and submit to the Holy Spirit's warnings to avoid satan's temptations. This is why the prayer Jesus modeled for us is an act of confession and worship rather than a plea for help. Since God has promised to meet all of your needs, you do not have to go to him and beg. Instead, worship and praise him for what he does in your life and give him glory by confessing that God's kingdom and power endures forever.

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