

Is The Lord's Prayer, Our Prayer?

Paul tells us about the wonderful gift of prayer that we have been given. He also tells us that we do not know how we ought to pray, so God gives us the Holy Ghost as an intercessor to make sure our prayers get to God in the way that they should, so that He can answer them.

Romans 8:26-27 (page 1056)

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for **we know not what we should pray for as we ought:** but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.**

No one can prevail against us because God is for us. He will freely give us all things! He has given His own Son for us! On top of all of that, Jesus Christ also makes intercession for us with His Father! What a wonderful God we have!

Romans 8:32-34 (page 1056-1057)

What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?** Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? **It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**

Just in case you think that God does not answer every prayer, the Holy Ghost and Jesus Christ both intercede for us with God! The Bible tells us that God cannot deny Himself. God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost are all God.

1 John 5:7 (page 1145)

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

We can be certain that if Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost are interceding for us, God cannot deny Them (Himself.) Every prayer will be answered in the way that it ought to be answered. We just have to look for it!

2 Timothy 2:11-13 (page 1115)

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: **he cannot deny himself.**

Jesus told His disciples how to pray.

Matthew 5:1-2 (page 894)

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, **his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,**

He started by saying that some people like to show off. They are not praying to God, they are praying so other people will see them. Their reward is what others think of them.

Matthew 6:5-6 (page 895-896)

And **when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men.** Verily I say unto you, **They have their reward.** But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Some people “pray” *with* themselves, not *to* God.

Luke 18:10-14 (page 975)

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus *with* himself,

God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for **every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**

Jesus said some “pray” by saying the same words over and over, as if God somehow doesn’t understand what we need or want, or has difficulty hearing! You should pray about the things that are important to you, as many times as you want, but what Jesus is talking about is the repetition that many churches teach, like a chant. Jesus told His disciples—and it is good for us to remember—praying this way is not pleasing to God. God knows what you need before you ask.

Matthew 6:7-8 (page 896)

But when ye pray, **use not vain repetitions**, as the heathen do: for **they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking**. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Then Jesus gave His disciples what we call “The Lord’s Prayer.” Some people call it “The Disciples’ Prayer” because Jesus gave it to His disciples to pray.

Matthew 6:9 (page 896)

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Should we pray the prayer Jesus gave His disciples? We are so used to hearing and reciting The Lord’s Prayer that we may not even think about what we are asking! This first part certainly applies to us.

God is our Father, too. We have the kind of relationship with Him that we, as His sons and daughters—and even better, heirs— can call Him “Abba, Father.”

Romans 8:14-17 (page 1056)

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but **ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;** if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

This is the same thing that Jesus Christ, Himself, calls God, His Father!

Mark 14:36 (page 945)

And **he said, Abba, Father**, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Next, Jesus reminds them to ask for the Kingdom. Israel has been promised a Kingdom on the earth where Jesus Christ, as the son of David, will reign for a thousand years.

Revelation 20:4

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; **and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**

Matthew 6:10 (page 896)

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

The disciples asked about the kingdom, right before Jesus ascended.

Acts 1:6-7 (page 1014)

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, **wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.**

This part of The Lord's Prayer is not for us in the dispensation of Grace. Christ's earthly Kingdom is not our ultimate destiny. Instead of waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ to come back to establish His earthly Kingdom, as He has promised the nation Israel, we will be caught up to meet the

Lord in the air to forever be with the Lord in the heavens.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (page 1107)

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Since His resurrection, Christ has been seated at the right hand of God in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 1:20 (page 1092)

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

As members of His body, we are there, too. We are just waiting to get rid of our earthly bodies before we can physically join Him.

Ephesians 2:6 (page 1093)

And **hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**

The next petition in The Lord's Prayer is also specific to the Jews. Daily bread is a large part of the relationship between God and Israel. God fed Israel in the wilderness with manna (daily bread) six days a week for forty years. Only on Fridays would the people be able to collect two days' worth of bread, to make sure they didn't have to work on Saturday, the Sabbath.

Exodus 16:21-27 (page 73)

And **they gathered it every morning**, every man according to his eating: and **when the sun waxed hot, it melted**. And it came to pass, that **on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread,**

two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein. And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field. **Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none.** And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none.

Jesus included daily bread in their prayer to remind Israel that they can trust God will provide everything for them.

Matthew 6:11 (page 896)

Give us this day our daily bread.

We, too, can ask God to provide food for us, but Paul reminds us that we will be taken out of this world to spend our eternity in heaven. Until then, we should be satisfied by having something to eat and something to wear.

1 Timothy 6:7 (page 1113)

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. **And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.**

We know that the next of Jesus' petitions is also for Israel, not us. We can be very thankful that our sins are *already* forgiven.

Jesus told His disciples to pray:

Matthew 6:12 (page 896)

And forgive us our debts, **as we forgive our debtors.**

Forgiveness of everyone who had wronged them was required of every Jew in Israel if they were to be forgiven by God for their sins.

Mark 11:25-26 (page 940)

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. **But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.**

It is different for us, today. What Paul tells the Ephesians goes for everyone who is a member of the Church, the Body of Christ. We are supposed to forgive one another *because* Christ has forgiven us. Our forgiveness from God is not dependent on our forgiveness of other people. Praise God for that!

Ephesians 4:29-32 (page 1095)

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And **be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

Then, Jesus told the disciples to ask God not to lead them into temptation (testing) and to deliver them from evil.

Matthew 6:13 (page 896)

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Testing and evil are future for Israel on the earth. The Tribulation is described in the book of Revelation. Jesus also described the seven-year Tribulation to His disciples.

Matthew 24:9-14, 21-22 (page 918)

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

²¹For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. **And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be**

saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

I'm sure you can see why Jesus gave this prayer for the people on earth, going through the Tribulation, to pray. They will not have the Holy Ghost in their hearts to intercede for them. Those who are smart will pray the petition Jesus gave them. The even smarter ones will believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ that took away their sins and be able to escape the Tribulation by being raptured as part of the Church, the Body of Christ.

So the Lord's Prayer asks God to save the person who prays it from going through the Tribulation. Today's believers have been promised that we will not go through God's wrath. God has promised this to us, so we do not have to pray for it.

Because we will meet the Lord in the air, we will not be on earth to go through the Tribulation, the outpouring of God's wrath.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 page 1105)

And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, **which delivered us from the wrath to come.**

We do face temptation. Here is what Paul tells us about temptation for us.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (page 1071)

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

In his last letter, Paul tells us that the Lord will deliver him from every evil work.

2 Timothy 4:18 (page 1116)

And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

He knew what he was talking about when you see the list of things that happened to Paul during his earthly ministry!

2 Corinthians 11:24-27 (page 1085)

Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Paul again makes a clear distinction that he (and we) are being preserved for a heavenly, not earthly, Kingdom. The end of the verse sounds very similar to the last petition of the Lord's Prayer. "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

Paul has also told us to always rejoice, make prayer our first thought, and to give thanks to God during whatever is going on in our lives.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (page 1107)

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Side by Side Comparison

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Our Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. We eagerly await the Day of Redemption when we will meet your Son in the air, to ever be with our Lord. Until then, help us to be content with having food and raiment, and to remember to give thanks in everything. Make us kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, because you, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven us. Thank you that you will not suffer us to be tempted above that we are able to bear. Thank you for delivering us from every evil work and from the wrath to come.

Preserve us unto your heavenly kingdom, giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; to You be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Amen