

Is the Lord's Prayer, Our Prayer?

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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

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.**

Because God is for us, no one can prevail against 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

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.**

If you think that God does not answer every prayer, think again! The Holy Ghost and Jesus Christ both intercede for us with God! God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost are one!

1 John 5:7

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, our prayers are made perfect before they are taken to the Father. We don't prayer perfectly, but every prayer gets to the Father perfectly and is answered perfectly. We just have to look for it!

The Bible tells us that God cannot deny Himself.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

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.**

We should not view our prayers as a way to get God to see things “our way.” We should make our requests known to God with thanksgiving, knowing that we will get the peace which passes all understanding to keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. It is knowing our requests will be taken care of by God’s perfect will, not our imperfect will.

Philippians 4:6-7

Be careful for nothing; but **in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

Jesus is our best example of how to pray with thanksgiving. Even though He was God in the flesh, He was always praying to His Father. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray. He started by saying that some people like to show off when they pray. 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

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.

Jesus used a Pharisee as an example of people who actually "pray" *with* themselves. They are so impressed with themselves, they tell God how great they are. God is not impressed with them, they will be humbled.

Luke 18:10-14

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 people "pray" by saying the same words over and over, much like a spoiled child gets attention if he is constantly repeating his demands! While you should pray about the things that are important to you, as many times as you want, God knows what you need before you ask. You don't have to say it over and over, like a spoiled child, to try to get what you want.

Matthew 6:7-8

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

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

1Thessalonians 5:16-18

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

We have probably all been taught the Lord's Prayer, but we may be so used to hearing it, and reciting it, that we may not even think about what we are asking! We are going to take a look at what Jesus was telling His disciples to pray. It may be that it does not apply to us!

This first part of the Prayer 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 co-heirs with Jesus Christ, can call Him "Abba, Father."

Romans 8:14-17

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.

“Abba, Father” is the same thing that Jesus Christ, Himself calls God, His Father!

Mark 14:36

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.

In the next part of His prayer, Jesus reminds His disciples to ask for the Kingdom. This is specific to the Jews

Matthew 6:10

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

Israel has been promised a Kingdom on the earth where Jesus Christ, as the son of David, will reign forever.

Isaiah 9:7

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, **upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever.** The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

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

Acts 1:6-7

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.

Asking “thy kingdom come” 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.

1Thessalonians 4:16-18

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.

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 collect it, or work, on Saturday, the Sabbath.

Exodus 16:21-27

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 God provided everything for them in the wilderness when they escaped Egypt.

Matthew 6:11

Give us this day our daily bread.

This petition is also prophetic of the Great Tribulation (the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, 1,260 days.) God will provide daily bread for Israel during the terrible persecution of the Great Tribulation. “The woman” in the following passage is Israel.

Revelation 12:6

And the woman fled into the wilderness, where **she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**

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. Israel has a special relationship with God’s providing for them in the past, and His promise of providing everything for them in the future. Paul tells us that we should be satisfied by having something to eat and something to wear.

1Timothy 6:7

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

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

Forgiving 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

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

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

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 (temptation) and evil are in the future for Israel on the earth. The Tribulation is described in the book of Revelation. Jesus described the seven-year Tribulation to His disciples in the following passage. You will see why they were told to pray that they should be saved from it.

Matthew 24:9-14, 21-22

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 to Israel, before and during 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 to pray.

We have been promised that we will not go through the Tribulation. We will meet the Lord in the air, before the outpouring of God's wrath. God has promised this to us, so we do not have to pray for it.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

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, or testing, though. Here is what Paul tells us about temptation for us.

1 Corinthians 10:13

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.

Jesus closes by acknowledging that everything is Gods: God's kingdom, His power, and His glory forever.

Matthew 6:13

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.**

In his last letter, to Timothy, Paul does not ask the Lord to deliver him from evil, instead, he states with confidence, that the Lord will deliver him from every evil work. Paul reminds Timothy that the kingdom we are looking for is a heavenly kingdom, not the earthly kingdom where Christ will rule the world from Jerusalem.

Then Paul acknowledges God's glory forever.

2 Timothy 4:18

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.

You can see that Paul knew about being delivered from evil works, when you see the list of things that happened to Paul during his earthly ministry!

2 Corinthians 11:24-27

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.

We will add one thing to our prayer, that is not in the Lord's Prayer. Paul tells us to do everything, in word or deed, in the name of the Lord Jesus

Christ, giving thanks to God the Father. That includes praying.

Colossians 3:17

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Ephesians 5:20

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is never wrong to pray the prayer our Lord gave to His disciples, but it is just that, it is for the Lord's earthly apostles and the nation of Israel.

Following is a prayer that uses Jesus Christ's framework for the Lord's Prayer, but changes some of the petitions to reflect the difference by using phrases from Paul's epistles, written to us in the Church, the Body of Christ.

Pauline Prayer

Our Father, which are in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. We eagerly await the Day of Redemption, when we will meet you 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.