

If God Should Speak (The Lord's Prayer) = corrected
By Clyde Lee Herring

Person: "Our Father which art in heaven....."

God: Yes.

Person: Don't interrupt me! I'm praying.

God: But you called me.

Person: Called you? I didn't call you. I'm praying. (start praying again) "Our Father which art in heaven....."

God: There you did it again.

Person: Did what?

God: Called me. You said, "Our Father which art in heaven."
Here I am.....What's on your mind?

Person: But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good. Like I've started the day out right.

God: All right. Go on.

Person: "Hallowed be thy name....."

God: Hold it. What do you mean by that?

Person: By what?

God: By "Hallowed be thy name"?

Person: It means.....it means.....Good grief, I don't know what it means. How should I know? It's just a part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?

God: It means Honored, Holy, Wonderful.

Person: Hey, that makes sense. I never thought about what 'hallowed' meant before.

(*continuing in prayer*) "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

God: Do you really mean that?

Person: Sure, why not?

God: What are you doing about it?

Person: Doing? Nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of cool if you got control of everything down here like you have up there.

God: Have I got control of you?

Person: Well, I go to church.

God: That isn't what I asked you. What about your bad temper? You've really got a problem there, you know.

And then there's the way you spend your money ---all on yourself. And what about your streaming habits?

Person: Stop picking on me! I'm just as good **most Christians I know.**

God: Excuse me. I thought you were praying for my will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it. Like you, for example.

Person: Oh, all right. I guess I do have some blind spots and bad habits. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others.

God: So could I.

Person: I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to do better. I would like to, you know, be really free.

God: Good. Now we're getting somewhere. We'll work together, you and I. **Its possible to overcome!** I'm proud of you already.

Person: Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. *(Back to prayer)* "Give us this day, our daily bread."

God: **Honestly, you have way more food than you need. Have you thanked me? Have you been sharing what you have with others?**

Person: Hey, wait a minute! What is this, "Criticize me day"?

Here I was doing my **best**, and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my **faults**.

God: Praying is a dangerous thing. You could wind up changed, you know. That's what I'm trying to get across to you.

You called me, and here I am. It's too late to stop now. Keep praying, I'm interested in the next part of your prayer.....*(pause)*. Well, go on.

Person: I'm scared to go on.

God: Scared? Of what?

Person: I know what you'll say.

God: Try me and see.

Person: "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

God: Hmmm. What about Ann?

Person: See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up! She's told lies, spread stories about me and my family. She's never even apologized!

God: But your prayer? What about your prayer?

Person: I didn't mean it.

God: Well, at least you're honest. But it's not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside, is it?

Person: No. But I feel a lot better letting other people know how two-faced she is! I wish she had never moved into this neighborhood.

God: You **will never feel** any better **with that attitude**. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you already are. But I can change all that.

Person: You can? How?

God: I can help you forgive Ann. Then I'll forgive you. Then the hate and ugly thoughts will be Ann's problem and not yours. You will have settled your heart.

Person: Oh, you're right. You always are. And more than I want to set Ann straight, I want to be right with You.....(pause).....(sigh). All right. All right. I forgive her. Help her to find the right road in life, Lord. She's bound to be awfully miserable now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things she does to others has to be really unhappy. Someway, somehow, show her the right way.

God: There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?

Person: Hmmmmmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll have to go to bed tonight with all my anxious thoughts, for the first time since I can remember.

God: You're not through with your prayer. Go on.

Person: Oh, all right. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

God: Good! Good! I'll do that. Can you work with me and try not to put yourself in a place where you can be tempted?

Person: What do you mean by that?

God: Hmmm....maybe don't keep scrolling on your phone when you know it just makes you feel worse, or keeps you from being with your family. And those coffee dates with your friends? ... if you can't influence the conversations to positive things, perhaps you should re-think the value of those friendships.

And one more thing? Please consider talking more like this with me every day.

Person: I pray a lot.

God: Sure you do. Like when you get caught in a bad situation. You get into trouble and then I hear, 'Lord, help me out of this mess, and I promise you I'll never do it again.' You remember some of those bargains you tried to make with me?

Person: Yes, and I'm ashamed, Lord. I really am.

God: Which bargain are you remembering?

Person: Well, there was the night the kids and I were home alone. The wind was blowing so hard I thought the roof would go any minute and tornado warnings were out. I remember praying, 'Oh God, if you spare us, I'll spend time with you every day.'

God: I protected you, but you didn't keep your promise, did you?

Person: I'm sorry, Lord, I really am.

God: Go ahead and finish your prayer.

Person: "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever." Amen

God: Do you know what would bring me glory? What would really make me happy?

Person: No, but I'd like to know. I really want to please you now. And I can see how great it would be to *really* talk with you like this all the time.

God: You just answered the question.

Person: I did?

God: Yes. The thing that would bring me glory is to have people like you truly love me. And I see that happening between us.

Now that some of these old sins are exposed and out of the way, well, there is no telling what we can do together.

Person: Lord, I'm looking forward to that.

God: Yes, me too,