

The Lord's Prayer



Jesus taught us how to pray. The simple words in the Lord's Prayer were very different than the lengthy and showy prayers that Jesus would have heard in the temple in His own day. Jesus teaches us to pray in private and with words from our heart, instead of praying as a performance for others.

Matthew 6:5-13

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room, and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases like the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Pray then in this way:
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 also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
But rescue us from the evil one.

What do the words of the Lord's Prayer mean, anyway?

Our Father in Heaven: We are saying that God is our true Father and that we are His true children. Just as we are able to speak boldly and confidently with our earthly fathers, we can pray boldly and confidently to our Heavenly Father.

Hallowed be your name: God's name is holy and we want to keep it that way. We can keep God's name holy by living our lives in a way that is pleasing to God.

Your kingdom come: We are asking that God's kingdom come to us through the Holy Spirit so that we are able to believe in God's Word and to live godly lives.

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven: We are asking that the good and gracious will of God come to us; that God stop the evil plans of the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature.

Give us this day our daily bread: We are asking God to provide us with all the things we need to live; food and water, clothing and shelter, family and friends, honest leaders and good government.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors: We are asking God to forgive us of the wrong things we do and we are saying that, because God shows us grace through forgiveness, we will do the same to those who have done mean things to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial: We are asking God to keep us safe from temptation so that we do not sin or do bad things.

But rescue us from the evil one: We are asking God to rescue us from every evil and, when the time comes, to deliver us to Himself in heaven.

