

Hey there! Pastor Gerber here again. Welcome back.

Today, we are continuing with our study of the Lord's Prayer. Let's pray that together again, right now.

Our Father...

Today we are looking at the first petition of the Lord's Prayer: Hallowed be thy name.

Throughout our time with the Lord's Prayer, I want us to look at it as if we've never heard it or said it before. Too often, when we say something over and over again, like the Lord's Prayer, we are able to zone out and say it without even thinking about it. Maybe you can even multi task and think about what you are going to eat for lunch while you are saying it.

I don't want that to happen. I want us to say the Lord's Prayer and mean it. But before we can say the Lord's Prayer and mean it, we have to know what it means! So, that's what we are going to be doing in the next few sessions. We are going to be learning what each of these petitions (and petition is just a fancy word for a formal request)... So we are going to be looking at each of these requests and see what we are actually requesting when we say the Lord's Prayer.

And, so today, we start with Hallowed be thy name.

What does that mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

And, in case you are wondering, I didn't write that. Luther did. That's from page 19 of your catechism.

So, basically, in this petition or request, we are asking God to help us keep His name holy.

And this petition is related to the 2nd Commandment. Do you remember what the 2nd Commandment is? You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Don't misuse it, instead, keep it Holy, set it apart for only things worthy of His name.

Hallowing God's Name gives Him value and we value what He values.

Hallowing God's Name is having a healthy fear of God.

Hallowing God's Name is knowing His revealed character and His interaction with humanity.

God has given us a few names for himself. You have those written for you.

Yahweh – I AM. You first see that in Exodus 3:14 when Moses asks God's name at the burning bush. If you look up a little bit on your packet, to Psalm 29:2, you see the word LORD written in all capital letters. That's your key that the word Yahweh is being used. And many of the Jews were afraid to say the word Yahweh, so they combined Yahweh and the next word on our list, Adonai or Elohim, the third word on our list. They would write the Hebrew letters Yod-Heh-Waw-Heh, YHWH, and used the vowels from Adonai or Elohim. And you get Yehovah... Jehovah. That's just a complicated way to say that the Jews, in order to try and set apart the name of God, they just refused to say it.

I love the word Yahweh. And, if you listen to the word, it sounds like breathing. Yah-weh. Yah-weh. And, so all of life is speaking the name of God. When you are born, when you take your first breath, you begin living on this earth when you can speak the name of God. And at the end of your life, you will cease living on this earth when you can no longer speak the name of God, when you can no longer breath. Yah-weh. Yah-weh.

Adonai, Elohim, and El Shaddai are other commonly used names for God. The word 'el' in Hebrew means God. Elohim is actually the plural form of el, so we see the Trinity even in the naming of God.

Immanuel is the other important name for God. It means God with us. That is used in Isaiah to as a prophecy and that comes to be in Jesus. In Jesus, God literally came and dwelt among us. And He still does.

Hallowing God's name is also showing belief and trust in His word and promises.

We just said that Jesus came and dwelt among us, that Jesus is Immanuel in the flesh, but Jesus also claims to be Yahweh. John 8:58 says this: Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." Before Abraham was, Yahweh. And the Jews who were there understood exactly what Jesus was trying to say. We know this because in verse 59 it says that they picked up stones to try and kill Him. Jesus was claiming to be God by using a name that has been hallowed, been set apart for God and God alone.

We also have power and authority in Jesus' name. Luke 10:17 says that even the demons submit to us in Your name. 'Your' being Jesus' name here. Jesus has all power and authority. He says so in the great commission in Matthew 28. And he has given us authority in His name.

Hallowed by Thy name. Your name is Holy, God!

The main point today is that Hallowing God's name is so much more than words – it's having a healthy fear of God, knowing His character, valuing what He values, and trusting His promises!

Well, that's all for today. As always, let me know if you have any questions. See you next time!