

# *New Testament Prayer – Part Six*

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Jim Hoffman

## Matt 6:5-7

"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. 6 But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

7 "When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again.

# Prayer is Communication

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- *Think of it, we are given in Christ the privilege of approaching God.*
- *He is the God who calls us to come near and ask for grace to help in time of need.  
Hebrews 4:16*
- *He is the God who hears.*

# Prayer is Communication

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- *If prayer is communication, does it make sense then that we build some true 'quiet time' into our prayer time solely for the purpose of listening to God?*

# The Lord's Prayer

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- *9" This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. (NIV)*

# Some Things to Note ...

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- *Before his disciples ever asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he had some instructions for them.*
  - *Don't fake it! Math 6:5 (street corner)*
  - *Personalize it. Math 6:6 (closet)*
  - *Be more like Elijah and less like the prophets of Baal. Math 6:7 (Eccl 5:2b ... God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.)*

# Our Father in heaven...

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- *We are to begin praying with some heartfelt perspective on who God is.*
- *I have found that nothing sets the table for prayer any better than focusing in on the awesomeness of God, His power, His love, His grace, His majesty, and His kindness.*
- *What an inviting picture ..... A Father who invites us to come and assures us with words like 'ask and it shall be given unto you' .*

# Our Father in heaven...

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- *God is in heaven to be sure, but what does that mean to us?*
  - *Is He too far away to matter?*
  - *Is He too high to approach?*
  - *Is the gulf too wide to bridge?*
- *In Christ we can give an emphatic 'no' to all of these notions and that builds our confidence when we pray ..... We have a God who is near and approachable.*



# Hallowed be your name

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- *“may your name be held in reverence”*
- *“may your name be respected”*
- *Again, more focus on who it is that we are communicating with.*
- *Perhaps when we pray these words we should consider our role in making sure that His name is respected and revered?*

# Your kingdom come,

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- *Few new testament concepts are more misunderstood than the timing of the kingdom.*
- *Sometimes it seems future and at other times it seems present.*
- *Sometimes it seems far away and other times it is said to be here now.*

# What did Jesus have in mind?

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- *Most likely he was pointing his disciples to (3) things;*
  - *Look forward to His reign as King of Kings in the kingdom that shall be.*
  - *Look inward to see if He is being allowed to rule our hearts today.*
  - *Look around to see who can be brought into the kingdom.*

# 'Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'

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- *This is being done ..... God is working out His redemptive plan with certainty and nothing can stand against it or stop it.*
- *This is not being done .... Under His permissive will there is a lot that goes on that is not His perfect will.*
- *Should not our thinking be along the lines of 'Lord, help me to cooperate with your Holy Spirit so that your will is the norm of my life'?*
- *When His will is done in our lives that is one more piece of earthly real estate where this request is being answered.*

# 'Give us today our daily bread'

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- *How difficult is it for us to identify literally with this request?*
- *The idea of not having something to eat today is foreign to us, but I submit to you that if God stopped providing today your reserves would soon dwindle and dry up.*
- *Maybe our prayer focus around the 'daily bread' issue should be on what can I do to be the answer to this prayer.*

# 'Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors'

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- *This is God's expectation of us and should be our desire as well.*
- *We do not earn or merit God's forgiveness by forgiving others, but surely there is a connection between the two.*
- *The connection we don't want to face; God forgives me in proportion to how I forgive others.*

# And then we have this . . . .

- **Matt 18:24** And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. **25** But as he was not able to pay , his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. **26** The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' **27** Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. **28** "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' **29** So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' **30** And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. **31** So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. **32** Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. **33** Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' **34** And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. NKJV

# 'and lead us not into temptation'

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- *First of all, this does not mean that God would lead us into temptation unless we ask Him not to.*
- *While God would not lead us into temptation it is all too evident that He does allow us to be tempted.*
- *Adam & Eve are prime examples*
- *We have 1 Cor 10:13 where God promises us a way of escape.*
- *Could we say ... 'lead us away from temptation'? Is it not true that 'lead us away from' is simply the positive version of 'lead us not into'?*



# 'and lead us not into temptation'

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- *Matt 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation . The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." NKJV*
- *James 1:13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. (NIV)*

# ‘but deliver us from the evil one’

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- *More and more I see this phrase as the external compliment to the previous phrase which is an internal struggle.*
- *Lead us away from the temptations that come from within and deliver us from the external attacks of the enemy.*

# 'but deliver us from the evil one'

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- *We have an enemy who goes about like a roaring lion who seeks our destruction. Jesus said of Satan that he comes to steal, kill, and destroy.*
- *He is powerful foe, and although he is ultimately a defeated foe, he still poses a threat to our well being.*
- *We know that we have been delivered from evil in an eternal sense, but our daily walk is still through a battlefield.*

# So what about?

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- *Matt 6:13 For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. NKJV*
- *The NIV omits it from Matthew's account of the Lord's prayer and Luke's gospel does not include it in any translation.*
- *If the words are not scripture, they are undeniably scriptural.*

# Perhaps ...

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- *Perhaps the Lord's prayer is as much a call to arms for us as it is a petition to the Lord. Focusing on who God is helps us to deal with our needs for provision and protection.*
- *When we are provided for and protected we are free to serve the King who provides and protects.*

# Questions