

Daily Readings

Please note: As we begin this series of sermons on prayer, these passages include some of the great prayers of the bible as well as some of the basic instruction from the New Testament. The Study Guide readings allow you to dig deeper.

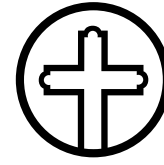
Monday, November 10 – Read *John 17*. Other than the Lord's Prayer recorded in Matthew 6 and Luke 11, this prayer, most commonly called the priestly prayer of Jesus, is the next most well known prayer of Jesus. It is divided into three sections. In verses 1-5 Jesus prays to be glorified. His prayer for the disciples is the longest and most tender part of the prayer in verses 6-19. The prayer closes with a prayer for the church in verses 20-26. Here Jesus prays for all those who will believe because of the word of the disciples. Read this prayer out loud as you begin your day. As you finish your day preparing for an evening of sleep, read verses 20-26 knowing Jesus is praying for you.

Tuesday, November 11 – Read *Psalms 51*. When King David is exposed for his conspiracy to kill Uriah and take Bathsheba, he comes to God to ask forgiveness. This prayer is one of great confession and repentance. Pray this prayer as your own laying before God all that you have done to cause pain. Pause at verse 10, **“create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me,”** knowing that God's grace is full and complete. God's forgiveness is beyond our comprehension.

Wednesday, November 12 – Read *Ephesians 1:15-23*. Paul is praying for the church in Ephesus. As he gives thanks for their faith, he prays for the revelation of Christ, wisdom, revelation, and hope. Beginning in verse 20 Paul gives praise for the work of Christ and the glory Christ brings to the world. **“...far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come, and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”** This is one of the greatest affirmations of Christ glory in Paul's letters. Can you pray this prayer with confidence in your life and work? If not, why not?

Thursday, November 13 – Read *Psalms 23*. This is the most well known prayer in the Old Testament. **The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.** These words have rung through the halls of churches for centuries. Spend some time today counting your blessings. After reading this prayer, list five blessings for which you can give thanks.

Friday, November 14 – Read *Luke 1:46-55*. This prayer by Mary, the mother of Jesus, is often called the *Magnificat*. Mary has just been told by the angel of God that she is giving birth to God's son. This song of praise by Mary gives thanks for the glory that her soul will give to God because of the child that she carries. As you read this passage of scripture, can you pray the same prayer? “My soul magnifies the Lord.” In what ways does your soul magnify God?



TRIETSCH

November 9, 2008
Study Guide & Daily Readings

Fuel Week 1 of 3 **“Fill Me Up — Pray Like This”**

Matthew 6:9-13

This, then, is how you should pray:

**“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.”**

The Word from the Bible New International Version

Matthew 6:1-18

The three chief pillars of Jewish piety in the first century were alms, fasting, and prayer. Jesus' chief objection to Jewish pious practices is that they were done with hypocrisy and great fanfare. In first century Jerusalem it was not uncommon for the devote Jew to the act of alms giving into a prideful form of public display. Prayer and fasting are to be private acts. The common fancy phrases, beating of one's chest, call out loud to draw attention to one's self-denial make a mockery of the pious acts.

In these passages, Jesus gives direction to the form and content of pray, charity and fasting.

Matthew 6:9-13 – The Lord's Prayer

In response to the disciples questions about prayer, Jesus responds with the words, “then pray like this.”

Matthew 6:9-10.

When we pray “hallowed be thy Name,” we pray for the day when God's lordship over the creation will be both universally acknowledged and actualized.

The coming of the kingdom of God means the realization of God's will in the world. The Jews believed that God's will already prevailed in heaven; in the last day it would be triumphant on earth as well. While the Jews look forward to the last days, we are instructed to pray for a day when God's full will and kingdom will come on earth.

Matthew 6:11-12

This verse literally reads "give us our bread for tomorrow." Jesus is teaching his disciples to ask for what is essential to our basic day-to-day needs. Meanwhile, we are to pray that God will forgive us for those obligations to him that have gone unfulfilled, our debts, while at the same time we are to forgive those who have failed in their responsibilities toward us.

Matthew 6:13

The prayer for deliverance from temptation and evil probably refers to more than temptation to sin. Rarely in the words of Jesus does God's presence place us in moral jeopardy. Instead, it is God's presence that protects and gives life.

In addition to the avoidance of sin and evil, there is a notion found in some Jewish writings that just before the end of the age there would occur a time of trial and testing. This period of persecution was known as the temptation or the tribulation. It is to be delivered from this situation and from the power of the Evil One (Satan) that Jesus tells the disciples to pray.

Jesus Pattern of Prayer

The entire Lord's prayer must be something that flows out of a truly committed heart. It ought to be a definition of your spirit, your attitude toward God. In essence, your prayer should contain the content of your soul. An unknown author put it this way, as quoted by John MacArthur in *Jesus' Pattern of Prayer*.

I cannot say "our" if I live only for myself.

I cannot say "Father" if I do not endeavor each day to act like His child.

I cannot say "who art in heaven" if I am laying up no treasure there.

I cannot say "hallowed be Thy name" if I am not striving for holiness.

I cannot say "Thy kingdom come" if I am not doing all in my power to hasten that wonderful event.

I cannot say "Thy will be done" if I am disobedient to His Word.

I cannot say "in earth as it is in heaven" if I'll not serve Him here and now.

I cannot say "give us this day our daily bread" if I am dishonest or seeking things by subterfuge.

I cannot say "forgive us our debts" if I harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say "lead us not into temptation" if I deliberately place myself in its path.

I cannot say "deliver us from evil" if I do not put on the whole armor of God.

I cannot say "Thine is the kingdom" if I do not give the King the loyalty due Him from a faithful subject.

I cannot attribute to Him the power if I fear what men may do.

I cannot ascribe to Him the glory if I'm seeking honor only for myself, and I cannot say "forever" if the horizon of my life is bounded completely by time.

Then pray like this...

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name...

Think of all the names for God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit found in the Scriptures. These names are: Jehovah jireh – our provider, Jehovah shalom – our peace, Jehovah rophe – our helper, Lamb of God – the sacrifice for sin, Lion of Judah – conquers sin and death, Emmanuel – God with us, Advocate – He stands in our place, Comforter – brings calm assurance.

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

Pray that God's kingdom will come (peace, joy, righteousness, love, purity, holiness, selflessness, forgiveness, mercy, grace) in your life, the life of your family, our church, your friends, and our visitors.

Pray that God's will be done in the worship services, the Sunday school classes, and in the hearts of all who have come to this place today.

Give us this day, our daily bread...

Ask God's provision for the daily things. Pray that people may come to church free of distraction and without any hindering incident. Pray for the daily needs of the members and visitors here. Pray for their daily material and spiritual provision.

And forgive us our sins...

Pray that God would bring to mind your sins – those areas where you have fallen short of God's call or have offended God's holiness. Ask for God's cleansing forgiveness and healing restoration of a right relationship with God.

Ask God to convict of their sin that they might repent and find salvation in Jesus Christ.

... As we forgive those who sin against us...

Release those who have sinned against or offended you. Ask God to remove from you any left over anger or bitterness. Ask God to let you see others as God does – people for whom Jesus died.

Pray that others here today experience this same spirit of release in their lives before they leave this place.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...

Thank God that God does not lead us into temptation. Turn over those areas of weakness in your life and pray for strength in the Spirit. Ask God to convict and inspire others to do the same. Pray for your deliverance and that those you love. Pray also for those visiting that the power of God's Holy Spirit might free them from the grasp of the evil one.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

Give thanks to God and praise Him also that all He has He shares with those found faithful whom He has given the right to be called children of God.