

PRAYING THE "PATTERN" OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

In Matthew 6, Jesus taught the disciples to pray "in this way"; what is known as The Lord's Prayer. To pray "in this way" can be otherwise understood to mean, "pray like this"! The Lord's Prayer is a template, a pattern for prayer that sets out essential priorities as we do so. Recitation of the Lord's Prayer has been encouraged throughout church history. It also serves as a pattern for us to help us use our own words, to pray in our own way, while still following the pattern of the Lord's Prayer. What follows gives various ways we can pray "in this way".

"Our Father in heaven..."

- Our compassionate, gracious and merciful Father
- Our Father who forgives and heals and blesses his children
- Our Father who reigns supreme above all in heaven, yet walks with us intimately

"...hallowed be your name."

- May the holiness of your name be honored by me and my family, and all in our church
- May your holiness be exalted among all people, starting in our own community
- Lead me to always honor and exalt your precious name in all I think, say and do

"Your kingdom come..."

- I pray for lost souls in my neighborhood and community that they would come to faith in Jesus
- I pray that your kingdom purpose would be fulfilled in our community, that you would use me to that end
- I pray for opportunities to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to those you are calling to yourself

“...your will be done...”

- I pray that your purpose for my life would be fulfilled in every way, that you would prepare to fulfill it
- May your purpose for our church be clearly understood and fulfilled by leaders and members alike
- I pray that you would make your will for my life clear to me in every respect; i.e., how I spend my time, what I do for recreation, how I serve in the church and how I should reach out to my neighbors

“...on earth as it is in heaven...”

- I pray that our nation’s leaders would come to saving faith in you and administer the nation with biblical values and justice
- I pray that our church leaders are granted wisdom, strength and joy in leading us
- I pray that our family would be centered on Christ, that each person in the family honors biblical principles related to their role in the family

“Give us this day our daily bread...”

- I thank you for the daily provision of my need, and pray this day that I would have exactly what I need to serve you fully
- I pray that the daily needs of our church members would be provided for, and how you might want to use me to give to those in need
- Grant us our daily needs so we might be free to serve you more fully

“...and forgive us our debts...”

- forgive me for the harsh words I gave, I repent from such talk, and ask you to cleanse my conscience
- I confess to you that I have sinned, and now ask that you forgive me, and restore my fellowship with you
- I pray that, for your name’s sake, you forgive the sins of our people that we might be useful to you again

“...as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

- Lead me to grant forgiveness to those who have hurt or offended me in any way
- Grant me the forgiving spirit I need when someone repents and apologizes for their actions
- Show me how to have a forgiving spirit, like Jesus had toward those who crucified him

“And lead us not into temptation...”

- I ask that you keep me from any circumstance in life that would compromise my commitment to you
- I ask that you help me avoid exposure to anything that would distract me from pure devotion to Christ
- I ask that you guide our church to avoid worldly or man-centered influences

“...but deliver us from evil.”

- I pray that you lead me out of any circumstance that gives the appearance of evil
- I pray that you reveal to me sinful influences that could tempt me, and make a way out of them for me
- I pray that you guide our church to avoid all forms of sinful behavior