

**The Messiah Has Come**  
**Week 23**  
**Matthew 6:9-10**  
**“Effective Prayer” (Part 2)**

**Introduction**

**Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.**

**James 5:16**

As we continue our study of prayer in this section of Christ's sermon on the mount, we now turn our attention to what is commonly referred to as “*The LORD’S Prayer*” or “*The Model Prayer*”. Many have misinterpreted the meaning or intent of this prayer and have mistakenly thought the Savior was commanding His followers to repeatedly pray this specific prayer when communicating with our Heavenly Father. Nothing could be further from the truth. For to just say this prayer over and over again simply by rote would be in opposition to the Jesus’ earlier instruction:

**When you pray, don’t babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they’ll be heard for their many words.**

**Matthew 6:7**

No, we are not to repeatedly use The LORD’S prayer as our way of talking with God. It is merely a formula, a guideline, if you will, to teach us how to pray. To repeat it over and over again is an incorrect use of its intent, just as it would be to repeat any other scripted prayers such as those offered up countless times by those of the Roman Catholic persuasion. God wants to hear from your heart, not some recited, canned and pre-prepared statement written down on a piece of paper!

I once heard a story about a man who went to his priest to learn how to pray. The priest wrote him a very eloquent and wordy prayer and instructed him to pray it each night before bed time. In order to remember all the words, the man actually taped the prayer above the headboard of his bed. For the longest time, he knelt every night and recited the prayer as he read it aloud.

After doing this for many months the man began to grow weary of repeating the same words and phrases day in and day out. So he eventually ended up getting on his knees for a few seconds every evening before bedtime, pointing to the prayer on the wall and saying, “There it is LORD, you should know it by heart by now.” As weary as he was of *saying it*, just imagine for a moment how weary The LORD was of *hearing it* !

As we have previously learned, Jesus died so that we can pray. That is what the cross was all about, to re-establish the connection between our once dead spirits and The Spirit of The Living God. Therefore, shouldn’t we make every effort to have, as James says, “*a powerful and effective*” prayer life? Of course. And the very purpose of the model prayer in Jesus’ sermon was not so it would be repeated over and over again, thereby becoming empty and vain, but rather to be used as a powerful example of *how* to pray. The model prayer teaches us to pray with the correct priorities in mind.

Jesus has assured us that when we pray *in His Name*, then our prayers will be both heard and answered.

**You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask The Father in My Name, He will give you.**

**John 15:16**

So what does it mean to pray “*in Jesus Name*”? Does it mean to tell God what we want and then to tack on the line “*we ask this in Jesus Name*” at the end, so it will make God go to work for us? Some people teach that. **And they are dead wrong.** To pray *in Jesus Name* means to align our will with His. In short, as His disciples, we are to desire what *He desires*. As His servants, we work for Him, not the other way around! And let me tell you this morning, the LORD’S Prayer is a perfect example of praying with our priorities perfectly aligned with Christ’s priorities.

This prayer is so deep in its revealed truths that I feel it would not be appropriate to try and teach it in one short message. Therefore, for the purpose of our study on prayer, we will only cover the first portion of the model prayer this morning, unpacking, if you will, verses 9-10. We will discover how to properly align our desires with those of God and learn to truly pray in Jesus Name. So, let us look today at our *Position of Privilege, Place of Promise*, along with *God's Plan and Purpose*; for to know these things is to be properly equipped to start praying. Please allow me to explain.

### Position of Privilege (vs. 9)

**Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, Your Name be honored as holy.** **Matthew 6:9**

First things first, notice that The LORD did not say, “*You should pray this...*”, but rather, He said, you should pray “*like this*”. The word in the Greek is *houto*, which literally means “*in this manner*”. So an accurate rendering of the text could well read: “*This is the manner in which you should pray.*” As we have read previously, He is not giving us a prayer here to recite, but rather a pattern by which to structure our prayers. So with this in mind, let us proceed to discover the formula He offers.

The prayer begins with our position of privilege that we are offered in Christ Jesus. The phrase “*Our Father*” clearly demonstrates the great gift that has been bestowed upon us by the blood of Christ! Those who have placed their faith in Him have become the adopted sons of The Heavenly Father. Or as John the Apostle has so eloquently stated:

**He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, He gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in His Name, who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God.** **John 1:11-13**

Do not miss the glory in this, for while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (**Romans 5:8**). And by placing our faith in Him alone for our salvation, not only are we saved and reconciled to a Holy God (**Your Name be honored as Holy**), but we have been **adopted** by Him as well!

**For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by Whom we cry out, “Abba, Father!”** **Romans 8:15**

So is it any wonder that as soon as we understand the privilege of calling Him our “Father” or as Paul says our “Abba” (an Aramaic word meaning “Daddy”), that immediately following those words, we see a doxology of praise: “**Your Name be honored as holy!**” You see, when we understand the privilege or our position in Christ, the next thing that should come from our lips is praise for the God Who loved us enough to offer up His Son for our adoption. So our prayers should always begin with the recognition of Who He is and the praise He so richly deserves. “*Holy Father, we honor you, and bless Your Name!*” The Scriptures repeatedly tell us that our prayers need to be filled with praise and thanksgiving.

**Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and bless His Name. For The LORD is good, and His faithful love endures forever; His faithfulness, through all generations.** **Psalms 100:4-5**

### Place of Promise (vs. 9b)

**Our Father in heaven...** **Matthew 6:9b**

After the recognition of our position of privilege, that we are the adopted children of our Father God, we are then reminded of exactly where He resides, namely in heaven. To understand this is to understand that we are not at home here in this world. Why does this matter? Because the more that we

understand that we are merely pilgrims passing through this world, the less we care about the things this world has to offer. Show me a materialistic prayer, and I will show you a man who doesn't understand that we don't get to hold onto what we have down here! As I once heard a wise preacher say, "You never see a hearse pulling a U-Haul!"

In Simon Peter's first epistle, he reminds us that our minds need to be set upon the place to which we're going, rather than being consumed with the here and now.

**Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be sober-minded and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

**1 Peter 1:13**

What he literally said was for us to "gird up the loins of our mind". In the days of long flowing robes, a man had to tuck them in around his waist to prepare for a long journey (such as the Exodus from Egypt. **Exodus 12:11**). So what Peter is telling us is that we are to set our minds on what is above and not what is below. We are to be ever prepared to leave this old world and journey to a far better land of promise. We have a Father Who is in heaven, and therefore, we long to be at home with Him. When we have this mindset, stuff down here doesn't consume us nearly as much. The happiest Believers are those who have loosened their grip on this world and are stretching toward the finish line! So is it any wonder that in this very same message The LORD tells us:

**Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

**Matthew 6:19-21**

Now, listen to the opening words of the model prayer once more and feel the priorities of your life begin to shift: **Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name....**(**Matthew 6:9 KJV**)

### **Plan and Purpose (vs. 10)**

**Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Matthew 6:10**

There is coming a day, when The LORD will come and literally take back what is His, namely the earth. God the Father has promised it to Him as His inheritance. And to be honest, when the book of *Revelation* speaks of "the prayers of the saints" (**Revelation 5:8**), I am convinced that it is this very portion of The Model Prayer to which it is referring. The reason I believe this so strongly is that the entire book of *Revelation* is dedicated to the telling of when Christ will in fact execute God's plan to come and take back what is rightfully His.

As it stands right now, the devil is the prince of this world (**John 14:30**), but a day will come, when he is forever banished and Christ will come to establish His kingdom. As Believers, we understand that it is to this end that our God is sovereignly moving. And although things appear to be consumed by the darkness, the light will, in truth, ultimately prevail. And as His children, we long for this day. And to long for this day is to want it more than anything else. That is the motivation and priority of our prayer life.

So, when we pray, we pray to this end. We want to see Christ reign upon the earth. And part of this reality is the knowledge that things will, without question, get far worse before they get better.

**You are going to hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, because these things must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these events are the beginning of labor pains. Then they will hand you over to be persecuted, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of My Name. Then many will fall away, betray one another, and hate one another. Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**

**Matthew 24:6-14**

Now, is it just me, or does it sound like The LORD took this passage and ripped it from today's headlines in the newspapers? I was more than a bit astounded at some Believer's reactions to this latest dustup between Israel and Iran. Many were running around in a panic worried that "the end was near". But wait a minute! Aren't we supposed to be glad that the end is near?!

Aren't we even supposed to be praying for the end to come? ***"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*** (***Matthew 6:10 KJV***). Jesus told us that all these things must happen before the end comes, and He commanded us not to be alarmed, when they did in fact occur. So why are so many people these days in panic mode, rather than praise mode? Could it be that their priorities are not aligned as they should be? After all, the only reason a person wouldn't be excited that the end is near is that they are actually dreading the end, rather than longing for its coming. Convicting, is it not? Once again, the Model Prayer is about aligning our will with the will of God. And when our priorities are *His priorities*, then we know exactly how to be praying.

And these two short verses (***Matthew 6:9-10***) completely set the tone for proper alignment of our prayers. For in them, we see the privilege we have been given in Christ, which leads us to praise and honor The Father, followed by the priorities of God Himself to bring us home to the place of promise and to bring about His plan and purpose to expel Satan from this world and to reign in glory. When these things become our own priorities, then we know how to pray and to seek God's will for our daily lives.

There are certain things that are simply expected of every Believer; things such as giving and praying and yes, even fasting, which The LORD will also address in the coming verses of this wondrous sermon. Remember, He doesn't say, "if you give" or "if you pray" or even "if you fast", but rather, He says "when" we do all these things. And then He continues to tell us the kingdom way of doing them. To be a citizen of the kingdom is to live in accordance with the wishes of its King. And this is what prayer is all about, aligning our wants and wishes with the very wants and wishes of God. And that gives a whole new meaning to the Scripture that commands us:

**Take delight in The LORD, and He will give you your heart's desire.**

**Psalms 37:4**

Our Savior is the ultimate example of this kind of living, for He always submitted Himself to doing the will of The Father, trusting Him in all things. When Jesus performed a healing miracle on the Sabbath, the religious leaders wanted to execute Him, for they did not recognize God's plan, because they were too caught up in their own selfish ambition and desire. They missed the will of God, even though they prayed regularly! Listen to The LORD'S reply to their accusations:

**Jesus responded to them. "My Father is still working, and I am working also." This is why the Jews began trying all the more to kill Him: Not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal to God. Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, The Son is not able to do anything on His own, but only what He sees The Father doing. For whatever The Father does, The Son likewise does these things. For the Father loves The Son and shows Him everything He is doing, and He will show Him greater works than these so that you will be amazed. And just as The Father raises the dead and gives them life, so The Son also gives life to whom He wants. The Father, in fact, judges no one but has given all judgment to The Son, so that all people may honor The Son just as they honor The Father. Anyone who does not honor The Son does not honor The Father Who sent Him.**

**John 5:17-23**

So, do not allow your own selfish desires to worm their way into your prayer life. But rather, align yourself with God's will and God's priorities, and yes *then*, you are adequately prepared to pray! For when you ask The LORD for the things that He already wants, the answer is always... Yes!

**Truth!!!**