

Pray, then, in this way: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Jesus is continuing his Sermon on the Mount and as he had done since the beginning of the discourse, he was correcting wrong thinking and practice among the Jewish people. We have already discussed about praying being a private time between the believer and God and that prayer should not be meaningless repetition. In the next section which we commonly call "The Lord's Prayer" he is giving a form for prayer. Apparently, because we do not see this prayer being used in any other place in the New Testament after the recording of this sermon here and in Luke, the early church did not recite this prayer as a matter of ritual or routine. It is a kind of outline that can be used as needed. According to the commentator Adam Clarke, teachers would often give their students a form to use for prayer. How privileged were the disciples and us to be given the perfect form for prayer.

It is necessary to point out the obvious that Jesus is telling us to pray. How important prayer is to the believer cannot be overstated.

- It is a way to _____.
- It focuses our _____ on him.
- It causes us to see our wrong thinking and actions and _____.
- It allows us to _____ our glorious God.
- It gives us opportunity to _____ our brothers and sisters because we can _____ on their behalf before the Father.

Ephesians 6:18

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.

1 Thessalonians 5:17
Pray without ceasing.

Jesus starts the prayer with “Our Father”. We are so blessed to be able to call God our Father. We can love and trust him as the loving and devoted Father he is. He perfectly created us and tenderly nurtures us to cause us to be molded into the image of his eternal son Jesus Christ. We don’t always see the molding as nurturing because it can be painful at times, but we can trust that he only allows what is good to come into our lives. The other part of this statement is the “Our” part. We are part of a family 😊. We are not isolated with no family. When we become members of the family of God through faith in Jesus Christ we are adopted as his children and Christ is our brother.

Romans 8:15

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

The Father that we pray to is the glorious God of Heaven. He is above all and worshipped by all the heavenly beings. According to Clarke, this phrase is used to express God’s:

- _____ – 1 Kings 8:27 ...Behold, heaven and highest heaven cannot contain Thee....
- _____ – 2 Chronicles 20:6a ...O Lord, the God of our fathers, art Thou not God in the heavens? And art Thou not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations?
- _____ – 2 Chronicles 20:6b... Power and might are in Thy hand so that no one can stand against Thee.
- _____ – Psalm 33:13-15 The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; from His dwelling place He looks out

on all the inhabitants of the earth, He who fashions the hearts of them all, he who understands all their works.

- _____ – Isaiah 57:15a For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, I dwell on a high and holy place...

The next part of the prayer is “hallowed be thy name”. The word hallowed is the Greek word “hagiazō” and means to make holy, i.e. (ceremonially) purify or consecrate; (mentally) to venerate:--hallow, be holy, sanctify. God is holy in his very nature. He is completely pure and cannot sin. We can only behave in a holy manner. Our nature is not holy but because we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit we are given the ability to act holy. Because He is holy, we sanctify or set apart God as high above us.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.

Isaiah 6:1-3 In the year of King Uzziah’s death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.”

God’s name represents God himself with all his attributes including his power, justice, mercy, wisdom, etc. We set him apart and worship him with our words, our thoughts, and every part of our lives. Therefore, every activity of our day is conducted in a manner of worship. Parents teach, nurture, and discipline their children in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord. Business is conducted honestly and without greed. Authority is submitted to because the Bible says that we ought to do so. Husbands and wives treat each other as the Bible teaches.

As with all that we have learned from studying Christ’s Sermon on the Mount, the most important thing is our hearts. The Lord’s prayer begins with having a

heart of worship. Our days should start and end with worship of our great God. He is worthy of all our love and devotion.

Revelation 5:12 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

Amen!!

The Lord's prayer has the phrase "Hallowed be thy name". The names of God in the Bible are intended to make us aware of his attributes. There are also many names given in the Bible for our savior Jesus. Below, list a few of the names of God/Jesus and how they can increase our ability to worship.