

The Disciples Prayer

(also commonly referred to as the Lord's Prayer)

*Matthew 6:9-13 "In this manner, therefore, 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 this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. ** For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."*

In His model for prayer, Jesus shows us we can and should have a relationship with God as a child should have with their father and that honoring God, seeking His kingdom and His will should be of first importance. He is the creator of heaven and earth and all that are in them. In our reverence for who He is we acknowledge that His holy name should be honored. Jesus used a child's word for father, which is used within the family circle, and implies familiarity based on love. Though here on earth, some have had good fathers, some bad and some not at all, God has drawn us to Him so we may have hope, knowing the comfort of God, that "abba" (daddy) father relationship. God is the Father of all who receive Christ. Through God's Word we have an understanding that God's ways and His will are obeyed in heaven and we pray for the final establishment of His rule and reign on earth, that what He wills may be done not only in heaven, but also among us here on earth.

We then ask God for our daily bread, to give us the food to satisfy our needs each day. We know, that in His grace and mercy, He has promised to supply our needs as stated in (*Matt 6:25-34*). It states *"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Will all your worries add a single moment to your life? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither labor nor spin; and yet I say to you that even * Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as beautifully as they. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't He more surely care for you O men of little faith? So don't worry at all about having enough food and clothing..... Your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

We then ask God to show us mercy in forgiving our sins, as we show mercy in forgiving those who we feel have wronged us. As Christians we are not to hold a grudge against another person. If we want mercy we need to show mercy. We have been forgiven of our sins, past present and future, in relation to the wages of sin, which is death (our spiritual death and separation from God), when we confessed and repented of those sins and asked for God's forgiveness. But as we sin daily, (in thought, word or deed), we distance ourselves from our relationship with God. (*1 John 1:9*) says *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* These are our many daily transgressions that our conscience continually makes us aware of. Honest confession of our sins brings forgiveness and restores that close relationship with God that we both want. We are told our sins are forgiven, and they are, but that does not mean we may not have to suffer the consequences of our actions. (*Galatians 6:7*) states *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."* And (*Hebrews 12:5-6*) says *"... My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He disciplines you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and punishes everyone He accepts as a son."* (*Heb. 12:3-11; Duet 8:5; Rev. 3:19- see below*) However, the severity of those consequences may be affected by the grace and mercy of God because of the grace and mercy you have shown to others. Many who may not have accepted Jesus as their Savior until very late in their life may have already experienced tough times in their lives, reaping the consequences of their actions, but after accepting Jesus and being *"born again,"* all those sins have been *forgiven* and the slate has been wiped clean. Now we just need to stay close in our relationship, through prayer and trust God to see us through all the situations and circumstances we find ourselves in.

Regarding temptation, here we make known to God of our desire to avoid the dangers of sin altogether. We ask "Do not allow us to be led into temptation." There is a way out of temptation, as stated in (1 Cor. 10:13), but the Apostle James tells us temptation carries a terrible risk. (James 1:12-15) states "*Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God;" for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.* (1 Cor10:13) assures us that "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

In asking to be delivered from the evil one, we ask to be delivered from his power, his snares, his temptations and all the trials and oppressive situations that we are liable to fall into because of them. To be delivered from them means to be in God's protective safety.

Lastly it says "... *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*" ** This doxology is found at the end of the disciple's prayer in (Matthew 6:13) This praise is connected with the prayer by the word "for," to signify that all these things - the reign, power, and glory of God - will be manifested by granting these petitions. The "kingdom" is God's to reign and rule over, as is determined by His will. He has the "power" to accomplish all that we ask, for though we are weak, He is Almighty and *all* things are possible with God. God's "glory" is displayed and honored by His goodness in granting that in which we ask for, protecting us and the spread of His kingdom through the earth. "Amen" simply means a certainty, such as "so be it."

*Scripture referring to the Lord's discipline of His own:

(Deuteronomy 8:5) *You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.*

(Romans 5:2-4) *Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.*

(Heb. 12:3-11) *Consider Him (Jesus) who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son." Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

(Revelation 3:19) *Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.*

* The prosperity of King Solomon is described in (1 Kings Chap. 3-4). He was the wisest and richest man who ever lived.

John 17 – Is more correctly known as “The Lord’s Prayer,”

Luke 11:2-4 and Matthew 6:9-13 – Which begin “Our Father who art in heaven...” Are commonly called the Lord’s Prayer, but have become known as “The Disciples Prayer, a model Jesus gave us for our prayers.

John 17 – Is more correctly known as “The Lord’s Prayer,” because :

Jesus prays for Himself as described in (*John 17:1-5*)

Jesus prays for His disciples as described in (*John 17:6-19*)

Jesus prays for all believers as described in (*John 17:20-26*)

Here, in His Prayer to the Father, as throughout this *Gospel of John*, Jesus' deeds and words make no sense unless one realizes He is God, such as when He states “All I have is Yours, and all You have is Mine.” This prayer brings together many of the key themes found throughout the Gospel. The Son's work in the disciples is developed through the themes of faith, knowledge, love, indwelling, oneness and God's name. There is also an emphasis on the world, including its separation from God, God's love for it and the disciples' mission to it. *Note: When the term “They” and “Them,” “These” and “Those” are used, He is speaking of “you” as believers.

Jesus prays for Himself as described in (John 17:1-5) *After Jesus said this, He looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that Your Son may glorify You. For You granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those You have given Him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began.*

Jesus prays for His disciples as described in (John 17:6-19) *“I have revealed You to the ones You gave Me from this world. They were always Yours. You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that everything I have is a gift from You, for I have passed on to them the message You gave Me. They accepted it and know that I came from You, and they believe You sent Me. “My prayer is not for the world, but for those You have given Me, because they belong to You. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, You have given Me Your name; now protect them by the power of Your name so that they will be united just as We are. During My time here, I protected them by the power of Your name. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold. “Now I am coming to You. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with My joy. I have given them Your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I’m not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by Your truth; teach them Your word, which is truth. Just as You sent Me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give Myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by Your truth.”*

Jesus prays for all believers as described in (John 17:20-26) *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as **We are one**: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”*

“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

One last comment that pertains to each and every Christian since Jesus ascended back into heaven. After He had resurrected and appeared to the disciples, Thomas (known as doubting Thomas), was not there. (*John 20:24-29*) recounts his encounter with the Lord. *“Now Thomas (called the twin), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it.” A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed; **blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**”*

Religion is man reaching up to God, trying to be “good enough” to earn his salvation – Whatever you feel you need to do, how much will be enough? Whatever you feel you need to give, whether it’s time, possessions or money, how much will be enough? When you try to earn God’s favor, you are saying He “owes” you and you ignore what is said in (*Romans 6:23*) *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Again He emphasizes the fact in (*Ephesians 2:8-9*) *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*

2 Samuel 14:14 All of us must die eventually. Our lives are like water spilled out on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. But God does not just sweep life away; instead, He devises ways to bring us back when we have been separated from Him. (great verse!)

Christianity is God reaching down to man for a relationship, offering salvation as a free gift needing only acceptance. God knows His creation and knows we are not capable of being good enough to earn our salvation which is why He made a plan that enables us to have the opportunity to obtain that salvation.

God’s way; His salvation plan is the Gospel message – The Bible teaches that to obtain Salvation each man must personally believe in the Gospel Message which is: God sent Jesus to this earth to make God known to man and for the purpose of dying, in my place, for my sins, that is – my redemption. You must believe *by faith* that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, *and* God as the 2nd Person of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), who came to this world in human flesh, the only sinless man, who died for our sins and was resurrected from the dead to affirm who He was. It is our responsibility to confess, repent and turn from our sins and ask for forgiveness. Salvation is wholly of God by grace, (unmerited, undeserved favor), on the basis of our trust in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood on the cross, and not on the basis of human merit or works (*John 1:12; Eph. 1:4-7, 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-21*). The redemption of man being accomplished by His death on the cross and three days later, the greatest event to ever take place on earth, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It is the reason we celebrate Easter. It is the beginning of new life. The beginning of our new life (no matter how old we may be) when we acknowledge that He died in our place for our sins. To know who Jesus is, is the most important fact you will ever discover and the impact of that realization is “eternal!”