

## Lord teach us to Pray

And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

13 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. [c]

14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Mathew 7- 14

Of the many great accomplishments of Jesus, the most I love, is the way He simplified the most complicated stuff and handed it down even to the littlest child, the unschooled, the gentile, the outcast woman etc.

He simplified Salvation : It is to believe that He paid my debts on the Cross.

He simplified Relationship : The Cross bridges the gulf between us and the Father God.

Simplifying doesn't mean it comes cheap. The prize was so high we could have never paid it and that is why Jesus made it simple, paid for it and gave it to us for free . Pause. Think about it. Selah!

He simplified Prayer : It was not anymore the ostentatious forte of the religious. Anyone could pray.

Did you hear that : Anyone could pray. You, I , the sinner, the saint, the scientist, the believer, the unbeliever, a child, a teen, the sick and dying... anyone.

Anyone could speak to the Father.

Mind boggling.

These are the things which made the religious folks mad with fury against Jesus. He not only entered their territory but also distributed their goods for free.

Prayer has been jealously guarded as their obsessive possession.

That is why even His own disciples asked with hunger in their hearts, “Lord teach us to pray...” Luke 11,1

Jesus teaches them to pray right. Not to use big words, lofty style or high diction.

He makes it clear that the Father in heaven knows all that we need and so we need not send Him a need petition.

But Jesus changes the way we normally pray.

Prayer should start with the Great God who is our Father. We do not call anyone Father but the only one who gave birth to us.

When we are born of the Spirit then God has given us the great honour of calling Him our Father (For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father. Romans 8 : 14-15)

So we start prayer by personalizing God as our Father.

Then the focus is His Kingdom. That was the focus of the ministry of Jesus when He was on earth. He went around preaching about the Kingdom.

He preached about the Kingdom of God to be realized within us : The Kingdom that will come into our hearts when we live following the footsteps of Jesus, following the words of Jesus.

Then we pray for God’s will to prosper in our lives. When we really pray this, God should have the right to decide the way of our lives. But sadly we pray for His will, but in reality we do not want God’s will to prosper in our life. We want our wills to happen and we pray that God will prosper our will in our lives. This is the reason for so many needless complications and confusions in our lives.

Jesus teaches us to ask for our daily bread : Our food for this life and food for our soul also. Jesus speaks of Himself as the Bread of Life.

The next step is forgiveness.

Many Christians say they forgive, but they know in their hearts they have not. But forgiving others is the key to release God's forgiveness in our lives.

This prayer with either trap us or will release us. It is double edged. We have to give word. It's like , "Lord forgive me when I forgive others." To forgive is not an option, it is a commandment.

Have we really forgiven to receive the forgiveness of God?

We then also commit our soul, body and spirit to God and ask Him to keep us from the evil one. It is very important that we make sure that we submit ourselves into the safekeeping of God's eternal care always.

We round off the prayer by proclaiming His coming Kingdom, His power and glory. Not only His Kingdom is within us, but we also wait for His Kingdom come.

This is a beautiful beginning step to start praying meaningfully. It is sad when this prayer is chanted as a rosary. No Jesus gives us a model to pray meaningfully and from the heart.

Praying this will take us higher into the school of Prayer. This is level 1. This is for all of us. When we start praying aright, the Spirit of God will teach us to pray more .

And so let us pray unceasingly.

Yes Lord, Teach us to pray.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dy-z107XRo>