

The
DISCIPLES'
PRAYER

.....
An *Hour* with God



Jesus most explicit instruction for prayer is found in Matthew's gospel. Here He outlines categories to pray through. The Disciples' Prayer is more like the scaffolding than the building—more like the skeleton than the body. It is a framework that provides subjects, as well as the proper order in which to approach heaven. This was never intended to be a mindless repetition. Rather, it provides a spectrum of content about which to converse with our heavenly Father each day.

Read this slowly and thoughtfully...

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." (Matthew 6:9-13).

INSTRUCTIONS...

1. You are dedicating the next hour to pray according to the way Jesus taught.
2. There is no rush. Quiet your heart.
3. Thoughtfully pray through each category in this guide. Remember this is NOT a brochure to read, but a grouping of topics about which to speak with your Father.
4. You are alone with God. Speak from your heart to His heart.
5. Look up the Scriptures and prayerfully work through each section.

#1. OUR FATHER — "Our FATHER who art in Heaven"

Most people pray about three things... "I, ME, and MY." But there is no reference to "I, ME, or MY" mentioned in the Disciples' Prayer.

This is a family prayer. Jesus taught us to pray—"Our Father." Notice the familial verbiage...

- Give US
- Forgive US
- Deliver US

There is more to prayer than getting "my" needs met. When God is our Father we have privileged and affectionate access, along with all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Look up these verses and use them as prayer

prompts addressing our Father:

Ps. 89:26, Isa. 9:6, Isa. 63:16, Isa. 64:8, Matt. 11:25-27

#2. HIS NAME —“*Hallowed be your NAME*”

The Model Prayer begins with a GOD-FOCUS.

Prayer is not asking God to restructure the universe to meet my felt-needs! Nor is it requesting that the Lord rearrange my circumstances so I will be more comfortable.

The first three requests address God’s concerns...

- *HALLOWED be your name*
- *Your KINGDOM come*
- *Your WILL be done*

We must move away from beginning our prayerful interactions with needs and requests. To begin with needs instead of God’s glory is against the Scriptural pattern. God-centered prayer starts with...

- God’s NAME
- God’s KINGDOM
- God’s WILL

Jesus was direct and emphatic. The primary principle of prayer is to Honor the Name of God, Advance the Kingdom of God, and Implement the Will of God.

Praise precedes PETITION

Worship precedes INTERCESSION

Submission precedes SUPPLICATION

“Hallow” means to sanctify, set apart, reverence, and exalt. God has revealed His character through His names. To reverence our Father, we must gain understanding of His nature by studying His name(s).

“They that know thy name will put their trust in thee” (Ps. 9:10). PRAISE HIS NAME NOW!

ELOHIM

One Who is great (Used 32 times in Gen. 1) Mighty, majestic and suggests Trinity.

EL SHADDAI

Almighty God Who is mighty to completely nourish, satisfy and supply us (Gen. 17:1).

ADONAI

The God Who is owner and ruler over everything (Isa.6:1).

“That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth” (Ps. 83:18). PRAISE JEHOVAH OUT LOUD!

JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU

“I AM YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS” (Jer. 23:6)

JEHOVAH-M'KADDESHI

"I AM YOUR SANCTIFICATION" (Ex. 31:13)

JEHOVAH-SHALOM

"I AM YOUR PEACE" (Jud. 6:24)

JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH

"I AM PRESENT WITH YOU" (Ezek. 48:35)

JEHOVAH-RAPHA

"I AM YOUR HEALING" (Ex. 15:26)

JEHOVAH-JIREH

"I AM YOUR PROVISION" (Gen. 22:13, 14)

JEHOVAH-EL GMOLAH

"I AM YOUR RECOMPENSE" (Jer. 51:56)

JEHOVAH-NISSI

"I AM YOUR BANNER" (Ex. 17:15)

JEHOVAH-ROHI

"I AM YOUR SHEPHERD" (Ps. 23:1)

JEHOVAH- ELYON

"I AM THE LORD MOST HIGH" (Ps. 97:9)

JEHOVAH-SABAOTH

"I AM THE LORD OF HOSTS" (1 Sam. 1:3)

#3. CHRIST'S LORDSHIP — "*Your KINGDOM come*"

"He prays not at all, in whose prayers there is no mention of the kingdom of God." Adam Clarke

Scripturally the Kingdom of God carries multiple meanings. The phrase "Kingdom of God..."

- #1 Acknowledges a Past Kingdom. Israel was intended to function as a Theocracy—ruled by God Himself.
- #2 Anticipates a Future Kingdom. Christ will return and set up His throne on earth.
- #3 Accentuates a Present Kingdom. "The kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21).

To pray for the His kingdom to come refers to the expansion and extension of His jurisdiction and reign. When we cry and beseech Christ to set up His kingdom on earth, we are praying that Satan's kingdom would be demolished!

Most religious people seem more interested in a Savior than a King. The downplaying of Christ's Lordship in our day does not dismiss its importance. This prayer is asking that His authority, supremacy, and governance be dominant in our own hearts! All the true servants of Christ long for His LORDSHIP over all areas of life. When the LORD Jesus is present and actively in charge, He always leads us to victory! To pray

“your kingdom come” speaks of surrender and submission. When Paul was converted, he submitted himself to Christ—“*Lord, what would you have me to do?*”

Take some time now to invite the Holy Spirit to search you...

- “*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting*” (Ps. 139:23-24). SELAH.
- Linger and “listen.”

Pray out loud: “LORD, may your kingdom come in my...

- Heart—“LORD, let your kingship be established in my heart.”
- Family—“LORD, come and rule in our home.”
- Church—“LORD, we submit to your authority.”
- Community—“LORD, let your supremacy be recognized where we live.”

#4. HIS WILL —“Your WILL be done on earth”

When we touch heaven in prayer, God changes things on earth! Prayer is God’s means to implement His will on earth. If God’s purposes were automatically fulfilled, there would be no need to pray His designs into existence. Prayer is not about “my will” being done in heaven. It’s about “His will” being done on earth.

- Prayer brings eternity to bear upon time.
- Prayer imports the will of God into our world.
- Prayer brings the future into the present.

GOD’S COMMANDMENTS ARE HIS WILL

We discover God’s will in His commandments. Every demand reveals His desire. Look up the following commands and pray through each one:

1 Thess. 4:3, Eph. 5:17-18, 1 Thess. 5:18

GOD’S PROMISES ARE HIS WILL

Prayer can turn a Promise into a Prophecy.

Scores of Christians believe GOD CAN—few dare to believe GOD WILL. Read and CLAIM these promises: Matt. 11:28-30, Matt. 21:22, John 14:13-14, Ps. 91:14-16, Ps. 50:14-15, Isa. 41:17

#5. OUR NEEDS —“Give us this day our DAILY BREAD”

“If we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him” (1 John 5:15).

Having addressed God’s interests, next we are instructed to pray over our NEEDS.

“Daily bread” speaks of God’s provision. The Bible says, *“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Peter 5:7).* Talk with your Father about your burdens and concerns...

- Spiritual NEEDS
- Emotional NEEDS
- Financial NEEDS
- Physical NEEDS
- Relational NEEDS
- Family NEEDS

#6. OUR CLEANSING —“FORGIVE us our debts”

There must be cleansing before *filling*. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).*

Here—alone with God:

1. Take time to examine your own heart.
2. Let God guide you.
3. Confess every sin- admit and agree.
4. Prayerfully consider each question.
 - Have I surrendered everything to the Lord?
 - Have I ever prayed like this? “Lord, everything that I know to be sin, and everything that you show me to be sin, I give it up and turn to Jesus Christ.”
 - Have I placed all of my trust and confidence in Jesus Christ? (Eph. 2:8, John 14:6)
 - Do I have a sincere desire to do God’s will in every area of my life (the will of God is never contrary to the Word of God)? (1 John 2:16, Matthew 7:21)
 - Do I love to read and meditate upon the Word of God?
 - Are my personal devotions consistent and regular?
 - How long has it been since I prayed for something that only the supernatural power of God could fulfill, and God answered?
() hours () days () weeks () months
() years
 - Can I truly say that I do not lie, exaggerate, misrepresent, or mislead?
 - Do I find it hard to ask forgiveness of another

for a wrong or an offense from my family or acquaintances?

- Is it hard to admit when I am wrong?
- Do I have a tendency to want credit for accomplishments?
- Do I desire to be recognized?
- Do I defend myself when a fault or sin is pointed out in my life?
- Is my primary drive to look out for ME (self) rather than serve others?
- Do any of the following in any way interfere with my surrender and service to God: Ambition, pleasures, loved ones, friendships, desire for recognition, money, your own plans?
- Which governs my life: Fear of God? Or fear of man?
- Do I have a pure heart?
- Do I keep “short sin accounts” with God?
- Do I confess my sins by name?
- Am I allowing Jesus Christ to be the Lord and Master of every area of my life?

Sins confessed are sins forgiven. Thank Him now for cleansing.

#7. OUR FORGIVING —“As we forgive our DEBTORS”

“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matt. 6:14-15).

Forgiveness is the choice to release a debt. It is not a *feeling*—it is a *decision*. Thoughtfully pray through these questions.

- Is there anyone against whom I hold a grudge?
- Is there anyone I have not forgiven?
- Is there anyone I hate?
- Are there any misunderstandings that I am unwilling to forget?
- Do I allow anything to justify a wrong attitude toward another?
- Am I secretly pleased over the misfortunes of another?
- Am I secretly annoyed over the accomplishments or advancements of another?
- Are there people I deliberately slight or secretly resent?
- Am I willing to give up my right to hurt the people who have hurt me?

Pray right now and release every debt you are holding against another.

- “Lord, today I choose to forgive / release (name your offenders) for hurting me.”

#8. HIS DELIVERANCE —“*DELIVER us from evil*”

The Disciples’ Prayer concludes with a preventative plea: “*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*” (Matthew 6:13).

Intercede now for deliverance from all sin, and the Evil One.

- Pray for victory over besetting sins
- Pray for your spouse
- Pray for your pastor(s)
- Pray for your friends
- Pray for safety and empowerment
- Pray for your family
- Pray for your church
- Pray for your enemies

CLOSING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Praise God for His forgiveness. “*As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us*” (Ps. 103:12).
2. Ask God for a fresh filling of His Spirit. By faith thank Him for filling you NOW!
3. Finish with gratitude and praise: *Thine is the kingdom and power and the glory forever... Amen.*

To order additional copies of this pamphlet, or view a host of other revival resources, contact:

www.christlifemin.org



This prayer guide is a tool used in the Prayer Advances sponsored by Christ Life Ministries. Learn more about the Prayer Advance by visiting our web site.

Printed in USA