

20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 4 (January 19-25, 2014)

No study on prayer would be complete without looking at the model prayer given by Jesus. We will turn our attention to the portion of Scripture known as "The Lord's Prayer" in our studies this week.

Sunday -- January 19

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, . . . (Matthew 6:9)

Jesus gives us a **model** to follow in our prayers. I do not believe that the prayer is supposed to be quoted every time we come together, although there is nothing wrong with doing that. He begins by telling us to address God as "**our** Father" to remind us that He is universal as well as being personal. "In Heaven" refers, not only to the place where we will spend eternity, but it also includes earth's atmosphere and outer space. God is present everywhere! "**Hallowed** be your name," means His entire **character** and His entire **mission** accomplished on earth is to be **honored**. Sadly, we use this sacred word, "hallowed" to create the word "Halloween," a day to honor Satan and demons. As children of God, we are to honor **who He is** and **what He has done for us** every time we enter His presence!

Monday -- January 20

. . . your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10)

I am amazed at the number of people who love to quote the Lord's Prayer, but who do not believe in the **earthly reign** of Jesus for 1000 years (see Revelation 20:1-6). Whenever we quote today's passage, we are asking our Lord to hurry up and return to earth to establish His kingdom at which time His will can be accomplished "on earth as it is in heaven." We are also asking God to increase His kingdom **within our hearts** today as we accept **His will** for our lives though we may not completely understand it (see Luke 17:20-21). Are you tired of struggling with daily sins? Are you looking forward to the day when Christ will reign with us on earth? Then allow Him to reign in your heart today and you will experience a preview of coming attractions.

Tuesday -- January 21

Give us this day our daily bread. (Matthew 6:11)

There is certainly nothing wrong with asking God to supply your **physical** bread, as long as you thank Him for it before indulging. This verse, however, has a much deeper meaning than that. We are to ask Him, the **Bread of Life** (John 6:35), to give us as much of Himself and His Word as we can digest today (see Mark 4:33-34). Daily, you should seek to know more about Him and His Word. New knowledge leads to a deeper love for **who He is** and what He **has done** and **is doing** for you. Then you will want to return to the phrase, "Hallowed be your name."

Wednesday -- January 22

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matthew 6:12)

This concept is so important that our Lord amplifies it following His teaching of the model prayer (see v. 14-15). When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and come to live in our heart, we must also be willing to forgive all those who have sinned against us. How are you doing with this part of the prayer? He tells us in no uncertain terms that we cannot expect God to forgive our sins while we are harboring resentment toward those who have disappointed us. Have you considered the fact that those who pray this prayer are asking God **not to forgive** their sins until they deal with their own resentment and bitterness toward others? You may need to ask Him to help you forgive someone. Some hurts run so deep that we cannot let go of them in our own strength. You will find that you are carrying a much lighter load after you let go of that grudge against someone else.

Thursday -- January 23

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' (Matthew 6:13)

James writes, "When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone . . ." (James: 1:13). Why, then, should you ask God to deliver you from evil? By praying this prayer, you are acknowledging the fact that **you are weak** and realize that you could fall to temptation without His help. You are confirming the truth taught in 1 Corinthians 10:13: "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." **Remind Him** daily that you need His help to resist temptations. In turn, this will **remind you** that you can face any temptation that comes your way today, but only through His power.

Friday -- January 24

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' (Matthew 6:13)

The second part of this phrase makes no sense to anyone who does not believe in a literal devil, but to those of us who know that he exists to oppose everything Godly, Satan is a difficult enemy with which we must deal. It is imperative that we do not try to do battle with him in our own strength, because we will surely fail. Jesus taught us to pray this prayer because He is more than willing to assist us in our daily walk. Are you fully aware of the presence of evil in our world? Are you constantly asking God to keep you from falling into a temptation that is more than you can bear? Are you asking the Lord to defeat the power of Satan in your life? All of these are requests that stem from this portion of "The Lord's Prayer."

Saturday -- January 25

. . . for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen" (Matthew 6:13---see N.I.V. footnote).

This beautiful doxology was not a part of our Lord's original prayer, but it is a truthful and powerful ending that was added later. The phrase acknowledges God's sovereignty over the universe and reminds us that His kingdom is forever. The power of the evil one can never defeat the kingdom and power and glory of the Lord. I hope you understand that the coming Kingdom of Jesus Christ on earth will be brought about by His power alone and for His glory alone. Then we can pray with great anticipation, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).