



---

---

## Prayer Study 3: The Lord's Prayer

### **Background**

The Lord's Prayer is one of the most beautiful, complete and balanced prayers that we find in Scripture. Imagine the tense expectation and excitement when one of the disciples said to Jesus, "*Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.*" (Luke 11: 1b). I wonder, how do you think the disciples expected Jesus to reply? Is Jesus' reply what you might have expected?

The first 'half' of the Lord's prayer is centred on the glorification of God. The second 'half' covers the physical and spiritual well-being of believers. There is probably a reason for this. The priority is clear and matches Jesus' prioritizing of the Law elsewhere: "*The first of all the commandments is: Hear, Israel. The Lord our God is one Lord, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind, and with all your strength.*" (Mark 12: 29, 30).

### **Matthew 6: 5-15 & Luke 11: 1-4.**

- 1 Why do you think Jesus said "*let your name be sanctified*"? Surely God's name was sanctified...or was it?
- 2 What does this teach us about our motives in prayer and in application?
- 3 What do you think Jesus meant when he said "*let your kingdom come*"? Do we desperately desire God's kingdom to come?
- 4 Why do you think that "*let your will be done*" follows "*let your kingdom come*"?
- 5 What does "*give to us today our daily bread*" teach us? (See also Luke 12: 22-34).
- 6 What does "*forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors*" teach us? What insight does this give us of coming to the Lord's table?
- 7 Does God "*lead us into temptation*"?
- 8 How does the literal translation from the Greek "*because of you is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory to the ages*", differ from our translations?
- 9 We must never forget what a truly amazing gift this prayer is to us from God. It is a model on which to base all our communication with God and know that it is both pleasing and will be heard. How can we as a church and individuals use this prayer in



---

a way which both serves and glorifies God more sincerely and effectively?

Meditate on:

*“And when you pray, you shall not be as the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues, and in the corners of the open streets, so that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you that they have their reward. But you, when you pray, enter into your room, and shutting your door, pray to your Father in secret. And your Father seeing in secret will repay you in the open. But when you pray, do not use vain repetition, as the nations”*

