

## Reflections on the Lord's Prayer

*Pray then like this: "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 also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 6:9-18 ESV*

*To all who receive Him (Jesus), who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:12, 14 ESV*

You don't have to feel alone anymore. The Lord's prayer is not just a way of praying, it is a way of seeing. No matter how desperate our situation we do not need to feel alone. The words of the Lord's prayer were given by a young man in his thirties who knew He had less than three years to live. When we know, like Him, that God is our Father we know that we are not alone in an impersonal universe. We have a home.

Do you feel alone sometimes? God is always with you. You can talk to Him whenever you want.

Our Father in heaven, He's the creator of all the universe. We are His. Just as God is our true Father, heaven is our true home. When we keep His name holy we give Him the honor and respect due His name. The kingdom of the risen Christ cannot be stopped. When His kingdom comes and His will is done, the world is changed. When His kingdom comes into our lives we measure everything in life through Him.

Who is the king of your life? Will you let Jesus come into your heart and life?

What we look forward to helps shape what happens to us. The pain of childbirth cannot subdue the joy of having a child. Our suffering cannot subdue our joy of being with God forever. May His kingdom come and His will be done. Even in the middle of pain and disappointment we need to see the bigger framework of God walking beside us in the midst of a cruel sinful world.

What are some of the most joyful times in your life? What are you looking forward to for the future?

When we ask for our daily bread we're asking God to give us what we need for daily life. We come to God with confidence that He will provide. This is the only petition in the Lord's prayer when we ask for things. Just as God provided manna for His people in the wilderness, He will also watch over us and provide what we need. He not only gives us bread, but has created fruits, vegetables, and grain in a delightful variety.

God doesn't promise to give us everything we want, but He will provide what we need.

In the Lord's Prayer we learn that if we don't give forgiveness we will not receive forgiveness. We are forgiven as we forgive others. Withholding forgiveness hurts the person most who will not forgive. We need to cast off the resentments and grudges of the past. We have to let go. In Christ the walls of separation and hate come down. Forgiveness changes everything. Jesus is our peace. Ephesians 2:14

Is there anyone that you hold a grudge against? Will you let God make you willing to forgive?

We pray, lead us not into temptation. The word that is used for temptation is the same word used for testing. We also pray, deliver us from evil. We ask God to save us from the powers of darkness. Our prayer is that God will lead us into His goodness and light, protecting us and strengthening us. The Bible tells us, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9

Sometimes our struggles make us better and stronger people. Have you gone through a difficult time?

*Dear Lord, we thank You for this wonderful prayer that You have given us. We pray that Your kingdom come on earth and that Your will be done. What a wonderful world this would be if everyone loved and honored You. Take away our sins, resentments, and fears. Be glorified in us. In Jesus' name, Amen.*