

Next Week's Prayers



"...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

Jas. 5:16

▶ Prayer Exercise

Many of may have memorized the "Lord's Prayer" when we were children. If not, learn it this week and recite it at least once a day.

Spend one day each focusing on the six areas of this prayer (praise, priorities, provision, personal relationships, protection and praise again).

Identify the most difficult area for you and pay special attention to it in your prayers.



DEVELOPING STUDENTS
OF THE BIBLE

Sunday Morning Bible Class



▶ 40 Great Prayers of the Bible

Farmerville
Church of Christ

The Lord's Prayer
Mt. 6:9-15

Prayer Study #36

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Sunday Morning Bible Class

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The Lord's Prayer

Mt. 6:9-15

The "Lord's Prayer" is part of the section of scripture we call the Sermon on the Mount. Here, in one place, is the longest discourse of Jesus. In this sermon, Jesus confronted the accepted spirituality of his day and challenged it to a purer and more perfect state. He penetrated custom and religious ritual to reveal the will of God and divine expectation for kingdom people.

The challenge to a purer and more perfect spirituality is just as demanding in his teaching on prayer. His teaching is contrasted to the practice of "hypocrites." Sincerity, simplicity and honesty are the marks of this prayer. Deep faith in God is in the heart of one praying.

What Can We Learn?

1. Begin with praise. One way to do that is to hallow God's name (or to give it the honor, respect, reverence it deserves. Cf. 6:9. Study the names of God and use them in prayer).
2. Pray with kingdom priorities in mind (cf 6:10. See Mt. 6:33).
3. Seek the provision of God (cf. 6:11. See Lk. 11:9; Jas 1:17; 1 Tim 6:8).
4. Pray for human relationships (cf. 6:12. See Mt 6:14-15; Mt. 18, Mk 11:25).
5. Pray for protection against temptation (cf. 6:13).
6. End in praise (cf. 6:13. Praise God's sovereignty, authority, majesty, and eternal nature).

Thanks to Don Stevens for the above ideas.

Questions to Ponder

1. Why should prayer begin with words that honor or revere the name of God?
2. How can praying "kingdom priorities" shape both our prayers and our actions?
3. What happens to the person who seeks daily provision from God?
4. Why is forgiveness such a major concern to Jesus? Why is our forgiveness dependent on our willingness to forgive?
5. Note the following six steps of temptation. How do they work, and how can prayer help?
 1. Deceit
 2. Delight
 3. Desire
 4. Deliberation
 5. Defeat
 6. Despair
6. What kind of God do you pray to?

