

<b>PT 522</b>	<b>9</b>
Reformed Spirituality	Prayer
WSC / 2025	Manna

Mark 11.17 - “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’?”

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## The Trinitarian Nature of Prayer

### The “Place” of the Members of the Trinity

- A. Father, as Object John 16.23 (“whatever u ask of Father...”)  
 Matt 6.6 - “But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”<sup>9</sup> “Pray...our Father in heaven”
1. Children to Father – Matt 6.6,9; Jn 16.23
  2. The Father is good
- B. Son, as Mediator - Eph 2.18; 1Tim 2.5
1. Dependence upon Christ’s mediation
  2. Approaching with confidence through Christ - Heb 4.14-16; John 14.13; 16.23
- C. Holy Spirit, as Helper
- John Owen: “In Scripture, the work of the Spirit in and towards believers in connection with the duty of prayer is more frequently and expressly asserted than his work in connection with any other grace or duty whatever.” *The Spirit and the Church*, 112
1. Spirit and our weakness - Rom 8.26-27
  2. “Pray in the Spirit” – Eph 6.18; Jude 20
    - a. The Spirit’s role (teach, conform us to the truth) – John 16.13,14
    - b. What we’re asking the Spirit to do (~Gal 5.25; 1Cor 2.16)

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## The Lord’s Prayer

### General Observations

- A. God-Centered
1. First three petitions
  2. e.g., “hallowed by your name”
- B. Heavenly-Minded
1. Theme of heaven pervades
  2. “lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” - Eph 6.12; 1.20; Matt 16.18
  3. Our access is to Heaven, where our life is hidden in Christ (Col 3.1-4)

## C. Corporate (“our”)

1. Family: born (John 3.3,5), adopted (Gal 4.4)
2. Pray for & with the family

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## The Lord’s Prayer & Our Father

### How Can Call God our “Father”?

## A. Son came to reveal the Father – John 1.18

- in Christ we see what Moses did not see; we receive what Moses could not give

## B. Son revealed the Father, as one who loves – 1John 4.9

1. Where the Gospel begins – Rom 8.32
2. Son reconciles - Rom 5.10

### We Have Access to God as our Father

*WSC #100* – The preface of the Lord's prayer (which is, Our Father which art in heaven) teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

## A. How do we pray, and to whom?

1. Because we pray to God and to our Father
2. As children to their Father – Matt 7.9-11 (*cf* Matt 6.6*f*)

## B. Father in heaven loves his children - John 16.26

### Lord’s Prayer & Perspective

## A. Seeing yourself as your Father in heaven sees you

1. Your father in heaven is waiting
2. Looking to the father as he is, Love
3. Loving the father in return

## B. Heaven is open to you now

## Prayer as a Means of Grace

Jn Calvin: “For he ordained it not so much for his own sake as for ours.” *Inst.* 3.20.2-3

### A. God Gives Grace - Jam 4.6; Luke 11.13; 1Pet 5.5

- He gives grace uniquely *via* Prayer - Php 1.19; Acts 9.11; Acts 12.5; Rev 8.3-5

### B. God Gives Peace – Php 4.6,7

### C. God Gives Strength

O. Hallesby: “The secret prayer chamber is a bloody battle-ground.”

Eph 6.18 - *praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,*

1. Context (Eph 6.10) “Be strong in the Lord... in strength of his might”

2. Main Point: “to stand” (which cannot be done in our own strength)

- How do you stand? by putting on the “Armor of God” and by praying

## Quotes

Jn Calvin

“From those matters so far discussed, we clearly see how destitute and devoid of all good things man is, and how he lacks all aids to salvation. Therefore, if he seeks resources to succor him in his need, he must go outside himself and get them elsewhere.” *Inst.* 3.20.1

“But after we have been instructed by faith to recognize that whatever we need and whatever we lack is in God, and in our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom the Father willed all the fullness of his bounty to abide so that we may all draw from it as from an overflowing spring it remains for us to seek in him, and in prayers to ask of him, what we have learned to be in him.” *Inst.* 3.20.1

John Owen, *The Spirit and the Church*, 111 - “Prayer, including meditation, supplication, praise & thanksgiving, is one of the chief duties in prayer.”

Matthew Henry, *A Method of Prayer* (1710) - “Prayer is a solemn and religious offering up of devout acknowledgments and desires to God, or a sincere representation of holy affections, with a design to give unto God the glory due unto His Name thereby, and to obtain from Him promised favors, and both through the Mediator.”

Ole Hallesby, *Prayer* - “Prayer is the breath of the soul, the organ by which we receive Christ into our parched and withered hearts.” [It is to let Jesus in]

Westminster Standards

**SC 98** - *What is prayer?* Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.

**LC 178** - *What is prayer?* Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ, by the help of his Spirit; with confession of our sins, & thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.