

JESUS CHRIST'S MODEL PRAYER

In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus Christ gave an example prayer. This prayer is a general outline that teaches us the basics of how and what to pray.

OPENING OF PRAYER

"OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,"

Pray to the Father.

Prayer is to be directed to God the Father in heaven. The Father is the source of "every good gift" (James 1:17). We pray to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ—the only Mediator between God and man (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Timothy 2:5).

GOD

"HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME."

PRAY FOR THE
FULFILLMENT OF
GOD'S PLAN

"YOUR KINGDOM COME. YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN."

Pray for God's Kingdom to be established on earth.

God's Kingdom coming to earth was at the heart of Christ's message (Mark 1:14) and should be our central focus (Matthew 6:33). As we see a suffering world, we should be inspired to pray fervently that God's will—His rule—will be established on earth to bring peace and end suffering.

Give praise to God.

Hallow means to honor and hold in high respect and reverence. Acknowledge God's authority and use prayer as a way to praise Him. Many of the Psalms are David's prayers to God and can help us learn how to worship God in prayer. Psalms 111 and 113 are good examples of heartfelt praise to God.

PHYSICAL NEEDS

"GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD."

Faithfully rely on God to care for you.

God wants us to develop faith that He will "supply all [our] need" when we are unable to cope (Philippians 4:19). We demonstrate that faith by bringing our daily physical needs to God and trusting Him to provide for us after we have done our best (Matthew 7:7-11).

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

"AND DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE."

Pray for spiritual strength and growth.

Sin and Satan's influence are constant dangers for Christians. We need to pray for God's strength to battle sin (Ephesians 6:10-18) and to develop the very character of God (Matthew 5:48; Ephesians 4:13).

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

"AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS."

Pray for better relationships with other people.

God wants us to be at peace with others (Matthew 22:39). When those relationships are damaged, we should be quick to forgive and to ask God to help us behave in a way that leads to reconciliation (Matthew 5:24; 6:14-15).

SPIRITUAL NEEDS

"AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS."

Pray daily for forgiveness of sin.

The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Forgiveness comes through the blood of Jesus Christ. In order to be forgiven of the sins we commit daily, we "confess our sins" to God in prayer (1 John 1:9) and then seek His help to overcome those sins (Luke 3:8; Ephesians 4:22).

CLOSING OF PRAYER

"FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN."

Kingdom and worship reinforced.

Christ closed the model prayer by reinforcing the principle of praising God and focusing on His Kingdom. It seems a high percentage of our daily prayers should focus on these two important areas.