

PRAYING  
THE  
LORD'S  
PRAYER

## THE PURPOSE

I want to invite you to join a treasure hunt. We are going to dig deeply into the Lord's Prayer. You are going to need to be motivated. Be ready to pray. Be ready to grow and change. There is great blessing if you join in the hunt. Ask the Lord to accomplish much in this process. Invite Him to do a deep work in your life. Trust God, He wants to bless you.

**Hebrews 11:6** - But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that **He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

Be a diligent seeker of God!

The purpose of this article is to strengthen your prayer life.

Just of few things to note before we begin;

## THE TITLE

The title, "The Lord's Prayer" is traditional. It is not a title given in the Bible. Some would argue that it should be titled "The Believers' Prayer" or "The Disciples' Prayer." After all Jesus couldn't pray this prayer Himself, because repentance is involved. Some suggest **John 17** is more suitable to be titled "The Lord's Prayer" because in this prayer Jesus personally prays to the Father. "The Lord's Prayer" is a title likely derived from the fact that it is the Lord Jesus that taught it to us.

## TEXT AND CONTEXT

As we will discuss this the Lord's Prayer is recorded twice, once in **Matthew 6** and second in **Luke 11**. There are some slight differences in these two accounts. The last line in Matthew's account is not found in Luke. Also some of the wording is slightly different. As in the forgiveness section;

**Matthew 6:12** And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

**Luke 11:4** And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.

These differences make no changes in the meaning of the prayer. They also reinforce the notion of this discussion that Jesus gave this prayer as an outline first and foremost. This will be further discussed below.

## PRAYER EXAMPLES

I have placed some prayers in italics throughout this discussion. The intent is to give you an example and a model, so that you can jump start your own prayer. As you read this and then pray through the Lord's Prayer it is **CRUCIAL** that you understand the personal nature of this prayer. Make the Lord's Prayer your own. Take it and personalize it. Fill in each step with your life and personal details. You are talking with God one on one. You are not leaving a recorded message that some assistant will blow off. This is not an empty ritual. Your heart must be involved. You must pray relationally. Personally connect with God through prayer, especially the Lord's Prayer as discussed in this article. As you finish reading this paper, my prayer is that you would have a better understanding of the Lord's Prayer, that you would be more comfortable with the notion of personally connecting with the Father, and finally that you would actually pray more and more.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus teaches it publically to the disciples with the crowds listening in **Matthew 6** and secondly He teaches it again privately to His disciples in **Luke 11**.

### **Matthew 6:9-13**

In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as [it is] in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Later in the **Luke 11**, Jesus comes back to a prayer He already taught. He didn't have one way to teach the public and a separate super secret special prayer for His inner circle. He didn't have a graduate level prayer. "Prayer 101" was the same as "Prayer 201." He didn't have a special offer, "If you pay \$99.95 right now, I will give you the secrets of unlocking kingdom power." He simply taught the same prayer He taught earlier.

After the disciples heard Jesus teach on many subjects, after they witnessed the miracles, and after they watched Him pray they were moved to ask. They didn't ask Him to teach them public speaking, fishing, feeding large crowds, or even how to walk on water. They watched His whole life. For some time now they have gotten to know Him. They have witnessed His prayer life. After being with Him for around 2 years, they were watching and listening to Him pray and at that moment they are moved to ask, "Lord, teach us to pray."

### **Luke 11:2-4**

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

So He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as [it is] in heaven.

Give us day by day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”

## LET US PRAY

Jesus responds to the disciples’ plea, “Lord, teach us to pray.” It is apparent in His teaching that their request is not only to be instructed how to pray but also to be taught to practice prayer like Jesus did. We can have all the “know how” but if we don’t actually pray our knowledge is worthless. Like the disciples, we not only need the “how to” but we also need the right heart and the unction to actually pray. We need to ask for help,

*“Lord, help me to pray. Give me a hunger to pray, give me the heart for prayer and help me to do it. Lord, teach me to pray.”*

**Philippians 2:13** For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

The first lesson of the Lord’s Prayer is to pray, to actually do it. From there the Lord’s Prayer truly becomes an outline for us to pray, a prayer map. Many of us know this prayer by heart and many of us can pray it verbatim from memory. If you can pray this prayer word for word with your heart engaged and in agreement then by all means you can do so, but first and foremost this prayer is not intended for reciting. We should step back and realize that we are to pray in this “manner” or “way,”

**Matt 6:9.** If we look at the structure we can begin to see landmarks along our map for prayer.

1. **Praise and Relationship** – “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”
2. **Perspective, God’s Will, and Obedience** – “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”
3. **Provision, Supplication, and Thanksgiving** – “Give us this day our daily bread.”
4. **Repentance and Forgiveness** – “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”
5. **Protection and Growth** – “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”
6. **Praise and Purpose** – “For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

At this point you may want to go your own way. The way you have always gone. Jesus is challenging us to take a new route, a new way. It is a different way than men have typically prayed. It is His way. It is a deeper approach to prayer. As we work through each step you will have the opportunity to make this prayer your own. Each time you pray fill each step with aspects of your personal life. This prayer will connect you relationally to your Heavenly Father.

## **THE FULLNESS OF PRAYER**

When Jesus taught this prayer He was not intending that every time you prayed you had to include all these ingredients. We don't always pray the whole prayer. Sometimes quick prayers of "God, HELP!!" are needed. These short prayers are not refused because they did not follow the format Jesus gave. There may be times you pause and pray a prayer of repentance, just repentance. There may be other times when your prayer includes only the ingredients of praise and thanksgiving. Your individual prayers may include any combination of the steps from the Lord's Prayer. Yet, if we were to gather all your prayers and take inventory, we should find that ALL the ingredients of the Lord's Prayer have been mixed into the totality of your prayers.

Following the pattern of the Lord's Prayer keeps us from getting in a rut. Sometimes our prayers can get stuck in one area while another area can be left lacking. Going through the Lord's Prayer moves us to places that we may have left untouched for awhile. The Lord's Prayer gives us a list of ingredients that make up a full prayer life. Use them.

Consider making an appointment with the Lord in a quiet suitable place and pray the Lord's Prayer. You will be greatly blessed if you set aside an extended time of prayer to slowly, personally work through each one of these steps all together as outlined in Jesus' format.

## **THE "US" OF THE LORD'S PRAYER**

One more observation before we begin. The pronouns in this prayer for God are singular. We are praying to no one else. The pronouns for the person praying are plural. Interestingly when we pray this prayer or pray in this manner we are not only praying for the "Me" but we are also praying for the "Us," that is all believers, all brothers and sisters in Christ. As you pray this prayer, remember to consider the implications of the plurality. Think of others, as well as yourself. This prayer at its

core is a prayer of intercession, not only for the individual but for the entire church, all believers everywhere. It is inclusive, not exclusive. It is relational, not reclusive.

With all of this in mind, let's begin with first step!

## **PRAISE AND RELATIONSHIP**

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."

We start our prayer with Jesus' instruction for us to address God as our Father. The first words of this prayer are radical and revolutionary. The Old Testament writers referenced God as Father just 15 times. Jesus begins a new day. The New Testament uses the term "Father" in reference to God 245 times. Jesus tells us to approach God as our Father, in total contrast to the prayers uttered in that time. The Greek word used in the Lord's Prayer for Father is pater. This is where we get our word paternal. Another common New Testament word for Father is Abba, the Aramaic term of endearment for Dad. Amazingly Jesus tells us to begin praying "our Father."

**Romans 8:15** - For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

**1 John 3:1** - Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

In considering God as our Father, we need to cleanse our perspective. He should not be seen in the limited or damaged perspective derived from our experience with earthly fathers. God is a perfect loving Father. He is much more than any earthly father.

**Mat 7:11** If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

I remember having those moments when I needed direction and advice, I would call my dad. I remember those times when I had good news that I wanted to share, I would call my dad. Sometimes I would see a good movie and think, "I should tell dad to see that." When I watched football I would call my dad to talk with him about the game. When my dad died

there was a great void in my life. It soon dawned on me to talk with my Heavenly Father. My pray was, “Lord, I need a dad. Now even more as an adult I need help. My dad is with you now, so teach me to rely on You as my Dad. Step in now Lord and fill this need.”

So we begin with intimate reminders; of belonging, of a loving caring relationship, of His provision, and of protection in our relationship with God, our Father. But we find immediately this Dad is not a push over. We shouldn't refer to Him as my old man or the man upstairs. Respect is immediately noted;

**Matthew 6:9** - Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Our conversation with God is opened with both an intimate connection and an acknowledgement of the lofty holiness of God. **Psalms 139** brilliantly displays the grand scope of God's intimate relationship with us while at the same time pointing to His glory. We can be awestruck when considering His glory and even further stunned to find that He is so intimately involved in our lives. Such thoughts are far beyond our ability to grasp. The value of God being our Father is understood even more when we consider His holiness

We begin a time of praise by acknowledging God and His character –

*“Father you are holy, righteous, majestic,  
all-knowing, loving, gracious. . .”*

Our acknowledgement of God's character easily overlaps with thanksgiving. While continuing to praise the Lord our hearts overflow with thanksgiving, thanking Him for who He is and what He has done.

*“Lord, thank you for being my Father, for Your grace, You have made it so evident in my life today, thank You for the counsel of Your Word . . .”*

You will have the opportunity to see this line of praise from the Lord's Prayer expanded with your own personal words. The richness of this personal praise and thanksgiving becomes strong foundations for the rest of our prayer time and the rest of our life. Praise rightly adjusts our perspective. A time of praise transitions us on to our next landmark on our prayer map.



## PERSPECTIVE, GOD'S WILL, AND OBEDIENCE

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth."

We now come to an encouragement to remember and refocus. This is a time to remember where we are going. We are headed to an eternal destination, our home with Jesus. The troubles of a journey can be eased when the joys of the destination are kept in mind. Often we get distracted with life and get consumed with worry. We forget where we are headed, where we belong. Jesus could call at anytime. He could call us home today. Pause for a moment - THINK - Today, we could see Jesus face to face. That being the case what would you like to accomplish today? What would you like to avoid? These considerations tend to remind us what is important. We are called to refocus our eyes on Jesus.

We should rest here for a moment and consider the throne room of God, His glory, the praise, the angels responding obediently to the Lord, His will being done.

One day that will occur here. His kingdom will come. His will, actually will be done.

Oh, that it would be true in our hearts today. When we think about our destination we live differently today. Our desire is that God's will would be done in our lives in the here and now. God's will is the best place for us. God's will is what we should want. His will is what we need. I don't want in anything in me to hinder God's will.

In fact the more we grow in Him and the more we understand the depths of His love the greater our experience will be. In a sense when I think about God's will being done in my life, I get excited. As I grow closer to Jesus there is an eager anticipation that builds up in me. I can't wait to grow, learn, and understand more of Him! Life, real life, is Jesus. Jesus is our life, **John 6:53** and **Colossians 3:1-4**. We want more of Him and less of us.

*"Lord, I think of Your kingdom, your way, and I can't wait. Lord, I realize I could see you today, life is brief. Help me to live for you. Show me what is important. I want to comply with your will. Help me to be obedient. I can't wait to experience more of you today and I can't wait to finally see you face to face. Come quickly Lord Jesus."*

A desire for obedience should drive us to Him. To do His will we will

need to ask for help, resource, counsel and equipping. There is not only the encouragement of obedience, but also the building anticipation of God's presence and will in our life. It is a growing desire to be close to Him. It is the acknowledgement that His will is the best life for us. When His will is being fully received and experienced my life is at its richest place. I want more of Him. I want to want more of Him. Being in His will is abiding in Him. Being in His will is to be close to Him. I want nothing hindering His work and will in my life. I so desire His kingdom, His will in my life.

I want God to be glorified in me and in us. In this World He is often rebuffed, refused, and rejected. Doors are slammed in His face. He is spat upon and blasphemed. People rebel against Him and some even hate Him. I want our hearts to be a place of welcome for Him.

## **PROVISION, SUPPLICATION, AND THANKSGIVING**

*"Give us day by day our daily bread."*

Obviously, we need His help. We need the Lord's provision. Some would say, "I have food in the pantry and the refrigerator, I don't need God's help." Be reminded everything we have is from Him. You will likely have needs today that you have not prepared for, so it is wise to ask for provision in advance. By doing this you are entrusting your life to God, practicing faith, and growing in our relationship with our Father.

We don't want to forget we are also praying for others, "Give us our daily bread." This simple request covers the broad needs of the family of God. We may not know what the needs are but He does. By practicing this we are allowing His Fatherhood to be established in our lives.

We should stop and realize that the provision spoken of here is not just for the physical and practical, but for the spiritual and relational as well. We need to pray for God to provide for our faith.

*"Lord, nurture my faith. Provide for us. Establish us in Your ways. Teach us Your Word. Bond my heart to Your heart"*

The mention of the daily bread reminds us of the daily provision of manna for the Israelites in the wilderness, **Exodus 16**. The children of Israel were instructed to go out early in the day to gather their manna for the day. They couldn't gather for the next day. The manna would rot overnight. It needed to be collected daily. Only over the Sabbath were

they given rest. The manna was to be collected early so that it would be available throughout the day. This taught them to be close, consistent, responsible, involved and dependant on God. We need to stay close to Him. He wants us to stay close.

These same lessons are here in these words "Our daily bread." We can not intend to pray one day and hope that will stretch out for the next few weeks. No, it doesn't work that way. We are being taught to come to Him daily in prayer, in His Word, and in fellowship with Him.

We tend to forget that this daily bread comes from Him. In fact all things come from Him. We have daily needs. It is a moment by moment relationship. We should NOT take God's blessings for granted. We should NOT take credit for His blessings, as if it was from our effort alone. If you have a job, if you have a talent, a family, friends, good health . . . give Him thanks and credit.

*"Lord, I know all that I have is from You, thank You. Lord, You have blessed us in so many ways. Some I have recognized, some I haven't recognized. Thank You, Father. Lord, You now my needs today. You know what I will face. Lord, I need Your provision."*

## **REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS**

*"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."*

Sin distances us from God. Sin can hinder our prayers. We do not want to hold onto anything that pushes against God. We do not want anything hindering our prayers. We want to stay close to Jesus. We need to confess, to repent, to ask Him to cleanse us.

Repentance is a lifestyle. Yes, it a requirement in our salvation, but it is also an ongoing process. Repentance is an admission of wrong, wrong direction, wrong actions, or wrong attitudes. These are sins that we do. They are called sins of commission. Repentance is also the awareness of the absence of right. It is not doing what we should have done, known as the sin of omission. Repentance is a daily issue. Jesus is teaching us to pray in this manner daily. It is an attitude of surrender, of yielding, of submitting, and of humility to God. We are saying, "God, You are right, Your way is right."

It is a trap to wallow and linger in our sin and guilt. Sin festers. Sin takes root. It is like a stubborn weed. We shouldn't put off dealing with it.

A needed step in Christian maturity is a quickness to repent, a quick obedience. Hence we have Jesus' counsel to deal with sin daily in our lives.

*“Lord, forgive me, search my heart, wash me and cleanse me. Reveal to me areas that need your forgiveness.”*

Because we have been forgiven so great a debt, we need to be a forgiving people. We should not be easily offended. We should not hold onto bitterness. We need to let it go. We need to give it to the Lord. We need to forgive.

When we have truly experienced His forgiveness we will be forgiving. This doesn't mean it is always easy to forgive. Sometimes it is very hard, but even in our struggles to forgive we must ask for His help to forgive. We must have the desire to forgive. We need to progressively grow in the practice of forgiveness. We need to forgive because Jesus forgave us.

*“Lord, you know the hurt I have carried, I bring it to You so that You can heal me, help me. Lord, help me forgive. Show me anyone that I need to graciously release in forgiveness.”*

These prayers can be personalized according to your situation and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

## PROTECTION AND GROWTH

“And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.”

There is so much temptation that pulls at our hearts. Temptation traps us and distracts us. It comes at us from all different angles.

The attitude of repentance looks to leave sin behind and not to return to it. We not only need to say “sorry” we need to work with God so that we strengthen our resolve. **Psalm 119:9** (my paraphrase) asks the question “How can a young man keep pure?” and then the writer immediately answers the question by saying “by paying attention to God’s Word and obeying it.” God’s Word is a necessary tool in our obedience. We need to be in it. We need to know it. We need to trust it. We need to obey it.

The writer of **Psalm 119** not only acknowledges our responsibility with God’s Word and our sin, but he repeatedly asks God for help in these matters. These attitudes are required in a lifestyle of repentance.

*“Lord, you know my struggles. Keep me away from those situations that bring temptation. Direct me away from the very things that pull me down. Lord, build my faith so that I am not so vulnerable to these traps. Help me to grow so that I am not so vulnerable to these sins. Teach me obedience. I want to remain close to You.”*

Great verses come to mind here;

**Philippians 2:13** For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

**Jude 1:24-25** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

It is His grace that teaches us, builds our faith, enables us, grows us . . .  
It is NOT our effort. It is NOT our strength . . .

It is not only the reality that we are weak that concerns us. We also have an enemy, Satan. The Word tells us he wants to destroy us. He is strong. We need God's protection. Ask Jesus for defense. We have an advocate in Jesus Christ, **1 John 2:1**.

The World is also in rebellion against God. We need to be wary of enticement of the World. There is resistance. There are enemies; our flesh, the World, and Satan. We must be careful. We need God's help. Do NOT take this lightly. Do NOT fight alone, run to Jesus.

**Pro 18:10** - The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

**Proverbs 4:23** - Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

**James 4:6-7** But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

*"Lord, you know the way Satan is after me. I need protection. I am weak, I need your strength. I need your help."*

## THANKSGIVING AND PURPOSE

*"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."*

In **Matthew 6:13** Jesus closes with a phrase of praise and purpose. It is wise for us to close in this manner. Why do we pray? With a simple reminder we are told, because it is His kingdom, it is His power, it is His glory, forever. We pray because God is our Father, because God is holy, He is far above us. We pray because we need Him, we need His mercy, His grace, His protection, His love . . . We need Him. We pray because we get to, because we can. It is a privilege. It was at great cost and sacrifice that God provided the path to pray. It is through the blood, death, and resurrection of Jesus that the bridge of grace was built. We now are invited to cross over into fellowship with God. Prayer is one of the great ways to do this. God finds great value in prayer **Revelation 5:8** lets us know that God stores our prayers in golden bowls and places them in His throne room. Value prayer, God does!

We are reminded that prayer benefits us. We are reminded that prayer is our need. But we are not the focus of prayer. We pray because of

Him. We are not and will never be His equal. We don't pray to change God, we pray for God to change us. Our prayers only have power, effectiveness, and reason because of Who we pray to.

It is to our loving Father that we pray. It is to an awesome holy powerful God that we pray. By saying "amen" we say "Let it be so. Yes, I agree. These things are true." We close our prayer knowing these things. We are bringing our hearts back to this place of acknowledgement.

## THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

Now we are called to actually pray. Jesus closes this teaching in **Matthew 7:24-27** with the saying "the one who hears these words of mine and does them is like the man who built his house on the rock."

**James 1:22** - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Let me encourage you to pray. Many of us pray throughout our day. We get stuck in traffic and we pray for a few things that have been on our minds. Later we hear a friend is going through a difficult time, so we say a prayer for them right then. This kind of praying is great, but there should be more. Don't be satisfied with random prayers throughout the day. Along with the random prayers of the day add times of purposed prayer seeking the Lord. We shouldn't be isolated to just one ingredient for our prayers.

Don't settle for where you are at. Press in and invest in prayer. Make time for daily prayer, a time where you have actually stopped everything else so that you can sit down with God and talk. Don't try this in your own strength. Ask God to stir up a hunger for prayer and the ability to actually pray.

Next look at your calendar and set a day to go spend some extended time with the Lord. Take some water, a pen, a notebook, and your Bible. You could even take some worship music. Now, for a hike or walk the beach, basically you need to find a place where you won't be distracted and you can be alone with God.

Then step by step work your way slowly through the outline of the Lord's Prayer.

1. **Praise and Relationship** – “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.”
2. **Perspective, God’s Will, and Obedience** – “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”
3. **Provision, Supplication, and Thanksgiving** – “Give us this day our daily bread.”
4. **Repentance and Forgiveness** – “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”
5. **Protection and Growth** – “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:”
6. **Praise and Purpose** – “For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

Talk with the Lord as you go stepping through His pattern of prayer. Don’t be surprised to find praying like this can easily take a couple hours or even longer. When you’re finished you will wonder why you haven’t done this before and you will want to start planning for the next prayer time with the Lord.

Please understand that I don’t mean to say that you can only pray the Lord’s Prayer. Don’t look at it that way. Remember Jesus taught us to pray in this manner. This is a comprehensive framework for all prayer. From this prayer many different kinds of prayer will be born in your heart.

Another way to use these steps of prayer is to take a week and work through these steps like this;

1. **MONDAY - Praise and Relationship** “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.”
2. **TUESDAY - Perspective, God’s Will, and Obedience** “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”
3. **WEDNESDAY - Provision, Supplication, and Thanksgiving** “Give us this day our daily bread.”
4. **THURSDAY - Repentance and Forgiveness** “And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.”
5. **FRIDAY - Protection and Growth** “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:”
6. **SATURDAY - Praise and Purpose** “For Yours is the kingdom and



the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

7. **SUNDAY – Reflect** “Look back on the week and absorb the counsel, encouragement, and equipping.”

For example; on Monday start the day praying to God. As you pray through the day ask Him to give you insight and understanding about God being our Father in heaven and the holiness of His name. That is Step 1 **Praise and Relationship** - Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Talk to Him about His Fatherhood in your life. Think deeply about His holiness. Praise Him. You could even journal your experience. Then on Tuesday change the subject to God’s Kingdom and His will, Step 2. Keep working through the rest of the steps day by day and as you get to Sunday spend some time reflecting and applying God’s truth.

Jesus has invited you to join in the rich adventure of prayer. How is it that coming to the throne room of God and speaking directly to the glorious King of the Universe has been thought of as tedious and dry? It is not intended to be dry but exciting.

If lack a desire for the Lord, ask for that desire. If you have a nonchalant attitude about prayer, pray that God would give you a passion to pray.

**Philippians 2:13** For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

*(I know I keep using this verse, I love it!)*

Read this same verse in a few other translations –

**Philippians 2:13 NLT** - For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

**Philippians 2:13 NIV** - for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

**Philippians 2:13 AMP** - [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.

Join the treasure hunt. Find out what a blessing it is to draw near to God

through prayer. Seek Him like a precious jewel and you will find prayer to be a wellspring of counsel, comfort, healing, joy, and life. It is a treasure beyond your imagination.

**Ephesians 3:14-21** For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height -- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**Hebrews 11:6** But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that **He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

I would love to hear the stories and testimonies that result from your pursuit of God, so let me know. I look forward to hearing about the blessings and fruit you will experience as you join the treasure hunt of seeking the Lord through this great gift of prayer.



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