

# *MORE SEED & BREAD, ISSUE NO. 293*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER FOR TODAY**

By M.B. Hammond

We hear this recited over and over in churches, as well as in front of congregations everywhere. We hear this at funerals and other events. Many Christians have memorized this. Many people recite this without any real understanding.

The Lord's Prayer is a portion of Scripture that has meaning we all can use for today. The Scripture here is found in Matthew 6:9-13, and is called "The Lord's Prayer" because Jesus spoke these instructions to His disciples. In the words leading into it He says (Matt. 6:6-8, *NASB*): **But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father Who is in secret, and your Father Who sees what is done in secret will reward you. And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles (those of the nations) do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.**

The Lord's Prayer goes like this (*KJV*):

**Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

It continues (Matt. 6:14-15, *NASB*): **For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**

Let's review the meaning of the elements in the Lord's Prayer.

**"Our Father:"** Our God is our Father, and He is the out-flowing source we depend upon and the One who in the beginning made the heavens and the earth. Our Father is the one Who always has been and is also known as the great "I AM" as well as **"Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace"** (Isa. 9:6, *KJV*). The designation "Our Father" identifies God as the source for all mankind, all life, and all creation.

**"Which art in Heaven:"** God has created this three-dimensional world for His people and He has made our earth a place where men can live and sustain life. We know that Heaven means above, or over, but this may be confusing. You cannot travel to distant planets, stars or galaxies to find Heaven, for God is invisible and inaudible to us and Heaven lies in a different set of dimensions. From His mighty position time does not exist and He is everywhere in this universe at every time. And He can be made visible and audible to men in the form and person of the Lord Jesus Christ Who is the Word, or the expression of God.

**"Hallowed be Thy name:"** This means that our Lord is Holy and separate from His creation, both in Heaven and on earth; He has no equals. As our God, this means He is to be highly revered, exalted, respected and worshiped by His creation, being the One from Whom all blessings flow. Since His name is hallowed, to us He is the "holiest of Holies" and set apart for men to consecrate their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to this magnificent and graceful and loving Being.

**"Thy Kingdom come:"** The next thing in God's plan for mankind is to bring to this earth an amazing condition that has never, since the garden of Eden, existed on earth, covering all the peoples, nations, languages and all governing bodies. The Kingdom will be a time when righteousness will cover the earth and God will be teaching mankind about Who He is, and how Jesus Christ, the heavenly King, provides all the food, health, shelter, clothing and other requirements of mankind. God's justice and judgments will also cover the earth with the righteous order that is so precious to Him and to us. This will be a time when the earth will be **"full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea"** (Isa. 11:9).

**"Thy will be done:"** God's purpose is to make this world a righteous place in which to live and work. When God's righteous order is in place, the nations will come to Israel to approach God and be instructed in what He wants of government (Isa. 2:3). Jerusalem will be the holy place where God dwells and the nations will be granted small groups of Jews as priests to help the peoples to know and love God. They will also learn to revere the name of Jesus Christ, and they will learn that He humbled Himself and became obedient unto the death, even the death of the cross, wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven (the most exalted ones) and things in earth (the leaders of the earth), and things under the earth (the commoners); and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:8-11, *KJV*). The nations must be in the will of God or suffer dire consequences.

**"In earth, as it is in Heaven:"** Heaven is ruled by the righteous order of God, as it always has been, since God dwells there with the cherubim, the angels, the 24 elders and the rest of the heavenly host. Satan is one of the sons of God, as the first chapter of Job explains, but Satan's attempts to replace God are many, causing havoc on earth.

**"Give us this day our daily bread:"** This step is to remind us that in the Kingdom God will be the source of all our blessings. We will be thanking Him not only for our food and drink, but for our shelter, clothing, and comfort necessities. Our God will be the central Being of our lives and He will influence our art, music, and acting professions, as well as our educational and learning establishments, so that they will all glorify the God of this earth and Heaven. Our food is necessary to life and we see here that in the Kingdom this earth is where we will live and God will make most of the earth into arable land and it will be able to support ten to a hundred times the number of people it supports today.

**"And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors:"** It will be the law of the Kingdom that we will be gracious and love our enemies (Matt. 5:44) and for him who would borrow from you, offer him even more than he asks (Matt. 5:40). The ability to forgive debts will come to us as a part of the learning we will get, becoming more "giving people" and working on being imitators of God as Paul suggests in Ephesians 5:1. Since we already owe such a great degree of

gratitude to our God, we have every need to turn out to be more generous in our ways.

**"And lead us not into temptation:"** Does the Lord actually lead His people into temptation as a test or is it for a different reason? The noun *peirasmos*, meaning "temptation," as well as the verb *peirazo*, is made up of the root *peira*, meaning "experience." When God is the One Who leads His people into temptation, He does not abandon them even as Jesus was led into temptation to demonstrate His devotion and obedience to the Father. Rather, for human beings, it is for the purpose of proving to His child that He, God, is always with him to make him victorious and make him more experienced in the warfare against the devil. When one allows Satan or his own lusts to tempt him, he cannot claim it is the Lord doing this; he is simply denying personal responsibility.

**"But deliver us from evil:"** To be delivered from evil is to have the protection of God from the barbs of Satan. The protection is first the ability to understand and avoid the deceits of Satan and also is to be in control of your emotions because of the lusts Satan is capable of stimulating, even the destroying of our ability to resist and maintain a righteousness before God. The picture given us in Revelation 3 and 4 relates to how men will be tested in the Great Tribulation. Today, in the Dispensation of Grace, Jesus Christ is our righteousness and He is the propitiation for our sin. **"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"** (Rom. 3:23, *KJV*).

**"For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen:"** This final clause is omitted in the earliest manuscripts, but included in the later ones. Because the work that God has done through Christ is so comprehensive, many people who knew nothing about Him in this dispensation will be raised from the dead to experience the magnificence and glorious grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"The Lord's Prayer" is not just a repetitive prayer that we use, but rather it's a springboard for the believer to open up his mind and give thankfulness and great praise to God. The Kingdom is God's great future blessing to all mankind and men must learn to appreciate God's benevolence and thoughtfulness. Remember, the only way we have contact with God in Christ is through His Word. We hope that the Lord's Prayer will be more meaningful to you and that when you say it, it will keep your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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