# How to Talk to God

**Matthew 6:9-13 & Colossians 1:9-12**
1-11-2026

## I. The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13

### A. Pray that GOD BE GLORIFIED (v. 9-10) [Adoration]

1. God's pre-eminence (His Name) (v. 9 - "Hallowed be Thy Name")
2. God's program (His Kingdom) (v. 10 - "Thy Kingdom come"
3. God's plan (His will) (v. 10b - "Thy will be done")

### B. Pray that GOD WOULD MEET OUR NEEDS (v. 11-15) [Petition]

1. God's provision (Pray about the needs of our present)
   "Give us this day our daily bread" (v. 11)
2. God's pardon (Pray about the failures of our past)
   "Forgive us our debts" (v. 12)
3. God's protection (Pray about the dangers of our future)
   "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil"
4. God's Praise
   "Thine is the Kingdom. . . power. . . glory. . . forever, Amen." (v.13b)

## II. Paul's Prayer - Colossians 1:9-12

**When you intercede for other believers, pray as Paul did! What did Paul pray for? Follow this model prayer list:*

### A. Pray that they would FULLY KNOW GOD (v. 9)

(Pray for the spiritual "mind" of the saints)
1. Intercede for their spiritual wisdom (to do God's will)
2. Intercede for their spiritual understanding (to know God's Word)

### B. Pray that they would FAITHFULLY WALK WITH GOD (v. 10)

(Pray for the spiritual "feet" of the saints)
1. Intercede for a fruitful walk
2. Intercede for a growing walk

### C. Pray that they would be FORTIFIED WITH STRENGTH BY GOD (v. 11)

(Pray for the spiritual "muscle" of the saints)
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## I. The Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13

INTRODUCTION:

***Let Jesus teach you about prayer.**

**Don't pray . . . this way (6:5-8)**

A. Don't pray to impress men (v. 5-6)

B. Don't pray to impress God (v. 7-8)

Prayer for the Jew had become a ritual in Christ's day, a routine. The words of prayers were written out and then simply read or repeated from memory.

EX: A typical faithful Jew would repeat the "Shema" ("hear"), which consisted of Deut. 6:4 and other verses two times a day. They would also repeat the "Shemoneh Esreh" ("the eighteen"), which consisted of 18 prayers which were recited in the synagogue.

Their errors:

1) They had limited the content of their prayers
2) They had limited the time of their praying (they only prayed at specific times and occasions; EX: third, sixth, and ninth hours (9 a.m., 12 noon, and 3 p.m.). Cp. Acts 3:1)

***"Vain repetitions"*** - meaningless chatter; babbling.

***"Vain"*** - empty, hollow

***"Repetitions"*** - to repeat over and over. NOTE: Since God is our "Father," we should speak to him like a child speaks to his father. Would any child recite a vain formula over and over and expect to communicate?

***"Heathen*** - Gentiles; the Jews picked up this practice from the Gentiles who believed that quantity of words in praying was more important than quality of prayer.

EX: Prophets of Baal (I Kings 18:26-29; and the unbelieving Ephesians (Acts 19:34), who said for two hours straight "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

EX: Catholics, who 1) light prayer candles (they believe that their requests will continue to ascend repetitiously to God as long as the candle is lit); and 2) use Rosary beads (they count off "Hail Mary's" and "Our Father's", 'which is totally contradictory to this context which includes "The Lord's Prayer (v. 9-15). The Catholics acquired this practice from the Buddhists by way of the Spanish Muslims in the Middle Ages (cp. Broadus, "Matthew" p. 30)

When you pray:

1) Every word should count!
2) Don't repeat "Lord", "God," etc. in prayer unless you mean it. This is taking His name in vain otherwise.
3) Don't pray same words at every meal, etc. Think before you utter any syllable before God! Be sincere! Don't try to impress others or God by your religiosity! God wants your heart and mind. Give Him your full attention when you come into His presence!

NOTE: Again, we must remember that Jesus is not forbidding our meaningful, sincere repetitious asking. As a matter of fact, this is what he commands (SEE: Luke 18:2-7)

*Paul asked for his thorn to be removed 3 times (II Cor. 12:7-8)

*Christ asked for the cup of suffering and separation to be removed 3 times (Mt. 26:39-44)

**Sincere** repetition is not wrong - **vain** repetition is!

1) Engage your brain when you pray (put your mind into it! Cp. I Cor. 14:15 - *"I will pray with the understanding also"*)

2) Don't recite spiritual-sounding words or "magical formulas." "When a man begins to think more of how he is praying rather than what he is praying, his prayer dies upon his lips" - Barclay, p. 197

**Remember: God knows your needs** (v. 8)

***"Father knows"*** - By our praying, we are instructing ourselves (we are simply acknowledging our needs before God so that when He answers us He is glorified). We are not telling God something He does not already know!

God knows all things - He does not need you to remind Him (cp. 6:32)

God hears all things - He does not need you to repeat yourself over and over.

Even though God knows you needs, He wants you to ask! When God responds to your asking, it gives the opportunity for Him to manifest His power, majesty, love, and providence (SEE: John 14:13)

God is more willing to answer than you are to pray!

He does not have to be coaxed, pestered, battered, or impressed before He will answer our prayers!

Before you pray, don't worry about the choice of words, worry about having the right heart behind the words. Make sure you are right with God!

D. L. Moody once felt so overwhelmed by all the blessings God was showering on him that he prayed, "God stop!" Many of us, sad to say, need to say "God start." But He can't if you pray with out pure motives, or without a proper mind-set!

**Pray this way (6:9-15)**

Follow Christ's model, example, outline, or pattern of prayer:

Intro: This actually is not the "Lord's prayer" but the disciple's prayer" Reason = The Lord never needed to ask forgiveness because He never sinned (v.12).

In verses 9 - 13 our Lord gives a succinct (to the point) but complete outline of what true prayer should be.

"In fewer than 70 words we have a masterpiece of the infinite mind of God, who alone could compress every conceivable element of true prayer into such a brief & simple form." (MacArthur - Matthew p.374)

This prayer was not meant to be repeated as a prayer itself.

1. This would contradict the previous context (v.7 "vain repetitions")
2. He uses the words "after this manner" which means "in this way"; "along these lines"
3. No where in the N.T. do we ever find this prayer repeated.

This sample prayer was never to be a substitute for our own prayers but a guide for them.

Its like an outline, or a skeleton that we are to flesh out with our own words of praise, adoration & petitions.

**A. PRAY FOR GOD TO BE <u>GLORIFIED</u>** (v. 9-10) [Adoration]

*"our Father"* = pater (gk.); Because Jesus spoke Aramaic He most likely used the term *"abba"* - daddy (aramaic) which is transliterated in the Greek in Mk.14:36; Ro.8:15; Gal.4:6.

The word "father" shows:

1. A close, intimate relationship
   (note: Dads - Your children are forming their concept of God by how you live & treat them)

2. An end to all <u>fear</u> (ex. Pagan deities were unapproachable)

3. An end to all <u>worry</u> (He will provide Mt.7:11; Jn.10:29)

4. An end of all <u>loneliness</u> (He will never leave nor forsake us - though our earthly father or friends may)

5. An end of all <u>selfishness</u> - *"**our** father"* (note: The whole prayer is unselfish - no singular personal pronouns - no "I, me, my" (cp. Daniel's prayer Chap.9)

6. The necessity of our <u>submissive obedience</u>.

7. He only will give us what is best for us. *"If you being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children how much more..."* (Mt. 7:7)
   He won't give everything you ask.

The phrase *"Our Father which art in Heaven"* shows:

--Our God is <u>personal</u> ("Our <u>Father</u>")
--Our God is <u>approachable</u> ("<u>Our</u> Father")
--Our God is <u>powerful</u> ("in Heaven")
"Heaven is not His postal address--it is an indication of His supremacy, exaltation, and power" --Doug MacLachlan

You pray for God to be glorified when you pray for His pre-eminence, program and plan. (note: outline taken from MacArthur - Matthew)

In this sample prayer we also see by implication what our <u>relationship</u> should be to God, what our <u>Attitude</u> should be, and explicitly what our <u>prayer</u> should consist of.

**1. GOD'S PREEMINENCE** - (HIS NAME) *"hallowed be thy name"*

1. OUR RELATIONSHIP -
   we see His deity (the fact that He is God)
   we see ourselves as worshippers

2. OUR ATTITUDE - reverence

3. OUR PRAYER
   God's "name" represents all that He is. His character, plan & will. (ill. of our names & the meaning they have; ex. "Vincent" means conqueror or victorious one.)

   Jesus = Savior
   Christ = Anointed One, Messiah

   God's titles show His character and attributes:
   Yahweh - the eternal one; the one who is
   Elohim - the powerful creator
   Jehovah-Jireh - the Lord will provide
   Jehovah-Shalom - the Lord our peace

   The phrase *"Hallowed by Thy Name"* means "May your reputation (of your character, plan, and will) be held up as sacred, holy, reverenced.

*"hallowed"* = to uphold as holy, sacred, set apart. We need to revere, honor, glorify His name. Ps. 111:9 - *"Holy and reverend is His name"* (reverend = to fear, stand in awe of, reverence)

Cp. Israel's profaning of God's holy Name - Ez. 36:16-27; cp. Ez. 20:9, 14, 22, 39, 44)

We hallow His name by obeying Him.
We hallow His name by not taking it in vain.

*"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together" Ps.34:3*

Our prayer should be: "Lord, help me to bring honor to Your reputation."

**2. GOD'S PROGRAM** - (HIS KINGDOM) *"Thy kingdom come"*

1. OUR RELATIONSHIP -
He is sovereign (He is king),
we are His subjects.

2. OUR ATTITUDE - loyalty

This phrase shows that His kingdom has <u>not</u> come yet! (Rev. 20:1-10) But one day it will. Today we (via soul-winning) are building a <u>constituency</u> for that future Kingdom. Are you burdened for lost souls?

3. OUR PRAYER -
***"Thy kingdom come"*** - We should desire to see Him reigning. His program should be the preoccupation of our lives & prayers.

Satan rules this present system.

It will "come" suddenly, when the king of the kingdom comes. Cp. I Cor. 13 *"When that which is perfect shall come..."*

Man's efforts (through social programs etc.) will not bring the kingdom in (contrary to the post-Millennial viewpoint)

We should pray, "Lord, help me to honor your program that You have set up for today - the local church" (I Tim. 3:15).

**3. GOD'S PLAN** - (HIS WILL) ***"thy will be done"***

1. OUR RELATIONSHIP -
   He is in authority (He is Master)
   We are His servants

2. OUR ATTITUDE - submission

3. OUR PRAYER -
   ***"Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven"***

   a. Pray that His will will <u>become your will</u>.
   (to be dedicated to God's will is to be opposed to 1) your own independent will, and 2) Satan's will.

   To pray for God's will is to pray:
   1) for righteousness to win & sin to lose

   2) for souls to be saved. *"God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance"*

   b. Pray that His will will prevail over the earth as it (does) in Heaven:

   How is God's will done in Heaven?
   It's done <u>completely</u>
   It's done <u>immediately</u>
   It's done <u>constantly</u>
   It's done <u>joyfully</u>
   (Doug MacLachlan)

   God's <u>ultimate will</u> is changeless - Is. 14:24
   God's <u>permissive will</u> is alterable - the fact that we must pray that His "will be done on earth" indicates that it is <u>not</u> always done on earth.

   While every unbeliever does not do His will, the believer certainly should!

   God's will for you is not hidden! His will is His word. The commands of the Bible that apply to you must be obeyed because they are God's will.

   The greatest enemy of God's will is <u>pride.</u>

   *We should pray: "Lord, may Your will be my will"

**B. PRAY FOR GOD TO MEET OUR NEEDS (v. 11 - 13a)**

My needs, and the needs of others! Note plurals (*"give us"*)

**1. GOD'S PROVISION -** (pray about the needs of our present)

1. OUR RELATIONSHIP -
   He is the Giver
   We are dependent

2. OUR ATTITUDE - trust (reliance upon)

3. OUR PRAYER -
   ***"Give us this day our daily bread"***

   a. *"Give us this day"* - Prayer is daily.
   Someone has said that "Many Christians offer their prayers like sailors use their pumps -only **when the ship leaks**." Riches have a way of taking wings and flying away. Paul calls them "uncertain riches."

   b. It is a sin of indifference or ingratitude not to recognize daily that our physical needs are met by God.

   c. God's promise to those who trust Him: Psalm 37:25.

   d. Daily - we must rely on the Lord one day at a time. Don't worry about the future. God's provision is daily, not weekly, monthly, or yearly.

   e. To pray for our daily bread in a land of such abundance seems needless. However, this request extends beyond asking for (what we call) "bread." We must request God to meet our physical needs -- everything which is necessary for the preservation of life.

   f. Although you work to earn money to "put bread on the table," be careful not to be deceived into thinking you are carrying your own load. See Deut. 8:18.

*Our prayer: "Lord, help me to never take any of your blessings for granted, nor worry about how my needs will be met. I trust you to provide."

**2.** **GOD'S PARDON** (pray about the failures of the past)

1. OUR RELATIONSHIP -
   He is the Savior
   We are the sinner

2. OUR ATTITUDE - sorrow for sin

3. OUR PRAYER -
   ***"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"***

   a. These "debts" are debts that we owe God because of our sin (Luke 11:4 in the same context has the word "sins" instead of debts).
   --The words are used synonymously. To sin against God is to be in debt to Him. ("We owed a debt we could not pay; He paid a debt He did not owe")

   b. Sin is man's greatest problem, therefore his greatest need is forgiveness.

   c. Our need for continual forgiveness is more important than our need for daily bread.

   d. God has already forgiven the believer judicially (as Judge) the day he trusted Christ, which gave us a relationship with Him. Now, we need God's forgiveness daily (as our Father) to keep in fellowship with Him.

   e. I Jn. l:9 - Confession is essential to forgiveness.
   It takes real character to admit you are wrong.

   f. *The prerequisite for God's forgiving you, is your forgiving others (if you have not forgiven your husband, friend, etc., then you (right now) have not been forgiven by God).

   g. The power of a home, the power of a church, etc., is short-circuited if there is unforgiveness (unresolved conflicts). See v. 14, 15.

   NOTE: This "forgiveness" refers to God's parental forgiveness, rather than judicial forgiveness (cp. Mt. 18:21-35)

   *Our Prayer: "Lord, cleanse me from my sin, so that I can be close to You and used by You."

**3. GOD'S PROTECTION -** (pray about the dangers of our future)

1. OUR RELATIONSHIP -
   He is the guide
   We are vulnerable, "prone to wander" like sheep

2. OUR ATTITUDE - humility

3. OUR PRAYER -
   ***"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"***
   a. The Greek word "temptation" can be translated "test" or "temptation" James 1:13 says that God is not even remotely connected with tempting anyone to do evil. So the word "temptation" must be understood as a test (from God's point of view) that might lead to a temptation (from Satan's point of view)

   b. We know that trials (tests) are a means for our growing (Ja. 1:2-3), but we should have no desire to be in a place where even the possibility of sin is increased.

      This prayer is just pious hypocrisy if we go deliberately into situations which we know are enticements to sin. This prayer will cause us to search our bookshelves, judge the music we listen to, and dictate the company we keep.

   c. What we are to pray is this: "Lord, don't ever lead us into a trial that will present such a temptation that we will not be able to resist it." *"God is faithful . . ."* I Cor. 10:13.

   d. What we need to pray is: "God, guard our eyes, ears, mouth, feet, hands, so that whatever we see, hear, say, or do, or wherever we go, we will be protected from sin."

   e. ***"Evil"*** -- "the evil" in Greek. A reference to "the evil one" - Satan. Jesus prayed that we would be kept from the evil (one) - Jn. 17:15.

   f. We (in ourselves) are inadequate to battle evil, we need God to deliver (rescue) us.

*Our prayer: "God, guard my eyes, ears, mouth, feet, hands, and heart so that I will be protected from sin.

CONCLUSION: **God's <u>Praise</u>** (*"Thine is the Kingdom. . . power. . . glory. . . forever, Amen."*) Verse 13b

I. After praying for God to be glorified
--pre-eminence --program --plan

II. After praying for God to meet our needs
--provision --pardon --protection

. . . Then conclude with <u>PRAISE</u>! (v. 13b)

***"Thine is the kingdom. . . power. . . glory"***

This phrase, though not in the ancient manuscripts of the critical text, is a most suited conclusion to this model prayer.

--The <u>Kingdom</u> belongs to God alone
(Man's kingdoms will all end and give way to His kingdom)

--The <u>power</u> (might) belongs to God alone
(Any might, strength, fortitude, ability, etc., that any being [human or angelic] has, has come from the <u>Almighty</u>!)

--The <u>glory</u> (credit, honor, praise) belongs to God alone

***"Forever"*** - God's kingdom, power, and glory are not temporal (like man's) but eternal

***"Amen"*** - so be it. It will be done!

# II. Paul's Prayer - Colossians 1:9-12

INTRODUCTION:

Definition "intercessory Prayer" -

To "intercede" is to meet with God, and to plead on behalf of others.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us - Rom. 8:27.

Jesus Christ intercedes for us - Rom. 8:34.
Lk. 22:32c - "I have prayed for them"
Heb. 7:25 - "He ever liveth to make intercession for them"

As Baptists, we believe in the "priesthood of the believer" - we all can approach God on behalf of each other.

Intercessory prayers are found throughout the Scriptures:

Abraham prayed for Abimelech (Gen. 20:7).
Moses prayed for Israel (Ex. 32:11-14; Num. 14:11-21).
Moses prayed for Aaron (Deut. 9:20).
Samuel prayed for Israel (I Sam. 7:5-8 *I Sam. 12:23)
David prayed for Israel (Ps. 25:22, 28:9).
Job prayed for his family (Job 1:5) and friends (42:8, 10).
Israel prayed for Babylon (Jer. 29:7).
Daniel prayed for Israel (Dan. 9:3-19).
Jesus Christ prayed for all believers. (Jn. 17)

Whom should we intercede for?
"For all men" (I Tim. 2:1)

--Political leaders (v. 2-3)
(Mayor, governor, senators, President)

--Unsaved people (v. 4)
Paul prayed for his people Israel to be saved (Rom. 10:1).

--Your enemies (Mt. 5:44)
EX: Stephen Acts 7:60 - "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge"

--Especially pray for fellow-believers (Eph. 6:18)
Pray for physical and spiritual healing (Ja. 5:14-f)
Why should we intercede?

"Help, LORD, for the godly man ceaseth, for the faithful fail from among the children of men" (Ps. 12:1).

None of us is exempt from our need for other's prayers.

Prayer support is needed even by spiritual leaders.

Paul needed it - Rom. 15:30-32, II Cor. 1:11, Eph. 6:19-20; I Th. 5:25, II Th. 3:1 (cp. Heb. 13:18).

The only One who never needed prayer was Jesus Christ.

"Pray for us" (Heb. 13:18).

--Colossians 1:9

**V. 9**

"For this cause" - Because of the report of Epaphras about their "faith in Christ" (v. 11) and subsequent "love in the Spirit" (v. 8).

"Since the day we heard it" - Many well-meaning Christians today pray hard and long for unsaved relatives to come to Christ, and then stop praying for them once they are saved. Actually, Paul prayed hardest and longest for the saved, those who knew and loved Christ. Don't neglect your priority prayer requests -- to pray for God's children and those of the household of faith.

Note: Paul never personally met the Colossians, yet he prayed for them with such fervency! What love for God and His children!

"Do not cease" - We have not stopped. New converts need the most persistent and fervent prayer support. Paul was aware of the devil and his attacks on young believers.

"Desire" = to desire of God; to ask of God.

Prayer "cliches" are often unclear, vague, non-specific requests -

--"Lord, bless the missionaries, my pastor, etc. (bless them how?)

--"Be with Mrs._____" (if they are saved, the Lord is already with them - Heb. 13:5).

***When you intercede for other believers, pray as Paul did!**

--What did Paul pray for? Follow this model prayer list:

**A. PRAY THAT THEY WOULD FULLY KNOW GOD (v. 9)**
(Pray for the spiritual "mind" of the saints)

"That" - introduces the content and purpose of Paul's prayer

"Be filled" - passive; only God can give such a filling - therefore, prayer and dependence is essential.

"To be filled" with such thorough knowledge of God's will is to have it pervading our thoughts, affections, and purposes, and plans (Nicholson, Kregel, Colossians, p. 39)

"Knowledge" - direct knowledge
a complete knowledge
a full knowledge

The secret to know God's will is to know His Word.

1. Intercede for their spiritual wisdom (to do God's will)

   "Wisdom" - in O.T. = applying the knowledge of God's will to life's situations

2. Intercede for their spiritual understanding (to know God's Word)

   "Understanding" - perception; insight; seeing the whole picture; to be able to put together the facts of God's Word and to draw Biblical conclusions.

   In a similar prayer for the Ephesians, Paul prayed for the following:

   1. We all need to fully know God's salvation (Eph. 1:17-19)

      1) Confidence in God's salvation (v. 18a)
      2) Completeness of God's salvation (v. 18b)
      3) Capability of God's salvation (v. 19)

   2. We all need to fully know God's love (Eph. 3:17=19)

**B. PRAY THAT THEY WOULD FAITHFULLY WALK WITH GOD (v. 10)**
(Pray for the spiritual "feet" of the saints)

"Walk worthy" -

"Walk" = to live your life

"Worthy" - to live a life that conforms to the holiness of God. To live a life that matches His standards; that is equal to what He deserves.

"All pleasing" = to gain God's smile on their lives.

"Now I pray to God that ye do no evil...that ye should do that which is honest" (II Cor. 13:7).

1. Intercede for their a fruitful walk

   "Being fruitful" - continuous fruit-bearing

2. Intercede for a growing walk

   "Increasing" = to grow in the same spiritual knowledge mentioned in v. 9. We grow as we bear fruit!

   Note: the dative phrase "in the knowledge of God" could be:

   1) Locative dative - to grow in spiritual knowledge

   2) Instrumental dative - to grow by gaining spiritual knowledge

**C. PRAY THAT THEY WOULD BE FORTIFIED WITH STRENGTH BY GOD (v. 11)**
(Pray for the spiritual "muscle" of the saints)

(See Eph. 3:14-16)

"Strengthened" - continually being made strong by God (passive).

The word points to ability or power.

"According to His glorious power" - Our power comes from God's power. Without Him we can do nothing! (Jn. 15:5)

1. Intercede for their strength to endure

"Patience" = the ability to "remain under" pressure without giving up (without quitting or running)

"It's always too soon to quit."
"By perseverance the snail reached the ark"--Spurgeon

"Longsuffering" - the ability to endure "much heat" without blowing up (without retaliation).

2. Intercede for their strength to remain joyful and thankful

"With joyfulness" - means that Paul prayed that the Colossians would endure and remain patient while not losing their joy in doing so.

**V. 12**

"Giving thanks" - a continuation of what Paul meant by "joy." (v. 11)

He prayed that the Colossians would be thankful to God who made them "meet" (qualified) to receive a portion of the saints inheritance which is in light (i.e. in Heaven; where God, who is Light, dwells - cp. I Jn. 1:5;
I Tim. 6:16)

CONCLUSION:

Note: The Characteristics of Paul's Prayer -

1. He prayed for spiritual blessings, not mere material or physical things.

2. He did not pray that they would have some new additional spiritual experience; but that they would come to realize the blessings that were already theirs.

3. He prayed that the Colossians would have a balance of knowing right and doing right and being right.

Note the order:
Knowledge (v. 9) ------- Walk (v. 10) -------- Strength (v. 11)

No one can walk right unless they know the truth. And strength is a result of both knowing and walking right.

"Oh that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbor!" (Job 16:21)