

# **Being A Christian** Class 3

## **Belonging to Christ** *The Lord's Prayer*

***Review:** The Apostle's Creed provides a brief summary of the Christian faith helping to avoid incomplete versions of Christianity and upholding that to believe is to belong.*

**The Lord's Prayer:** *Lord, teach us to pray (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,** *(Gal. 3:26; Acts 17:24)*

- What does this opening phrase tell us about God and the nature of prayer?

**...hallowed be thy Name,** *(John 17:17; Matt. 5:16)*

- How do we keep God's name holy amongst us?

**...thy kingdom come,** *(John 3:5; Mark 1:15)*

- How does God's kingdom come?

**...thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

*(John 6:40; 1 Thess. 4:3; Rom. 16:20; 1 Pet. 1:5; 2 Cor. 12:9)*

- Where do we learn of God's will? How is God's will done in our lives?

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

*(Acts 17:28; Ps. 106:1; Matt. 6:33; Luke 11:13; 1 John 3:17-18)*

- What are we asking for in this petition?

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

*(Prov. 28:13; Ps. 19:12; Ep. 4:32)*

- Since we cannot earn God's forgiveness, what do you think the connection is between His forgiveness of us and our forgiveness of others?

**And lead us not into temptation, *(James 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 4:8; Rom. 13:14)***

- Knowing that God tempts no man, what are we asking for in this petition?

**...but deliver us from evil. *(2 Thes. 3:3; 2 Tim. 4:18)***

- How is this petition tied to our perseverance and assurance in Christ?

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.**

**Amen.** *(James 1:17; Eph. 3:20-21; 1 Tim. 1:17)*

- How does this closing line ground us in hope?

## Concerning Prayer

**149. What is prayer?**

Prayer is turning my heart toward God, to converse with him in worship. (Psalm 122, 123)

**150. What should you seek in prayer?**

In prayer I should seek the joy of fellowship with God, who made me for fellowship with him. (1 Chronicles 16:28-30; Psalm 96; John 17; Revelation 22:17)

**151. What is fellowship with God?**

Fellowship with God in prayer is relating to him as his children, as we approach the light and glory of his throne. (Revelation 7:9-17)

**152. How can you have fellowship with God?**

Through the death of Jesus as both High Priest and sacrifice, and in his Holy Spirit, I have fellowship with God in Word, Sacrament, and prayer. (Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 1:1-4)

**153. Why should you pray?**

I should pray, first, because God calls me so to do; second, because I desire to know God and be known by him; third, because I need the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit; and fourth, because God responds to the prayers of his people. (Luke 11:13)

**154. What should you pray?**

In addition to my own prayers, I should pray the Lord's Prayer, the Psalms, and the collected prayers of the Church.

**155. When should you pray?**

I should pray morning, noon, and night, and whenever I am aware of my need for God's special grace. And I should learn "to pray without ceasing" as I grow in knowledge of God's nearness. (Psalm 55:17; Daniel 6:10-13; Matthew 15:21-28; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Hebrews 4:16)

**159. How does the Lord's Prayer give you a pattern for prayer?**

The Lord's Prayer models the primary elements of fellowship with God: praise of God, acceptance of his rule and will, petition for his provision, confession of my sins (here called trespasses), forgiveness of others, avoidance of sin, and God's protection from evil and Satan. I should pray regularly about these things in my own words. (Matthew 6:9)

*from To Be A Christian: An Anglican Catechism*

## *A Simple Pattern for Personal Prayer*

<b>A</b> doration	praising God for who He is and the joy of being His child
<b>C</b> onfession	acknowledging the desires and actions that lead you away from God
<b>T</b> hanksgiving	thanking God for the many blessings He bestows upon you
<b>S</b> upplication	asking for God's grace in the lives of others as well as your own

### **Jesus' Teaching on Prayer ~ Luke 11:1-13**

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." And he said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Give us each day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.  
And lead us not into temptation."

And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

What do we learn about...

- the importance of prayer?
- our involvement in prayer?
- God answering prayer?
- the goal of prayer?

### **Being a Christian 3 ~ Belonging to Christ: The *Lord's Prayer***

- In Luke 11:1-13 we learn that Jesus prayed as a way of communing with his Father; that our involvement in prayer should be persistent; that God always answers prayers (*yes, no, or not now*); the goal of prayer is communion with God through the Holy Spirit.
- Our proper response to God's amazing grace in Jesus is to worship. Prayer is central to worship and it is relational in nature. Since communing with God is life's central activity, prayer is vital because it is conversing to God in response to His Word.
- Jesus gives us the pattern that prayer is relational. The one true God, who presently reigns in heaven, has indeed come to us in Jesus, pledging to be our true Father. Jesus taught us to pray corporately with this prayer.
- We ask that God's name be believed, loved, trusted, and respected with reverence. We keep God's name holy when we honor and receive God's Word through preaching, teaching, and personal study, live in a God honoring way, and avoid misusing His name.
- We ask that God would bring more into the His Kingdom, that He would rule and reign in our lives, and that His Kingdom would come in its glory.
- God's Kingdom comes through the Good News of what Jesus Christ has done on behalf of the world, and how the Holy Spirit brings this message alive in people's hearts. Being alive to God through the Holy Spirit, comes with the privilege of sharing the gospel with others.
- We ask that as Christ's followers we would live in such a way that mirrors heaven i.e. worshiping and enjoying God.
- God's will is done in our lives as we worship Him, as the attempts of our flesh, the world, and the devil to draw us away from faith are thwarted by the Holy Spirit, and as God's strength is made perfect in our weakness through abiding in Jesus.
- Daily bread includes not only physical provision, but spiritual too. This includes using the blessings we receive to help others have adequate provision.
- When we fail to forgive others, God's rich forgiveness that has been freely offered us through Christ's cross is cut off. It is like we are drinking poison and expecting the other person to die. The poison of unforgiveness circumvents the present power of the cross
- We ask God to deliver us from succumbing to the daily temptations that come our way and to strengthen us by the Holy Spirit.
- We ask God to keep us firmly rooted in Him through our faith in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. We are assured in God's Word that even our trials in this life can draw us closer to Him, and that nothing can separate us from Christ's love. Thus, we are empowered to persevere in this evil age.
- The Lord's Prayer assures us that we are praying in accord with God's will and that since He gave us the words to pray, we have hope that He will answer it.

### ***Theological Terms in Simple Language***

**Prayer:** communing and conversing with God

**Adoration:** praising God for who He is and the joy of being His child

**Confession:** acknowledging the desires & actions that lead you away from God

**Thanksgiving:** thanking God for His forgiveness and the many blessings He bestows upon you

**Supplication Intercession:** humbly asking for God's grace in your life and in others (*intercession*)

**God's Will:** to love Him and to love others.

**God's Kingdom:** the realm in which God's will is perfectly fulfilled, and thus it is often upside and backwards in relation to the world. It's broken into history through Jesus and continues to expand.

**Temptation:** the knock of a salesman on your door trying to get you to buy something you don't need.

**Evil:** a parasite of good and cannot exist apart from it. It is the twisting of God's good creation and will.

**Glory:** Is God's beauty and delight on display.

### **Suggestions for Next Week:**

Christian Basics - catch up on reading

To Be a Christian - questions #149-223

*Review the notes from this week looking up Scriptures*

*Pray the Lord's Prayer daily in a slow, meditative way.*

*Think about how and when your faith became more personal and journal about it.*

*Continue to pray that the Holy Spirit would make the truths of God's love more real & personal.*