

Prayer Emphasis Pt. 2 (Lord's Prayer)

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, January 12, 2020

Main Theme – Beginning the New Year w/ a Series on Prayer – Pt. 2 Highlights the Lord's Prayer

WORSHIP & PRAYER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Special Events**

- Women's Ministry – Tuesday, January 14, from 6:30–8pm
- Week of Prayer-Fasting – January 13–17 (Signups Continue)

- **Annual Business Meeting**

The 2019 Annual Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, January 19, 2020 following the Sunday Service. A brief meal will be provided for those who plan on attending. Moreover, the 2019 Annual Report will be distributed today to the voting membership. Please read it and bring it with you to the Annual Meeting.

MORNING OFFERING

NOTE – I want to call forth our ushers. TWO offerings will be collected:

- 1) The 1st offering goes to support this local work and community outreach
- 2) The 2nd offering goes to support our regular missionaries (foreign/domestic)

May the Lord bless you as you give! May you experience His faithfulness in kind!

- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

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INTRODUCTIONS

As always it is wonderful to see you. I look forward to these moments of corporate worship and instruction. I pray that you are ready to receive what the Lord has for you as we journey into the New Year! Please have your Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

I have chosen to open 2020 with a multi-part series on PRAYER.

NOTE – Prayer is a topic we can never HEAR enough of or exhaust through STUDY. Prayer is also a discipline we cannot PRACTICE enough or PERFECT entirely. I've yet to meet the Christian who confesses, "Pastor—I pray too much and too effectively!" These truths—coupled with the fact that the Week of Prayer & Fasting is upon us—makes this a PERFECT time to talk about prayer.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

NOTE – Last Sunday morning we AFFIRMED...

1) The Need to Make Time for Prayer

"One of the great uses of Twitter and Facebook will be to prove at the last day that prayerlessness was not from lack of time" –John Piper

2) The Necessity/Value of Prayer

"The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered pray, but unoffered prayer" –F. B. Meyer

3) The Power of Prayer

"Prayer is as mighty as God, because He has committed Himself to answer it" –L. Ravenhill

4) That Our Confidence in Prayer is Founded Upon the Nature of God

"God has not changed; and His ear is just as quick to hear the voice of real prayer, and His hand is just as long and strong to save as it ever was!" R. A. Torrey.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 3

KEY – We also ESTABLISHED that one of the best ways to learn how to pray is by studying or utilizing the prayers recorded in the Bible. Throughout the pages of Scripture (OT & NT), we have SCORES of documented prayers that should inform and impact the manner in which we pray!

Q. Why not learn from the example of those who have gone before us?

FYI – Last Sunday we addressed one of my FAVORITE prayers (i.e., the Aaronic Blessing):

Numbers 6:22–27 (NIV)

22 The LORD said to Moses, 23 “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

24 ““The LORD bless you
and keep you;

25 the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;

26 the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”’

KEY – Feel free to check out this message/accompanying notes online (www.NewLifeBarre.org).

TRANSITIONS PT. 1

This morning I want to spend some time addressing another beloved prayer found in the Bible. This prayer was offered by Christ Jesus Himself (for the express purpose of teaching His disciples HOW to pray). Please turn to Matthew 6—we will get there in just a moment.

FYI – I have read through the Gospel accounts many times. In all of my readings, I have NEVER once read an account where the disciples of Jesus ask of Him: **a)** Teach us to raise the dead; **b)** Teach us to preach with authority; **c)** Teach us to heal the sick; **d)** teach us to cast out demons, etc.

KEY – Yet in the Gospel of Luke I DO read the following (i.e., Luke 11:1):

Luke 11:1

11 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

NOTE – This is significant and interesting. I have to WONDER if they somehow understood prayer to be the source of Jesus’ power and authority. Don’t forget, they often saw Him pulling away from the masses/ministry to pray!

TRANSITIONS PT. 2

NOTE – Jesus—being a good teacher—RESPONDED to their request...

Let’s consider His remarks in Matthew 6 (FYI – parallels that which is recorded in Luke 11):

Matthew 6:9–13

9 “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 10 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 11 Give us today our daily bread.
 12 And forgive us our debts,
 as we also have forgiven our debtors.
 13 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from the evil one.”

TRANSITIONS PT. 3

This is arguably the most FAMOUS prayer in all of Scripture—i.e., often called the Lord’s Prayer. I posit that it should be called the Disciples’ Prayer, as it was intended to teach us—His followers—HOW to pray.

KEY – If you want to learn how/what to pray this is the BEST place to start!

FYI – Though I do believe there is benefit to praying this prayer as is, I maintain that the Lord’s Prayer is best viewed as a PATTERN for prayer. i.e., It provides for us an OUTLINE of essential elements in prayer. Thus, if we break it down one segment at a time, we come to understand the ingredients of effective prayer.

This morning I want to take some time to ADDRESS and ILLUSTRATE these sentiments.

LET’S DELVE IN.

SEGMENT 1

Q. What is the opening of this prayer? A. "Our Father..."

NOTE 1 – This is the opening remark of the Lord's Prayer—**Q. WHY?**

A. It reminds us to whom we are praying—the Father (Object)

A. It reminds us of our relationship/connection w. Him (Children)

NOTE 2 – God goes by scores of names/titles throughout the Word of God. Each is vital and uniquely descriptive (e.g., Lord, Deliverer, Rock, Savior, Shepherd, etc.). Yet herein Jesus has us address God as "Father"—**WHY?**

A. It reminds us of ACCESS and INTIMACY. Whereas many of God's other names/titles speak to His majesty, might, etc., this term speaks to the connection we have with Him. I have said it time and again, my earthly father was particularly unpleasant to telemarketers when they called—but NEVER when his children called! WHY? Relational connection and love!

Q. What are the characteristics of a good father (earthly)? LET THEM TALK

APP 1 – When you open your prayer time, spend some time reflecting on the fatherhood of God. All that can be said of good earthly dads (which you just shared) can be said of the Lord! Opening your times of prayer with a celebration of His fatherly nature reprograms how you see Him, how you see yourself, etc. **ILLUSTRATE**

STORY – One day, while my son Zac and I were out in the country, climbing around in some cliffs, I heard a voice from above me yell, "Hey Dad! Catch me!" I turned around to see Zac joyfully jumping off a rock straight at me. He had jumped and then yelled "Hey Dad!" I became an instant circus act, catching him. We both fell to the ground. For a moment after I caught him I could hardly talk. When I found my voice again, I gasped in exasperation: "Zac! Can you give me one good reason why you did that???"

He responded with remarkable calmness: "Sure...because you're my Dad." His whole assurance was based in the fact that his father was trustworthy. He could live life to the full because I could be trusted. Isn't this even more true for a Christian? -Tim Hansel, *Holy Sweat*

APP 2 – This is a genuine challenge for many in our generation who have never experienced a positive fatherly connection. Allow me to show you how I might approach such a time of prayer. **ILLUSTRATE.**

SEGMENT 2

NOTE – Once intimacy with God is established, it is necessary to establish His authority and supremacy. i.e., We do well to recognize the power and the dominion of the Lord (i.e., unrivaled in nature). Scripture OFTEN touches upon this theme:

Isaiah 40:12–15, 22–26

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?

Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,
or weighed the mountains on the scales
and the hills in a balance?

13 Who can fathom the Spirit of the Lord,
or instruct the Lord as his counselor?

14 Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him,
and who taught him the right way?

Who was it that taught him knowledge,
or showed him the path of understanding?

15 Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;
they are regarded as dust on the scales;
he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.

He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

23 He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

24 No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

25 “To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?

He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.

Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.

KEY – When you pray “Our Father in heaven” you are confessing that He is high and exalted over ALL things! This is so much more than an identification of His location. Rather, it is an identification of where everything is in RELATION to Him (i.e., ultimately subject to His divine power).

- 1) He Is Greater than You and Me**
- 2) He is Greater than Your Enemies**
- 3) He is Greater than Your Situation**

ILLUSTRATE (You are seated above all things...)

SEGMENT 3

The opening phrase (“Our Father in heaven”) catalyzes both intimacy with/reverence for God. The only appropriate response to such a God is the WORSHIP of His creation—and this is exactly what we see in the next portion of the Lord’s Prayer: “Hallowed be your name” (Matt. 6:9b).

FYI 1 – The phrase “holy is your name” speaks to the worship/praise of God. i.e., It is a celebration of who He is by nature and what He has done, recognizing that there is no one like Him!

-He is in a league of His own! No one is _____ like God...

FYI 2 – This is PRECISELY the language of those heavenly beings encountered by Isaiah!

Isaiah 6:1–3

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

APP – Oftentimes our prayer lives consist of nothing more than petition and request. But the most casual study of the Lord’s Prayer reveals that true prayer is about so much MORE than that! It’s about intimacy with God, a recognition of His dominion and a worshipful celebration in kind!

ILLUSTRATE

SEGMENT 4

Having established the fatherly nature of God and His power—and having worshipped Him in kind—we now begin move to a core aspect of this prayer: PETITION (i.e., the offering of specific requests/seeking His divine aide and intervention). Let’s consider Matthew 6:

Matthew 6:9b–10

9 . . . Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
10 your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Q. What does v. 10 mean (i.e., this reference to the kingdom of God coming)?

A. God’s kingdom refers to His rule, reign and dominion. We must realize that we live in enemy territory (cf. 2 Cor. 4:4). i.e., The kingdom of Satan temporarily operates in opposition to God’s divine rule—wreaking havoc in this world and in our earthly circumstances.

Q. Why do you think this world is so perilous/broken?

When we pray for God’s kingdom to come, we are praying for God to **a)** assert His power, **b)** breaking the power of Satan, etc., so that **c)** what happens here on earth conforms to His ultimate desire (coming under His rulership over a given situation).

- We are praying for things “down here” to conform to His will “up there”
- We are praying for God to “intervene” and have His way in “earthly” situations
- We’re praying for what we see in the world to line up w. what we see in the Word!

ILL – I know that God grieves over the brokenness I see in many of the homes of our CYC kids, etc. These homes are characterized by addition, divorce, generational dysfunction, etc.—all symptoms of Satan’s work. I call out for God to **a)** assert His power, **b)** break the power of the enemy, and **c)** bring about His desires in these homes (e.g., peace, love, forgiveness, health, freedom from addiction, etc.).

ILLUSTRATE

KEY – God has opened the door for us to petition re: needs (inviting Him into our circumstance)

Philippians 4:6

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

1 Peter 5:7

7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Hebrews 4:16

16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

NOTE 1 – AVAIL yourself of the opportunity to present your needs before Him!

NOTE 2 – The remainder of the Lord's Prayer centers upon varying ASPECTS of divine petition...

SEGMENT 5

Matthew 6:11

11 Give us today our daily bread.

NOTE – God's care for your life is NOT limited to the realm of the spiritual. He is intensely in tune with the PRACTICALITIES of life and living as well. Note the content of the Lord's instruction herein (v. 11):

1) "Daily Bread" Pt. 1

Bread was a STAPLE food to the ancients. This was something that they had to have every day. For Christ to give us permission to ask for daily bread INDICATES that God our Father CARES about our earthly/daily needs.

2) "Daily Bread" Pt. 2

Q. Why the DAILY emphasis? **A.** Praying for our daily needs forces us to recognize God as the source of our provision, catalyzing faith, dependence and humility. Thus, having to ask for such practical daily elements FOSTERS an abiding spiritual connection!

Q. What might this segment of our prayer lives look like? **ILLUSTRATE**

KEY – Knowing that God hears my plea(s) re: earthly needs REMOVES personal worry/anxiety:

Luke 12:22–32

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

27 “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

SEGMENT 6

Q. What is the next petition we are called to offer?

Matthew 6:12

12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

1) This Passage Emphasizes the Need We Have for Forgiveness

- This is the portion of prayer where we “confess” our sins
- This is the portion of prayer where we allow God to search us
- This is the portion of prayer where we receive much-needed grace

NOTE – I love to use the verbiage of Psalm 51...**ILLUSTRATE**

Psalm 51:1–12

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

- 3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
- 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.
- 5 Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- 6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
- 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.
- 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

2) This Passage Emphasizes the Need for Us to Forgive Others

Colossians 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

NOTE – This is NOT optional! Consider the warning(s) of Christ contained in Matthew 6...

Matthew 6:14–15

14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

FYI – It is IMPOSSIBLE for bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness to CREEP IN if we are continually/daily practicing forgiveness for others! This should be a daily component of our spiritual journey. Consider the charge of the apostle Paul:

Ephesians 4:26

26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." **ILLUSTRATE**

SEGMENT 7

Q. What is the next/final petition we are called to offer?

Matthew 6:13

13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.”

NOTE 1 – We live in a RUINED world:

- 1) We Must Deal with Fleshly Desires (Powers of Temptation)**
- 2) We Must Deal with Spiritual Opposition (Kingdom of Satan)**

NOTE 2 – We combat these realities via prayer and an appeal to God (cf. Matt. 6:13)...

Matthew 6:13

13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.”

KEY – This is an appeal for strength, deliverance & power to overcome temptation.

ILLUSTRATE

CONCLUSIONS

Q. Do you want to know HOW/WHAT to pray? Look no further than the Lord’s Prayer!

KEY – Captured in so few verses resides so much spiritual depth. Take the time to reflect upon this prayer, understand its emphases, and allow them to inform/impact your times of prayer before God! You will be the better for it!

Numbers 6:24–26

24 ““The LORD bless you
and keep you;
25 the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
26 the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.””