

# The Lord's Prayer

Gail Allwine

Recorded on February 19, 2022

Nehemia Gordon and Keith Johnson wrote a book titled, A Prayer to Our Father. It's about what we call the Lord's Prayer and it has caused me to think more about my own prayer life. To incorporate some of these things from the Lord's Prayer even into my own prayer life. There are some definite things to think about. We all know how important prayer is to our Christian lives. It really is a mandatory thing to stay close to God if we're going to grow as a Christian and prepare for God's Kingdom. Prayer is an absolute necessity for us. I've heard many messages and advice about how to pray—messages, sermons, sermonettes, Bible studies—I'm sure you all have as well. Who could we look to for better advice than Jesus Christ, the actual Son of our loving Father Who we are going to be praying to. The Lord's Prayer is actually something that came from Jesus Christ and I think that gives it an extra measure of importance.

The disciples asked Jesus Christ how to pray and He gave them some very definite advice which many people call the model prayer. Prayer should be a very deep, personal communication between us and God the Father. We each have our own personal prayer needs, things to pray about. We're given information every week about needs in the church and people having particular problems who really require our prayers. We have things we need to discuss with our Father and Christ gave us some particular things that we need to consider as important principles to incorporate into our prayers.

Christ's advice on prayer occurs in Matthew 6 and Luke 11. The two are almost identical. There are a few words that are slightly different. Between the King James and the New King James and also between other translations, translators have a problem in trying to find the right word to translate from another language, like from Greek into English and they don't always make the best choice. This leads to differences in translations and sometimes, in things that could be clearer. Before looking at the Lord's Prayer, there's something interesting and important about Bible translations. The book of Matthew is unique in that it was written in Hebrew. Few people realize that or understand it. Mark, Luke and John were written in Greek. So, Matthew is translated into Greek and then into our English version. The other gospels were written in Greek and then translated into English.

George Howard is a professor at the University of Georgia and he wrote a book titled, Hebrew Gospel of Matthew and he shows the actual Hebrew version translation into English which is interesting. The English translation of the original Hebrew of Matthew does show some translation problems or bad judgments in the Greek translations that we're used to using. That is the translations we have that come from the Greek. There are often words that perhaps weren't chosen as the best words, or perhaps even are somewhat incorrect or confusing. An example is Matthew 11:13, in the New King James which came from what I call the Greek Matthew, it says:

**Matthew 11:13** *For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. (NKJV)*

The translation from the Hebrew in Matthew says:

*“For all the prophets and the Torah prophesied concerning John.”*

which makes a lot more sense. Some of the problems occur in the Lord’s Prayer also. So, I want to look at the Hebrew version and the Greek version in parallel. I would like to go through portions of the Lord’s Prayer. My references are to the New King James and I’m going to call this the Greek Hebrew because our translation comes from Hebrew to Greek and then to English. The translation from the Hebrew directly into English I’ll call the Hebrew Matthew.

So, there’s the **Greek Matthew** and the **Hebrew Matthew**.

Let’s start by looking at the actual prayer in Matthew 6:9.

**Matthew 6:9** *In this manner, therefore, 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 this day our daily bread.*

*12) And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.*

*13) 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. (NKJV)*

Luke’s version, as a number of translations do, omits this last sentence—

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

So, it appears that it is probably spurious. There has also been a lot of discussion as to whether it’s the “evil” or the “evil one” in the very last part of the Lord’s Prayer. The first statement is addressing our Father—our Father in heaven. So we might say, our heavenly Father or our Father in heaven or perhaps even better, our loving, heavenly Father. We need to think very deeply about Who we are addressing. I’d like to look at Isaiah 64:8.

**Isaiah 64:8** *But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand. (NKJV)*

God is the One who designed and created us—our bodies—and gives us life and breath and everything that we have. Another verse in James 1:17.

**James 1:17** *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (NKJV)*

God is our Father, He provides everything for us to continue in our lives.

Notice Matthew 23:37.

**Matthew 23:37** *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!* (NKJV)

This really shows God's attitude toward us; this is a loving, fatherly attitude. God wants to take us under His wings and take care of us. This is the kind of Father we are addressing when we address our heavenly Father.

How about the requests?

**Request number one:** "*Hallowed be Your name,*" (in the Greek Matthew).

In the Hebrew Matthew it simply says, "*May Your name be sanctified.*"

Today almost no one knows God's name. The whole world is blinded. The vast majority of people don't even believe in a God. They think everything just came about by chance, that there is no design and creation. I would like to look at Daniel 2:20.

**Daniel 2:20** *Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.*

*21) And He changes the times and the seasons;*

*He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.*

*22) He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.*

*23) "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might ... (NKJV)*

Let's look at Psalm 8:1.

**Psalm 8:1** *O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!*

*2) Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.*

*3) When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,*

*4) What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?*

*5) For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.*

- 6) *You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,*  
7) *All sheep and oxen—Even the beasts of the field,*  
8) *The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.*  
9) *O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth! (NKJV)*

Jesus Christ was constantly magnifying God's name and magnifying the fact that God the Father was over Him; that He was the greatest Being in the universe. I would like to look at a few examples of that. One is in John 14:28.

**John 14:28** *You have heard Me say to you, I am going away and coming back to you. If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, I am going to the Father, for My Father is greater than I. (NKJV)*

In Matthew 26:36.

**Matthew 26:36** *Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."  
37) And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.  
38) Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."  
39) He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." (NKJV)*

God the Father was in complete control and Christ looked to Him for the best outcome of anything in His life. Back a little bit in Matthew 24:33.

**Matthew 24:33** *So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!  
34) Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.  
35) Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. (NKJV)*

So, God the Father is really the owner of all information. There are things that no being knows except God the Father. He possesses complete knowledge and understanding. Maybe just one more back to Matthew 20:20.

**Matthew 20:20** *Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.  
21) And He said to her, "What do you wish?"  
She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."*

22) *But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able."*

23) *So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father." (NKJV)*

The Father is in complete control of all things. Malachi 1:11.

**Malachi 1:11** *For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts. (NKJV)*

There is a coming a time when this blindness will be removed and the whole world will know God and know God's name. Right now, we've been blessed to have that blindness removed and we know God's name and we know about God the Father and He is in charge of the whole Universe.

**Request number two:** *"Your Kingdom come."* (in the Greek version of Matthew).

The Hebrew version says, *"May Your Kingdom be blessed"*.

But God's Kingdom is coming to this earth and it will be an incredible blessing, replacing all the war and suffering and replacing it with peace and beauty and wonderful things. We are looking forward so much to that time. Even as we speak, we're thinking about the war in Ukraine and after that, in Taiwan. These things are heating up and according to prophecy, much greater things than that. Matthew 13:33.

**Matthew 13:33** *Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened." (NKJV)*

This pictures God's Kingdom coming and filling the whole earth and how awesome it is to look to that and to pray for that coming and to come soon.

**Request number three:** *"Your will be done on the earth as it is in heaven."* (From the Greek translation or the Greek Matthew).

The Hebrew version translates, *"Your will shall be done in heaven and on earth"*.

Right now, God's will is being done in heaven but it's certainly not being done on earth. All the evil spirits were thrust down to the earth and are very active at this time. God is in ultimate control and He's going to bind all the evil spirits when He returns with Jesus Christ. Again, a wonderful time is coming; we have to pray that it will come soon.

**Request number four:** “Give us this day our daily bread.” (From the Greek translation or Greek Matthew.)

The Hebrew Matthew says: “Give us our bread continually.”

The word *bread* in Hebrew is *lechem* which means “basic food” or “basic requirements for life”. Or we might just say in general, “all the things we need to continue our lives—our physical lives”. Proverbs 30:8.

**Proverbs 30:8** *Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches— Feed me with the food allotted to me;  
9) Lest I be full and deny You, And say, “Who is the LORD?” Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God. (NKJV)*

So, we are to pray for our “needs”, we are not to pray for all of our “wants”. Notice how Daniel prayed in Daniel 9:3.

**Daniel 9:3** *Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.  
4) And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, “O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,  
5) we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.  
6) Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land.  
7) O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.  
8) O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You.  
9) To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. (NKJV)*

Daniel, a righteous man in God’s eyes, still included himself. We have sinned, we have done this, we need Your help. It’s not “me”, it’s “we”. Our prayers should be lacking in selfishness. We need to pray for ourselves and others—include others in our prayers. Matthew 6:31.

**Matthew 6:31** *“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’  
32) For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.  
33) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

34) *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.* (NKJV)

We need to be careful about what we pray for. Pray for our needs, things we need that God knows, but He wants to know that we are looking to Him. Backing up a little to Matthew 4:4.

**Matthew 4:4** *But He answered and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."* (NKJV)

It's the analogy between *bread* and God's *Word*, so you might say this is also something we need to consider as far as giving us our daily bread.

**Request number five:** *"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."* (This is the Greek translation or the Greek Matthew).

Luke 11 says *"Forgive us our sins because we forgive everyone who is indebted to us."*

The translation from the Hebrew version of Matthew is even clearer. *"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."*

So, we don't ask for forgiveness of monetary debts or our debts concerning physical things, we ask God to forgive us our sins. While we are in Matthew 6, at the end of the Lord's prayer, look at verse 14.

**Matthew 6:14** *For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.* (NKJV)

**Matthew 18:21** *Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"*  
22) *Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."* (NKJV)

So, forgiveness is a major part of a Christian attitude.

**Request number six:** *"Do not lead us into temptation."*

The word *temptation* from the Greek is from a Greek word that can mean "test" or "to prove".

The Hebrew Matthew gives a better translation: *"Do not bring us into the hands of a test."* James 1:13.

**James 1:13** *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.*

*14) But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. (NKJV)*

We tend to tempt ourselves and the world tempts us but God does not tempt us. However, God does test us. God tests everyone He is working with, but for the purpose of teaching us and testing our obedience. God needs to know us inside and out if He is going to offer us eternal life. He really can't allow anyone into His Kingdom who is not obedient and does not become like a little child, as Christ said. Let's look in Daniel briefly; Daniel 9:23.

**Daniel 9:23** *At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision: (NKJV)*

This is the angel talking to Daniel and saying that Daniel was greatly beloved by God. Yet, Daniel was tested. If we back up into Daniel 6:7.

**Daniel 6:7** *All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.*

*8) Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."*

*9) Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.*

*10) Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. (NKJV)*

Daniel didn't count his life to that degree that he would not pray to God. We all know about Abraham sacrificing his son Isaac—right to the point of raising the knife to kill his son. That was an ultimate test if there ever was. God needs to test us to make sure we are obedient and that our love for God is the main thing. As a Tom Bodett quote said,

*"In school we are taught a lesson and then given a test.  
In life (in our case, by God) you're are given a test that teaches us a lesson."*

**Request number seven:** *"Deliver us from the evil one."*

There's a bunch of disagreement here between the "evil one" and "evil" in the translations.

The Hebrew Matthew gives a little more appropriate translation:

*"protect us from all evil."*



Which is really all encompassing. Let's look at John 17:13.

**John 17:13** *But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.*

*14) I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

*15) I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. (NKJV)*

God intends for us to remain in this world for now, to witness the effects of evil. Evil is everywhere in this world that we are in. We are immersed in it. Any of us could lose jobs or homes due to things that come upon us and are not our fault. There have been prayers requested this past year about situations in people's lives such as these things I have just mentioned.

We are bombarded continually by these letters that get to me because it's an awful scam. There are many people around the world trying to find software flaws to get into our computers or our phones and we get phone calls all the time. One particular thing that bothers me, is there is a deceptive scam where people are trying to take away our land and property. We get these letters periodically offering to buy a small portion of our land. One even contained a photo of a nice-looking couple—a man and wife—who said they were just looking to buy a small piece of property in our area. Then I found out what was really involved in these letters and they were all the same. Because of the way our land is laid out and the laws in our county, if I signed one of these, they could gain access to everything we have—our property and home—and we would essentially be homeless, for a few thousand dollars we'd be out in the cold. Only God can protect us from all evil. We need to ask God at the start of each day, to give us wisdom to see the evil around us and for Him to protect us.

Finally, the prayer ends with *amen*. The Hebrew for this word means "truth". When we say *amen*, we are certifying that what was said was truth from our heart—the heartfelt truth from our own minds. We are looking at the items that Christ gave, in what we call the Lord's Prayer.

The reverence for God the Father,  
His name and  
His Kingdom that is coming and  
Things which we need to depend upon the Father for in our lives.

These are things to meditate upon as we think about our daily prayers. The Lord's Prayer is from God the Father, from Jesus Christ as things to think about when we pray to God the Father. Keep these things in mind.