

Rosicrucian Insights



The Lord's Prayer

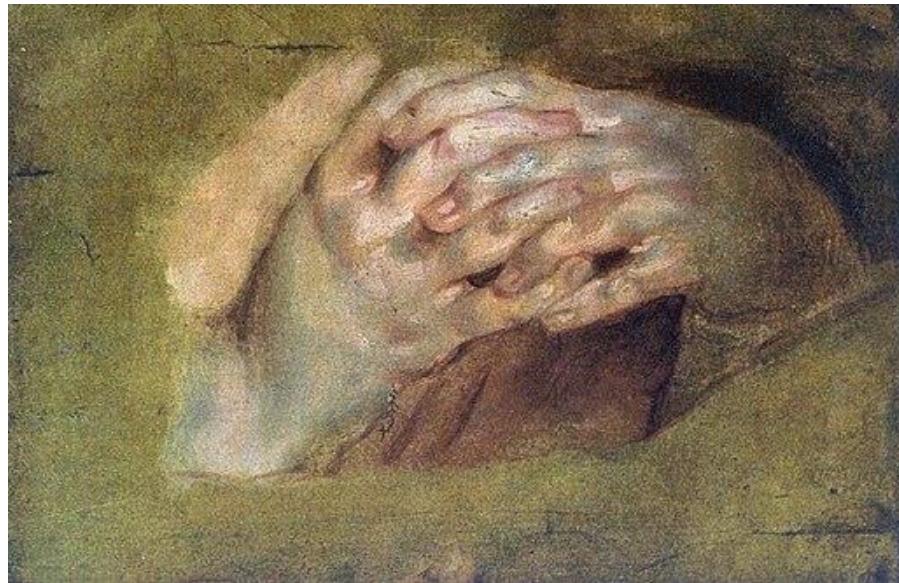
By G. E. Carlin

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

This short prayer is often inserted into the *Lord's Prayer* in this manner:

*Deliver us, Lord, from every evil,
and grant us peace in our day.
In your mercy keep us free from sin
and protect us from all anxiety
as we wait in joyful hope
for the coming of our Savior,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.*



The Perfect Prayer: *The Lord's Prayer*

When one of the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He responded by giving them *The Lord's Prayer* which consists of a preface, seven prayers of petition, and a closing. The preface is important in that it addresses God by His name, acknowledges His sovereignty, and places us in His presence as we begin the prayer. If we look closer at *The Lord's Prayer*, we find that it consists of seven P's: "*Presence, Praise, Purpose, Petition, Pardon, Protection and Persistence*."

The Lord's Prayer

Component	Petition Pronoun	Prayer Type	Purpose	Psalms to Pray
Our Father which art in heaven,		Preface	Faith Sovereignty <i>Presence</i>	Psalm 27, 68, 84
Hallowed be thy name.	Thy	Adoration	Worship, Glory <i>Praise</i>	Psalm 95, 136, 145
Thy kingdom come.	Thy	Consecration	God's Will Expectation <i>Purpose</i>	Psalm 143, 33, 57
Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.	Thy		Submission	Psalm 100, 40, 131
Give us day by day our daily bread.	Us	Supplication	Prayer for our Needs <i>Petition</i>	Psalm 37, 86, 119
And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.	Us	Intercession	Confess, <i>Pardon</i> Ask for Forgiveness Compassion	Psalm 32, 51, 20
And lead us not into temptation;	Us	Protection	Safety, <i>Protection</i> Deliverance	Psalm 138, 121, 91
but deliver us from evil.	Us			Psalm 140, 109, 25
<i>For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever</i>		Closing	Acknowledge- ment	Psalm 29, 19, 62
<i>Persistence:</i> Being extremely determined, not giving up because of the greatness and glory of God (Luke 18:1-8)				

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)

TRF considers the Lord's Prayer as the perfect prayer and the model for all other prayers. In the esoteric sense it is described as an “*abstract, algebraical formula for the upliftment and purification of all the vehicles of man*”. Even though it is a relatively short prayer it touches upon “*all the complexities of the relationship of God to man*.”

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

(Luke: 11: 1-4)

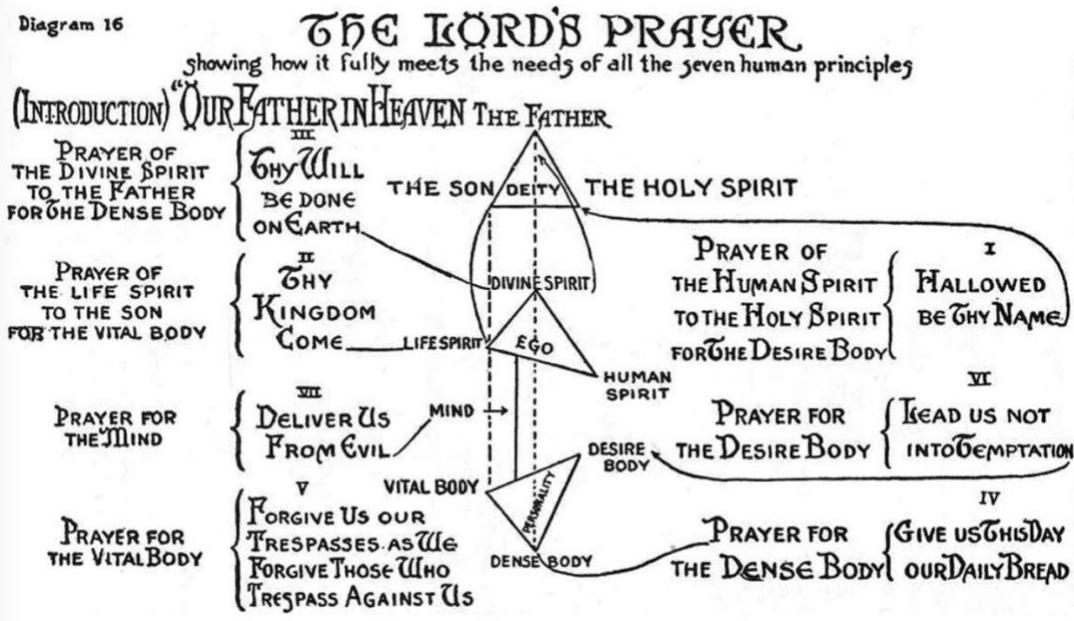
TRF sees the Lord's Prayer as an extremely unique prayer in that it actually consists of seven prayers to address the “*seven principles of man – the threefold body, the threefold spirit and the link to the mind*.” Praying to the threefold body spiritualizes each of the three bodies so that the threefold soul can be released. Praying to the threefold spirit prepares it so it can accept the threefold soul. It starts with adoration so that our prayer can reach the heavenly Father so as to address the “*needs of the needs of the lower vehicles*” and to link the mind to the “*higher and lower nature*”.

TRF believes that in order for our prayer to be able to reach God it must start with Adoration so that all three vehicles of the spirit are able to raise to the levels of the God's corresponding vehicles. Then each of the vehicles of our spirit before the Holy Spirit can petition for their specific needs and then collectively offer a closing prayer for the mind.

The Lord's pray starts with a respectful salutation to God, “*Our Father Who art in Heaven*”. Then finishes with “*For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever*” which was not originally part of the prayer taught by Jesus.

“I used to think the Lord's Prayer was a short prayer; but as I live longer, and see more of life, I begin to believe there is no such thing as getting through it. If a man, in praying that prayer, were to be stopped by every word until he had thoroughly prayed it, it would take him a lifetime.” – Henry Ward Beecher

Diagram 16



- Max Heindel, *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, Diagram 16

"He gave us that wonderful prayer, which in its seven stanzas touches the keynote of each of the seven human vehicles and blends them into that master chord of perfection which we call the Lord's Prayer." – Max Heindel

Lord's Prayer from Aramaic into English

O cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration. Soften the ground of our being and carve out a space within us where your Presence can abide.

Fill us with your creativity so that we may be empowered to bear the fruit of your mission.

Let each of our actions bear fruit in accordance with our desire.

Endow us with the wisdom to produce and share what each being needs to grow and flourish.

Untie the tangled threads of destiny that bind us, as we release others from the entanglement of past mistakes.

Do not let us be seduced by that which would divert us from our true purpose, but illuminate the opportunities of the present moment.

For you are the ground and the fruitful vision, the birth, power and fulfillment, as all is gathered and made whole once again.

The Individual Prayers of The Lord's Prayer

#	Individual Prayers	Prayer of	To	For
1	<i>Hallowed be Thy Name</i>	The Human Spirit	Holy Spirit	Desire Body
11	<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>	The Life Spirit	Son (Christ)	Vital Body
111	<i>Thy Will be done on Earth</i>	The Divine Spirit	Father (God)	Dense Body
1V	<i>Give us this day our daily bread</i>	The Divine Spirit	Father (God)	Dense Body
V	<i>Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us</i>	The Life Spirit	Son (Christ)	Vital Body
V1	<i>Lead us not into temptation</i>	The Human Spirit	The Holy Spirit	Desire Body
VII	<i>Deliver us from evil</i>	All three aspects of the threefold Spirit		Mind

Prayer Template

Many people including the Great Protestant leader, Martin Luther, used a template such as *The Lord's Prayer* for how they prayed and the prayers they created. Their prayers followed six sections that addressed: *God's Name, Kingdom, Will, Provision, Forgiveness, and Deliverance* as an outline for their new prayer. While others organized the six sections of The Lord's Prayer as:

- *Adoration and Worship, Obedience, Submission and Thanksgiving, Petition and Provision, Confession and Forgiveness, and Awareness and Deliverance,*

*** OR ***

- *Praise, Needs to be Accomplished, Provision, Forgiveness, Protection, and Glory to God*

Select the Purpose (1, 2, or 3 – or find a different one) which works for best for you to use *The Lord's Prayer* as a template create your own prayer.

Lord's Prayer Template

Purpose 1	Purpose 2	Purpose 3	Your Prayer Line
<i>God's Name</i>	<i>Adoration and Worship</i>	<i>Praise</i>	
<i>God's Kingdom</i>	<i>Obedience</i>	<i>Needs to be Accomplished</i>	
<i>God's Will</i>	<i>Submission and Thanksgiving</i>	<i>Provision</i>	
<i>God's Provision</i>	<i>Petition and Provision</i>	<i>Forgiveness</i>	
<i>God's Forgiveness</i>	<i>Confession and Forgiveness</i>	<i>Protection</i>	
<i>God's Deliverance</i>	<i>Awareness and Deliverance</i>	<i>Glory to God</i>	

Luther on Praying

A Simple Way to Pray was a letter written by Martin Luther at the request of a friend for guidance on praying in which he described his own person method of prayer with his use of *The Lord's Prayer*, *The Ten Commandments*, and *The Apostles' Creed*. Luther also provided specific suggestions such as:

Set Prayer Times: Morning (after getting up) and Evening (before going to bed)

Prayer Location: Private little room

Prayer Position: Kneeling or Standing with Folded Hands and your Eyes Toward Heaven

Preparation: Ten Commandments, the Creed, words from Christ or Paul, and some Psalms

In order to prepare and warm his heart for prayer, Luther shut himself away from the world with his Psalter so he could read The Ten Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, some words from Christ or Paul, and some Psalms. He then prayed his own short prayer that:

- *Addressed God*
- *Identified Himself*
- *Stated he was Honoring his Promise to Pray*
- *Reminded God of His Promise to Listen*
- *Identified Jesus as the Teacher of Prayers*
- *Stated Obedience and Trust to God*
- *Stated Prayer was in Name of Jesus Christ, Saints, and Living Christians*
- *Concluded with the Our Father Prayer*

“O Heavenly Father, dear God, I am a poor unworthy sinner. I do not deserve to raise my eyes or hands toward thee or to pray. But because thou hast commanded us all to pray and hast promised to hear us and through thy dear Son Jesus Christ hast taught us both how and what to pray, I come to thee in obedience to thy word, trusting in thy gracious promise. I pray in the name of my Lord Jesus Christ together with all thy saints and Christians on earth as he has taught us: Our Father who art, etc., through the whole prayer, word for word.”

- A Simple Way to Prayer ... for Master Peter the Barber, 1535

Praying The Lord's Prayer

In terms of praying The Lord's Prayer, Luther prayed the entire prayer but stopped after each of the seven petitions to add in his own thoughts and ideas that related to the specific petition. And in some cases, his words were a result of his hearing the Holy Spirit within himself. He did not want people to simply recite his or others words from already written prayers.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:26 KJV)

Luther felt that if the heart was warm upon beginning and you had a true desire and need to pray then your own words would come to you. Your concentration on the specific petition would keep your thoughts and ideas aligned to its meaning and purpose. You could then “paraphrase and personalize your own needs and

concerns" for each petition. In addition, you have the opportunity of using the entire petition or words from the petition throughout your prayer.

Each prayer for a petition as well as the final ending of the prayer should always end by firmly stating "*Amen*". This signifies that you believe that God has heard your prayer and will grant you your requests and that your prayers are not from you alone but from all Christens who are standing beside you. *Amen* signifies that you are certain of this, it is the truth for all to hear.

Eagerness for Prayer

Before thou prayest, prepare thyself; and be not as one that tempteth the Lord. (Ecclesiasticus 18:23 KJVAA)

In all prayer it is critical that we are attentive to the thoughts of our heart. If we are not then our prayers will jump from one thought to the next and in the end, you will feel that you were lost, confused, and even fearful that your lack of preparation in our heart did not go unnoticed. Then upon reflection you will have no recall of the words you spoke in your prayer. It is only in our "*good prayers*" that afterwards we have complete recall of every single word spoken.

Being attentive or providing our fullest concentration is our utmost concern during our prayers and it requires us to keep control of all of our senses and the "*singleness of our heart*". As Jesus Christ gave us *The Lord's Prayer* at the request of His disciples, we can be certain that we have an excellent guide that is well suited to be expanded in creating our own prayers. Martin Luther acknowledges that *The Lord's Prayer* is the "*best prayer, even better than the psalter, which is so very dear to me*". So, take the time to make sure that you have warmed your heart before prayer and it is absolutely ready and eager to pray with attentiveness, concentration, and a single focus from start to finish.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
(Romans 8: 26 KJV)

"It is of great importance that the heart be made ready and eager for and thus preserve the peace, all to the praise and glory of God for our own benefit and for the prosperity of all. Grant that we may acknowledge these his gifts and be thankful for them."

- Martin Luther

"Our praying needs to be pressed and pursued with an energy that never tires, a persistency which will not be denied, and a courage that never fails."

- E.M. Bounds

The Lord's Prayer Template

Intro: <i>Our Father who art in heaven,</i>	
The First Petition: <i>Hallowed Be Thy Name ...</i>	
	Amen
The Second Petition: <i>Thy Kingdom Come ...</i>	
	Amen
The Third Petition: <i>Thy Will Be Done (on earth as it is in heaven) ...</i>	
	Amen
The Forth Petition: <i>Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread ...</i>	
	Amen
The Fifth Petition: <i>Forgive Us Our Trespasses (as we forgive them that trespass against us) ...</i>	
	Amen
The Sixth Petition: <i>Lead Us Not Into Temptation ...</i>	
	Amen
The Seventh Petition: <i>But Deliver Us From Evil ...</i>	
	Amen
Closing: <i>For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.</i>	

Suggestions:

- The number of words for each prayer is not important
- Let your mood and feelings guide the prayers you create each day
- Try to stay with “same general thoughts and ideas for each prayer”
- It is not necessary to complete all six petitions, it might only be one on a given day
- If “good ideas” keep coming stay with them and listen in silence
- The Holy Spirit preaches in our prayers, so listen carefully!

*** EXPERIENCING EACH PETITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER ***

The First Petition: “*Our Father, which art in heaven*”

Its first petition, *Our Father, which art in heaven*, acknowledges God as our Father. As the creator of all He is the father of humanity and as a Father He moves close to us to show us His love so we learn to grow closer to Him. Part of being able to enter the kingdom of God is to be child-like so our best qualities are drawn into the light. Therefore, our responsibility is to seek God as our Father and continue to work upon ourselves so we will be worthy of His fatherhood then we are in a position to now understand The Lord’s Prayer.

While, “*which art in heaven*” is identifying what the child perceives to be heaven. So, even though heaven might in fact be an invisible world of unlimited size, the heaven we would perceive as children seeking the Father is of a definite size so that we are assured of finding the Father and being in His presence so he can hold us in His arms and we can completely give our entire being to His love because we have the trust of a child for our most beloved Father.

My Prayer on the Omnipresence of God

O Christ, Mediator to the Almighty, as I look upward into the starry night sky help me to understander that the Father that I so desperately seek to find and draw close to is everywhere, all at once at the same time, as He extends to every distant point within His universe. Open my mind to the fact that God Himself is the universe and do not let me allow me to separate myself from His loving embrace by not comprehending the true nature of God, the Father as the creator of the universe, who is all-present as the universe itself and therefore exists in every time and place of every possible location. As God is the Universe, He expresses only the harmony of His divine unity and asks that same of us in which all His creations live together in the Oneness of His unity for this is how we directly connect to our Father. For then You, the Father, may bless us with the fruits of unity, happiness and joy, as we will then exist in one mind so we may work together to accomplish the plan of Your divine will. Therefore, my Lord open my eyes to see the Father in the air I breathe, within the matrix of my many bones, and in all the fibers of my bodies muscles. Let me fully understand that as infinitely small as I may be, I am still a vital part of the universe and therefore I am part of God. Please, place Yourself close to my side and graciously allow me to envision Your glory and majesty so I can catch short glimpses of Your omnipresent nature that build over time so I can then begin to know and understand Your eternal truth. Amen. (GEC)

My Guided Mediation on the First Petition of The Lord’s Prayer

Take some time to relax your entire body and to clear your mind. Now imagine that evening is slowly replacing daytime and that you have stepped outside your home to gaze upon the point in which the Earth’s surface blends into the sky that is slowly transitioning from light blue into a gentle grayness that darkens with the passage of time. The universe is beginning to bring its stars into view as the

intensity of their illumination gradually increases. Yet, you are not separate from all that is about and above you. You feel yourself to be part of the three-dimensional picture that is unfolding all around you. Just as one piece to jigsaw puzzle you are a part of the unbounded universe and God the Father is the Universe. Feel Him walking beside you and with each step He draws You closer to His side. You feel His love and kindness filling your soul for He is the Father and you only want to feel His loving kindness and mercy so you can be as One in His unity. And regardless of your years, you are still a child to the Father and your trust is thoroughly complete. For what you feel of the Spirit is beyond your physical senses yet it is more real than the physical world in which you believe yourself to exist. You are now experiencing God in all your thoughts, feelings, and actions and through His grace all of this and more begins to come together and merge into a time and place of Oneness. Feel God's pleasure as a Father who watches His children who have their freedom still choose to honor His wish to be as One. For we have accepted our mediator and believe in His connection to the Father so they may be One as we then will also connect to the bond of the divine Fatherhood and embrace our Father. Now hear the words of the Sun as He whispers, "*You must learn to Pray*" and within your mind He places the seven petitions of The Lord's Prayer. His direction is to now to focus on the first petition, "*Our Father, which art in heaven*" and to feel its words grow within you and your heart. By acknowledging God as your Father you have taken your first step in which you will now search for Him, knowing that if you seek with your heart you shall be assured to find Him. For in your childlike-nature you have brought forth the beginning of your sacred qualities and condensed the unlimited area of heaven into that which is manageable for a child to seek within and to be assured you shall find your Father so that you can be beside Him with in a closeness that has no gap while the words "*which art in heaven*" echo within you as you are being drawn into the light. Consider what still must be done for you to be worthy of the "*fatherhood of God*" so we may completely release ourselves to His cleansing blood and Fatherly love. Deal with these thoughts until you begin to feel a connection to the first petition of the Lord's Prayer. Then praise and thank God your Father. (GEC2025)

Journal Prompts (select one of the samples or create your own)

What have you *heard* about God today?
What *thoughts* did you have about God today?
What *new views* do you have about God?
What *doubts* do you still have?
What have you *learned from the first petition* of The Lord's Prayer?
How is the first petition of The Lord's Prayer now *guiding you*?
How are you praying "*in the spirit*"?

"The Lord's Prayer contains the sum total of religion and morals."

– Arthur Wellesley

The Second Petition: “Hallowed be thy name.”

In the second petition of the Lord’s Prayer the discussion turns to what is the name of God, as God is not a name and Father is also not a name but a characteristic. *“The name of God is the root of the original language, is that word which is God and through which everything is made.”* For if we know the name of God then we perfectly understand the meaning of life and we are then set apart for service to His glory. When we use the word God, we are referring to an *“arbitrary conceptual designation”*. In considering the name of God all of our powers of thought and imagination are useless and will not produce a name but only silence.

Everyone must have a name and if God is our Father, then shouldn’t His children know His name? Think of God in His kingly role for humanity, His humble servants, yet still without a name. As our King, our Redeemer, our Creator He still must have a name. Yet, time has given Him no name while some holy men and various cultures have dared to offer their suggestions and then there are the Israelites who believe the name, they have for God to be so holy they will not even speak it out loud. Yet, if we consider all these possible names of God what do they really mean and do they capture the full essence and being of God.

Consider the words of John, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* (John 1:1) Therefore, the question is then, if God is the Word, then what is the Word? Because God is not arbitrary then the Word cannot be arbitrary therefore it must be *“like the stepladder of numbers and tones grounded in eternal law.”* God is the one through all things are made, through the Word! Thus, the Word is both the *“creator and tool of creation at the same time.”* For humanity, the Word is life and our life is found in the light of God.

So, the question remains, how can we honor God’s name if we do not know it? Here is where you must bring forth your faith even when you do not possess the knowledge and more so if you do possess the knowledge. We can look to music to offer us the key to knowledge we wish to obtain. Yet music offers us *“only one chord ... if music were spheres, by the name of Apollo.”* While if we look to numbers and their use in many different calculations, we find only ten digits without any way to form them into the *“root of language.”* For God cannot consist of arbitrary numbers or tones as the Word. Thus, at first must learn accept our dependence and have faith the One who will guide us will appear if we continue to make an effort.

My Prayer for the Knowledge of the Eternal Name of God

Eternal and Most High God, I am blessed to call you Father for you are the ultimate creator and bearer of Light into which the life of humanity came to be as Your will. For You alone are the Word and through the Word You are creation and the creator of all things. At every moment the angelic choirs gather around Your throne and sing endless praise with the words, “Holy, Holy, Holy”. To honor Your majestic nature Your holy seraphim, sing in tones that provide the root of language that reveal Your eternal name. Yet, I am but a helpless child who has started to climb a high mountain unable to presently hear the sacred words of the seraphim so I might have knowledge of Your eternal name and thereby know to

whom I am praying for my salvation. Let me hear the musical tones of Your name so that I may hallow Your name while always being within the Light of its sphere. For then the precisely ordered numbers that represent Your name would speak as a combination of a safe or a key to my heart so that I might open the door to the ladder that will allow me to ascend into Your heaven. Therefore, Father, reach out and offer me Your hand knowing I cannot succeed without your help to guide me and bring me within Your presence. Allow me to be within Your divine Light and let the musical tones of Your seraphim reach my spiritual ears so I know the reality of this petition in which there is always a beginning and an end, no longer in place of silence but now existing in Your Word. Amen. (GEC25)

My Guided Meditation for the Second Petition of The Lord's Prayer

Take some time to relax your entire body and to clear your mind. Now imagine that you are in deep in an evening meditation on John 1:1: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" Your mind begins to contemplate, how has everything around you been created and your focus now fixes upon, *God is the Word*. Suddenly the darkness before you begins to dissipate and the light forms a life-giving sphere around you. You feel uplifted with a deep sense of peace as God's Word enters your heart and a warm embrace engulfs your body. His loving fatherhood is now deep within you, spreading to all parts of your body, and you wish only to praise and offer Him thanksgiving, to hallow His name. Yet, you now have the knowledge that the name we call the Creator, who is the source of all creation cannot be called by the name of God, as God is not a name but an arbitrary designation for the One who could never be arbitrary. While calling Him Father may be respectful it is also not a name but a characteristic describing one with children. Your mind now fills with the Hebrew and Greek words for God; Adonai, Elohim, Jehovah, Yahweh, El Shaddai, El Roi and many more. Yet, you are struggling to understand what these names really mean and could a name fully capture the Word or being of God. You are now traveling back in time to the beginning of time and there is only the Word bringing forth the planets and the stars. On the Earth there is an evolution of life and humanity from dust in which our soul progress in their growth so eventually we may find unity and become One with God. Yet, even now you do not know the true name God and it haunts you, you feel embarrassed and guilty for the omission by you and your fellow man. To just have faith without knowledge of the Word, the eternal name of God, leaves you unfilled and is not enough to continue with your spiritual pilgrimage. Yet, you have not surrendered and you are now being called by the Father so as you move upward you hear the faint singing of the seraphim that are surrounding the throne of God, "*Holy, Holy, Holy*". It is as if the lyre of Apollo is playing the divine music with them that is carrying throughout the universe to worship God and its tones speak the true name of God with the Choir of the seraphim echoing the name with their angelic voices. And it is by this eternal name of God that you now have the key to door that provides you with the ladder so you may now step within His presence as the beauty of the tones around you form a celestial chorus of His divine name. While numbers float within the air and form unlimited calculations until the same sets of numbers appear regardless of the calculation. You are hearing the true name of God with your spiritual ears and seeing the true name of God with your spiritual eyes. You are now fulfilling the second petition of The Lord's Prayer and hallowing the true

name of God. Continue in experiencing the musical tones and mathematical sequences that speak the true name of God, knowing you have the name you have so sought for so long and it was worth the time and effort. Then praise and thank God your Father. (GEC2025)

Journal Prompts

1. What music did you hear today that spoke God's name?
2. What was the Word for today?
3. How did you hallow the name of God today?
4. How was God not "arbitrary" today?



"I recited the Our Father (Lord's Prayer) in Greek every day before work, and I repeated it very often in the vineyard. Since that time, I have made a practice of saying it through once each morning with absolute attention. If during the recitation my attention wanders or goes to sleep, in the minutest degree, I begin again until I have once succeeded in going through it with absolutely pure attention. Sometimes it comes about that I say it again out of sheer pleasure, but I only do it if I really feel the impulse. The effect of this practice is extraordinary and surprises me every time, for, although I experience it each day, it exceeds my expectation at each repetition." — Simone Weil

The Third Petition: “Thy kingdom come.”

The kingdom is in heaven and it is something that is to be given to us. For God is in heaven as stated in the first petition of the prayer and therefore, the kingdom must be in heaven otherwise we would be separating God into two parts and God cannot be divided into two different beings. Even though the kingdom and heaven are two different places they are in fact one thing we must however think of as different things that belong to God. Heaven is an infinite area that has no borders and “*extends through eternity*”, while the kingdom is also unlimited without borders it is the “*inner light of heaven*” it is the place from which our thoughts originate and we can come to God. Thus, the kingdom is the place that we find the glory of God and from which God bathes us in his divine light.

My Prayer to Bring the Light of God

Almighty God, the Light of the World and My True Light, I pray that you will bring me within Your kingdom so that I may live and move within the presence of the “inner light of heaven”. As it is from Your kingdom that You have given Your divine power to all my thoughts that arise so that they bring me only hope, making my mind clear and ready to be called to action to fulfill Your will. Your light is the truth I seek, focus Your sacred rays upon me and empower my heart to carry Your word for You hold all the knowledge and wisdom that will allow me to transform my heart and mind. For I have placed You, my Lord, first and I no longer fear what trials lie ahead of me for I trust You as I surrender my desires and accept that You know what is best for my life. Place me within Your heaven and open the holy gate so I may enter Your kingdom, surround me with the light of your true teachings, and then open the door that only opens from within so that I may bring myself to kneel at your throne and bask in the glory of Your all-powerful light. Let me humbly worship before you my God, so as a believer I may become a light to others by sharing my faith with all those who seek You. Then with time I pray that you will open my eyes to my spiritual sight so that I come to understand, “In your light, we see light.” With all my heart I ask that You, my God give to me the light which fills the place You have promised to prepare for me within Your many rooms so that I may join the angels who are always singing your praises. For then I can walk in Your light each and every day so You may judge my thoughts and actions by Your Word. Therefore, bless me, my Heavenly Father with Your gift of Your eternal Light, the Holy Spirit. Amen (GEC25)

My Meditation Upon the Lampstand of the Tabernacle

1. Let us start by lighting the first candle of the lampstand and considering the power of God to provide such a blessing for the universe. Imagine from the heaven the light then being focused into the kingdom of God until it grew in its perfection as it moved into the Sun, so light could be given to all men so the Lord of Darkness could then be cast out. For with light, we could now see as we stand within His divine presence.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness (Genesis 1:3–4)

2. Light the second candle meditating upon the “*unapproachable light*” of God, for God is the most holy and righteous One who exists in a state of perfection that speaks to His glory. For our physical eyes could not withstand such brightness, just as we could not stare upon the Sun.

who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:16)

3. Light the third candle meditating upon fact that a light can shine in the darkness but it is only the divine light through Christ that will bring us to God. And it is from His light we also then have life. For Christ came with the Light or truth that provides us with our direction in life and it is only through His life we can find eternal truth

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

4. Light the fourth candle meditating on the fact that if we walk with God we are walking only in light, in the truth. Therefore, we must believe in Him so that we always stay with His light and to believe means to follow His commandments. This is the center candle of hope, for in hope we find strength.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5)

5. Light the fifth candle meditating upon on Christ as explicitly telling us that He is the Lord and He can provide us with God’s truth and even in the worst of times He will always offer His guidance so we will never be spiritual lost. And at times we may fall into darkness but His light will always lead us back to path to God.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

6. Light the sixth candle meditating upon God as unchangeable therefore we can always trust Him especially in His goodness towards us and the generosity he sows in sharing his love, mercy, and kindness. For whatever he will provide us with is exactly what we need exactly when we need it. But we must be careful of our desires and the temptations they produce as they come from within and the from the goodness of God as there is no darkness within Him.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (James 1:17)

7. Light the final candle of the lampstand and meditate upon the fact that it is time for us to remove any “darkness” that we hold within ourselves. For it is only then

that we can walk in the light as God has provided us with all the protection we need if we simply put it on. All too often we believe it too much work to take the time to put on the armour of light or I don't really need it this minute, today, or even anymore and that is when darkness finds us. For it is when we become as Christ, we are taking on Him as He is our armour of life. In this final candle we need to understand that it is our spiritual work that brings forth our Christ-with-in.

The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light (Romans 13:12)

Now let the light of the seven candles of lampstand illuminate the presence of God so you may now step from the darkness into the light and let it open your spiritual vision so you may experience His glory as it fills you with His truth, goodness, and mercy. (GEC2025)

Journal Prompts

1. Where did you see the light of God today?
2. How will you know the Kingdom of God?
3. How have you been touched by the “inner light of heaven”?
4. How is God an “unapproachable light”?



“The Lord’s Prayer may be committed to memory quickly, but it is slowly learnt by heart.” – Frederick Denison Maurice

The Fourth Petition: “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

In the fourth petition of *The Lord’s Prayer* is discussing the will of God as the eternal laws. For the sake of humanity, the Bible contains a record of the Lord’s eternal will and laws. Yet, in order to best understand and meet God’s will it requires not only the written word but the *living Word*. For we need to “*know the will of God which is exercised in heaven*” then and only then can we reap its benefit in our lives as we seek our spiritual advancement. If we advance sufficiently then we can work with others as spiritual guides who knew a time when they had the written word as well as Christ, the living word. Otherwise, our time has brought darkness and is “*falling away from the spirit and the eternal truth.*”

In terms of the written word, the Bible is the highest source of knowledge to bring our consciousness to an immortal life. For the Bible holds our “*most intimate wishes and hope*” and provides a way by which we can take its sacred information to guide our spiritual progress as it is the “*law of life.*” And it is only through the Bible that we come to understand the spirit of the divine law. Yet, the Bible is also history so with the law it provides our morals. It is only through our history that we can determine the effectiveness of the law. And our laws require morals and together with the law allow us to obtain the needed virtues for our spiritual development.

My Thoughts on the Living Word

In early Christianity, for a short time the people had direct access to Christ, the Living Word. Then, the Bible came to be the living Word of God capable of penetrating into our souls and able to judge our hearts and the motivation it brings us. It is God’s message that comes from a “*living God*” that is constantly working to this day in our world through the Holy Spirit. Jesus even spoke of His words as “*full of the Spirit and life.*” When God created man, he breathed life into each man just as He placed His divine inspirations into the writers of the Scripture and then breathed life into their words so they would become His living Words. “*For the word of God is alive and active.*” (**Hebrews 4:12**) It is only through the Bible that we can find Christ and then come to the Father as we live our life through the Holy Spirit.

When we spend time with the Bible, we are blessed in that it teaches us to experience Him through our five senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch as well as through a sixth sense of faith. It is through our senses that we have access to our soul so we can appreciate the beauty of God’s creations. It is our task to create the rich sensory experiences of God within ourselves and *not* to rely upon the artificially produced sensory experiences of a mass in a cathedral with its stained-glass windows, organ and choir, burning incense, sacramental wine and host, and the handshakes of your fellow parishioners. For when we fully develop our senses, we can experience Christ within ourselves as alive and, in full, in our presence, just as we would normally interact within and experience the world, He created around us.

My Prayer for the Living Word

Almighty God who gave us His Word, I bless You for the written Word that You inspired Your followers and prophets to write for the benefit of mankind. How I wish I could have beheld You in the flesh but You were only among us for short time. Yet, through our five senses You offer us a way to experience Your divine presence and to bring ourselves into the light of Your living Word. Help me to perfect my senses so that Your Word is always alive and active in my world so I may come to understand Your will. I know that I can only advance when I taste your eternal truth and bring You within my heart. In time I have learned to be silent so that I can hear Your divine messages that offer the answers to my wishes and bring me hope in my darkest hours. Then I feel Your touch and there is wholeness again so I can reconnect to Your divine power so I may find my way to an immortal life with You my living Lord. Therefore, my Almighty God through Your grace unlock my spiritual senses so that I can always be in Your presence and also feast upon Your written Word so I may do here on Earth as done in heaven. Amen. (GEC 2025)

My Mediation on Our Shield of Faith

Take some time to relax your entire body, close your eyes and clear your mind. Now imagine that you are knight prepared to do battle for the One you have pledged your life, love, and service. You hold within your outstretched arm your *shield of faith* to protect you from any despair, doubt or lies so that you have no fears or worries of the negative forces that might set upon you. Your shield is red with a five-sided gold pentagram, a sign taken from the great and wise king Solomon. The five points of the golden star represent your perfected five senses, the way in which you can come to know the One you so loyally serve. Your perfected senses provide the portal through which you can experience the living Word, and experience Christ as your living God who is prepared to open your heart and mind to His divine world with the Father. Starting on the top point of the pentagram is your spiritual sight, and even though no one has ever seen God for God is Spirit, Matthew assures you with the words; "*Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.*" You can be assured that your spiritual sight will allow you to look upon the wonders of God's creation and penetrate into them so that you can touch upon the divine and then you shall start your journey into God's presence. Now move to the bottom, right-hand point of the pentagram which is your spiritual hearing, the place where you must be silent so may hear the whisper of the divine words in a still, small voice. For you must constantly be listening but never fear to ask the Lord to speak to you until you finally come to realize that he is always speaking to you. When you learn to listen to His Words, confirm His truth from the truth you have learned from His written words. For if the sheep can come to recognize their master's voice so can we, "*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*" (John 10:27) Now move to the upper left-hand point of the pentagram for your spiritual taste, "*Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.*" (Psalm 34:8). Savor the Words of God you are hearing and feel them being absorbed into your blood stream and traveling all throughout your body until they touch every cell. The taste of peace brings one flavor, the taste of His love another, and the taste of His mercy still adds another. There is no end to the flavors of God goodness. And once His nourishment is within your body and in your cells, He transforms you so

you may now interact with His Word. Now you cross the body to the upper right-hand point of the pentagram to your perfected smell and the fragrance of God is by far the most pleasing aroma that you have ever experienced. You are standing beneath a cedar of Lebanon tree held captive with its fresh, sweet, balsamic scent and it transports you to The Holy Room of the Tabernacle where the incense is burning as prayers of the saints to God. As the perfume of the incense captures your mind, feel God's presence as His arms grasp you and hold you as a child ready to hear your words. Now move downward to the bottom left-hand point of the pentagram which is your spiritual sense of touch and feel Christ touch You, making you whole again so you now belong again and it would be impossible for You to be any closer to the Lord, purified in His love, with His truth coursing through your body for you have reconnected to the Lord and He has placed His divine power within you. You are now even more aware what you must work towards in your spiritual advancement as the line of the star now moves upward to complete the pentagram. Feel the power of the completed pentagram as it calls forth your sixth sense of faith for there will be times that utilize our spiritual senses while there will also be times that we must put them aside and rely strictly upon our Faith. Finally gaze upon the Emblem of the Rose Cross painted upon the inside of your shield of faith and here you also see the five-pointed star that represents five points of fellowship and the Christ-within us radiating through our head and your four limbs. Let these words and images move deeply within you and find their home and when you ready open your eyes and praise God for His love. (GEC2025)



The Fifth Petition: “Give us this day our daily bread.”

In the fifth petition of *The Lord’s Prayer*, we will come to understand the omnipresence of God and the influence it will have in his life. However, this requires that he recognizes all the provisions that God provides for us with for our daily needs, as this is when we truly come to know the “*hand of God*”. It is clear at this point that we are the children asking our Father for “*bread*”, our nourishment, and not only does God hear this request but He always hears our request without fail and He will be certain to comply. Unfortunately, for most of us we choose not to recognize God’s power to provide our provision and therefore we willingly choose to accept hardship and sorrow.

Yet, it is imperative that we learn to recognize the *hand of God* by having faith that God is and will always be our provider otherwise we establish walls that will prevent us from perceiving God’s love. Yet, many people will choose to suffer because they will not accept the knowledge of God and prefer to roam as lost sheep in a herd without a shepherd. Therefore, we cannot blame God for not providing for us as it is our responsibility to take the initiative to approach Him and tell Him what we need. For from our birth God has given “*given himself to us through His spirit*” and from our very beginning He has been prepared to give us all the riches of His kingdom. As the clergyman explains, true wealth comes when we raise ourselves to the consciousness of God who then as our Father cares for us and protects us from the difficulties of the earthly world.

There are many sources of God’s light and love available to us if we only take the time to develop ourselves so we are capable of finding them and reaping their rewards. In exploring the world, the clergyman cites three realms that are given to humanity; “*eye, ear, and feeling*.” It is by our eyes we can explore the most complex relationships, by our hearing that we come to know the Ego by the will it expresses, while our feelings provide the “*basis and law of life*.” However, the forms we observe by our eyes change and disappear with time while the words we speak simply vanish into the air. However, feelings are different in that they will perfect themselves overtime. Therefore, in earlier times, people sought to cultivate the pure knowledge of feelings for their spiritual development. God who always offers us His eternal love is also patiently waiting in return to perceive our feelings for our daily bread and provide us with all we need. Hopefully, in time our spiritual journey will bring us to the point where we can go beyond our physical senses and make ourselves “*capable of feeling the relationship of forms and colours, of words and concepts*” so that we may arrive in the *sanctum ... the quiet chamber into which Christ sends his adherents ... the alter where all for which we pray bears the granting within itself*.”

For it is here that The Lord’s Prayer becomes practical in terms of the life we lead in that we will now behold the hand of God answering our petition and providing the promised provision of our daily bread.

“...*the Lord’s Prayer is more than a prayer; it is a vision to strive toward, a call to action we seek to live, and a road map for a life of character and faith.*”

- Adam Hamilton

My Prayer to Experience the Presence of God

We pray to God “*to express ourselves in His presence and experience the power of His omnipresence.*”

God of the Infinite Universe, Who is present everywhere at all times, You are the controlling force that is present in every aspect of the natural world that holds all things together allowing them to express the beauty of Your creation. I have placed my faith within You and never want to flee from your presence as You are my Comforter and Counselor who allows me to grow in Your knowledge and love and graciously provides my daily bread. Therefore, my Living God, I beseech You to place within me the Holy Spirit so I am always within Your presence just as You, my Father, made Your home upon the Earth within the Tabernacle constructed by Moses and Your followers. Then teach me to understand how the indwelling Holy Spirit can empower my life so as to best serve Your will. Let Your right hand hold me fast so my eyes may gaze upon Your divine Spirit and my ears may hear Your majestic voice so I may fully experience the peace and joy that is only found in Your presence. As it is here through my perfected feelings, I might enter the inner sanctum of my heart so that You will hear my prayers of need. For then I will no longer feel any fear or worry, only confidence so that I may be filled with Your divine power to bring Your Word to my fellow man so they too can come to experience Your heavenly love, mercy, and the power of Your omnipresence.

Amen. (GEC2025)

My Meditation on the Bread of Life through Nine Psalms

Take some time to relax your entire body, close your eyes and clear your mind. Now imagine that God has placed you in the desert, not as a punishment but so he can speak with you and to provide you with an opportunity to reflect upon your spiritual growth and transformation. Hear His words as He directs you “*to open your mouth that I might fill it*” (Psalm 81:10) so you might demonstrate your trust and obedience. For by showing your trust in the Lord, He will *not* allow You to hunger or thirst, as He will always provide you with the perfect provision so that you may achieve eternal life. The bread God gives you is a gift, it has the power to awaken your soul and to provide a way for you to receive your salvation if you are prepared to “*feed on faithfulness*” (Psalm 37:3) Stand among the 5,000 as the disciples of Christ hand out the bread and feast upon the Word of God, the body of Christ, so that Christ is now within you and you are finally prepared to give up your old ways. In your mind you are now certain that Christ is the door as you now realize that You “*have not seen a righteous person forsaken or his descendants begging for bread.*” (Psalm 37:25) Now look all about yourself, in the sky are the flocks of birds, in the oceans are the schools of fish, and upon the land are the many different animals and they all live their lives without the slightest fear or worry for their provision. All of God’s creatures need only to patiently wait or move about in their environment to claim their daily provision and now you understand that “*He gives food to all creatures, for His love is everlasting.*” (Psalm 136:25) Now, walk again in the desert reflecting upon Jesus’ word’s that He is the bread of life and understand that you cannot live or survive spiritually unless you take Christ within your body. So, reach down and take up the manna that has fallen from heaven and lays upon the ground, crush it within a

mortar, and bake it into loaves and cakes, remembering to “*bless its provisions abundantly*” (Psalm 132:15) Take up in your basket what God has already promised you so that you may be satisfied as God’s divine provision works by “*filling the hungry with what is good.*” (Psalm 107:9) Bread is God’s divine blessing produced from the fruit of human labor that supports life but the living bread of Christ offers you a way by which you may also find forgiveness. Therefore, look upwards towards the Sun to ask for God’s forgiveness and feel the freedom it brings within you so you may continue on your spiritual journey. Then listen carefully to the words coming from your heart, “*I am satisfied with the choicest of foods, so my lips will praise you joyfully.*” (Psalm 63:5). Think deeply about your family and fellow men as your steps lead you further into the desert and consider “*How blessed are all who fear the Lord as they follow in his ways. You will eat from the work of your hands; you will be happy, and it will go well for you.*” (Psalm 128:1-2) and when given your opportunity to serve others through the bread you put forth you will now understand, “*All of them look to you to provide them their food at the proper time. They receive what you give them; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.*” (Psalm 104:27-28) In the bread of life you have now found the connection between God, the people and their community, and the land. Continue walking as others join you in your desert walk and they are certain of your leadership as the desert rejoices with singing and shouts for joy from the lessons you have learned in the wilderness. For Christ who sustained you with the bread of life, now offers his shattered body and sacred blood to cleanse your robes white so that you may stand before the Father within His heavenly kingdom. Let these words and images move deeply within you and find their home within your heart and when you ready open your eyes and praise God for His love. (GEC2025)



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“*There is nothing which we have need to ask of God, nothing which we can ask without offending him, which is not included, either directly or indirectly, in this comprehensive form*” – **John Wesley on The Lord’s Prayer**

The Sixth Petition: “*And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*”

In the fifth petition of *The Lord’s Prayer*, we learn how closely man is standing next to God. Ultimately, he contends that man and God are the same in their nature even if the glory of God far exceeds that of man. By asking for forgiveness and giving forgiveness to others you have made a commitment to unconditionally accept the eternal laws of God and by doing so you will now do your best to imitate Him so you exist together in Oneness.

It is through a unification of the Old and New Testament laws that a very simple application in our life comes about in which our debts are forgiven in which we acknowledge that we, ourselves, have not lived a righteous life and yet we can still have our debt forgiven so that we can now do the same for our fellow man who may have treated us in an unrighteous manner, regardless of how deeply it may have hurt us.

Forgiveness is not to simply to set free but to remit as a gift what is owed as God does the same for us. Then we should consider what we might owe our fellow man beyond monetary considerations, such as our good nature and brotherly love. As for God, our debt is “*Love, thankfulness, and child-like trust.*” For if we do not offer these things to God then we will have violated the eternal laws and thereby distance ourself from the Father and suffer the consequences. And only when debtors are prepared to uphold the eternal laws can there be forgiveness.

Therefore, we need to look at each person for their means and “*manner of their return*”, as no one can simply walk away from the debts they owe. So, as we deal with debtors, we must be careful not become bitter or hateful if they forget or ignore their debts while taking every opportunity to remind them of their commitment in a peaceful, loving, and kind manner. Thus, understanding the depth of the sixth petition of The Lord’s Prayer is essential so that we do not end up distancing ourself from God and this will ultimately require tremendous contemplation for each situation.

My Prayer for Forgiveness

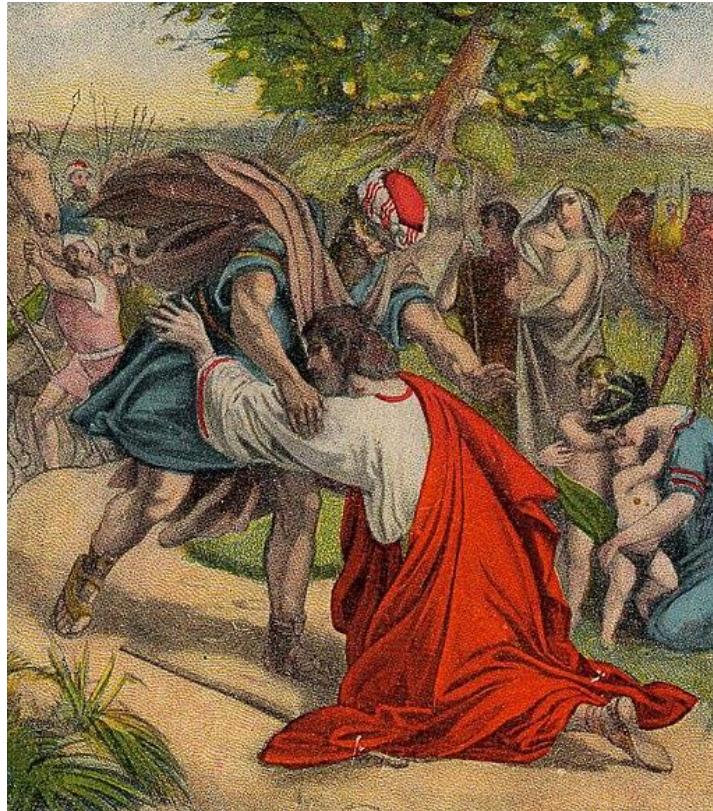
Lord, Our God Who lets go and forgives, teach me to respond with Your same mercy when the transgressions of others have pierced my heart so I will not become lost in feelings of resentment and anger. Do not allow thoughts of condemnation to enter my mind and through Your grace empower me to have the obedience and faith to release the debt and to forgive my fellow man. Accept from me the hurtful and malicious actions or words that others cast upon me so I do not engage feelings of bitterness that have only the power to further hurt myself. And through Your lovingkindness guide me into the process of forgiveness in which I am able to pray for my transgressors and ask You for their blessing by reminding me of the forgiveness that You have so graciously given to me. I need to remember that I am not without my own faults so that I may be ready to step beyond the pain from the offenses caused by others so I can be restored and healed by Your divine touch so that I can walk in the world showing kindness and compassion just as You did. Even if this means I must forgive seventy times seven times, as this is the only way that Your Words have taught me that I can expect the

Father to forgive me for my own transgressions. Therefore, help me as You helped Your beloved Joseph who came to forgive his brothers who sold him into slavery so that I too may heal from the hurt and not dwell in the past, now capable of moving forward to more deeply experience Your love, sufficiently empowered with mercy so that I no longer look to demand punishment or restitution. For in forgiveness, I will have released the source of my injury, never to speak of it again or use it against my transgressor in the future as I will seek only to respond by love in covering all offenses. For it is only in forgiveness that I can be made whole again, tenderhearted, and taste Your heavenly peace. Amen. (GEC2025)

My Meditation on the Cross of Forgiveness

Take some time to relax your entire body, close your eyes and clear your mind. Now imagine you are standing before you the *True Cross* upon which Jesus was to be crucified. It is a T-shaped cross that consists of a vertical beam or stake called a *stipes* with a horizontal cross beam or *patibulum*. Christ has just finished carrying the cross beam on His back to Golgotha or Calvary with the help of *Simeon of Cyrene*. It is a simple cross made of pine in which the upright *stipes* (beam) will extend seven feet above the ground and just below the top of the *stipes* is the crosspiece so that a small piece of the *stipes* that extends past it forming the well-known *Crux Immissa* or T-shaped cross. When Christ arrives at Golgotha, *the place of the Skull*, he is instructed to place the cross beam into the notch near the top of the *stipes*. He is exhausted, breathing hard and covered in bloody sweat. You watch as a Roman centurion quickly strips Him of His clothes and places Him upon the cross. His arms are extended upon the cross beam and you hear the clanging of the hammers as large seven-inch iron nails are driven through His hands close to His wrists while a plaque that Pilate had prepared with the words, “*Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews*” (“*Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudeorum*”) is fastened to the tip of the *stipes* above the head of Christ. Now using forked poles, the Roman Centurions lift the cross with Christ upon it so it stands upright, as the base of the *stipes* slides into a hole that has been dug into the ground. With the cross now standing, His feet are brutally nailed to cross. You notice, unlike others who were previously crucified at Golgotha, the *stipes* of Christ’s cross has no foot rest or *suppedaneum* so the full weight of his body is hanging down upon the cross causing his breathing to quickly became labored. Blood from his head where the crown of thorns that had been placed upon His head now stains the *stipes* around his head, blood from His hands now stains the cross beam and drips to the ground below, and blood from his feet now runs down staining the *stipes* below His feet as it then enters the ground. Blood is also appearing on his chest and abdomen from the scourging on His back and is running down His body and also staining the cross behind His body. Yet, you suddenly feel your burden being lifted and the forgiveness of Christ as soon as the His blood touched the cross. It is an overwhelming feeling in which you now fully appreciate that you can be saved as Christ has placed His blood upon the cross. As His blood touched the ground, you and all those there heard the cry to God that the debt had been settled as Christ had paid for our sins. And even while dying upon the cross, you hear Christ plead for our forgiveness, “*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.*” (Luke 23:34) The cross is now your constant reminder that the cross is “*God’s instrument of forgiveness*” as Christ took our judgement on the cross so the Father could now forgive us. As the death and resurrection of Christ you have just witnessed upon Calvary now allows you to

comprehend how *death can be swallowed up in victory*. For now, you hear the unmistakable tearing of the sanctuary curtain from the top to its bottom, feel the shaking of the Earth, and witness the opening of the tombs so that sleeping saints are raised to life. Let these words and images move deeply within you and find their home within your heart and when you ready open your eyes and praise God for His love. (GEC2025)



The Lord's Prayer

Translation by G.J.R. Ouseley from *The Gospel of the Holy Twelve*

Our Father-Mother Who art above and within:

Hallowed be Thy Name in twofold Trinity.

In Wisdom, Love and Equity Thy Kingdom come to all.

Thy will be done, As in Heaven so in Earth.

*Give us day by day to partake of Thy holy Bread, and the fruit of the living Vine.
As Thou dost forgive us our trespasses, so may we forgive others who trespass
against us.*

Shew upon us Thy goodness, that to others we may shew the same.

In the hour of temptation, deliver us from evil.

Amun.

The Seventh Petition: “*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*”

The seventh petition of *The Lord’s Prayer* is another practical petition as we are asking to for temptation and evil to be put out of our reach. So, just as we can expect our daily provision from God we can also determine if in fact God has removed the temptation and evil from our lives and what we experience.

Yet, in order for this to occur we must learn to trust God completely so that all the temptations and oppressive feelings within us which “*consists of discontentment, unfulfilled wishes, of envy and ambition, poverty and illness, cannot win a place in us because the evil does not appear as evil, but rather a test of our powers.*” Therefore, being delivered from temptation and evil is not a test of God but rather a test of our own resolve in which “*every temptation is evil and every evil is a temptation.*”

We discover that false doctrine is the greatest evil for humanity as it will cast us into an abyss in which there is only darkness and no light. Unfortunately, we are drawn to false doctrines because they are meant to attract all of our senses, they can confirm thoughts and prejudices we already hold fast to, and they can make us feel important or better than others because are led to believe that rituals and practices elevate us. Therefore, false doctrines can be quite seductive and yet only led to slavery in which the misguided followers “*fade away under the oppression of their own egos.*”

We come to learn that “*the greatest evil is temptation*” which arises from our “*desires, wishes, and plans*”. As humans we tend to want everything, seek to enjoy all the passions of the physical world, and acquire all of life’s knowledge. However, these pursuits simply distract us from our real purpose to come within the eternal presence of God. For ultimately, we must learn to protect ourselves from ourselves so that our actions come only from a pure place to do God’s will and not indulge our “*desires, weaknesses, and whims.*” This petition is asking God to put us into the light so that we may now finally know His name and His will so that we can come to understand how His presence within us will now guide our lives.

It should be noted that the word that is translated in this petition as “*temptation*” can also be translated to mean “*hard testing*” or “*time of trial*” in which we can demonstrate to God in the testing or trials He places before us we have complete trust and have faith in Him also understanding that He will never test us before our limits and in the end, it should become our responsibility to test ourselves. While some apocalyptic translations go as far to translate temptation to the “*final test*”, a time where we must endure an extreme trial that occurs before the end of the age, aptly named a time of the “*messianic woes*”. Regardless, this final petition of the Lord’s Prayer can also be thought of as Jesus expressing His love for humanity in which He is asking the Father for humanity not to have to go through the same temptations or trials that He did while He was on Earth. Ultimately, we need to learn to rely upon the Holy Spirit to either resist temptation or come through our hard testing loving and trusting the Father even more.

My Prayer to Protect Us from False Doctrine

Christ my Lord, The Savior of Humanity, Who is filled with the essence and expression of God, I ask that you take away any desires and weaknesses I may hold within myself so that I may never be tempted by false doctrine or teachers who promote these empty words regardless of what signs and wonders may entice my physical senses. Help me to move the evil that I am responsible for far from my being so that I can prevent my Ego from further filling my mind with earthly desires and wishes or thoughts and plans for fame or power so that by Your grace I can stand within Your holy Light of love and mercy. Open my spiritual eyes to always recognize temptation and see it as the evil that only seeks to place me within a blackened abyss separated from Your holy presence. For in Your love as the only True God I trust there is no poverty, unfulfilled wishes, sickness, envy of others, or discontentment in our lives, there is only joy and happiness because with Your true power You will liberate us and bring us eternal life, never leaving us to fear the evil of temptation as You will pour the Holy Spirit within us to guide and protect us from all false doctrine. Therefore, my Lord I will study Your Word so that I know Your truth so I do not allow any false doctrines to creep within unnoticed and I will recognize meaningless and deceptive words so that in sound doctrine I will find only strength for my spiritual growth and health and I may now come to know Your name. (GEC2025)

My Meditation for God to Test Us

Take some time to relax your entire body, close your eyes and clear your mind. Now imagine you are looking into the distance to a banner that is flying high above the city walls of your home. It is God's banner of victory waving in the wind and you feel ready to be tested just as Abraham was called by God to sacrifice his son Isaac. You have asked the Lord to take your attention away from the temptations that arise within you from your desires of the flesh, the lustfulness of your vision, and pride that only leads to disgrace. Then you feel something unusual come upon you, it is something you have prayed for and it slowly begins as a fiery sensation within your abdomen that spreads throughout your body until it has touched the extremities of your appendages and the crown of your head. God has started his test of your heart and mind and you begin to rejoice as together with Christ you experience the pain and suffering that He endured while trying to spread His Word. As painful as it is, you are rejoicing that God has allowed you to "*share Christ's suffering*" and feel the joy and happiness as "*his glory is revealed*." You are holding your ground with this trial and your faith remains intact as God's testing builds, yet, you continue to be confident and strong, steadfast in your resolve just as a piece of pottery that is being fired in a furnace withstands the extreme temperatures in its transformation so it may be permanently changed. As you now feel the light of God intensifying around you, perfecting you and making you complete as God conducts his trial with you. Desires, wishes, and plans flash through your mind as the last remnants of temptation but you understand that is not God that is tempting you but it is coming from yourself from your own desires. As your goal is to persevere from God's trial showing Him your undying love so that He will place upon your head the crown of life. You now drop to your knees to pray the prayer that Christ has taught you, *The Lord's Prayer*, so you may ask Him to lead you away from

temptation and utilize the power of your indwelling Holy Spirit so as not to become a victim of the evil. As difficult as this is and as helpless as you may be, you know that God will work with you and not test you beyond your abilities. By becoming One with God, you are constantly being saturated with His Word and sanctified by His eternal truth. You know that your deliverance depends upon your obedience to God and your ability to forgive yourself and others, do away with your pride, eliminate any hidden transgressions that you might not even be aware of as well as any doubts that you hold about the Father. Now a still, small voice gently whispers in your ear, it is faint and you can't make it out at first but the Father is speaking to you, his voice is slowly becoming audible until you finally hear it and rejoice for it is the name of God, the Father. Let these words and images move deeply within you and find their home within your heart and when you ready open your eyes and praise God for His love. (GEC2025)



*Our Father who art in the heavens,
let thy name be sanctified,
let thy kingdom come,
let thy will be done as in heaven so upon the earth;
give us to-day our needed bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation,
but save us from evil.*

- Matthew 6:9-13 Darby Translation

Closing: *Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

This ending was *not* given to the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9-13 or Luke 11:2-4 (the shorter version).

*He said to them, "When you pray, say:
 'Father,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come.
 Give us each day our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins,
 for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
 And lead us not into temptation.*

- Luke 11:2-4 NIV

It was most probably taken from:

*Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power
 and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
 for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
Yours, Lord, is the kingdom;
 you are exalted as head over all.
Wealth and honor come from you;
 you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
 to exalt and give strength to all.
Now, our God, we give you thanks,
 and praise your glorious name.*

1 Chronicles 29:11-13 NIV

Historically, there are two families of texts for the New Testament, the Alexandrian and Byzantine. There are many more Byzantine texts and it was used to produce the King James version of the Bible. The Alexandrian texts do not contain some sections of the Bible such as the conclusion to the Lord's Prayer. And for the most part, scholars tend to go follow the Alexandrian version when there are any discrepancies between the two families. In addition, this ending of "*For yours is the power and the glory forever, Amen*" is seen in the *Didache* or "*The Teaching of the Twelve*" (cc. 100 AD) and the oldest codex, *Codex Washingtonensis* (300-500 AD) from Egypt, which further states; "*For yours is the kingdom and the power and glory forever and ever, Amen.*"

Regardless, it stands a statement of praise and faith for God while also offering encouragement when we pray because it is through God's greatness that only He has the power and glory to bring what is needed in our lives at all levels.

Lord's Prayer

From the Matthew of the *Syriac Peshitta*

*Our father who (is) in heaven,
May your name be holy,
May your kingdom come,
May your will be (done),
As in Heaven,
Also on Earth.
Give us bread
Of our need today.
And forgive us our sins/debts,
Also like we,
Forgive our debtors.
And do not let us enter temptation.
But deliver us from evil.
Because yours is the Kingdom,
And the power and the glory,
Forever (and) ever,
Amen.*

