

Christ's Model Prayer

PART 2

"Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."
Matthew 6:11-13

Application Questions

1. Jesus is teaching us that a right practice of prayer begins with a right perception of God. Our prayers reveal our understanding of God. How is this reflected in the first and second half of Christ's model prayer? The first three petitions are requests to _____. The last three petitions are requests that ultimately serve to _____. How do these two work in perfect harmony? What are other examples of the same?
2. The first half transitions to the second with these words, "on earth as it is in heaven." This reminds us that the cry of the child of God is not to escape from earth, even with its persecutions (Matthew 5:10-12), but rather:

How does this "on earth" clause relate to the last three petitions (Matthew 6:11-13)?

3. Some in the early church struggled with the petition, "give us this day our daily bread," as if it were too earthly. But we understand that God's glory from man never detracts from God's good to man, even in earthly blessings. What is meant by the statement, "nothing is too small to be centered on God" (consider 1 Corinthians 10:31)?
4. To request from God our daily provision is to emphasize our _____. Many receive daily provision who never pray (Matthew 5:45). If we don't pray to get, then why should we petition God for our daily provision? Attention is given to "daily," why? See Proverbs 30:8-9; Matthew 6:25, 31-34. This also suggests an emphasis on _____. What phrase was used to help encourage remembering this principle ("We are to pray for **needs not** _____")?

5. Christ's model prayer moves from give to forgive, from hunger of the body to hunger of the soul. In light of the opening address, what is the nature of this petition for forgiveness (is it for salvation or for renewal of communion)? Children of God, forgiven fully through Christ, continue to need daily cleansing from sin (see John 13:10; 1 John 1:8-9). How does this petition link to enjoying God?
6. How does our relationship with our heavenly Father relate to our relationship with others? What does Jesus say about forgiveness? Read Matthew 6:14-15 and 18:21-35. Do these passages (and 6:12) explain the cause of forgiveness? What is the only possible ground of forgiveness (Acts 4:12; Hebrews 9:12, 22; 7:27; 10:4, 10, 19; Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7)? Why did Augustine call this "the terrible petition"? What do we make much of when we harbor an unforgiving spirit? When we forgive others as we have been forgiven?
7. Jesus teaches us to pray to be forgiven of present sin and to be _____ from future sin. Does God Himself entice us to sin (James 1:13)? If trials, tests, and temptations can all serve to sanctify us (James 1:3; 1 Peter 1:7; Romans 5:3; etc.), why would our Lord here encourage us to pray to be spared from it? Does the thought that God is sovereign comfort you when you face trials and temptations? See Hebrews 2:18; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Revelation 3:10; 2 Peter 2:9.
8. How do you speak to God who truly knows everything and has all power to accomplish all good?
9. Does prayer ever intended to be offered in the place of obedience?
10. Do you find prayer easy? What hinders your prayer life? When you pray, how do you picture God? Does that help or hinder you?