June 29, 2020  **Devotional**

Let us reflect upon the Lord’s Prayer.

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.” Matthew 6:9-13

The Lord’s Prayer. Prayer was central to Jesus. One day Jesus was praying alone when his disciples approached him with a request: *"Lord, teach us to pray?"* Prayer is something we learn. It takes time, practice and discipline. At the same time prayer is a manifestation of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Prayer is inspired by our spirit and the Holy Spirit.

The Lord's Prayer originated in the mind and heart of Jesus. It is a long-standing tradition in the church and a model for the prayer life of believers. Prayer is a personal, private, intimate conversation with God. Jesus says: *“When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”*  But prayer is also a public act when people gather together for worship. The Lord’s Prayer is both.

The Lord's Prayer gives us a pattern that can guide us in our prayer life. The first half of the Lord's Prayer focuses on God. The second half focuses on the one who is praying. Let us turn to the Lord’s Prayer.

**First, pray with an attitude of respect and awe. ”*Our Father in heaven hallowed be thy name.”***  The Greek word is translated as hallowed or holy – holy be your name. The third commandment directs us to not misuse or trivialize God’s name. We sometimes hear God’s or Jesus’ name taken in vain or used in profanity This disrespects God's name. Jesus says honor God’s name, show reverence and deference for the transcendence, power, majesty and holiness of God the Father and Creator.

Se**cond, pray simply and thoughtfully. Go**d is a personal Spirit. The word that Jesus used for “father” is "Abba," which means daddy. Father conveys God’s desire to be in a close relationship with us. Jesus invites us into a personal and intimate relationship when we pray to God. Jesus also reminds us that we pray as followers of Jesus. It is "*Our Father,"* not *"My Father."* We are praying as members of God’s family, the church, a covenant community, a fellowship of believers, the body of Christ.

Third, pray for God’s rule and will. ***“****Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”* Jesus announced that in Him, the rule of God or will of God or Kingdom of God had come into the world to triumph over Satan and sin. God is at work in the world and in our lives, accomplishing His purpose and plan. Jesus says pray for God’s will in your life.

By repentance and dedicating our lives to Jesus Christ, we enter into God’s Kingdom. Here we find truth, guidance, inspiration, and strength for today and the future. In God’s Kingdom we find salvation. Jesus invites us to pray for God’s rule and reign on earth and in our lives.

**Fourth, pray about your daily needs. “*Give us this day our daily bread.”* God is our sustainer and provider. Material needs are important.** Food, clothing and shelter is fundamental to life. Though some Christians feel uncomfortable praying for their needs, Jesus clearly directs us to do so. God created us both as spiritual and flesh and blood human beings.

**Fifth, pray for forgiveness.** *“Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”* Someone said: “It’s easier to forgive people their sins than their debts.” Debts is a translation of the New Testament word referring to sins. A modern translation reads *–“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.”*

Asking God to forgive you or someone else to forgive you, as well as asking God to help you forgive someone who has hurt you, is never easy. Pride and anger are formidable obstacles. We must acknowledge before God our own need for forgiveness before we will be able to forgive someone who has hurt us. The power to truly forgive rests upon God’s grace and the conviction that we too need God’s forgiveness.

**Sixth, pray for protection and safety.** "*And do not bring us to the time of trial,* *but rescue us from the evil one.”* Other translations say*: ”Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.”* Another says: *“And don’t let us yield to temptation but rescue us from the evil one.”*

We are in a spiritual warfare in this life. Satan desires to lead us away from God. But the truth is that by turning to and relying upon the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, through faith, we can resist temptation and be victorious over evil influences. Pray for God’s grace, power and strength during times of trial.

**Seventh and finally, pray with boldness, expectation and confidence.** Why, because the *kingdom, the power and the glory are God's forever.* May the Lord’s Prayer inspire your faith, worship, and service in Jesus’ name.

God’s peace and mercy be with you,

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