

Assurance of Salvation
 Part 93

Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer:
 God's Glory

Some might be surprised, but prayer is NOT a matter of:

I WANT THIS, I WANT THAT, AND EVERYTHING IN-BETWEEN!

GIMME, GIMME, GIMME!

It's not a matter of asking God to treat you better than you treat others...

I deserve special treatment!

... or even better than you treat God.

Here's a dime, God! Now answer my prayers!

PRAYER ISSUES

**PART 4: "The Lord's Prayer":
 Longing for the glory of God**

LEARNING ABOUT PRAYER

The Disciples asked:

"Lord, teach us to pray!"

Jesus responded:

"This is how..."

.....

Do you want to be taught by Jesus?
 Pay attention to what he said!

The "Lord's Prayer"
is the pattern Jesus gave us to follow.

- Jesus gives us six topics to include in our prayers, arranged by priority.

.....

2 PRIORITIES:

#1 – Love for God: The first three prayer topics.

#2 – Love for neighbor*: The last three prayer topics.

* (This includes "self" as being included in "us.")

Our **#1 priority** is seen in the first 3 prayer topics:

"The glory of God!"

.....

IF GOD IS **NOT** BEING GLORIFIED, then why care about the rest?

- Why should we be concerned about our own interests, if God's interests are being ignored?

★ ARE WE MORE IMPORTANT THAN GOD? ★

THE KEY TO GOD-HONORING PRAYER:



**PRAYER IS TO BE
GOD-CENTERED**



- Only then can we properly understand our own needs.
 - Anything else is self-centered praying, which God won't listen to – because you're not praying to him!

★ If you don't learn this,
you haven't learned from Jesus,
and you might as well NOT pray. ★

TWO OBSERVATIONS
about the first 3 requests:

.....

OBSERVATION #1

We are begging God to do these things!

- Only God can accomplish them. We have no power in ourselves!
- We're asking God, "Let it be!" or "Cause it to happen!"

OBSERVATION #2

"On earth as it is in heaven"
applies to all 3 of these requests!

Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, } on earth as it is in heaven.

This phrase expresses our basic desire.

- God's glory is already being seen in heaven.
- We want it to be seen on earth.
 - Not just in our lives or in the church, but everywhere.

#1

Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, } on earth as it is in heaven.

REQUEST #1 – "Cause your name to be central!"

God's "Name"

- It represents all that God is.
 - It is loaded with significance and importance.
 - We dare not misuse it, or talk about God in a trivial way.

EVERY TIME WE CARELESSLY TALK ABOUT GOD,
WE VIOLATE THE 3RD COMMANDMENT.

Do YOU go around saying "Oh my God"
or "OMG" the way the world does?

Consider this:

Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you
misuse his name.

Exodus 20:7 (NLT)

• If you choose to misuse God's name...

- GOD PROMISES HE WILL PUNISH YOU.
- REPENT WHILE YOU STILL HAVE TIME!
(If you do, punishment is still necessary, but he will take your punishment for you.)

"Hallowed" – what does it mean?

- It means "set apart" as special.
 - NOT set in a "special place" in a corner of life, but as central to all of life.
- In this request, we want →
God's fame, reputation, and all that he is →
to be the central focus of life!
 - NOT just central in our own lives, but in everyone's life.
 - It already is this way in heaven (100%); in the future it will be this way on the earth (100%) ... but we want to see his power NOW (at least some of it).

If this is our prayer, how will it affect our lives?

It will affect our "religious" activities.

We will want to...

- Worship with other Christians.
- Pray (as a group and in private).
- Tell others the good news about Jesus.

It will affect our day-to-day conduct.

We will want to...

- Repent of our values, when they don't honor God.
- Change the direction of our will, so that we desire to do what God wills.

#2

Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,

} on earth as it
is in heaven.

REQUEST #2 – "Cause your kingdom to be central!"

What is the "kingdom"? How is it expressed? (4 WAYS)

- 1) **The future rule of Jesus on earth.**
 - He is already ruling in heaven; in the future, he will set up his rule on earth.
 - He will judge all people and nations, and will take away the curse of sin.
- 2) **The proclamation of God's Word.**
 - It's an expression of the kingdom, especially when people accept and obey it.

3) **The rule of God in our hearts.**

- This will affect our conduct.
- God's people will pursue what God values: his kingdom and righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

4) **The demonstration of God's power in life, influencing history as it develops.**

- Bringing all things into submission to his will.
- It's not just a "private" matter; we want God's will to impact everything that involves people.
- This includes matters such as public policy and social justice.

IT'S THE **ATHEISTS** WHO WANT TO KEEP GOD OUT OF EVERYTHING.
BUT GOD DOESN'T LISTEN TO THE DEMANDS OF ATHEISTS.

**If this is our prayer,
how will it affect our lives?**

- **God's rule:** We will want God to rule over our own lives, as well as over the lives of others.
- **God's kingdom:** We will want God's kingdom to be central over all other kingdoms.

Who are you going to obey?

ATHEISTS, who want you to keep God to yourself, as a "private" matter.

GOD, who tells us that his rule must influence all aspects of life, private and public?

#3

Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,

on earth as it
is in heaven.

REQUEST #3 – "Cause your will to be central!"

It's an aspect of Request #2, but emphasizes moral issues.
(The Luke account does not separate the two.)

- **THIS IS NOT:** asking God to do as he pleases (i.e., "whatever he wills").
- **THIS IS:** a reference to God's "will" as expressed in the moral teachings of Scripture.
 - Examples: The "10 Commandments," and parts of the "Sermon on the Mount."

The purpose of God's moral will

1) **To guide God's people. (They follow it.)**

- God's law is internal to his people; they delight to obey it.

2) **To restrain the wicked. (They fight it.)**

- God's law is external to them; obedience is a burden to them.

If this is our prayer...

- We will desire God's moral will to be obeyed throughout the earth... beginning with ourselves.

SUMMARY:

The #1 focus of prayer is
GOD!

If God isn't your #1 focus in prayer:

You're just telling God
that you are more important than him!

**Self-centered prayers are
not really praying to the God of the Bible.
So he has no reason to listen.**

How do I know if my prayer request * honors God?

- There are direct statements in Scripture to show us how to pray.
- When unsure, we can ask what effect our prayer request will have on God's honor.

If it would dishonor God if NOT granted, then definitely pray that he does grant your request! (Even then, still leave the results to him.)

* (Though our focus is on prayer requests, remember that prayer is a lot more than just asking for things!)

We can pray for all kinds of things!

- **For people's spiritual needs...**
 - It will honor God if they repent, follow him, etc.
- **For people's physical needs...**
 - NOT just so that they will have a nice day.
 - BUT because it will be a demonstration of God's power, if he chooses to say "YES."
- **But some things just don't matter!**
 - It might be nice if it doesn't rain on our picnic, but will it really affect God's honor if it does?
 - We can pray about such things, as long as we are willing to accept whatever happens.

If our prayer is focused on God's honor and glory, how will it affect our lives?

- **No matter how God answers our prayer ...**
 - We will be content!
- **When it comes to lower priority matters...** (such as physical needs and personal interests)
 - We won't demand that he answer "Yes" to everything we pray.
 - But we will ask him to bring glory to himself by the way he answers!

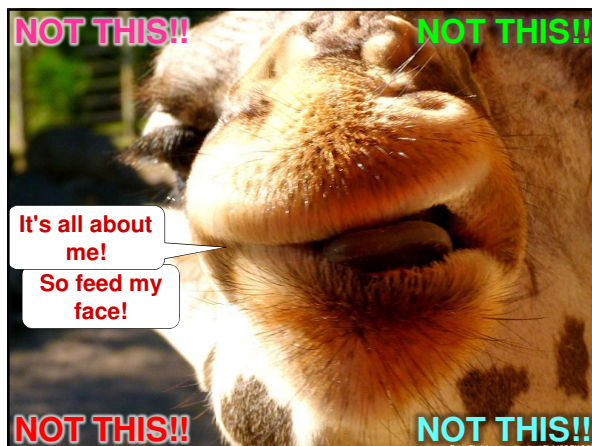
YOUR MISSION: ASK

"Is God's glory more important than my personal well-being?"

"Is my prayer God-centered, even when I pray for my personal needs?"

Then: **Let Scripture influence how you respond to your answers.**

- Repent and change your attitude, as necessary.



Credits (1)

SCRIPTURE

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