

Definitive Prayer: The Hexagon

The Lord's Prayer:

Commentators are divergent as to how many phrases there actually are within the Lord's Prayer.

We will look at the six phrases that are understood to be the most fundamental aspects of prayer that Jesus taught on the Lords' prayer and will allude as to why Luke appears to condense it when Jesus taught it on another occasion.

⁹"This, then, is how you should pray:

**" 'Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

**¹⁰your kingdom come,
your will be done**

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us today our daily bread.

**¹²Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

¹³And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.' ¹⁴For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matthew 6:9 – 15)

Oswald Sanders – He called the Apostles to be preachers.

¹⁴He appointed twelve - designating them apostles - that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵and to have authority to drive out demons. (Mark 3:14 – 15)

He never taught the preachers how to preach; he only taught them how to pray and we still have this prayer, the very prayer Jesus taught his disciples.

What he said articulated what he lived. He wanted his teaching to be integrated, what we say is what we do!

Various different layers revealed – six phrases but one big thing that Jesus is saying, that has never been revealed before - we address God as Daddy.

Recognised as Father in the Old Testament:

¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him. (Psalm 103:13)

**⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)**

Overseeing compassionate God, the God of the universe is utterly accessible to us! The God who made us and made everything is not far and distant. He is very close and we speak to him in intimate language.

These disciples as a band beyond the 12 (men and women) were taught from a young age that God was angry with them, they were sick because they were sinful, poor because they were cursed. They were to fear God because He is Holy. If you cross Him then you would be in trouble.

Into this world of theological and spiritual fear Jesus tells them to call God Daddy. It must have come like a bolt out of the blue!

We still struggle, we prefer to call him "Our Father", yet it would be uncomfortable to call him Daddy in our local churches.

One big thing is the revelation of God as Daddy.

Couplets – Your Kingdom come, your will be done, forgive us our sin as we forgive those who sin against us.

Luke writes that Jesus conflates two of these couplets. Kingdom and Will.

Dynamic effect on us as they pressed home these revelations.

No difference between God's will and God's Kingdom. Almost all the denominations seem to do this.

We know what the Kingdom is (eschatological future), we know that God has made a new world for humanity, we look for it and long for it! Yet then we still say, only if it be your will!

God's Kingdom and His Will are synonymous – Jesus healed everyone who came to him and asked for heaven. And there is no sickness in heaven.

Simple assumption is that my Father wants me well, not held in sickness.

If I, though an evil man, know how to give good gifts to my children...

No difference between Kingdom and Will because the Kingdom has not yet fully come! Kingdom could be translated as Kingship, this might be a better translation.

A King expressing his kingship is a king expressing his will, but we struggle with this. Why don't we see healing, well the Kingdom hasn't come yet! Yet there is no sickness in heaven.

A father does not say, 'cancer would be character building for my children!' Neither would God.

Kingdom expresses his will. Send your Kingdom, that's what we need! Express your will.

Couplet – Sin is the only phrase he goes on to expound after the prayer. If you don't forgive others then you won't be forgiven! Obviously this is part of the exposition of the prayer. Should this give us an emphasis?

Mark 9 – Now when you pray believe that he has done it. If you hold unforgiveness in your heart don't think God will answer your prayer!

Concern – many people struggle with their prayers not being answered. Yet how many of these people carry unforgiveness towards other people? If the door of life has been closed by our decisions then nothing is coming through! Jesus has to knock and we have to open the door.

Temptation and Evil – We know that God does not tempt anyone. We know we will be tested but not tempted.

Temptation is the work of the enemy as he seeks to undermine us in our lives.

After the Sermon on the Mount, they listen to Jesus pray and wish they could pray like him. Teach us to pray Lord because if that is prayer I am not sure that I am doing it.

Father, Kingdom, Sin,

Three Things – Triangle – Up, In and Out

Up – Daddy, ask Daddy God who is King, let your Kingdom come in our lives.

Immediately – deal with inward dimension of life, what you need for the stuff of your life. You need your bread.

Important that the relationships you have are well maintained. In the dynamic of the prayer it uses language that is moving towards the outer world. Lead us!

Landmines and potholes keep us on the path and on the path deliver us from the enemy as we will inevitably encounter in our spiritual walk.

Four different types of prayer:-

As I pray through the prayer Jesus taught, I see he has scattered different types of prayer.

Contemplative – Short phrase that you repeat over and over again. Take word that expresses your relationship with God. The weight that will take you below your own experiences and understanding of Gods presence.

Father, Father, Father – eventually all you are focussing on is the word Father. It takes you deeper. Prophecy and manifestations of the Spirit will eventually go. But Father draws us in.

Intercessory Prayers – the one who stands in the gap between heaven and earth says, divert your eyes here and let your Kingdom come. Come and make a breakthrough, take the chains so that they can come into the freedom of the Kingdom.

Petitionary – Give us today our daily bread. Ask for stuff, even stuff you don't need! Daddy, can I? Asking God for the simple things we need. Words that express our needs. Let's not pretend that it's more spiritual not to ask.

Warfare Prayer – Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you. There is warfare in this prayer; we are warriors. We take on the enemy by recognising the strength of submission! When we submit that we win, when we are broken we are complete. Spiritual warfare can only be done by those who know their resources are inadequate.

How do you live this prayer without words? Think about the fivefold ministry.

How would the **Pastor** live this prayer? -"God is so gracious that this is the way I live my life in the confidence of his care and in the unspoken language of our lives we pray the prayer". Gifts, acts of service.

Teacher – His truth sets me free, that I have a God who is my Dad sets me free from striving. I am going to live another way!

Evangelist – What news is this? God's going to take care of everything. We don't have to run round trying to make things happen!

If we are communicating 75% of our lives in non verbal communication what does your life say about God? I need you or I am managing ok without you?

I need to live in your presence all the time or I'm busy and can we schedule time next week?

Prophet – Desire to live next to the heartbeat of God. In their prophetic activity they reveal that God wants us to be close to Him and the broken hearted.

Apostle – So convinced that God has a mission, and because he has a mission I am going to join him in what he does, not what I do! We say it over and over again in our lives. If that is what God is doing then I am going to do it!

Six Things/Phrases

I wonder how I might pray them? Sometimes I program my phone to remind me to pray one of the phrases at different times during the day.

Start – “Our Father, hallowed be your name”

Finish – “Deliver us from evil”

Take a phrase a day – intention to pray the prayer “hallowed be your name” on one day. Pray the prayer “your Kingdom come” the next day.

Discovery – All of the phrases lead you into the revelation of the others.

Without the Father we don't have the Kingdom, without the Kingdom we don't have provision, without provision we don't have forgiveness, without forgiveness we don't have protection from temptation, deliverance from evil.

So it all starts with the Father anyway!

Pray them through one a day.

Sometimes I don't know how to pray but your Word says that your Holy Spirit prays within me with groans, so I pray the prayer and stop when the Spirit groans.

I may need to forgive someone. The kids – hope they're okay, they need bread today.

The Holy Spirit stops you and you can pray into the situation.

Pray all six phrases and just pour them into the situation you find yourself.

Daddy / Kingdom / Bread (provision) / Forgiveness / Protection from Temptation / Deliverance (full armour of God).

Take the phrases and pour it into the situation. Jesus was not thinking of liturgy but of a model of prayer.

Put some music on and pray the prayer yourself!