



The Lords Prayer a Road Map for Effective Prayer

Prayer is a central part of Christian religions. Christians use prayer to communicate with the divine, and to find solace, comfort and strength. The Lord's Prayer is one of the most common and well-known Christian prayers. A line-by-line break-down of The Lord's Prayer can help Christians find greater insight and meaning in this popular prayer.

In the Bible, Matthew 6:9-10 (KJV), Jesus says, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." This part of the Lord's Prayer represents adoration. This is the part of prayer where one would show his or her high esteem, honor, and admiration for the Lord through exaltation and glorification. As Jesus demonstrates, adoration can be short and to the point. In the Lord's prayer, there are only two short (yet sincere) statements of adoration.

Christian Prayer – Praying for Needs

Matthew 6:11 reads, "Give us this day, our daily bread." This section of the prayer is the supplication section, in which a request or plea is made. Here, the request is for the day and the daily bread.

According to *Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries*, the request for daily bread is literally a request for daily subsistence, or daily needs. This is a material request, yet it is not an extravagant one. This request is indicative of the promises of the Lord throughout scripture that state that the Lord will provide the basic needs of the Christian believer. These needs include food, shelter, and clothing.

Asking for Forgiveness in Prayer

Matthew 6:12 says, "And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

In this line of the Lord's Prayer, it's believed that Jesus is instructing the disciples to ask God for forgiveness of sin through confession. According to *Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries*, the



word forgive in this verse means to lay aside, or to forsake. By the same token, believers are also expected to forgive those who have sinned against them in the same manner. When a believer prays, they are therefore to ask for forgiveness from the Lord, and to also have a heart open to forgiving those who have wronged them.

A Spiritual Plea in The Lord's Prayer

Verse thirteen concludes with Jesus asking God the father to “lead us not into temptation, but to deliver us from all evil: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

Once again, Jesus presents a request before the Father. However, the request is a spiritual request rather than a material request. It's believed that Christ asks the father to deliver him and his disciples from all evil. According to Strong's, this evil refers to anything hurtful, including calamity, illness, malice, and from the devil. This model instructs the believer to not only petition the Lord for material needs as is verse 11, but also for spiritual blessings.

Giving Glory to God

Based upon Christ's next affirmation, God is able to answer the requests because he is all powerful, and all glory and honor are due to him forever. Jesus ends the prayer with a simple, “Amen,” which both seals the prayer and means “so be it.” If one is using the model of the Lord's prayer in terms of a guide, then showing adoration and thanksgiving to the Lord is considered significant because it is done two times within this short passage. Showing reverence and honor for God is expected and necessary, according to Matthew 6.

These scriptures can provide many Christian believers with a full expectation that his or her prayer will be "heard" and it's believed saying “amen” sends the prayer forth in hope because it means “so be it.”