

The Lord's Prayer

Introduction

Passages of Lord's Prayer

- Matthew 6:9-13
 - doxology @ end of vs. 13 bracketed in NASB / NIV / ESV / HCSB
- Luke 11:1-4 (partial) -
 - omits second phrase of most of the petitions
 - omits the doxology

Structure of Lord's Prayer



Reason For Lord's Prayer

- To avoid hypocrisy in prayer (Mt. 6:5). Q: How does the Lord's Prayer accomplish this?
 - By humbling us
 - God's name, God's kingdom; God's will; God's glory
 - Our dependence (bread); our debts; our powerlessness against temptation.
 - Contrast with Luke 18:11-12

Reason For Lord's Prayer

- To avoid hypocrisy in prayer (Mt. 6:5). Q: How does the Lord's Prayer accomplish this?
 - By not making the prayer "my" prayer, but "our" prayer. (Note: "Our", "us").
 - By the instruction that praying is not done to be seen by other people. * We should not pray in order to be heard or seen.

Reason For Lord's Prayer

- To avoid the idea of "pray a right way, and you get what you want."
 - Specifically, that repetition of words or ideas will get us what we want. Jesus calls this a pagan idea.
 - Why is this pagan?
 - Does this mean we shouldn't ask for what we want?

Luke 11:5-13

Relationship?	Friend / neighbor	Father - Son
How asked?	"Disrespect"	"Ask, Seek, Knock"
Response/ Attitude of giver?	"Go away"	"It will be given"
Reason finally given?	To end the frustration	Goodness of Father
What is given?	Physical needs of the moment	Holy Spirit (spiritual needs)

Luke 11:5-13 - Meaning

- Point is the *contrast* between the friend / neighbor, and you and God.
- The neighbor has no reason to expect to get what he wants unless he wearies his friend into giving it. We, however, have every reason to expect our Father to answer without such harassment.
- God knows what we *need* (cf. Matthew 6:8)

Luke 18:1-8

- Reason for parable: to teach us to pray "and not to faint" - i.e. not to give up on our prayers.
- This is not necessarily importunity, but rather refers to not giving up on our requests
- (Verses 7-8): Particular case of parable - seeking justice from the judge/Judge. Idea is that when Christians are persecuted, and they pray for justice, they should never conclude that God isn't going to answer.

Luke 18:1-8

	Widow & Unjust Judge	Elect & God
What's Requested?	Justice	Justice
Character of Judge?	"Unjust"	God
Why does judge/ Judge answer?	Wearied	"His own elect"

Luke 18:1-8 - Meaning

- NOT that we get what we want by wearying God
- Rather... that we should never stop praying for justice (or what is good) because we can trust God to do what is right.
- The timing is up to God: "... though He bears long with them...."; ".... when He comes...."

Conclusions

- The idea that we can get something from God - even a good thing - by being importunate in prayer is *not* Biblical.
- The Bible teaches that our prayers are answered because God is a good Father.
- God promises to give us what we get *need*. When we make requests, re-think them in terms of need.
- God has promised to answer our requests according to His wisdom and goodness.

So Why Pray?

- We pray because:
 - God is glorified when we ask (His power, our weakness)
 - God uses prayer as a means to accomplish His ordained will. This gives our prayers eternal significance.

So Why Pray?

- We pray because:
 - God is glorified when we ask (His power, our weakness)
 - We are made more holy in our prayers *if we pray Biblically.*
 - God uses prayer as a means to accomplish His ordained will. This gives our prayers eternal significance.

Reason For Lord's Prayer

- To learn the proper manner of praying (Lk. 11:1)
 - Not to be taken as that we must use these words (though there is nothing wrong with that.)
 - Rather, that we may guard our prayers with the right ideas and attitudes
 - So, Martin Luther on prayer

Applications

- God teaches us that our worship (this includes our prayers) *must be guided by the Bible*. We cannot pray "as we feel." (Did you ever get in trouble as a kid for speaking the wrong way to your Father?)
- Pray the Lord's Prayer, and see how it changes your prayer life - and our worship.