

The Disciples' Prayer

Our Pattern and Purpose for Prayer

Matthew 6:13

PART TEN

"and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (v13).

Intro

Prayer is acknowledging who God is and claiming things He has already promised to give.

Are we praying the way Jesus teaches us to pray in the Bible?

Five Biblical Imperatives for Effective Prayer

1. We pray with confidence: in accord with God's *directive will*, the Bible, accepting the things that actually do occur according to God's *decretive will*.

"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him" (1 John 5:14-15).

2. We pray while considering who God is *by name*.

"Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13).

"You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions" (James 4:3).

"Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).

3. We pray while communing with Christ, in the knowledge of God's Word, by the illumination and influence of His Spirit:

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (John 15:7).

"Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4).

4. We pray while conducting our life in obedience to God's directive will and seeking to please Him.

"and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him" (1 John 3:22).

"The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" (James 5:16).

5. We pray in accord with His will – *believing!*

“And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith” (Matthew 21:22).

Only when we meet His conditions for prayer can we lay claim to the promises He makes.

“*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*” (Matthew 6:13).

Forgiveness increases our awareness of our weakness.

The need for ongoing forgiveness and the need for ongoing deliverance.

Sanctification is a lifelong process.

Just because God promises to complete our sanctification does not dismiss our obligation to petition Him for it; nor does it excuse us from our responsibility to work on it.

“Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1).

The true child of God is grateful to have past sins forgiven and desires to have future sins avoided.

To be a true believer means we have a changed attitude toward sin.

“...when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as he is pure” (1 John 3:2-3).

Purity comes from God. That is a promise from God who calls us to watch and pray:

Proverbs 4:23-27

Does God lead us into temptation?

No. Certainly not.

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one’ (James 1:13).

God is “of purer eyes than to see evil” (Habakkuk 1:13).

God did not *create* evil.

God permits, but does not cause sin or temptation.

God does allow evil for His own good purposes. But He never causes or initiates evil.

“temptation” Greek ***peirasmos***; a neutral word which can also be translated ‘trial.’

God uses trials to test us, to mature our faith, to increase our trust in Him.

Peirasmos = “A state of trial in which God brings His people through adversity and affliction in order to encourage and prove their faith and confidence in Him” (Zodhiates).

“And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart whether you would keep his commandments or not” (Deuteronomy 8:2).

“But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold” (Job 24:10).

“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers” (James 1:14-16).

Will the test become a temptation to sin?

“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today” (Genesis 50:20).

The trial presents a test that challenges our faith.

The prayer of a wise and maturing child of God.

God sends the trial. Trials become temptations when the world, our flesh, and the devil work in wicked concert to entice us to sin.

“In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

“I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one” (John 17:15).

Enduring the trials and tribulations in life is the process whereby God purifies us into perfection.

The ending of the word *peirasmos* implies ‘a process.’ Becoming more like Jesus takes a lifetime of trials.

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete” (James 1:2-4).

“For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil” (1 Peter 3:17).

“For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps” (1 Peter 2:20-21).

“Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him” (Hebrews 5:8-9).

“Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good” (1 Peter 4:19).

So, what do we do?

“Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation/trial (peirasmos) has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted/tried beyond your ability, but with the temptation/trial he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it” (1 Corinthians 10:12-13).

This is precisely what we pray. Though it is a promise, we plea to God for it – that we might endure it – to the praise and glory of His majestic name!

“Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation” (Psalm 91:14-16).