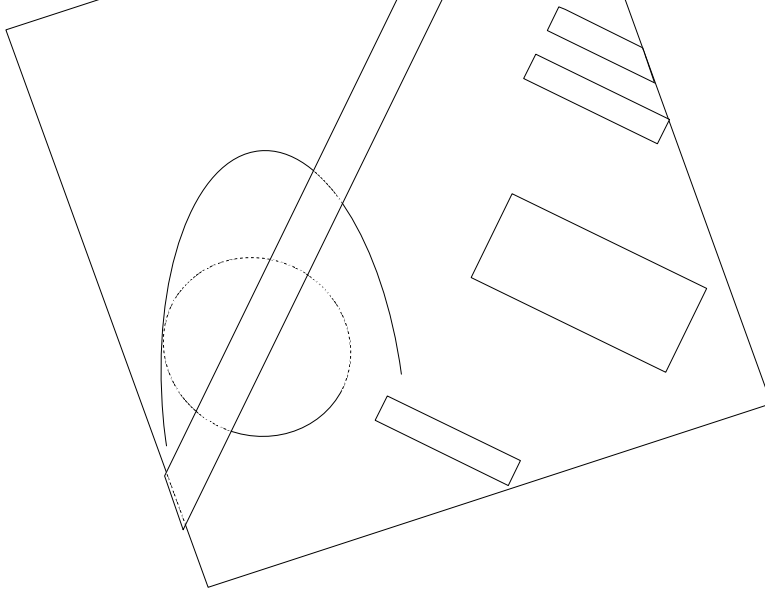


The Model Prayer

Luke 11:1-1 & Matthew 6:9-13

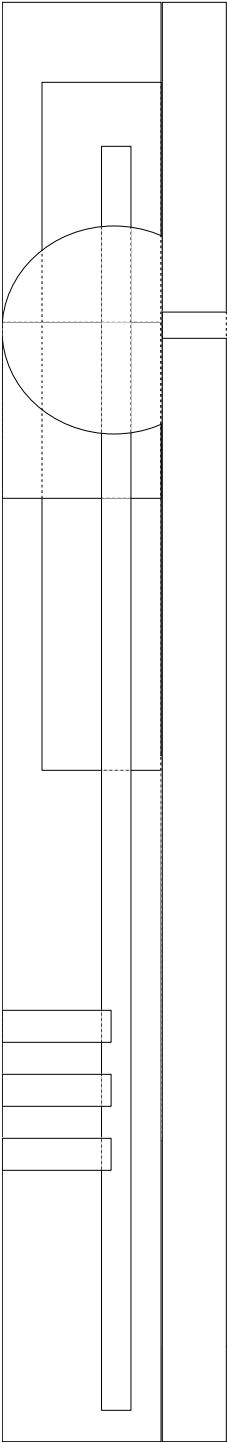


Matthew 6:9-13

- ***9 ... Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.***
- ***10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.***
- ***11 Give us this day our daily bread.***
- ***12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.***
- ***13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.***

I. ***“Our Father ...”***

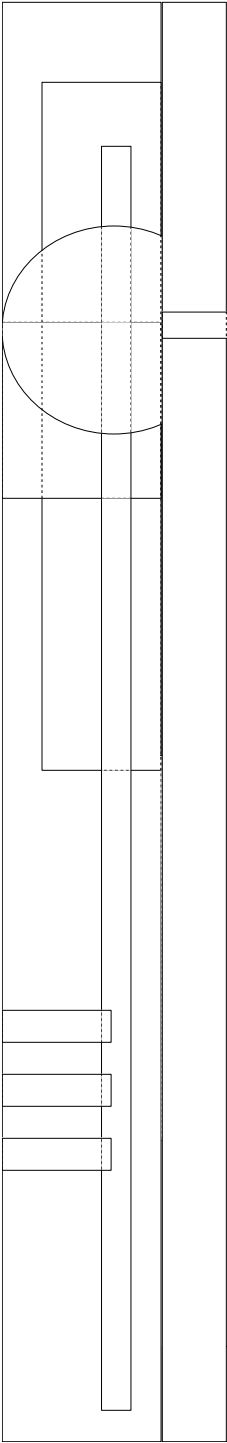
- ***Rom. 8:15-17 - For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ***
- ***Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***

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- ***1 John 3:1 - How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!***
 - ***1 John 5:19 - We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.***
 - ***Psalm 103:13 - As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him ...***



II. ***“...which art in heaven ...”***

- **Here, the thought is that God is high and lifted up! We are to recognize that it is a high privilege to be able to commune with Him!**
- **I John 1:5 - *God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.***
- **Hab. 1:13 - *Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.***
- **I Timothy 6:16 - *who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no-one has seen or can see.***

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- **Exodus 33:20 - *But, he said, you cannot see my face, for no-one may see me and live.***
 - **Hebrews 12:29 - *our God is a consuming fire.***
 - **Hebrews 10:31 - *It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.***

And yet, in spite of all this, we read in Hebrews:

- Hebrews 10:19-20 ... we have **confidence** to enter the **Most Holy Place** by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,
- Hebrews 6:19-20 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek.
- Hebrews 4:16 - 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace **with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

III. “... hallowed be thy name ...”

- **Not only is God holy, in the sense of his moral and ethical character; He is also “holy” in the sense that He is utterly separate and distinct from all the creation works of His hand!**
- **Isaiah 46:9-10 - *I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. 10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.***

Isaiah 40:

- ***12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales? 15 ... the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales***
- ***18 To whom, then, will you compare God?***
- ***23 He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.***
- ***Psalm 147 - 3 He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds. 4 He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.***

IV. “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven ...”

- **The question here is, what, exactly, is the Kingdom of God like? What is it that we are asking for?**
- **Romans 14:17 - *17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit***

1. Righteousness:

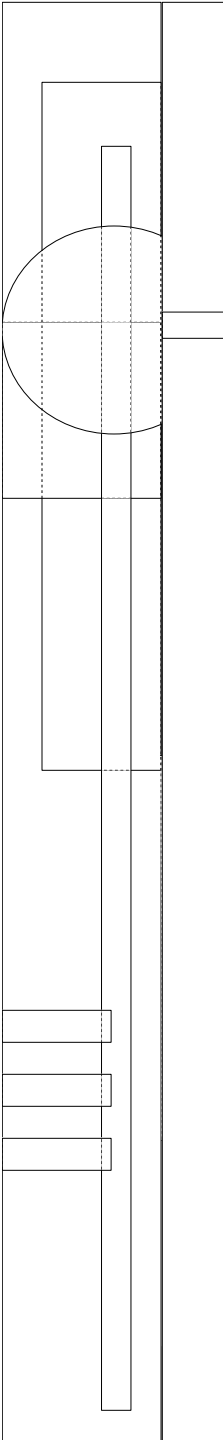
- The world, as we know it, is anything but “righteous.” It is characterized by:
 - *evil, injustice, oppression, sexual promiscuity and sexual perversion, immorality, greed, selfishness, infidelity, undependability*
- Therefore, we are praying for a world which is characterized by:
 - *goodness, justice, compassion, moral and ethical decency and honor, benevolence and charity, integrity and dependability.*

2. Peace:

- **The world, as we know it, is not a world of peace. It is characterized by:**
 - ***Anger and hatred, restlessness, fighting, quarreling, arguing, anxiety, fear and worry.***
- **Therefore, we are praying for a world which is characterized by:**
 - ***Love and compassion, harmony, unity, contentment, ease, comfort and rest.***

3. Joy:

- **The world in which we live is not characterized by joy and happiness. It is characterized by:**
 - *Sadness, depression, sorrow, grief and discouragement, and the weakness and despair which comes with all this.*
- **Therefore, we need to pray for a world which is characterized by:**
 - *The joy of the Lord, which is the fruit of the Spirit [i.e. a spiritual healing of the soul]; for “... the joy of the Lord is your strength.” - Nehemiah 8:10*

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- **This means we need to pray for the Lord's openly manifested presence in the world; because: *"... in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for ever more."* Psalm 16:11**

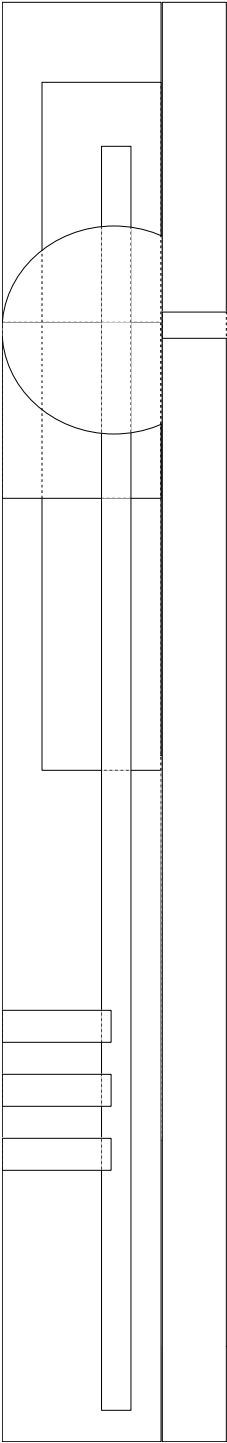
V. ***“Give us this day our daily bread ...”***

- **The reference to our material needs is clear [Prov. 3:5-6], but coming from the Lord Jesus, these words seem to suggest more:**
 - **Luke 4:4 *“... man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”***
 - **John 6:41 *“... the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, I am the bread that came down from heaven.”***
- **Just as O. T. Israel had to go out daily and gather the manna from heaven, so Christians today must actively gather soul-nourishing truths from the Word of God on a daily basis. - This requires the illumination of the Holy Spirit, - and this is what we pray for.**



VI. “*Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us ...*”

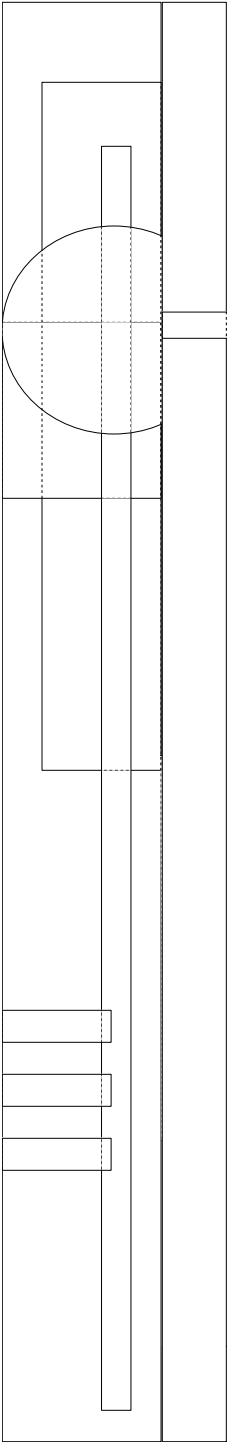
- The important point here is meeting with the fundamental prerequisites for communion with God:
 - ***Psalm 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me***
 - ***Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.***

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- **Sin makes it impossible for us to ‘abide in Christ’ and for Him to abide in us! - This is crucial because ‘abiding’ in Christ is the mechanism which allows the power and dynamic of Christ to flow into our lives:**
 - ***John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.***



The instruction in Scripture is clear on this point:

- ***1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***
- ***1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

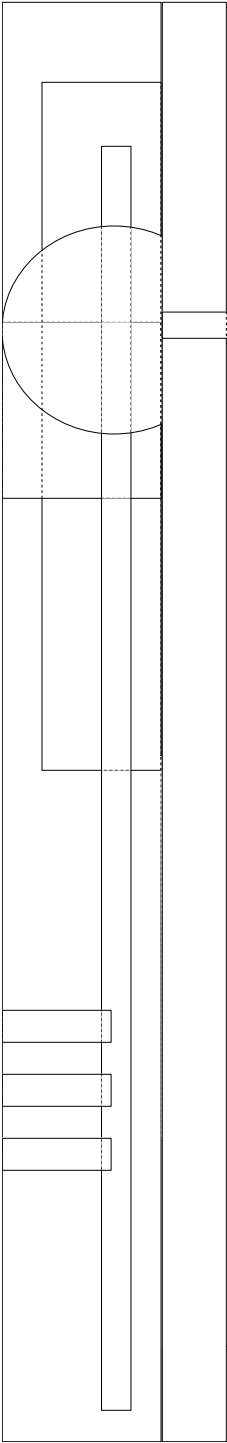


***David, ‘a man after God’s heart’ [Acts 13:22],
was careful to observe this principle:***

Psalm 139:23 & 24

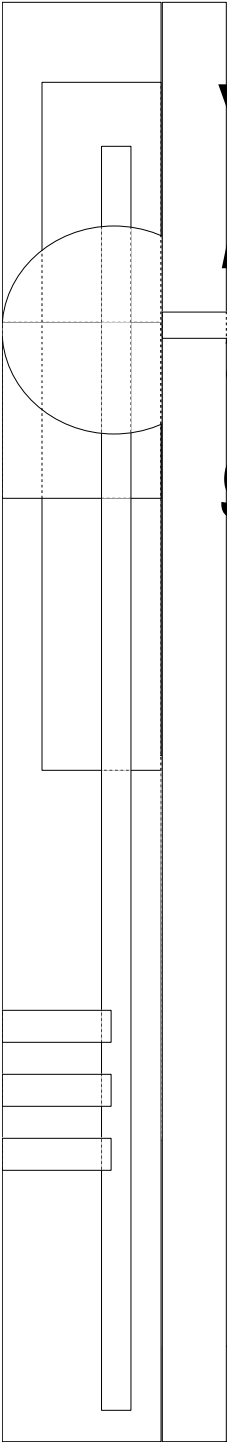
- ***23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts,***
- ***24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.***

Psalm 51:10 *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*



Some common examples of specific sins we need to watch for as we examine our hearts in our time of prayer:

- **Selfishness, pride, impatience, ingratitude, critical spirit (complaining), malice (bitterness & resentment), deceit, hypocrisy, envy (covetousness), slander, sinful lusts, rejoicing over the downfall of others**

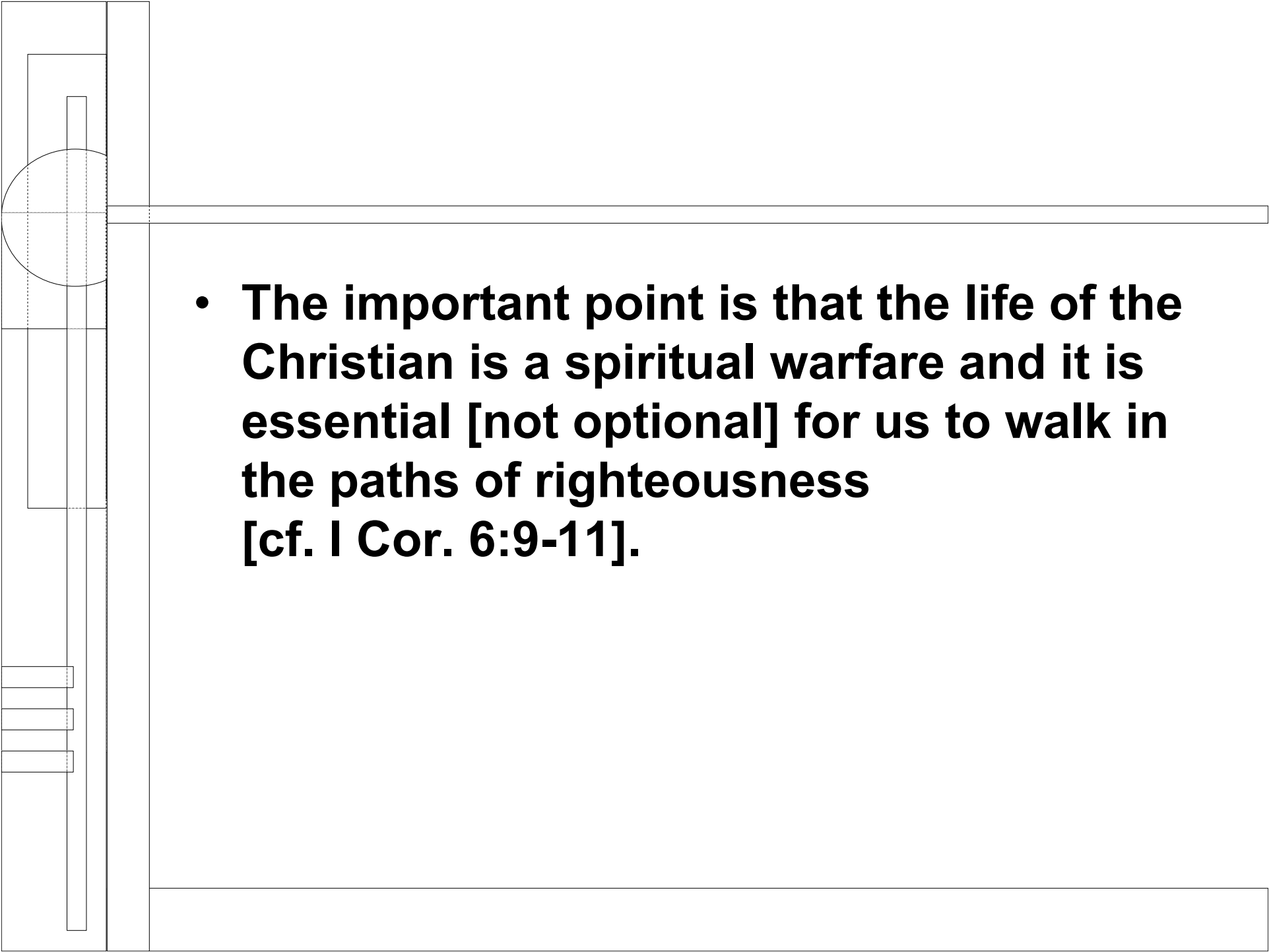


VII. *“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”*

- This part of the prayer seems to hint at the doctrine of the two ways:
 - ***Matt. 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there***
 - ***14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.***

cf. Proverbs 4 -

- ***11 I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.***
- ***14 Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men.***
- ***15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way.***
- ***25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you.***
- ***26 Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm.***
- ***27 Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.***

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- **The important point is that the life of the Christian is a spiritual warfare and it is essential [not optional] for us to walk in the paths of righteousness [cf. I Cor. 6:9-11].**