

# Christianity 101

## Week 5

(revised 07/29/17)

<sup>5</sup> “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>7</sup> “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. <sup>9</sup> Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread,

<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others their trespasses,  
your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others their trespasses,  
neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

-Matthew 6:5-15

<sup>1</sup> Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” <sup>2</sup> And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread,

<sup>4</sup> and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.” -Luke 11:1-14

WRONG PRAYER

DON'T PRAY FOR SHOW (6:5-6)

PRAYER NOT INTENDED TO BE EVANGELISM

## JESUS NOT OPPOSING GROUP PRAYER

*"Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."* - Matthew 18:19-20

## GROUP PRAYER MUST BE FUELED BY PRIVATE PRAYER

## PAGAN RULE FOR PRAYER = MUCH

DON'T GO ON AND ON (6:7-8)

"MUCHISM" MISUNDERSTANDS GOD & LEADS TO LESS PRAYER

*Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.* - Isaiah 65:24

## PERSISTENCE & FAITHFULNESS OVER VERBOSITY

*...because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?"* - Luke 18:5-7

## LUTHER: PRAYER SHOULD BE BRIEF, FREQUENT, & INTENSE

*...pray without ceasing...* - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*  
- Romans 12:12

## PEOPLE ARE MADE TO PRAY

## OUR PRAYER LIFE IS DICTATED BY WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT GOD

*Jesus said, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."*  
- John 14:8

Question: Should we expect God to tell us things when we pray?

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

PRAYER SORTS US OUT

GOD USUALLY DOESN'T ANSWER "WHY?"

GOD PROMISES TO GRANT WISDOM

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*  
- James 1:5

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**"Pray like this" / "When you pray, say"**

THE LORD'S PRAYER IS GIVEN AS A PRECISE PRAYER FOR US TO PRAY (LUKE)

*And Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name..." - Luke 11:2*

THE LORD'S PRAYER ALSO PROVIDES A PATTERN FOR EXTEMPORANEOUS PRAYER

*"And when you pray...Pray like this..." - Matthew 6:7*

BE OPEN TO BOTH EXTEMPORANEOUS AND LITURGICAL PRAYER

YOU LEARN TO PRAY EXTEMPORANEOUSLY BY DOING IT

STRUCTURE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER: GOD FIRST, THEN MAN

IN THE LORD'S PRAYER, GOD LEADS THE CONVERSATION

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>"who am I to you?"</i>   | Our Father, who art in heaven,  |
| <i>"that being so, what is it that you really want most?"</i>             | hallowed be thy Name,<br>thy kingdom come,<br>thy will be done,<br>on earth as it is in heaven.   |
| <i>"so what are you asking for right now as a means to that end?"</i>     | Give us this day our daily bread.<br>And forgive us our trespasses,<br>as we forgive those<br>who trespass against us.<br>And lead us not into temptation,<br>but deliver us from evil. |
| <i>"how can you be so bold and confident in asking for these things?"</i> | For thine is the kingdom,<br>and the power, and the glory,<br>for ever and ever. Amen.  |

### **"WHO AM I TO YOU?"**

#### **"our father"**

Question What gives us the right to call God father?

#### ADOPTION

*To all who did receive (Jesus), who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... - John 1:12*

*God sent forth his Son... to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. - Galatians 4:4,5*

#### LOVING FATHER, BUT ALSO STILL GOD

WE NOW HAVE A FATHER WHO IS PERFECT

*Jesus said, "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" - Matthew 7:11*

PRAISE, THANKS, & WORSHIP

(Rhetorical) Question: Do we always praise when we pray??

**"who art in heaven"**

NOT FAR, BUT NEAR!

### **"THAT BEING SO, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU REALLY WANT MOST?"**

Question: Left to our own devices, how would we pray?

CHIEF GOAL OF HUMAN LIFE = TO GLORIFY GOD

*Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made. - Isaiah 43:6-7*

**"hallowed be thy name"**

"NAME" = WHO GOD IS

"HOLY" = SET APART

"HALLOWED" = KNOWN, ACKNOWLEDGED, & HONORED AS HOLY

PRAYING THAT GOD'S REPUTATION IN THE WORLD WILL GREATLY IMPROVE

PETITIONING GOD TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN

OUR DEEPEST FULFILLMENT IS FOUND IN GLORIFYING GOD

*Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory. – Psalm 115:1*

WE HALLOW GOD THROUGH GRATITUDE

*For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. – Romans 1:21*

GRATITUDE FOR THE GOODNESS OF CREATION

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father... - James 1:17*

GRATITUDE FOR THE GOODNESS OF GOD'S REDEMPTIVE WORK

GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S WORKING THINGS FOR OUR GOOD

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good... - Romans 8:28*

GRATITUDE FOR HIS WRITTEN WORD

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. – Psalm 119:105*

FEAR = FAILS TO HALLOW GOD'S NAME

NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH “FEAR OF THE LORD” (WHICH IS GOOD)

“FEAR OF THE LORD” = AWE & ESTEEM OF HIS MAJESTY + HUMBLE TRUST

*Praise the LORD!.... Great are the works of the LORD... full of splendor and majesty ... faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy... he has commanded his covenant forever....Holy and awesome is his name! The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! - from Psalm 111*

**“thy kingdom come”**

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD’S KINGSHIP & GOD’S KINGDOM

GOD IS KING = SOVEREIGN OVER WORLD (“for thine is the kingdom”)

GOD’S KINGDOM (“thy kingdom come”) = LIVING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD AND  
THEREBY FUNCTIONING AS HE INTENDS

*Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.” - Mark 1:14-15*

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

*Jesus answered Nicodemus, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” - John 3:3*

PRE-REQUISITE = ENTHRONING JESUS AS LORD OF OUR LIVES

A BLESSED KINGDOM, NOT A DICTATORSHIP

*“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” - Matthew 11:30*

*"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." - John 10:14*

#### EMPOWERMENT FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." - John 3:4-5*

#### FOR THE WORLD

**"Thy will be done"**  
GOD'S WILL IS BEST

NOT MY WILL

*Again, for the second time, Jesus went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." - Matthew 26:42*

#### DETERMINING GOD'S WILL

Question: How can we know God's will?

*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. - Proverbs 12:15*

*And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. - Isaiah 30:21*

**"HELP US TO BE OBEDIENT TO YOUR COMMANDS"**

#### ACCEPTING HIS PURPOSE FOR EVENTS



**Serenity Prayer**

God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;  
trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His Will;  
that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him  
forever in the next.  
Amen.

- Reinhold Niebuhr? (1892-1971)

**“on earth as it is in heaven”**

APPLIES TO ALL THREE PRECEDING PETITIONS

(“hallowed by thy name,” “thy kingdom come,” “thy will be done”)

**“SO WHAT ARE YOU ASKING FOR RIGHT NOW AS A MEANS TO THAT END?”**

**“give us this day our daily bread”**

**GOD IS OUR PROVIDER**

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. – James 1:17

**IT IS NOT WRONG TO PRAY FOR PERSONAL NEEDS**

*Jesus said, “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ...your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” - Matthew 6:33*

A DENIAL OF (WICKED) SELF-SUFFICIENCY

“DAILY”

“BREAD” = ALL OF LIFE’S MATERIAL NECESSITIES

“BREAD” ALSO = NONMATERIAL NEEDS

SOCIAL

*It is not good that the man should be alone... - Genesis 2:18*

AND OF COURSE, SPIRITUAL

*Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” -  
Matthew 4:4*

*Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” - John 6:35*

A PETITION FOR OTHERS

**“forgive us our debts”**

‘DEBTS’ + ‘TRESPASSES’ = SINS OF OMISSION + SINS OF COMMISSION

‘FAILURES’ BETTER THAN ‘DEBTS’ OR ‘TRESPASSES’

PARDON BASED UPON PITY

SINNING SONS AND DAUGHTERS

IN SINNING WE HAVE TURNED OUR BACKS UPON GOD’S PRESENCE AND POWER

SIN DOES NOT NEGATE OUR JUSTIFICATION

REPENTANCE = TURNING BACK TO HIM

**“...as we forgive our debtors”**

IN OUR SPIRITUAL BEST INTEREST

People who are merciless, unable to pity others and receive pity,  
simply have a hard life full of unsolvable problems.  
– Dallas Willard

It is not psychologically possible for us really to know God’s pity  
for us and at the same time be hardhearted toward others.  
– Dallas Willard

NOT A PROMISE, BUT A REQUEST FOR HELP

*For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father  
will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their  
trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*  
– Matthew 6:14-15

**“lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil”**

FOUR THINGS ABOUT EVIL

EVIL IS REAL

EVIL IS GOOD PERVERTED

GOD HAS DEFEATED EVIL

*And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a  
public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. -*  
Colossians 2:15

EVIL / EVIL ONE

PROTECTION IN THE MINEFIELD OF LIFE

A VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN OUR OWN ABILITIES

## TESTING / TRIALS

*...though now for a little while...you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 1:6-7*

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
[For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.]*

## THE DOXOLOGY

### **“HOW CAN YOU BE SO BOLD & CONFIDENT IN ASKING FOR THESE THINGS?”**

DOXOLOGY = PRAISE

**“The kingdom and the power”**

GOD’S KINGDOM = HIS KINGSHIP = HIS SOVEREIGNTY OVER WORLD

*The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. - Psalm 103:19*

GOD’S POWER = UNCONQUERABLE GOODNESS

**“and the glory”**

TWO MEANINGS OF ‘GLORY’

GOD’S PRAISEWORTHINESS

## THE PRAISE GOD DRAWS FROM HIS CREATURES

### GOD'S GLORY IN SCRIPTURE

#### GOD'S VISIBLE PRESENCE: SHEKINAH

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. - Exodus 40:34

#### GOD'S ACTS

#### GOD'S MORAL CHARACTER

*The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."* - Exodus 34:6-7

#### JESUS' GLORY

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* - John 1:14

#### SHEKINAH REPLACED WITH JESUS' GLORY

*For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.* - 2 Corinthians 4:6

#### GLORY GIVEN

GLORY TO WHOM? GOD OR US?

OUR TEST

“amen”

YES, THAT'S THE TRUTH!

For in him every one of God's promises is a 'Yes.' For this reason it is through him that we say the 'Amen', to the glory of God. - 2 Corinthians 1:20

CAN'T BUCK TRADITION, BUT CAN CLARIFY IT

| <b>Children's Catechism Lord's Prayer</b>  | <b>Dallas Willard's Paraphrase</b>  |
|--|---|
| <p>Our Father, who is in all the skies:<br/> Please show us how wonderful you are!<br/> Please come down and be our King!<br/> Please do whatever you want to do!<br/> Everywhere!<br/> Please give everybody the food they need!<br/> Please forgives us the bad stuff we've done;<br/> we're trying to forgive people their bad stuff!<br/> Am please keep us from wanting to do more bad stuff;<br/> yes save us from the devil! In Jesus' Name we pray.<br/> Amen.</p> | <p>Dear Father always near us,<br/> may your name be treasured and loved,<br/> may your rule be completed in us —<br/> may your will be done here on earth<br/> in just the way it is done in heaven.<br/> Give us today the things we need today,<br/> and forgive us our sins and impositions on you<br/> as we are forgiving all who in any way offended us.<br/> Please don't put us through trials,<br/> but deliver us from everything bad.<br/> Because you are the one in charge,<br/> and you have all the power,<br/> and the glory too is all yours — forever —<br/> which is just the way we want it!</p> |

LORD'S PRAYER = FOUNDATION FOR PRAYER

It is a prayer that teaches us to pray. It is a foundation of the praying life: its introduction and its continuing basis. It is an enduring framework for all praying. You only move beyond it provided you stay within it. - Dallas Willard