

# OUR FATHER

*In Heaven...*

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**Mathew 6:5-14** (Jesus said) *“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

*And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

***This, then, is how you should pray:***

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

Jesus taught His disciples how to pray in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:5-7:12). He was emphatic about this and said, **“This, then, is how you should pray:...”** Approximately 1 1/2 years later, when His disciples saw Him praying they asked Him how to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1-4). Instead of a new teaching, He brought them back to the original pattern.

This is an outline He established for communicating with God. It’s our model prayer. Each phrase reflects a basic area of human need and places us in the position to be able to receive those needs. It is a strategic plan to live life in all of its fullness and victory! (John 10:10)

## *Part 1* | **PRAISE, the first thing first.**

Matthew 6:9 *Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name.*

1. The very first step in living a victorious life is to develop a habit of going into God’s Presence... **FIRST.** The Pattern honors God and our relationship with our Heavenly Father deepens as we praise Him through His Old Testament Names. True worship stays in His Presence as Joshua did. (Exodus 33:11)

2. To hallow His Name means to admire and love who He really is. We're encouraged to praise the Lord using His Old Testament Names, but not everyone knows His Names. Scan the code which takes you to our blog article on God's Names, their meanings, and Bible references.
3. The 10 Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21 explicitly begin with the Commandment, "You shall have no other gods before Me." He must have pre-eminence in our lives. This is not difficult when we truly understand that He delivered us from sin and death! (Romans 3:23, 6:23).
  - The great Ephesian Church in Revelation 2:1-7 was rebuked for leaving their "first love" for Christ and focusing on things that were self fulfilling.
4. There are great benefits when our lives revolve around Him! A church who's main focus is the Kingdom of God AND the King is truly blessed! Here are just a couple of examples.
  - Provision -- Matthew 6:33 *But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*
  - Spiritual warfare -- 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 *...Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the (enemies); and they were defeated...*

**Prayer:** Begin prayer by praising Him using His Biblical Names. (Exodus 3:13-15) Scan the QR code and see a list of God's Old Testament Names. There are also many other descriptive names for Jesus Christ in the New Testament. (John 4:13-14, 6:35; 8:12; etc.)



**Action:** Look at your schedule and find at least a half hour to spend in His Presence without distraction. Calendar it as you would other important events. Read His Names and begin to use those Names in worship.



**The essence of worship**,... is not the physical prostration as much as the flattening of the human will which rises to assert its own dignity, ignorant all the while that our highest dignity is entering the Presence of the King with worship, thereby giving place for His glory to dwell in our midst. — Jack Hayford

## Part 2 | GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH

Matthew 6:10 *Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.*

In the Disciples' prayer pattern Jesus told us to pray that His Kingdom would come on earth as it is in Heaven. In the Greek language the word Kingdom is *basileia*, and has two meanings: 1) a king's rule, reign, authority, and 2) the territory or people over whom a king reigns.

### The Kingdom forfeited

1. In Genesis 3, Adam's rebellion separated him from his relationship with God and forfeited rulership (stewardship) over creation to Satan. As a result, rebellion and sin spread and mankind became increasingly more the god over his life ("You will be like God..." Genesis 3:4-5), serving our enemy's plans.
  - **But God**... Romans 5:12-21 *...Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all*

*men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.*

### **The Kingdom brought near**

1. Christ began His ministry by proclaiming that the Kingdom of God/Heaven is at hand or near. (Matthew 4:17) Although the Kingdom of God is both present and future, spiritual and invisible, Christ's coming in human form brought the Kingdom of God into our realm (John 1:14).
2. The Kingdom of God is light and offensive while the kingdom of darkness is, in essence, powerless and defensive. Notice the power of the Kingdom...
  - Matthew 4:23-25 *And Jesus went about all Galilee,... preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and diseases among the people.... and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them (all)...* (Matthew 8:16; Mark 3:10, 6:56; Luke 6:19; Acts 5:15-16)

### **Benefits of the Kingdom**

Luke 12:31-32 *...Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.* (2 Peter 1:3) However, the blessings of the Kingdom are for those who are a part and "residents" of the Kingdom through the repentance and the spiritual birth resulting in obedience. (John 3:3)

1. Deliverance. Colossians 1:12-14 states that we have been delivered from the power of darkness into the Kingdom of His Son! The word power is "authority" in the original language!
2. Provision. In Matthew 16:15-19 Jesus stated that we, the Church, have been given keys to/of the Kingdom. These keys are Kingdom principles which open the promises of God.
3. Power. The Kingdom is also the means to *undo satan's damage*. Because we are joint-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17) we have been given authority to bring the entry of His Kingdom into the brokenness of life! (Luke 9:11) It truly is a clash of the Kingdom of Light against the kingdom of darkness in Matthew 4:1-11, 8:28-34, 12:22-30, etc.

**Prayer:** By saying this part of the pattern, we are declaring that His will and priorities are first and the most important things in our lives. He interacts in our lives in the affairs of man. Pray that His will be done in my life, family, church, nation and in the world. Do you understand His will/calling?

**Action:** Read the Kingdom parables in Matthew 13 and Mark 4:1-34. Then bring your life under His Lordship and expect that His purposes will be accomplished in your life, your family, church, nation and beyond.

## Part 3 | PROVISION from a supernatural Source.

Matthew 6:11 *Give us this day our daily bread.*

### Physical and spiritual provision

1. Physical and spiritual bread — This part of the prayer pattern points to the time when Israel received their daily portion of miraculous “Manna” that fell each day from heaven, providing food throughout the 40 years in the wilderness. (Exodus 16) In John 6:35 Jesus referred to Himself as the true spiritual Manna from Heaven, the miraculous bread. All our needs are met in Him.
2. Provision is an area often attacked by our enemy the devil. Yet the Bible clearly states that God would never forsake us as we look to Him as our Source. (Matthew 6:25-34 *...But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*) As we endeavor to live that and learn to properly manage His provision we can begin to close the enemy’s access to our finances.

### Provision and stewardship

God views us as “stewards” over what He provides for us. It is the proper management of our possession in order to enhance God’s Kingdom through our lives. Here are a few principles...

1. **Until God is in control of my life, I’m out of control.**
  - Because his wealth controlled him, the rich young man could not obey Christ’s words to follow Him. Matthew 19:16-22 *When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.*
2. **Obedience to God’s principle of the Tithe** (“first fruit”) brings multiplied results and protects our assets from the devourer! (Scan the code to read about the blessing of the Tithe)
  - Malachi 3:10-11 *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,... Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”*
  - Proverbs 3:9-10 *Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the Firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*
3. **Contentment**, a powerful weapon of spiritual warfare, deals with our present resources and our trust in a Supernatural God.
  - In regard to being content, Paul stated in Philippians 4:10-13, *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*
  - 1 Timothy 6:6-10 *...For the love of money (greed and discontent) is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*
4. **We are rivers, not reservoirs.** God gives to us what He knows will flow through us.
  - Proverbs 11:25 *A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.*

- A cheerful giver is excited to see God's abundance flow through them! 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

## 5. The Miraculous wilderness provision

Israel in the wilderness numbered approximately 3 million people, about two-thirds the size of Rhode Island, or roughly 750 square miles. **Each day of their journey God provided:**

- 1,500 tons of Manna! If they ate as much as we do today, it would have taken one freight train two miles long and would cost over \$6 million each and every day!
- 11 million gallons of water per day or one freight train with tank cars 1,800 miles long!

God took care of them 14,600 days (40 years). That would have been over 58 million tons of food and 160 billion gallons of water! (QR code: Video, Search For the Real Mt. Sinai)



This part reveals my dependency upon Him and brings glory to God as He supplies my need.

**Prayer:** Be in the will of God concerning my finances (Tithing, generous attitude). Pray for provision for physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Pray for a hunger for God's Word in me and in the Church.

**Action:** Continue to dedicate your finances to God. If you have not yet started tithing, or may not be financially able, begin to give a certain, predetermined amount and be faithful in that. As God begins to bless you, increase it towards the 10% amount.

## *Part 4* | **FORGIVEN and the power of forgiving others**

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

So powerful is the aspect of forgiveness that Jesus places it in the middle of the prayer pattern and then re-emphasizes it at the end with a very strong statement! (Verses 14-15)

Although God has forgiven us of *all* of our own sin (Psalm 103:12; Colossians 2:13, 3:13; Hebrews 10:12; etc.), many people still feel justified in their unforgiveness, unaware that forgiveness is a "two-way street." God will not forgive us if we hold on to unforgiveness.

**Forgotten grace breeds unforgiving living.** (Jack Hayford)

1. Two examples of unresolved offenses and the consequences.
  - Cain's offense led to the first murder! (Genesis 4:1-8)
  - Absalom's offense divided Israel and cost him his life. (2 Samuel 13-19)
2. Unforgiveness gives Satan a clear advantage.
  - 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 ... *I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

3. Our unforgiveness has the power to defile others. (Scan the code at then end of this part)
  - Hebrews 12:14-15 *...lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and many become defiled;...*
4. Matthew 18:21-35 is a study on the devastating consequences of unforgiveness.
  - A man was forgiven of a debt he could NEVER pay then found someone owing him a payable debt. Because he was not able to repay it, he was thrown in prison. The man forgiven of a great debt was then also placed in prison and tormented. Jesus said that this would happen to us if we do not forgive!
  - Christ paid a debt I could NEVER repay so that I can forgive others for a payable debt.

### **The power of forgiving others in the same way God forgives us.**

In Genesis 37-50 we read the story of Joseph who was sold into slavery by his brothers. He was then falsely accused and forgotten in prison. Later, as the second most powerful man in Egypt under Pharaoh, Joseph meets his brothers and reveals his true identity. He not only forgives (releases) his brothers, but he overcomes their evil with God's goodness! (Read Genesis 50:15-21)

1. *Joseph said to his brothers, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?"*
  - Joseph understood that vengeance was God's responsibility. (Romans 12:19 quoting Deuteronomy 32:35)
2. *"But as for you, you meant evil against me;"*
  - Joseph dealt realistically with the motive of his brothers. (2 Timothy 4:9-18)
3. *"...BUT GOD meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."*
  - Joseph understood God's powerful and creative ability to bring His purpose out of an evil situation and saw the greater picture from God's perspective. (Romans 8:28)
4. *"Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*
  - Joseph overcame evil with good, one of the most powerful principles in God's Word. (John 3:16-17; Romans 12:9-21)

### **Prayer...**

- First ask God to forgive you of my sins and offenses. (Psalm 51:1-17; 32:5; 1 John 1:8-9)
- Then release and forgive those who have offended me. (Matthew 6:14)
- Last, in prayer set my will to forgive anyone who may offend me.

**Action** -- In prayer, acknowledge and receive God's forgiveness for unforgiveness. (1 John 1:9) Then, overcome evil with God's goodness. (Romans 12:17-21) Deal with unforgiveness as soon as you sense it and determine to forgive those who may offend you. Scan the QR code and learn how to be set free from the defilement of someone else's offense!



## Part 5 | VICTORY From the Inside Out

Matthew 6:13 *And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

### 1. God has given His people spiritual victory!

God promised Joshua and Israel all the land upon which they set their feet, but they still had to take possession of it. In the same way, believers have the authority to tread upon all the forces of darkness, but they still need to battle against the enemy. See Matthew 16:15-19; Luke 10:17-20; Ephesians 6:11, etc.

### 2. A sobering illustration from Joshua 6 and 7.

The Lord commanded Joshua and Israel to completely destroy the evil city of Jericho. It was the “firstfruit” of the Promised Land, and everything was dedicated to God. And they conquered Jericho in the power of God! Achan, however, took a garment, gold and silver, and hid it under his tent. When God instructed Joshua to attack Ai, a very small city, they were totally defeated! The reason? Achan’s “small” sin brought God’s mighty army to its knees. When the sin was dealt with Israel was again victorious!

- *And do not lead us into temptation...* means that we must confess hidden sin so that our enemy will not have authority over us.
- Psalm 19:12-13 *...Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous (deliberate, willful) sins; let them not have dominion (rule) over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.*

### 3. Closing the door to the enemy.

We use locks, alarm systems, cameras, etc. to make sure our homes are safe and protected from predators. Shouldn't we do the same for our “spiritual home?” Our enemy enters our lives through the following ways...

- **The mind**, our thinking and view of the world and God’s Word. Because satan knows us, he bombards our minds with thoughts of lust, doubt, fear, anger, offenses, etc. Because he is the father of all lies, the devil deceives us to believe his lie about God’s Word and His Character and makes sin look good. (Genesis 3:1-7, 4:3-8; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Romans 8:5-6) Then the devil accuses us to God. He provides the opportunity, we take it, and then he accuses us to God, and God to us! (Zechariah 3:1-2; Revelation 12:10) Romans 12:2 states that God’s Word is the transforming agent for our mind!
- **The flesh**, our old nature vying for control. Satan has *no* authority in areas of our lives that we have given over to the Lordship of Christ. Galatians 5:16-18 tells us how: *...Walk in (with) the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*
- **The world**, conforming us to its pattern. (2 Timothy 4:10; Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17) The world is only a channel the devil uses. If we are free from the hold of his temptations, then the world has no influence over us!

### 4. The victor’s mindset, battle dress, and responsibility.

- Our mindset. Romans 8:5-14 *...those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit...*

- Our battle dress in Ephesians 6:10-18 illustrates the character areas we put on as a defense against the enemy. Then we participate in spiritual warfare through prayer.
- Ephesians 6:18 and Nehemiah 4:13-15 tell us that we are to fight (in prayer) for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Prayer:** Ask God to purify me and to cleanse me from secret sin so that satan will have no hold on me. (Song of Solomon 2:15; Psalm 19:12-13, 51:1-12)

**Action:** Put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) and pray for the revival of the church. (Hosea 6:2-3) Then pray for a harvest of souls to come into the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 9:37)

*1 John 5:4-5 Everyone born of God is victorious and overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has conquered and overcome the world — our persistent faith in Jesus the Son of God. (Romans 8)*

### **RETURN TO PRAISE**

Matthew 6:13 *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

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### **LIST THE THINGS YOU ARE BELIEVING GOD TO DO IN RESPONSE TO PRAYER**