

To Whom Are We Praying?

MATTHEW 6: 6-10

HEBREWS 5: 7

Most highlighted passage in Kindle ebooks

(2014)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 6-7)

God's Alternative to worry

- Find release from anxiety through prayer
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- Prayer – a conversation with God
- Prayer – a conversation with the most loving, knowledgeable, caring and powerful Person

Re-phrasing Philippians 4: 6-7

Don't want to be anxious? Whatever situation you find yourself in, simply present your requests to God. Do it through prayer and petition, with thanksgiving. And God's peace will guard you from anxiety.

- Do it through prayer and petition, with thanksgiving

God's Alternative to worry

- “Talk to Me about what’s troubling you” (prayer)
- “Tell Me what you think you need” (petition)
- “Do it with thanksgiving” (attitude of gratitude)
- “... begin by praising God for the fact that in this situation, He is so mightily God; such a beginning is the end of anxiety” — G.F. Hawthorne, *Philippians* (Word Biblical Commentary)
- Our worry comes from us trying to be God

To whom are we praying ?

“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.

- The Lord’s Prayer – Jesus’ model prayer to help us enter into a conversation with God

How to do it right when praying

- Our Father in heaven ... followed by 6 petitions
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May Your name be kept
holy

Give us today the food
we need

May Your kingdom come
soon

Forgive us our sins

May Your will be done

Don't let us yield to
temptation, but rescue
us from the evil one

At the center of this prayer ...

- “on earth, as it is in heaven”

May Your name be kept holy ... *on earth, as it is in heaven*

Give us today the food we need

May Your kingdom come soon ... *on earth, as it is in heaven*

Forgive us our sins

May Your will be done ... *on earth, as it is in heaven*

Don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one

Jesus teaches us to pray like this ...

- “O Father, bring heaven down on earth right here!” – Darrell W. Johnson, *57 Words that Change the World*
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What happens if we start here?



May Your name be kept holy ... *on earth, as it is in heaven*

Give us today the food we need

May Your kingdom come soon ... *on earth, as it is in heaven*

Forgive us our sins

May Your will be done ... *on earth, as it is in heaven*

Don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one

In contrast, if we start here ...



May Your name be kept holy	Give us today the food we need
May Your kingdom come soon	Forgive us our sins
May Your will be done	Don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one

- we will discover that our greatest need is to see the Father's agenda carried out

2 Ways we approach God

- “business relationship” – basis is performance: I do something for you; you do something for me
- “family relationship” - based on who I am to you; basis is a permanent commitment

- Jesus taught us to start our prayer with: Our Father in heaven ...
- Which way must we relate to God?

Philippians 4: 6-7

Talk to Father about what's troubling you (prayer)

Tell Him what you think you need (petition)

Do it with thanksgiving (attitude of gratitude)

How did Jesus (Son of God) pray?

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. (Hebrews 5:7; NIV)

Talk to Father about what's troubling you (prayer)

Tell Him what you think you need (petition)

Philippians 4: 6-7 : Do it with thanksgiving

Hebrews 5:7 : Jesus - with reverent submission

How did Jesus (Son of God) pray?

While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God.
(Hebrews 5:7; NLT)

Talk to Father about what's troubling you (prayer)
Tell Him what you think you need (petition)

Philippians 4: 6-7 : Do it with thanksgiving

Hebrews 5:7 : Jesus - deep reverence for God (NLT)

Reverent submission ? Deep reverence for God ?

- Same as first 3 petitions of the Lord's prayer
- It's saying: Father, bring heaven down on earth right here
- ... and I'm willing to let You do it through me!
- Lord, You've called me to a life of saying "Yes" to You and "No" to my own will
- Whatever You want, by Your grace I will do

How Jesus prayed to His Father

... [Jesus] offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

- ❑ Jesus' prayer and petitions were heard because of His ...
 - ❑ fervent cries and tears?
 - ❑ reverent submission?

Reverent submission

- ❑ deep respect for God's vantage point
- ❑ *feels one's own desires and tells God about it*
- ❑ *but always ready to "bow down" to the sovereignty of Almighty God*
- ❑ "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." (Lk. 22: 42)

Did God hear His Son's prayer ?

- ❑ “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”
- ❑ Jesus was not spared the cross
- ❑ But ... He was raised gloriously from the dead!

God did answer His Son's prayer

... [Jesus] humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest
place
and gave him the name that is above every
name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should
bow, ... and every tongue acknowledge that
Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the
Father.

(Philippians 2:6-11)

Reverent submission : a decision we make every time we pray

- ❑ “Submission means struggling for the right vantage point” - Timothy Keller
- ❑ *I could submit to the Lord if I knew “WHY”*
- ❑ *You won't submit to God until You're ready to give up control of your life*

What have we learned about prayer?

- ❑ Conversing with our heavenly Father
- ❑ Family relationship, not business transaction
- ❑ Best to talk first about things most important to God, rather than “Father, give me ...”
- ❑ We need to struggle to pray with reverent submission; fervent cries & tears are not enough
- ❑ Remember, God has the best & ultimate vantage point!