

PRAYER TEMPLATE

Prayer begins by listening. God primarily speaks to us through His Word. That's why prayer and the Word of God cannot be separated—they are the two main forms of communication between us and God.

A good example of God's Word and our prayers being inseparable is The Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Jesus gave this prayer in response to the disciples' request in Luke 11:1, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

*"Our Father, who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."* MATTHEW 6:9-13 (NASB)

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us the following:

- First, we are to praise God.
"Our Father, who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name."
- Next, we are to ask God what His will is.
*"Your kingdom come. Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven."*
- Then, ask God for His provision.
"Give us this day our daily bread."
- We are to confess our sins.
"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
- We are to deal with temptation.
"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."
- Lastly, we're to glorify God.
"For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen."

Using this prayer as a model, Jesus teaches that our prayers should include: praising God, knowing and doing His will, seeking God's provision, confessing sin, asking God to lead us away from temptation and to deliver us from evil, and allowing us to bring glory to Him.

When studying Scripture, I read small passages and use the components of the Lord's Prayer to understand what God is saying to me. I use a chart to organize my thoughts. For example:

This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders and deacons. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Philippians 1:1-2 (NLT)

Referring to the chart below, I first ask, "What is this passage teaching me about how God wants me to *praise* Him?"

As I read and it says “slaves of Christ”, I think about the fact that Jesus is my Redeemer and He bought me. At that time, slaves and servants were bought. From a human perspective, this is terrible, but Christ bought me with His blood—not to abuse me, but to live in me. He bought me out of slavery to sin and into freedom. In this verse He tells me, “I want you to praise me as your Redeemer.” So next to ***praise*** on the chart, I write “I will praise God as my Redeemer.”

In the next column on the chart, I ask what is this passage teaching me about God’s will? As I read the passage over and over, I hear God saying, “I want you to live as my servant. I want you to surrender all your rights to me.” So I write down three things: I will live like I belong to God. I will live like a child of the King. I will live set apart, holy to Christ.

Try this method in your prayer and study of God’s Word. If you want God’s power, you need to hear from God and talk to God about the things He wants to happen. One of the reasons our problems overwhelm us is that we’re not communicating with God.

Scripture Passage: _____

What this passage says about:

P R A I S E

G O D ’ S W I L L

G O D ’ S P R O V I S I O N

C O N F E S S I O N

S U R R E N D E R

T E M P T A T I O N

D E L I V E R A N C E

G O D ’ S G L O R Y

Some ideas inspired by **Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God** by Timothy Keller, 2014.

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