



Sermon Notes: January 24, 2016

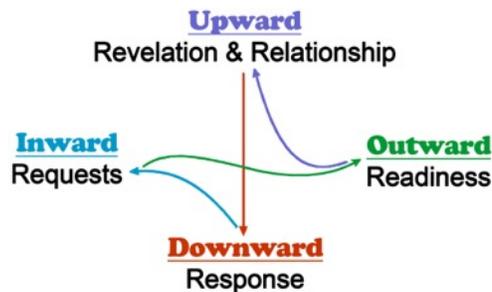
The Lord's Prayer - Release of God's Provision

4 of 8 from the teaching series "Prayer that will Change Your World"
Matthew 6:9-13 • Pastor Paul Bradford

Matthew 6:9-13

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Review: The rhythm of the Lord's Prayer - much like a conductor directing music in 4/4 time - the Lord's Prayer begins upward (setting our eyes on God), then downward (as we pray that heaven might come to earth), then inward (as we pray for our needs), then outward (in warfare), then back upward.



1) Request (inward stroke)

• Provision: Give us this day our daily bread.

- Broader than simply a prayer for physical food - it is a prayer for God to provide everything we need for body and soul.
- "Daily bread" recalls Israel's daily reliance on God for manna in the desert (*Exodus 16*) one day at a time.
- God will give us all we need for body and soul (*1 John 5:14-15*).
- God will supply all temporal needs (*Matthew 6:31-33, 2 Corinthians 9:10*).
- God will meet the hunger in our soul (*John 6:32-35*).
- There is an important condition in prayer: *John 15:7-8 - If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.* Note the condition, *if you abide in me*. Jesus says, *ask whatever you wish*, but we first must be surrendered and abiding.
- Seek Him first, and then all these things will be given (*Matthew 6:33*).
- **Heidelberg Catechism Question 125:** What is the fourth petition? **Answer:** "Give us this day our daily bread" means: Do take care of all our physical needs so that we come to acknowledge you as the only source of everything good, and that without your blessing neither our work and worry nor your gifts can do us any good.

- **Pardon: And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

- Daily we deal with the guilt of sin, but God asks us to come to him daily to ask for forgiveness, and he will purify us from all unrighteousness (*1 John 1:8-9, Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 1:18*).
- We must also forgive others (*Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 18*).
- To forgive is to let go - let go of the sin against you, let go of the hurt, let your love and care flow toward the person as if you had never been wronged.
- Forgiveness doesn't mean it doesn't matter, or even that it's ok. True forgiveness is saying you sinned against me, it isn't ok, but I forgive you, I cancel your debt and won't make you pay it, just as the Lord cancelled my debt.
- **Heidelberg Catechism Question 126:** What is the fifth petition? **Answer:** "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" means: Because of Christ's blood, do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are, any of the sins we do or the evil that constantly clings to us. Forgive us just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, to forgive our neighbors.

OUR RESPONSE

We look to our Father in heaven as the source of all we need for body and soul, asking and expecting him to provide, pardon, purify and protect.