



Sermon Notes: January 31, 2016

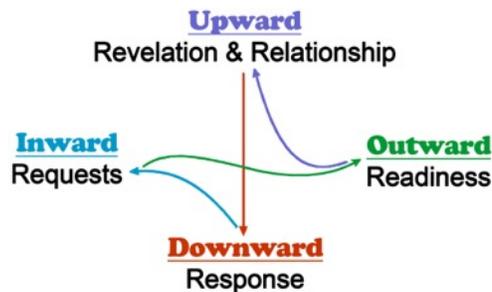
The Lord's Prayer - Release of God's Protection

5 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.



The church is at war against evil - not one waged with guns, or through political means, or with persuasive words. It is not a war against people, but against Satan and his influence. (*2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Ephesians 6:11-12, 2 Corinthians 6:6-7*)

1) Readiness (outward stroke)

- **Purity: And lead us not into temptation**
 - Another translation: do not bring us into temptation (HCSB) - being brought into temptation doesn't mean "to be tempted" but "to yield to temptation" - don't let us give in to sin.
 - We have the power in Christ to stand against temptation, but we must stay on our guard. (*1 Peter 5:8-9, Matthew 26:41, Romans 12:2, 1 John 4:4*)
- **Protection: but deliver us from evil**
 - Original text indicates a definite article - "the evil" - this can refer to Satan, "the evil one", but also to the evil in this world generally.
 - We must rely on God not only for physical sustenance and forgiveness of sins, but also for moral triumph and spiritual victory in all of the spiritual battles of life.
 - In Christ we have authority over evil, so we can pray against evil with confidence. (*Luke 10:18-19*)
 - **Heidelberg Catechism Question 127:** What is the sixth petition? **Answer:** "And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one" means: By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies the devil, the world, and our own flesh never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go

down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.

2) Revelation & Reverence (upward stroke)

- **Praise: For yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.**
 - Not a part of the original prayer, but the early church added it very early on, with words taken directly from scripture. (*1 Chronicles 29:10-11, Revelation 11:15, Jude 24*)
 - We start with God and end with God, focusing on his exalted reign, his great power to deliver us, and upon his everlasting glory.
 - **Heidelberg Catechism Question 128:** What does your conclusion to this prayer mean? **Answer:** "For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever" means: We ask all this of you because, as our ruler, you are willing and able to give us all that is good since you have power over everything, and because, not we ourselves, but your holy name should be glorified forever.

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.