

August 19, 2018
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Stuff Jesus Said: Episode 2 – Our Father Part 2
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Matthew 6:5-15

5 “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 others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. **6** 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. **7** And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. **8** Do not be” like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **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. **14** For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15** But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

A word of caution: Prayer is eternal and the Our Father prayer is not meant to be turned into a religious algorithm that we can control.

Prayer cements your temporal life into reality, for only what lasts into eternity is truly real.

- C.S. Lewis says that heaven is the land of substance and earth the land of shadow.
 - Matt 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Asking Prayer: In the Our Father prayer, Jesus diagrams a spiritual transaction meant not only to bring reality into your life, but also reward.

- One might also claim that prayer is a spiritual discipline that claims reward.¹
- What are you asking for?
 - “You do not have because **you do not ask** God.” James 4:2b
 - Let us not become **weary** in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

¹ 41 Verses in the bible about reward. <https://dailyverses.net/reward>

- Many people abandon the totality of prayer when just a few prayers are not answered according to their desire.

Deconstructing The Our Father Prayer

- **Prayer is not meant to be a show, but a private conversation with your Father.**
 - **Vs. 5** 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 others.
- **Prayer is meant to make earth more like heaven.**
 - **Vs. 10** your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- **Prayer is a daily conversation that focuses on the need for that day.**
 - **Vs. 11** “Give us today our daily bread.”
- **Prayer travels upon the rails of forgiveness.**
 - **Vs. 12-14** 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.¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Food For The Journey: Use these questions and challenges to go deeper in personal reflection or in one of our community groups. **NEW GROUPS START THE WEEK OF SEPT. 23rd Sign Up Starting Sept 9th.**

1. Jesus says that when you pray that you get rewarded. What do you think that means?
2. Prayer is meant to make earth more like heaven. Can you give an example of when you have experienced that?
3. The Our Father prayer encourages you to pray daily for needs. Is it possible that you could not have needs met due to an inactive prayer life?
4. Forgiveness is crucial to seeing prayer answered according to the Our Father prayer. Why do you think that this would be?
5. Why is it important to keep the Our Father prayer organic rather than turning it into a formula?