

Growing in Prayer by Learning from the Model Prayer: *Recognizing to WHOM we are invited to pray!*

Text: Matthew 6:9-13, Romans 8:15-16, Revelation 4:1-11

Introduction:

Read Revelation 4:5-11

1. THIS is the God to whom we are invited to pray and worship before. WOW! The Apostle John as well as a few other prophets were invited into the throne room for a sneak peak.
2. When we are a born-again believer in Jesus, we are invited to enter into the throne room anytime that we need to do so. Our access is guaranteed by none other than Jesus, the Christ of God.
3. Prayer in the time of Jesus was NOT what God had intended. The Pharisees & too many others had reduced it down to formulas, too many “repeat after me” prayers devoid of true feeling & emotion.
4. We are going to be using the model prayer of Jesus, referred to as the Lord’s Prayer, as our starting point over the next weeks as we examine **Growing in Prayer by Learning from the Model Prayer!**
5. Let us read the model prayer from when Jesus taught it during the Sermon on the Mount. It is also given during another teaching time in **Luke**, but this will be our focus - **Matthew 6:9-13**
 1. Please note the footnote that explains why rest of verse 13 was NOT necessarily the words of Jesus.
 2. Read the footnote aloud!
 3. The incredible news is that we know this for a fact. Does God mind the added part? Not sure to be honest.
6. Here is what I know for certain:
7. **Prop. : “For our prayers to be effective they should be addressed to the Almighty God of Jesus Christ in recognition of His position in the universe.”**
8. **Trans.:** There are three very clear facts that we should ALWAYS keep in our minds when we pray to God that are evident for us in the opening line of the Lord’s Model Prayer we will look at today.

I. This God invites us to call Him Father!

1. Please remember the scene in the throne room from **Revelation 4:5-11** and now listen to Jesus
 1. This God that is worshipped by the four creatures and all the beings in heaven is approachable
 2. In view of the throne room scene, here is what Jesus tells us about God - **Matthew 6:9**
 3. Yes, Jesus Himself invites ALL that believe and humble themselves to call God “Father”
2. The Apostle Paul echoes this by another eye opening explanation - **Romans 8:15-16**
 1. Don’t just call the Almighty God of the universe Father, call Him “Daddy”
 2. “Abba” means “Father” in Aramaic, but it is really “daddy” rather than the formal “Father”
 3. Jesus called the Heavenly Father “Abba” in the Garden of Gethsemane **Mark 14:36**
 4. So, when we are born-again, saved in the name of Jesus, we get intimate access to God
3. Here is a passage that explains God ALWAYS wanted this type of relationship - **Jeremiah 3:19**
 1. Rather than the impersonal Logos of the Greeks or Allah of the Muslims today, our God is close
 2. The God of the Christian Bible is approachable & desires an intimacy of a father with His child
4. This is so wonderful especially in view of the second fact from **Matthew 6:9:**

II. This God dwells beyond our dimension at this time!

1. Let there be no doubt about WHERE the God of Jesus Christ dwells at this moment - **Matthew 6:9**
 1. This God, my God and Heavenly Father, is on His throne in heaven right now
 2. Let us review the throne room scene as recorded by John in **Revelation 4:1-6**
 3. This is a place without equal in all of the universe
 4. The being at the center of all this we are to call “Father”
2. This Almighty God that says call me Father, even Dad, will take us to be with Him very soon

1. As Jesus was preparing to leave this earth via the cross, here is what He said - **John 14:1-3**
2. There are crowds mentioned throughout the **Revelation** that will be made up of the saints
3. Thus we have complete assurance that we will be joining this God & Jesus in the next dimension
3. Here is a brief overview of the New Jerusalem that Jesus is preparing for us - **Revelation 21:1-3**
 1. We will dwell eternally with this God and His new throne room will be among us forever
 2. In the New Heaven and New Earth our Father will be even more approachable
4. This is even more incredible in view of this fact taught by Jesus in this opening of the Model Prayer:

III. This God is Holy!

1. So this Heavenly Father has another attribute for us never to forget - **Matthew 6:9**
 1. The very name of God is to be taken as HOLY, meaning *pure, set apart, uncommon*
 2. If you are like me, you were taught by many adults around you to use God's name in vain
 3. You cursed people and things using God's name; that does NOT treat God's name as holy at all!
2. To get a feeling about just how HOLY God's name is, here is how it is treated in the throne room
 1. See if this matches how God's name is used in movies & on TV - **Revelation 4:8**
 2. Day and night, in other words, 24/7, God's name is proclaimed as HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!
 3. Listen to how the psalmists treat the name of God & His holiness - **Psalms 111:9; 99:9; 30:4**
3. Thus the Christian Bible removes all doubt as to the Holiness of the God that is taught about there
 1. The first four of the Ten Commandments deal with treating this Holy God properly
 2. Then the Apostle Peter gives us a powerful command in keeping with this - **I Peter 1:13-16**
 3. When we become God's holy children after being born-again, then we should live holy lives
4. The empty tomb of Jesus proves that Jesus is also worthy of this same holiness forever

Conclusion:

1. Please hear these words of the Christian Bible and of Jesus. Begin to take these instructions all the more seriously to increase the power and effectiveness of your prayers.
2. Rather than having to go just one certain place on earth, the Temple in Jerusalem, you and I can access the throne room and the ear of the Almighty God that created the universe from anywhere.
3. Let us learn to come before this HOLY God who dwells beyond this dimension in an intimate way that will grow out of a loving and trusting relationship. So intimate that we are to call Him Dad!
4. Not sure you are in a position to do this? Then we need to talk. During this next song, please come forward to me and we will make plans to meet and talk more about where you are spiritually.
5. Have another prayer need in your life for yourself or for another? Then you also are invited to step out and come forward so we can pray together in the name of this holy, loving Heavenly Father.
6. Come right now as we stand and sing this next song.