

THE LORD'S PRAYER (PART I)

LESSON 13

The Lord's Prayer is one common prayer that just about all Christians know. You have probably had it memorized since you were a small child. In this lesson and the next two lessons we will be studying the Lord's Prayer.

Before we begin studying the Lord's Prayer, we will take a look at prayer in general. First of all, what is prayer? Look on page 169 of *Luther's Small Catechism*.

Speaking to God in words and thoughts
To whom are we to pray? The triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Are we to pray to angels? Read Revelation 22:8,9. No
How should we pray? Read pages 171 and 172 in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

1. In Jesus' name
2. With confidence
3. According to God's revealed will

The Holy Spirit helps us pray. Read Romans 8:26. What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

1. helps us
2. Intercedes for us

We can be assured that God hears our prayers and will answer them. Read Isaiah 65:24.

When does God answer? Before they call

When does God hear? While they are still speaking

There are three possibilities of answers that God can give to our prayers and petitions. What are these three possibilities?

1. yes
2. No
3. Not now

We do not have to be in church to pray. We can pray more often than simply before meals or at bedtime. In fact, God wants us to pray wherever we are and at any given moment.

Read Psalm 50:15. When are we to pray? In times of trouble

Read I Thessalonians 5:17,18. When are we to pray? Continually

Read Luke 18:1. When are we to pray? Always

As Luther studied the Lord's Prayer, he broke it down into nine parts: introduction, seven

petitions, and conclusion. Part one of our study of the Lord's Prayer will include the introduction to the Lord's Prayer and the first two petitions.

To begin, who gave us the Lord's Prayer? Jesus

Under what circumstances did He give it to us? (See Luke 11:1)

The disciples asked Him to teach them to pray

When we understand what is being said in the Lord's Prayer, we will see that it is a very complete prayer touching all aspects of our relationship with God and our relationships with each other. (*One can see the two tables of the law being addressed here as well.*)

Introduction

The introduction to the Lord's Prayer is "OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN."

Why do we call God "our Father"?

- A. Because he is like a father to us.
- B. Because he really is our father.**
- C. Because Jesus said to call Him that.

The entire Lord's Prayer is written in the first person plural. This means we include ourselves with others. For instance, the Lord's Prayer says "our Father" rather than "my Father" and "give us this day" instead of "give me this day." Why do you think it was given to us in this form?

It is the prayer of the church. We pray it in unity with all believers

What does "in heaven" tell us about God? It tells where He dwells and how He is

above all things and greater than anything we can imagine

Does God come to us here on earth? Yes – in the Word

Saying "in heaven" is acknowledging that God is greater than any person or power. He is almighty and above all creatures of the earth. It reminds us of His love and His power to hear our prayer.

The First Petition

The first petition is "HALLOWED BE THY NAME."

What does "hallowed" mean? holy

There are several things we can do to keep God's name holy. Think of some of these.

1. we can hear God's word

2. we can learn God's Word

3. we can keep God's Word

4. we can speak God's Word (use His name properly with respect and awe)

If we are to do the above in order to keep God's name holy, then there are some things we should never do, because they would mean dishonoring the name of God.

What would be the opposite of using God's name with respect and awe?

Mocking and ridiculing God's name by word or action

The Second Petition

The second petition is "THY KINGDOM COME."

How does God's kingdom come to us? Read page 179 in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

By the Holy Spirit

What is God's kingdom? Look on page 179 in *Luther's Small Catechism*. What are the three aspects of God's kingdom?

1. The kingdom of power -- universe

2. The kingdom of grace -- church on earth

3. The kingdom of glory -- church and angels in heaven

For what are we praying when we say "Thy kingdom come"?

1. Read Colossians 1:13,14. That we belong to the kingdom of God

2. Read Matthew 9:38. That others will belong to the kingdom of God

3. 3. Read Acts 4:29. That we will be useful in bringing others to God's kingdom

4. Read Revelation 22:20. That Jesus will soon return

In this petition we want God's kingdom to keep coming to whom? Us

And we pray for God's kingdom to come to all people.

