

COMMANDS

THE 7 BASIC ~~SUGGESTIONS~~ OF JESUS

Prayer, the ability to speak directly to the Creator of the universe, is an incredible gift, honor, and responsibility. However, Jesus was clear that when it comes to prayer, the heart behind our prayer is just as important as the words we say. Let's take a closer look at what the Bible actually says about these two familiar terms.

The Lord's Prayer is a beautiful example of how we should pray. It also gives us an excellent standard to measure ourselves against as we approach the throne of the Most High God.

What does Jesus warn us against in the way he saw the hypocrites pray?
Who are those kinds of prayers really directed toward?

If God already knows what we need, why do we pray at all?

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN; HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME..

This phrase is so packed full of meaning. There's the community aspect of the word 'our.' There's the fact that we can call God something as intimate as Father, yet we also see the absolute respect commanded by His name alone.

How does your view of God shape your prayer life? _____

What do you need to shift to approach God as Jesus instructs? _____

YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE..

Examine your heart and consider in what ways you might be hesitant to pray for God's will. Are you open to seeing His will happen above your own? How could your life look different?

GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD...

God cares about our needs and what happens to us in our day to day life.

Do you lift your daily needs up to God, or do you hesitate to pray about seemingly little things?

What things do you normally thank God for? Are there things you don't often thank Him for providing?

FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.

In Jesus' time, debt was punishable by a prison sentence, or even death. Forgiveness of debt was no small thing. It was a gift of extravagant mercy. God's gift of forgiveness through Jesus should transform us into people who spread that same extravagant mercy to those around us.

In what ways has Christ's work on the cross cultivated such gratitude in you that you feel compelled to extend radical grace and forgiveness to others? Think of an example of a time when you extended such grace, or perhaps a time when you wish you had.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION; BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.

Is there a temptation you are seeking deliverance from?

If you are willing, share with the group so they can join you in battling it through prayer.

Take a few moments to read the entire passage again.

What might God be asking you to pay special attention to over the next few days?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

*Father, thank you for the incredible gift of being able
to come before your throne in prayer.*

May your name be glorified as we pray and as we live our lives.

*Change our hearts where we don't understand or accept your will
and create in us a heart willing to surrender to you.*

Amen.

This week, try putting the Lord's prayer into your own words, and use it to connect with God.