

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**After this manner therefore pray you: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. Matthew 6:9-13.**

The Lord's prayer was twice given by our Savior, first to the multitude in the sermon on the mount, and again, some months later, to the disciples alone. The disciples had been for a short time absent from their Lord, when on their return they found Him absorbed in communion with God. Seeming unconscious of their presence, He continued praying aloud. The Savior's face was irradiated with a celestial brightness. He seemed to be in the very presence of the Unseen; and there was a living power in His words, as of one who spoke with God...

As He ceased praying, it was with a conviction of their own deep need that they exclaimed, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Jesus gives them no new form of prayer. That which He has before taught them, He repeats, as if He would say: You need to understand what I have already given. It has a depth of meaning you have not yet fathomed.

The Savior does not, however, restrict us to the use of these exact words. As one with humanity, He presents His own ideal of prayer, words so simple that they may be adopted by the little child, yet so comprehensive that their significance can never be fully grasped by the greatest minds. We are taught to come to God with our tribute of thanksgiving, to make known our wants, to confess our sins, and to claim His mercy in accordance with His promise.

Pray, though the gift you ask for  
May never comfort your fears,  
May never repay your pleading,  
Yet pray with hopeful tears.  
An answer-not that you long for,  
But diviner-will come one day,  
Your eyes are too dim to see it, Yet strive and wait and pray.  
ADELAIDE PROCTOR.

Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, pages 151-153.

O Thou who made the blind ones see In days of old in Galilee, But give us faith, restore our sight, That we grope no more in earth's dark night Nor walk again forbidden ways. Grant in the love that lights our days We follow Thee till life is done, And then go home at set of sun. Then may we see Thy face divine, And in Thy radiance that day shine.

INEZ BRASIER

## THE EXERCISE OF FAITH

**Therefore I say unto you, What things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them. Mark 11:24.**

Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together in the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that every one who would make his lifework a success must understand. Christ says, "What things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them." Mark 11:24. He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal.

For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christ like temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received.

We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we

already possess, will be realized when we need it most.” - Education, pages 257, 258.

From the simple Bible account of how Jesus healed the sick, we may learn something about how to believe in Him for the forgiveness of sins. Let us turn to the story of the paralytic at Bethesda. The poor sufferer was helpless; he had not used his limbs for thirty-eight years. Yet Jesus bade him, “Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.” The sick man might have said, “Lord, if Thou wilt make me whole, I will obey Thy word.” But no, he believed Christ’s word, believed that he was made whole, and he made the effort at once; he willed to walk, and he did walk. He acted on the word of Christ, and God gave the power. He was made whole.

In like manner you are a sinner. You cannot atone for your past sins, you cannot change your heart, and make yourself holy. But God promises to do all this for you through Christ. You believe that promise. You confess your sins, and give yourself to God. You will to serve Him. Just as surely as you do this, God will fulfill His word to you. If you believe the promise, believe that you are forgiven and cleansed, God supplies the fact; you are made whole, just as Christ gave the paralytic power to walk when the man believed that lie was healed. It is so if you believe it....

Jesus says, “What things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.” Mark 11:24. There is a condition to this promise, that we pray according to the will of God. But it is the will of God to cleanse us from sin, to make us His children, and to enable us to live a holy life. So we may ask for these blessings, and believe that we receive them, and thank God that we have received them. It is our privilege to go to Jesus and be cleansed, and to stand before the law without shame or remorse. “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Romans 8:1. - Ibid., pages 54-56.

## **KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS**

**Whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. I John 3:22.**

Only as we live in obedience to His word can we claim the fulfillment of His promises. The psalmist says, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” If we render to Him only a partial, half-hearted obedience, His promises will not be fulfilled to us.” - Ministry of Healing, page 227.

So it is with every other one of God’s requirements. All His gifts are promised on condition of obedience. God has a heaven full of blessings for those who will co-operate with Him. All who obey Him may with confidence claim the fulfillment of His promises.” - Christ’s Object Lessons, page 145.

It was not enough that the ark and the sanctuary were in the midst of Israel. It was not enough that the priests offered sacrifices, and that the people were called the children of God. The Lord does not regard the request of those who cherish iniquity in the heart; it is written that “he that turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.” - Patriarchs and Prophets, page 584.

As Christ lived the law in humanity, so we may do if we will take hold of the Strong for strength. But we are not to place the responsibility of our duty upon others, and wait for them to tell us what to do. We cannot depend for counsel upon humanity. The Lord will teach us our duty just as willingly as He will teach somebody else. If we come to Him in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Our hearts will often burn within us as One draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. Those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease God, will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to pursue. And they will receive not only wisdom, but strength. Power for obedience, for service, will be imparted to them, as Christ has promised. Whatever was given to Christ, the “all things” to supply the need of fallen men,-was given to Him as the head and representative of humanity. And “whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.” - The Desire of Ages, page 668.

Our works bear witness to us. Our faith cannot be hidden. Life is a traitor, and tells the secret we would keep. We imagine we believe one thing, and do, in reality, believe another. . . . How shall we find out what we believe? By noting that upon which we act. -ELIZA T. CLAPP.

## **RECONCILED TO OTHERS**

**If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there remembers that thy brother hath aught against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Matthew 5:23, 24.**

When one who professes to serve God wrongs or injures a brother, he misrepresents the character of God to that brother, and the wrong must be confessed, he must acknowledge it to be sin, in order to be in harmony with God. Our brother may have done us a greater wrong than we have done him, but this does not lessen our responsibility. If when we come before God we remember that another has ought against us, we are to leave our gift of prayer, of thanksgiving, of free-will offering, and go to the brother with whom we are at variance, and in humility confess our own sin, and ask to be forgiven.

If we have in any manner defrauded or injured our brother, we should make restitution. If we have unwittingly borne false witness, if we have misstated his words, if we have injured his influence in any way, we should go to the ones with whom we have conversed about him, and take back all our injurious misstatements.” - *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pages 91, 92.

We should not allow our feelings to be easily wounded. We are to live, not to guard our feelings or our reputation, but to save souls. As we become interested in the salvation of souls, we cease to mind the little differences that so often arise in our association with one another. Whatever others may think of us or do to us, it need not disturb our oneness with Christ, the fellowship of the Spirit. “What glory is it if, when you be buffeted for your faults, you shall take it patiently? But if, when you do well, and suffer for it, you take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.”

Do not retaliate. So far as you can do so, remove all cause for misapprehension. Avoid the appearance of evil. Do all that lies in your power, without the sacrifice of principle, to conciliate others....

If impatient words are spoken to you, never reply in the same spirit. Remember that “a soft answer turns away wrath.” And there is wonderful power in silence. Words spoken in reply to one who is angry sometimes serve only to exasperate. But anger met with silence, in a tender, forbearing spirit, quickly dies away.

Under a storm of stinging, faultfinding words, keep the mind stayed upon the word of God. Let mind and heart be stored with God's promises. If you are ill treated or wrongfully accused, instead of returning an angry answer, repeat to yourself the precious promises.” - *Ministry of Healing*, pages 485, 486.