

Have a Great Summer Season in the Lord!

"Pray, then, in this way: *'Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.*

'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

'Give us this day our daily bread.

'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.'

(Matt. 6:9-13)

This is the great prayer that our Lord Jesus taught His disciples. And because we are His followers too when we accepted Him as our Savior, we ought to know and understand what this prayer is so it will reach the throne of grace when we pray.

'Our Father' – we call on Him to be our sole Father, be it in heaven or on earth. Though we're given an earthly father, we still look to God as our heavenly and earthly Father as well. We worship Him; we adore Him; we obey Him and we do everything and anything for His glory. How wonderful it is to have a Father! We can feel His love. We can feel His protection. We can feel His embrace and we don't feel alone. *"See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God."* (1 John 3:1)

'who art in heaven' – our Father is in heaven; that's His dwelling place so to speak. However, remember He is also in us, living in our heart by His Holy Spirit. Because He is an omnipresent God. *"Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the Lord, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other."* (Deut. 4:39)

'hallowed be Thy name' - His name is to be revered; to be honored; to be exalted. One of

His commandments says we should not take the name of God in vain. This means we should not use His name lightly. We should live up to being a good Christian to show the world that we really have Him in our hearts.

'Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.' We need to pray for God's promises to come to pass as Henry Matthew, a prominent theologian in his commentary suggests. His will is always best for us. We need to pray for His perfect will to be accomplished in our lives. We do not know the future neither what is best for us. Only God knows and He can guide us through prayer, a constant communion with the Holy Spirit.

'Give us this day our daily bread' - we need to ask God for our daily subsistence. *"Ask, and it shall be given to you..."* (Matt. 7:7) God knows our needs but we still have to pray about it because that's what He wants us to do. He is God. We obey Him. We ask His direction how, and where He wants us to earn a living in order that we can get the things we need to sustain ourselves physically. This bread, according to Henry Matthew, is not only for ourselves but also for our loved ones as well as helping the poor and needy.

'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.' We need to ask God's forgiveness for any sins we have committed. We need to come clean before His presence. In order to do this, we should make sure we have forgiven anyone that has offended us. Confess to the Lord how you feel about someone who has hurt our feelings. Tell Him we choose to forgive him/her and then implore Him to forgive us as well. This is important so our prayers will not be hindered. ... *that your prayers be not hindered.* (1 Pet. 3:7)

'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.' God does not tempt us to do evil. *"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone."* (James 1:13) In fact, God protects us from temptation if we draw ourselves to Him. He sends His angels to snatch us away from the hands of evil. *"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."* (Ps. 91:11) We should never neglect to pray for His protecting hands to be always upon us. He will always extend His mighty hands to deliver us from all harm. *"Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father."* (Gal. 1:4)

'For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever...' The kingdom, the power and the glory belong to God alone. However, because we are children of God, as we are in Christ, what belongs to Him belongs to us too, except the **glory**. He will be the one to glorify us and we should never seek glory from others. We need to give Him the glory immediately when He empowers us that might have caused people to puff us up. We should decline it right away so God will not take away the power and anointing He is giving us to glorify His name. *"Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."* (1 Pet. 4:11)