

# The Prayer That God Rewards

Matthew 6:9-13

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**FOCAL Read Together** **Matthew 6:9-13** After this manner therefore pray ye: **Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. (11) Give us this day our daily bread. (12) And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. (13) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

There were three friends out deer hunting, a doctor, a lawyer, and a pastor. All three saw – off in the distance – a beautiful fourteen point buck. All three men took aim and shot, and the buck went down. As they walked toward their prize they began to debate over who had shot the buck. The doctor, after examining it, declared “my friend the pastor surely killed it”. The lawyer said, “How do you know that?” to which he replied, “The bullet went in one ear and out the other”.

I hope that the message that God has given me tonight won't “go in one ear and out the other”.

Our nation is falling. Sin is rampant. We are in a day when **men call evil good and good evil**. Just before God destroyed His nation Israel in the Old Testament He said:

**Isaiah 5:20-21** **Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (21) Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!**

When the moral compass is gone, the nation cannot stand. We no longer have a moral compass in America. Men draw a circle on a piece of paper, draw a pointer in that circle and say “this points east” - and east is no where to be found. How can we fix America?

A newspaper once ran a write in poll asking the question, “What's wrong with our nation?” All types of people wrote back. Some wrote long essays on poverty, others on environmental problem, others wrote about the high tax rates. One man by the name of **G.K. Chesterton** wrote back a very simple response. He wrote “**I am**”.

Dear friends, if America has fallen – and it has – each and every one of us are responsible.

How can I fix America? I can fix America by being the very best Christian that God wants me to be. I can start being a part of the solution, not part of the problem.

The early Christians who followed Jesus were living in the middle of a terrible society, one much worse than the one we live in today. **The religious people of the day were called *Pharisees and Sadducees***. The Sadducees were the liberal religious crowd. They didn't believe the Bible was the Word of God, and only accepted the parts that suited them. The Pharisees were the conservative religious crowd. They knew all about the Bible, but didn't have a clue as to Who its Author was. Both Pharisees as well as Sadducees *made a show of religion*. When they *tithed* they made a show of their religion.

**Matthew 6:2** Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

They blew trumpets and tooted their own horn so that everyone knew that they gave. Jesus warned said “**if you belong to Me, don't you do that. God will not reward such giving**”. Giving so that others can see it and pat you on the back for it doesn't honor God. Your motive is all wrong. The Pharisees and Sadducees also loved to

**Matthew 6:5** And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

turn their prayer into a show. They would purposely go to the middle of a busy marketplace and, with all fanfare, make a show of praying. God does not reward such praying! God does not honor showy praying, nor does He honor mindless praying. Jesus said:

**Matthew 6:7** But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

**Word Study** The word translated “**vain repetitions**” is the Greek BATTOLOGEO, βαττολογεω

(pronounced bat-tol-og-eh'-o), which means “to stutter, stammer, or to say the same words over and over again”.

**Prayer is to be a spiritual thing, communication between God the Father and His child.** Prayer is not a series of mindless babblings as some do, over and over again. Prayer is communication – believer to God, created to Creator, child to Father. We are to

**1 Corinthians 14:15 .... pray with the spirit, and .... pray with the understanding also ...**

The way we as believers will fix America is by fixing ourselves first. We must pray the prayer that God rewards. We must pray the prayer that God hears – and honors. That begins by praying as Jesus taught us to pray.

### **1. The Prayer That God Rewards Is Selfless**

It is Doctor Luke who tells us that

**Luke 11:1** And it came to pass, that, as {Jesus} was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

**ILLUSTRATE** I have often heard women who, being good cooks themselves, they get together and swap recipes. As an eating man I'm all for that. I love it when my wife and I taste a wonderful dish at a Church social

and my wife finds whoever made it so as to get the recipe. That's exactly what we're looking at today. Jesus had been praying with His disciples and once He was done one of the men – a very wise man – said “Lord, I want your recipe! Teach us to pray”. And Who better to teach us to pray than Jesus, for it is Jesus' praying abilities that keeps the true believer saved. The Scripture says:

**Hebrews 7:25** Wherefore {Jesus} is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

What did Jesus teach us in prayer? Look at the prayer. Jesus said:

**FOCAL** **Matthew 6:9-13** After this manner therefore pray ye: **Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. (11) Give us this day our daily bread. (12) And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. (13) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Do you notice what is *missing* from this prayer?  
**There is absolutely no I in it!**

Jesus doesn't teach us to say “**MY Father Who is in Heaven**”. He doesn't say “**Give ME this day MY daily bread, and forgive ME MY debts as I forgive MY**

debtors. Lead ME not into temptation, but deliver ME from evil.” The prayer is entirely selfless, just as Jesus Himself was entirely selfless.

Christ is love. God is love. The Word of God is about love. The prayer that honors is filled with love. Not self love, which is selfishness, but love to God and love to one another. Notice how the prayer begins. Jesus said:

**FOCAL** **Matthew 6:9** After this manner therefore pray ye: **Our Father**

What beautiful words! **Our Father**. Look first at the word “**Our**”. That means “**US**”.

True worship is based on US, on our oneness with one another and with Christ.

**ILLUSTRATE** I have spoken to many people about coming to Church to worship the Lord, and many say “**I can worship God just as well in the woods**”. One of our past Presidents **Theodore Roosevelt** felt it was his Christian duty to go and worship God with his Church. One person told Roosevelt “**I can worship God just as well in the woods**”. The President replied, “**Doubtless you can, but no one will suspect you of it**”. Look throughout the Scripture – if you will – and count up the number of times that a man or woman has worshiped God in the woods or at home hid among their stuff. The Bible tells me that **Nicodemus came to Jesus by night** to talk with Jesus, but Jesus told him:

**John 3:3** Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

Nicodemus was a lost man seeking the Lord. The lost don't mind walking in the dark and worshiping God off by themselves – if such a thing can even be called worship – but believers are different. We work together for our Lord. We pray together to our Lord. We are the WE of God who obey OUR Father.

**1 John 1:6-7** If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

**ILLUSTRATE** Both Nicodemus as well as Joseph of Arimathaea came to Jesus by night and tried to be hidden disciples. But once they truly believed and were born again of God they became part of the **OUR of God**. It was these two men who boldly went and got the body of Jesus down from the Cross, and who got permission from Pilate to place our Precious Savior's corpse into a borrowed tomb (**John 19:38**).

**1 John 4:18-19** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (19) We love him, because he first loved us.

We pray “**Our Father**” because we are no longer citizens of this world. We are part of a greater Family, and have the Great God as our Father.

**Ephesians 3:14-15** For this cause I bow my knees unto the **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,**

**Christians, it is time that we realize that what we have – if we have it rightly – is the cure for America.**

The Christian way of life is selfless, just as our Master was selfless. The Christian way of life is loving, just as our God is loving. The Christian way of life is centered on Christ, just as this prayer is taught of Christ.

You might ask me, “But can't my prayer ever be just for me? Isn't there a time when I shouldn't seek the Lord's face for myself?”

Yes, there are times we should have the “I” in prayer, but certainly not as much as we do. Jesus said in our context:

**Matthew 6:7-8** But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. **(8) Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.**

God is **our FATHER**. He knows our needs, and certainly doesn't mind us praying for our needs. Even Jesus Himself prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane:

**Matthew 26:39** .... **O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.**

He prayed that the **cup of suffering** and the **cup of sin** would pass from Him, if possible. Yet Jesus – though He prayed this prayer *three times* – ended with **nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt**. Jesus had to go to that Cross for us. He had to die. His Blood had to be shed so that payment could be made for us. As the Scripture says:

**Galatians 4:4-7** But when the fullness of the time was come, **God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, (5) To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. (6) And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. (7) Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son;** and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Love redeemed us. Love suffered for us. Love died for us. Love rose again for us. Love brought us **nigh unto God** so that now **He is our Father**.

As our Father, dear friends, we **are not spiritual orphans**. We are His Children, and He is our Father. In prayer we honor Him!

## **2. The Prayer That God Rewards Is**

## The Prayer That Glorifies The Father

**FOCAL** Matthew 6:9-10 ... **Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Word Study** Jesus told us to pray “Our Father Who art in Heaven, HALLOWED be Thy Name”. That word “Hallowed” is the Aorist Passive Imperative of HAGIADZO (ἁγιαζω, pronounced hag-ee-ad'-zo), which means “to be holy”. The Passive Voice means that the *Subject (God's Name) is to receive the action of the verb.*

What Jesus was literally praying for was not that God's Name be holy – for His Name is Holy! He was saying “Father, command that Your Name be Hallowed!”.

**When a nation falls, it falls at the lips before it falls at the hand.** When the people of a nation begin to curse the Holy Name of God by either taking His Name in vain – or by ascribing it to some false god – it is not long before that nation wallows in the trough of destruction!

Have you ever considered that God allowed Adam to name all the creatures of the earth. He even allowed Adam to name Eve, saying

**Genesis 2:23 .... This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because**

**she was taken out of Man.**

**For all that, man was never allowed to name God.**

When God called Moses to go to Egypt and lead Israel out of bondage that old gentleman asked the Lord:

**Exodus 3:13-14 ... Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? (14) And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.**

We as believers need to pray that God's Name is hallowed. God has said:

**Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.**

When we pray, we pray that **God hallow His Name.** We pray that **God's will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.** We pray that God be glorified, and His Name be magnified – and we pray that He makes it so.

Over and over again in Scripture the Bible says that **God guards His Name.** Though America is falling and failing the Lord says:

**1 Samuel 12:22 For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.**

Praise be unto God! I now that this particular text was not written *to us*, but it was surely written *for us*. God does not save a people then abandon a people.

He did not save you by shedding His Blood on Calvary, mocked, scorned, beaten and bruised, now to leave you hopeless! Absolutely not! **God will not forsake His people for His Name's sake.** “Father” we pray, “let Your Name be hallowed, let Your Name be magnified throughout America. Cast down those who mock You. Save those Who call upon You. Do so for Your Glory. Glorify thy Name!”

**Psalms 23:3** He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**Psalms 25:11** For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.

**Psalms 31:3** For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.

**Psalms 79:9** Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

Oh here is the golden prayer, **Father, glorify Thy Name! Make us a people who glorify Thy Name!**

As Jesus prayed in another place:

**John 12:23-28** And Jesus answered them, saying, **The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. (24) Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. (25) He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. (26) If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor. (27) Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. (28) Father, glorify thy name.** Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, **I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.**

Let all glory be unto God. The Lord taught us to pray:

**FOCAL Matthew 6:9-10** ... **Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**

Only after we pray that God be glorified, and His Name be magnified – only then do we pray “**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.**”

The prayer that God honors begins and ends with His glory. **Lord, give us bread – but only if it brings You glory. Lord, forgive our sins – and let that bring You glory. Lord, deliver us from evil – and**

let that bring You glory.

### 3. The Prayer That God Rewards Leads Us Away From Shallow Superficial Christianity

What was the difference between most of the Christians in the early Church and many of the Christians who *profess* Jesus Christ as Savior today? Depth.

Many of those who profess Christ as Savior have never gone into the deeper waters of the Christian experience because they are so *me centered*. Throughout America there are

- Christians who have pulled their children out of Church because “there weren't enough programs to satisfy their children”.
- Christians who can't come to Church on a regular basis because they have “other, more important things to do”.
- Christians who can't come to Church if its too cold, too hot, too rainy, too sunny.
- Christians who can't come to Church because of people they dislike or have had an argument.

When we pray the prayer that God rewards we are reminded that **Christianity is not about ME, its about GOD. It's about magnifying and glorifying God.** The

early Christian risked his life by being a Christian and by following the Lord Jesus. Many believers were captured by Rome and – mocking the Lord Jesus Who said “**you are the light of the world**” - the Roman Emperor Caesar tied them to stakes and set them on fire as if they were candles. But Christians stood up for the glory of God! They knew they would be hated of men, so they proudly submitted to the most atrocious things.

And in time, Rome fell – but the Word of God in Christ kept spreading. We will win if we will pray and work toward God's glory. Magnify God with all your hearts!

And if you care nothing at all for God's glory, consider your own eternal state. We are told in another place:

**1 Peter 4:14-16** If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. (15) But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. (16) Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

The Christian – saved by the Blood of the Son – delights in bringing glory to God. If you care nothing for His glory then you are none of His. If that is the case, call upon the Name of Jesus and be saved!

May God touch your hearts with His Word.

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Isaiah 5:20-21; Matthew 6:2; Matthew 6:5; Matthew 6:7; 1 Corinthians 14:15

**Word Study** The word translated “vain repetitions” is the Greek **BATTOLOGEO**, βαττολογεω (pronounced bat-tol-og-eh'-o), which means \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. The Prayer That God Rewards Is Selfless

Luke 11:1; Hebrews 7:25; Matthew 6:9-13; Matthew 6:9; John 3:3; 1 John 1:6-7; John 19:38; 1 John 4:18-19; Ephesians 3:14-15; Matthew 6:7-8; Matthew 26:39; Galatians 4:4-7

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### 2. The Prayer That God Rewards Is The Prayer That Glorifies The Father

Matthew 6:9-10; Genesis 2:23; Exodus 3:13-14; Exodus 20:7; 1 Samuel 12:22; Psalms 23:3; Psalms 25:11; Psalms 31:3; Psalms 79:9; John 12:23-28; Matthew 6:9-10

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