

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



No. 23 – August 28th



by Kathy Hansen

Dependence on God in Prayer

ourselves. Prayer is an ongoing dialogue with God, where we acknowledge our dependence on him. Prayer continues the relationship we started with God, through Jesus' death and resurrection. God speaks to us through his Word, and his Word made flesh, and we respond with prayer.

God knows that our lives work best when we depend on him. God's goal in dependence on him is for us to persevere, grow as Christians, and glorify him. God is not going to make our problems disappear, if by doing so, we will move further away from him. He will help us find a way through our problems, by trusting in him.

I am an alcoholic. I can only manage my alcoholism by continually asking God for help with it. Whenever I get complacent and stop praying about it; things start to unravel. Bit by

Sometimes I feel like I am pestering God over and over again, with the same problem. Why can't I get to the stage where I can work it out myself, manage it and be self-sufficient. What is the point of praying continually about our problems if they never go away?

Prayer is not a self-improvement technique. It's not a project to find

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The Lord's Prayer

by Nicky Gangemi



The Lord's Prayer. You probably know the words like the back of your hand and they can roll off your tongue without much thought as to what each line actually means. In this article we will have a:

- (i) deeper look at the prayer line by line and
- (ii) how it can help shape our regular, daily prayers.

Our Father in heaven, your name be honoured as holy.

- (i) This reminds us of who we are praying to. Even though we can call God our Father, we are to remember that He is Holy and should be treated thus. We should personally honour Him and revere Him and we should desire to see this happen around the world.
- (ii) When we pray it is good to acknowledge who God is. We can use this as a reminder to ourselves of how close God is to us, our friend, our Father, the one who loves us deeply, but also of how magnificent He is, an all-consuming-fire, completely Just, Sinless, and Holy.

Your kingdom come.

- (i) When we understand that this life is not all that there is. When we realise that we should be longing for heaven, we will want to pray 'you Kingdom come' as we desire Jesus to return to herald in the new era of God's Kingdom.
- (ii) I pray this regularly, it keeps my eyes set on heaven and it helps to shape the content of my prayers. When I am reminded that the day-to-day struggles of life will pale in comparison with the eternal glory of heaven I cannot but call on God to send Jesus back so we begin our life in eternity with Him.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

- (i) Heaven is where life is lived out in perfect relationship with God. We should desire the things that God desires, people living for Him, people living at peace with one another, no more tears and pain – no sin.
- (ii) This line reminds us to pray for God's will to reign in our wider world and also to pray for God's will to be done in us personally (this can sometimes be a very scary prayer as we think about how radically our lives need to change to fall in line

with God's will).

Give us today our daily bread.

- (i) Our daily bread doesn't mean our hearts desires and wants, it means the essential things we need to survive daily. In a spiritual sense, our daily bread is God's Word which nourishes our souls and gives us strength to serve Him.
- (ii) Notice where asking for things for ourselves falls in the prayer, it comes only after praying to God regarding His name, His Kingdom and His will. In Matthew 6:33 we are reminded that we should seek first God's Kingdom, then after that we can ask for the things we need, things to help us serve Him and glorify Him. It is good to keep this pattern in our prayers.

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

- (i) When we sin, even against others, we have sinned against God and so we need to ask forgiveness from Him (Psalm 51:2-5). We also should forgive others, just as God has forgiven us of our sins. Sometimes the sin against us is so great that we need to ask God to help us forgive.

- (ii) It is important that we don't just use our prayers to acknowledge God and to ask for things, but also to recognise our sinfulness and the sinfulness of the world around us. We need a correct view of our depravity.

And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

- (i) We ask God to help us to know what is wrong and to lead us away from those temptations and to protect us from Satan's scheming.
- (ii) It is following our request for forgiveness that we are reminded to be watchful and to plead with God that we won't be found to be back being tempted and falling into sin. We are weak ourselves and do not have the strength to resist Satan, but with God's power and His Holy Spirit we can.

Jesus shared this prayer with his disciples as a model to help them know how to pray. I hope this week's article helps you to understand the Lord's Prayer more deeply and how it can help shape your prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENT
Church Returns
Sunday 30th
August 8am
Call Adam
on 0457 775 538
15 Spots Remaining

bit, I start making poor choices. I think about alcohol more often. I start noticing alcohol ads. I fantasise about having a single civilised glass of wine. I linger outside grog shops. Each step is small, and seems harmless, but slowly and surely it leads me to the bottom of a bottle of wine. Then I realise my foolishness, throw myself on God's mercy and start praying about it again. Until the cycle starts again. Why do I act this way? Because I'm a sinful human; as a sinful human I

want to be self-sufficient and run my own life without God. As a Christian, I know I can never be self-sufficient and will always need God's guidance.

When we start a new job, we go through that uncomfortable period when we have to rely on someone else to help us, to show us the way. It's frustrating and embarrassing to keep asking for help. The trainer finds it equally uncomfortable and frustrating. Both parties want the new person to be competent and manage their duties on their own. After all, that's why we are employed in a role.

We want to be self-sufficient. It goes against the grain to depend on someone for help. We want to get to the stage where we can run our own life.

Our relationship with God turns this human wisdom completely on its head. We aspire to a self-sufficiency we will never have. We depend on God for everything, every day, for eternity, whether we acknowledge it or not. Self-sufficiency is a foolish delusion. Take away a non-Christian's life trappings, what do they have; nothing. Take away a Christian's life trappings, what do we have; everything.

God will not get tired of us asking for his help. He is not up there, rolling his eyes, thinking: doesn't she get it yet, when will she work it out, and leave me alone. He is saying: come closer child, I love you. I will hold you close, and through me, you will persevere.

Every prayer we bring before God, is underpinned by our dependence on him. I pray that I have courage, every day, to rejoice in my dependence on him; whatever my circumstances, however he uses them for my good. We are God's children. We can't run our own life. What's the point of being God's children if we don't depend on him?

Find-A-Word - Prayer

Acknowledge	Ecclesiology	Human	Remind
Bottom	Eternity	Kingdom	Revere
Bread	Forgive	Love	Sinful
Children	Frustration	Magnificent	Sufficient
Christian	Harmless	Period	Trainer
Earth	Holy	Perseverance	Trapping

T R A P P I N G S C N B I G V
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