

Luke 11:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Analysis

Jesus teaches: 'When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.' This prayer model begins with 'Our Father'—intimate relationship, not distant deity. 'Hallowed be thy name' (Greek 'hagiasthētō,' ἀγιασθήτω, let it be sanctified) prioritizes God's glory—His name, character, and reputation. 'Thy kingdom come' requests God's reign advancing. 'Thy will be done' submits to divine sovereignty. The pattern moves from God's glory (name, kingdom, will) to human needs (daily bread, forgiveness, temptation). Prayer begins with God-focus, not self-focus.

Historical Context

Jewish prayers emphasized God's sovereignty and holiness but typically addressed God more formally. Jesus' use of 'Father' (Aramaic 'Abba') was unusual, indicating intimate relationship. The Lord's Prayer became the church's foundational prayer, teaching proper priorities (God first, then needs) and proper attitude (humble dependence). The phrase 'Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth' requests earth to mirror heaven's perfect obedience. This prayer shaped Christian liturgy and spiritual formation for two millennia, teaching that authentic prayer worships God before requesting anything.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does beginning prayer with 'Our Father' rather than immediate requests teach about prayer's proper focus and attitude?
2. How does the structure of the Lord's Prayer (God's glory first, then human needs) correct self-centered prayer patterns?

Interlinear Text

εἴπειν δὲ αὐτοῖς Ὄταν προσεύχησθε λέγετε Πάτερ
he said And unto them When ye pray say Father
G2036 G1161 G846 G3752 G4336 G3004 G3962

ἡμῶν τὴς ἐν τὴς οὐρανῷ, ἀγιασθήτω τὴς ὄνομά
Our which art in which heaven Hallowed be which name
G2257 G3588 G1722 G3588 G3772 G37 G3588 G3686

σου ἐλθέτω τὴς βασιλεία σου γενηθήτω τὴς θέλημά
Thy come which kingdom Thy be done which will
G4675 G2064 G3588 G932 G4675 G1096 G3588 G2307

σου ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ, καὶ ἐπὶ τὴς γῆς
Thy as art in heaven so in which earth
G4675 G5613 G1722 G3772 G2532 G1909 G3588 G1093

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 5:2 (Parallel theme): Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

Psalms 11:4 (Parallel theme): The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

2 Chronicles 20:6 (Kingdom): And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?

Revelation 15:4 (Parallel theme): Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Revelation 20:4 (Kingdom): And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Isaiah 63:16 (Parallel theme): Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.

Psalms 57:11 (Parallel theme): Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth.

Ephesians 1:2 (Parallel theme): Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:3 (Parallel theme): Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:2 (Parallel theme): Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.