

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,' ἁγιασθήτω, 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

Psalms 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

εἶπεν	δὲ	αὐτοῖς	Ὅταν	προσεύχησθε	λέγετε	Πάτερ	
he said	And	unto them	When	ye pray	say	Father	
G2036	G1161	G846	G3752	G4336	G3004	G3962	
ἡμῶν	τῆς	ἐν	τῆς	οὐρανῶ,	ἀγιασθήτω	τῆς	ὀνομα
Our	which	art in	which	heaven	Hallowed be	which	name
G2257	G3588	G1722	G3588	G3772	G37	G3588	G3686
σου	ἐλθέτω	τῆς	βασιλεία	σου	γενηθήτω	τῆς	θέλημά
Thy	come	which	kingdom	Thy	be done	which	will
G4675	G2064	G3588	G932	G4675	G1096	G3588	G2307
σου	ὥς	ἐν	οὐρανῶ,	καὶ	ἐπὶ	τῆς	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.