



Psalms 145:18 teaches us that: "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth."

2Chronicles 7:14 adds: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, He laid out clearly how we ought to address the Father:

Matthew 6:6: "When you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

In other words, praying is addressing the Father from the heart and seeking His will above all for our life.

Why?

1Corinthians 8:6: "For us *there is* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we live."

The reason Jesus said:

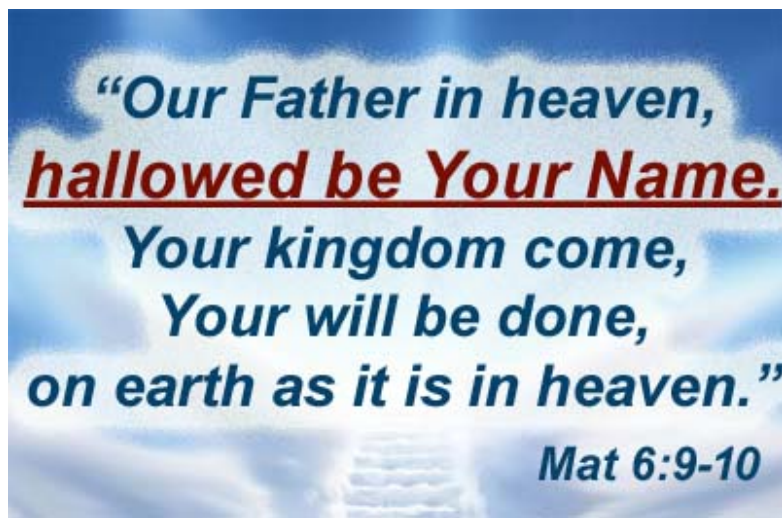
Luke 18:1: "That men always ought to pray and not lose heart."

Therefore:

Hebrews 4:16: "Let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Do I realize how fundamental to my faith it is, that I first seek to honor God through prayer?

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As His creation, we owe solemn reverence to God. The reason why, in speaking of the four living creatures we read:

Revelation 4:8: “And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”

The word “holy” is defined as One to be exalted and worthy of complete devotion. In other words, God is holy and is to be honored for who He is, the Creator, Almighty in power, the Great I Am, the Supreme Eternal Being, therefore deserving our praise and worship from the heart.

How so?

John 4:23: “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”

Psalms 100:4: “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His Name.”

Revelation 14:7: “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

The reason Psalms 145:18 proclaim: “The LORD *is* near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.”

How devoted am I to worship God in truth, and in shining the light of Christ through my life right now?

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In praying to our Heavenly Father, our heart must be focused on seeking His kingdom and live to abide by His will.

The reason Matthew 6:10 says: "Your Kingdom come."

How does God's Kingdom come into our life?

Deuteronomy 6:5: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."

Deuteronomy 10:12: "What does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul."

Consequently, Jesus commanded and affirmed:

Matthew 6:33: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

John 6:51: "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever."

John 12:26: "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."

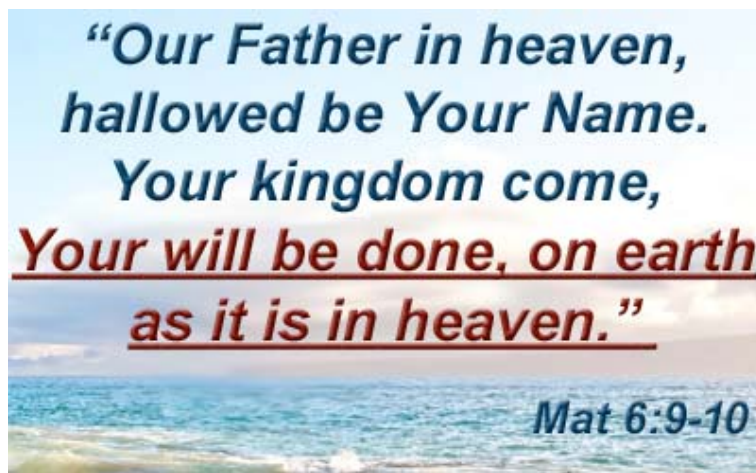
What then should our heart attitude be towards God?

Psalm 86:12: "With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God. I will give glory to Your name forever."

1Timothy 1:17: "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever."

How active am I to seek God's kingdom for my life?

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How did Jesus show us the way, and steadfastly committed Himself to do the will of the Father?

John 6:38: “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

Luke 22:41-42: “He knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”

John 4:34: “Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”

Luke 9:23: “Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

How is that achieved?

Romans 12:2: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Ephesians 5:15-17: “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

The warning being:

Matthew 7:21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

How committed am I to live by the Word of God so His will is done in my life?

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In His teachings on how to pray, Jesus clearly defined that God must be preeminent in all that we seek in this life.

How must we therefore address our requests for daily living?

Matthew 6:11: “Give us this day our daily bread.”

How did Jesus further lead us in seeking God’s provision for life?

Matthew 6:31-33: “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Luke 12:24: “Look at the ravens. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to Him than any birds!”

Therefore:

Philippians 4:6-7: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19: “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Am I thankful to God that my needs are fulfilled, or do I rather seek the pleasures of the world?

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Jesus further declared:

Matthew 6:15: "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Who is our greatest example and source of forgiveness?

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

In essence, even if we did not deserve to be forgiven, God sent Jesus to lead us into the path of redemption, and He even paid the price through suffering and death on the cross so we could be forgiven, if we truly believe in Him.

Jesus explained further the nature of true forgiveness when Peter asked Him:

Matthew 18:21-22: "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

Then in Matthew 5:44 He added, "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Therefore:

Ephesians 4:31-32: "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

How committed am I to forgive those who offend me?

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What does the Word of God teach us about resisting temptations?

James 1:14: "Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire."

1Corinthians 10:13: "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

James 1:12: "Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

Therefore:

Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God."

Mark 14:38: "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

James 4:7: "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Romans 13:14: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts."

Ephesians 6:13: "Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Am I steadfastly wearing the armor of God so as to be empowered to resist temptations?

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