

Sermon ~ Sunday, September 20, 2020 by Pastor D. Benoit
Text: Matthew 6: 9-13 (Please read it all and again)
Title: “If You Pray, Follow JESUS’ Pattern!”

Not that it has *not* been in the past, but these are ‘*praying times!*’ I hold to this ‘*truth!*’,

“When **GOD** places a *burden* upon you, **HE** places **HIS Arms** underneath you!”

For some, this is a *remembrance call*, but for most this is an answer to today’s *greatest need*,

“If You Pray, Follow JESUS’ Pattern!”

This *teaching* of **JESUS** in this text, is mistakenly called “**The LORD’S Prayer.**” [It is not **The LORD’S Prayer**] Matthew, instead, records the *Prayer* that **JESUS** used to *teach* us how to *pray*. **HIS disciples** had asked, “**LORD**, *teach* us to *pray*,” (Luke 11: 1), and **The LORD** *taught* them with this *Pattern!*

You know **GOD** has carried *me* to Africa some 22 times now... but I’ll never forget (Dr. William J. Harvey, Executive Secretary of Foreign Mission Board of NBC, USA, Inc., and tour Leader) saying to our Team in 1993; ‘Boys, as we meet the Chief of Districts, Prime Ministers, or if men or woman approach us bowing before us, do know, it’s their ‘custom’... respect their ‘custom’! {NO, we did not bow to anyone. But there were ‘customs’ we had to respect!!!}

Now if that is necessary as we visit Foreign Countries, it’s more necessary when and...

“If You Pray, Follow JESUS’ Pattern!”

Point One, when you come before **GOD**, “*If You Pray*,” **JESUS** says, you must say, “*Our FATHER...*” Please *hear JESUS... HE’S teaching HIS disciples* (Matthew 5: 1—Matthew, chapter 7) ... *First*, you’re recognizing **HIM** as ‘*our*’; *disciples*, followers, learners, students of **JESUS...** the ‘Born-Again’; the Blood bought; the Saved: John 1: 12, Acts 4: 12; Romans 10: 9-13. *Then* recognizing **HIM** as ‘**FATHER.**’ **HE’S not** “the man upstairs,” “**HE’S our FATHER.**” **HE’S not** some ordinary man!

JESUS continues, “...**WHO** *art* in Heaven...” That’s **HIS location**, “*If You Pray*”, to **HIM**. **HE’S not** Father Divine at the local, Basilica. **HE’S not** the guy on the West end of town, neither North, South nor East, who think they are **GOD!** You’ve got to go higher than that. **HE’S**, “*Our FATHER*, which *art* in Heaven.” **HE’S our heavenly FATHER.** Though Heaven is way up there; do know, Heaven is *wherever JESUS is...* *If JESUS is* in your heart, don’t guess, but know, Heaven is there!!! Likewise, “*If You Pray*”, we should approach **GOD** respectfully, “*Our FATHER* which *art* in Heaven...”

Point Two, recognize **GOD'S** importance, "*Hallowed be Thy Name.*" In other words, "Oh, how *Wonderful, Glorious, Marvelous* is **Thy Name!**" *Point One*, realize **WHO** you are talking too. Don't start out saying, "I *need* this, I *need* that." Start out giving **GOD** honor, praise and thanksgiving. Spend a little time just "*Blessing HIS Holy Name. The Name JESUS!*" Like David, "Bless **The LORD**, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless **HIS Holy Name.**" (Psalm 103: 1)

{Think for a moment: **WHO**, woke you up this morning? **WHO**, brought you thus far? **WHO** gives you taste, smell, touch, sight, hearing, a mind to know colors? **WHO** causes your heart to beat, your bowels to move; the mobility of limbs? **WHO, WHO, WHO—** What a **Mighty GOD** we serve!}

HE'S a *in Time* **GOD**, yes, **HE** is... "*Hallowed be Thy Name.*" *Remember*, when we were able to meet at the Church-house... Sunday School started at 9:00am; Morning Worship at 10:00am; Evening Worship at 5:00pm; Mid-week Worship at 6:00pm... *Remember*, how most of you were never in time... straggling in... not so, with their Jobs, their Doctors appointment, the Movies... these you are expected to be in time. "*Our FATHER*" promised that when **HIS** people are gathered together there, **HE** will be in their midst. (Matthew 18: 20)

"*Hallowed be Thy Name.*" When you go to Court, customary, the bailiff would say, "All rise", when The Judge enters the courtroom. You automatically, show your respect by standing. When we say, "Let us pray," and you're still looking around, **The HOLY SPIRIT** looks down on that with disdain. Because "*Hallowed is HIS Name.*"

Point Three, we pray, "*Thy KINGdom* come. *Thy Will* be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven." Every **CHRISTian**; every believer of **GOD in CHRIST**; every *disciple* of **JESUS**, "*If You Pray*", we ought be praying, "*Thy KINGdom* come." One of the problems we were having in the world was, Church-house goers who were not **KINGdom** conscious. They go to the Church-house out of *habit, happening* and *happiness*. But what if, "*If You Pray, Thy KINGdom* come... Fathers, Mothers, sisters, brothers, grands and great-grands, cousins and kinfolk... what *if*, "*If You Pray, Thy KINGdom* come... our homes, neighborhoods, City Councils, County Courts, the whole Country, from the White house to *my* house... What *if*, "*If You Pray, Thy KINGdom* come."

The KING—JESUS, in **HIS** '*domain*', there is always *Peace, Love, Joy; rest* for the weary. To often our number one reason for praying is "gimme." But this is not **JESUS' Pattern**. **JESUS Pattern** places *praying* for **The KINGdom** first.

Point Four, "And give us this day our *daily* bread." **JESUS'** *tells* us to pray for our daily portion. Don't make the assumption that you'll have enough for tomorrow. Don't make the assumption you job is going to last forever (are until you retire). Don't make the assumption you're going to live until you are... Don't make the assumption nothing's going to happen to that which you have laid up. Life is filled with pitfalls. You can have it today and have it gone tomorrow. So, learn how to pray, "Give us this day . . ." This *pattern* gives you the latitude to *pray* for this day. **HE** knows what you need, and **HE** will supply your need for "this day."

Point Five, “And *forgive* us our debts.” Ask **GOD**, for the *forgiveness* of your debts. *Forgiveness* of your sin(s). Confess and ask **GOD** for *forgiveness*. If you can’t remember them, develop the habit of writing them down. Sit down, before you go to bed, and write down the things where you know you’ve done wrong today. Then confess them to **The LORD**. Flush them out. *Prayer* should include the confession of your wrongs. Then **JESUS** places this most hidden and crippling statement, “As we *forgive* our debtors.” This condition of our *forgiveness* of our wrong, that is, *forgiving* those who have wronged us. If we don’t *forgive* them, our **FATHER** will not *forgive* us. **FORGIVE!** Let it go! Call them, write them, it’s been 20 years now! **FORGIVE**, and **The FATHER** will **FORGIVE** you!

Point Six, this probably is the most overlooked portion of this *Pattern of Pray*, of **JESUS’**, “...and lead us not into temptation...” It’s not that **GOD** leads us to be tempted. It really means, “Help me to stay away from temptation,” from places, and things **YOU** know I can’t handle. Keep me from that which would cause me to fall and go astray. Keep from that which would cause **YOU**, me, others shame we can’t shake.

“Deliver us from *evil*.” From the *evil* One. The *evil* One inside and outside. The Devil is wherever you are. You can’t go anywhere where *evil* is not. You can get up feeling holy and righteous, and before you turn around *evil* is there. **LORD**, deliver us from *evil*. Only **The LORD**, can handle The Devil. Don’t leave out Calvary! Don’t be distracted from Calvary! Don’t become numb to the hammer-ringing! Don’t forget, **JESUS** Cry, ‘**MY GOD, MY GOD**, why hast **THOU** forsaken **ME**—that was your cry and my cry. Don’t forget **HIS** declaring “It is **FINISHED!**” **JESUS** died, and *sin(s) penalty* was paid! **JESUS** was *buried*, and because we believe, we are no longer condemned! **AND**, on the third Day Morning, Sunday Morning, **GOD** raised **JESUS**, from the dead! And we can declare in *prayer*, “For **THINE** is **The KINGdom**, and **The POWER**, and **The Glory**, for ever. **AMEN**. Amen, to day. Amen, tomorrow. Amen for ever more.

ALLELUJAH! ALLELUJAH! ALLELUJAH! Glory ALLELUJAH!

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