

Praying the Lord's Prayer

Prayer sits in the command post of the communications network within the Kingdom of God. It is a significant part of the vital supply line that opens to us the presence of God, empowering us to live God-honouring lives that reveal and proclaim the 'good news' about who Jesus is.

Last week we commenced our journey of workshopping our way through the Lord's Prayer beginning with Topic One, 'Our Father in Heaven'. Jesus directed his disciples to pray to the source of all things, our eternal Father and Creator, who always mediates himself to us through his 'two hands', his eternal Son and Spirit.

Topic 2 – Hallowed be Your Name

To 'hallow God's name' literally means 'to make his name holy'. However, the meaning of 'hallowed' in this instance, indicates it is not about us trying to make God holier than he already is – he is already absolutely perfect in his holiness.

What Jesus is instructing us to do here, is 'to reverence him and give him the honour that he is worthy of'. We do this by acknowledging his absolute sovereignty, holiness, and loving goodness, in our worship of who he is, and our thanksgiving for what he has done for us, as we address him as our 'Father in heaven'.

Now about the importance of 'names:' In Old Testament times, the naming of a person was taken very seriously; it was an identification of two related elements of that person's life – the *internal character* of the person – **who they were**; and the *external expression* of their character through their actions and behaviours – **how they lived**.

In practical terms then, that means we are to honour and reverence him in our worship, praise and adoration because of who he is – eternal, loving, holy, and righteous; and, for all that he has done for us – reflecting that in the way that we endeavour to live our lives.

In light of this importance placed on naming: – throughout the Bible, God has repeatedly revealed his nature and character to us through the many names that he has given to describe himself, which give expression to his identity through his various actions toward his people.

So, we are going to build these into our prayer outline – some of them are:

Yahweh Zidkenu – The Lord our Righteousness

2Cor 5:21

¹⁶*In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.*"

(Jer 33:16)

The Lord has brought us back into right relationship with himself – we are right with God!

Yahweh Makaddesh Kem – The Lord who sanctifies you.

Heb 10:14

'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you. (Ex 31:13 ESV)

God not only makes or declares us to be righteous; he sets about to 'work' that righteousness into us, so that it begins to become evident to those around us!!!

Yahweh Shalom – The Lord our Peace. Eph 2:14

²³ But the LORD said to him, 'Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.' ²⁴ So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it *The LORD Is Peace.* (Judges 6:23-24)

Jesus Christ himself *is our peace!!!*

Yahweh Shammah – The Lord Ever Present Mat 28:20

'And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE.' (Ezek 48:35)

A reference to 'Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God' (Heb 12:22); and 'the new heaven and new earth, the New Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ' (Rev 21:1-7).

Yahweh Rapha – The Lord our Healer. 1Pet 2:24

²⁶ He said, 'If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.' (Ex 15:26)

Yahweh Nissi – The Lord our Banner Rom 8:28-39

*¹⁵ Moses built an altar and called it *The LORD is my Banner.* ¹⁶ He said, 'Because hands were lifted up against the throne of the LORD,* (Ex 17:15-16)

The Lord is the One who goes before us leading us into his victory!!!

Yahweh Raah – The Lord our Shepherd Jn 10:14

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. (Ps 23:1)

He leads, he guides, he protects, and he provides!!!

Yahweh Jireh – The Lord our Provider Phil 4:13

*¹⁴ So Abraham called that place *The LORD Will Provide.* (Gen 22:14)*

God's gracious and miraculous provision that only He can provide at our point of need!!!

Lord Jesus Christ – The Lord our Anointed Saviour

³⁶ *'Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.'* (Acts 2:36)