



THE PRAYER CLOSET

Encouraging & Equipping Believers in Prayer

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The Conclusion Of The Model Prayer

In the Model Prayer, Jesus Christ teaches every believer how to communicate with the Father. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we have come to know God as our Father. This relationship has to be cultivated. The way that we cultivate this relationship is through prayer. Yet, how do we approach our Father? How do we communicate with the God who has now become our Father? Jesus provides the answer to those questions in this prayer.

Jesus begins by laying down some foundational principles. The first one is that God is our Father. We are not praying to some distant, unconcerned deity. We are calling on a Father who loves us and is concerned about us. At the same time, Jesus shows us that He is in heaven. Jesus wants us to know that our Father is the sovereign God, reigning over all things. He is more than able to do what we ask of Him.

Jesus then teaches us that our priority in prayer is the Father. We are to pray that His name would be hallowed or set apart. We are to pray that the greatness of God would be manifested to the world. We are to call on Him to glorify Himself in our lives – through our words, our deeds, and our service.

We are also to pray that God's kingdom would advance. We are to plead that people will turn from their sin to faith in Jesus Christ, thereby extending the kingdom of God in the world. We are to plead for the kingdom to advance in our lives by greater surrender to Jesus Christ as our Lord.

Jesus instructs us to pray for God's will to be done. This means that we are to seek God for greater understanding of and obedience to the Word of God. Believers are to pray for conformity

to the will of God as revealed in the Word of God. At the same time, we are to ask for grace to surrender to God's will in all circumstances. We are to plead for grace to trust Him no matter what He allows in our lives.

The first three petitions focus on God the Father – His name, His kingdom, and His will. Jesus now turns our attention to our personal needs. Jesus calls on believers to show their dependence on the Father by praying over three great needs.

First, we are to pray that God would give us our daily bread. This means crying out to God for our daily needs. Whatever personal needs we have, we are to ask our Father to manifest His goodness and provide. In addition, we're not to forget our brothers and sisters' needs. Jesus says pray for "our" daily bread.

Next, we are to pray for forgiveness. We need God to meet our needs daily. At the same time, we also need daily forgiveness. We need cleansing from God. As believers, sin is still a reality in our lives. We maintain our fellowship with God by seeking His cleansing daily through confession and repentance.

Then, Jesus exhorts us to pray for God's help against temptations and our spiritual enemies. The daily clashes with sin and our spiritual enemies are hard and exhausting.

Jesus compels us to pray to our Father in this daily struggle.

In this issue of *The Prayer Closet*, we will now look at the conclusion of the Model Prayer. This conclusion offers some powerful truths concerning our praying to the Father. In addition, it should fill our hearts with hope and motivation to seek the Father with all our being. In this issue, we will examine two things – the meaning of the conclusion and the application of the conclusion.

The Meaning Of The Conclusion

In the Model Prayer, Jesus teaches us how to seek the Father. We start out by praying over His priorities – His name, His kingdom, and His will. Then, we seek Him about our personal needs. The Model Prayer combines keeping God as the priority in prayer while pouring out our deepest needs to Him. The love of God and proper self-interest meet in this prayer.

The conclusion of the Model Prayer is, “For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen” (**Matthew 6:13**). In this conclusion, Jesus reminds us of our Father. It’s interesting. The Model Prayer begins with the Father and closes with the Father. This is a reminder that prayer is about our Father. Prayer is seeking Him. It’s about pouring your heart out to Him. It’s about crying out to Him. Through faith in Jesus Christ, you now have a personal relationship with the Father. Prayer is the time to communicate with Him, focusing on Him from beginning to end. Even when we pray about our needs, we are focusing on the Father who is good and powerful and can meet our needs.

In this conclusion, Jesus reminds us of who our Father is. In the beginning of this prayer, Jesus teaches that our Father is in heaven. By saying this, He exalts the power and sovereignty of our Father. Jesus now does the same thing in **Matthew 6:13**. Jesus informs and reminds us of three truths about the Father.

First, He tells us that the Father is sovereign, reigning over all things. This is what is meant by the word “kingdom.” “Kingdom” refers to God’s absolute and total sovereignty

over creation and everything in it. Notice that Jesus says, “For thine is the Kingdom.” God possesses the rule over everything in the created order. His reign extends over the whole universe from the smallest particle to the farthest galaxy of the universe.

When Jesus says, “For thine is the kingdom,” He is saying that God’s sovereignty is undisputed. Nobody else reigns over the creation. Nothing has greater authority than Him. God alone governs this world. He alone orders, limits, and control the universe and everything in it. God is the Ruler of this creation, “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it” (**Isaiah 46:10-11**).

Second, Jesus shows us that our Father has all power. He says, “For thine is . . . the power.” This word “power” refers to the ability to carry out one’s will. Our heavenly Father is all-powerful. No one has greater power than Him. Nothing can overwhelm or defeat Him. He has the power to do what He purposes, “But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased” (**Psalms 115:3**).

By using the word “power,” Jesus teaches us that God can accomplish His will, “For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?” (**Isaiah 14:27**) To the Father belongs the power, “God hath spoken once; twice I have heard this; that power belongeth unto God” (**Isaiah 62:11**).

When Jesus says, “For thine is . . . the power,” He is not simply saying that God is very powerful. He is not saying that He has greater power. He is telling us that God has supreme power; no one can match or equal His power. The Father that we love and pray to is all-powerful; He is the Source and Fountain of all power in the created order.

Finally, Jesus reveals that our Father is all-glorious. Jesus teaches, “For thine is . . . the glory.” The glory of God is the radiant manifestation of the fullness and sum of all His

divine perfections. The word “glory” in both the Old and the New Testaments carries the idea of heaviness or weightiness. God’s glory is the weight of who He is – the absolutely and infinitely perfect of God of time and eternity.

Again, Jesus says, “For thine is . . . the glory.” There is only One who is all-sufficient and infinite. There is only One who is totally unique and absolutely “other-than.” It is our God. He is beyond what any mind can conceive, any tongue can confess, or any pen can write. He is worthy to be acknowledged, worshiped, and adored by all of creation. His character is infinitely holy. His attributes are utterly perfect. The Word of God says in **Nehemiah 9:7**, “Blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all praise and blessing.” Even when we praise God to the highest and fullest, He is still more glorious. As much as we can know Him, He is beyond our comprehension. He alone is the infinitely glorious God.

In these words of the conclusion, we are confessing that God is almighty, that nothing is impossible for Him. He has to but speak and it is. He has to but command and it stands firm. There is nothing to great for this Almighty King. He can meet every need. He can do everything for us that we need.

As amazing as these words are, notice what Jesus says next, “forever.” God is the sovereign Ruler with all power and all glory. Yet, the remarkable truth is – He will be this way forever! He will reign over all things forever and always. He will have all power forever and always. He will be all glorious forever and always. He will never stop or cease. In other words, He will always be God. He will forever be the true God who reigns over all with sovereign power and undiminished glory!

The Application Of The Conclusion

What does the conclusion of the Model Prayer mean for our personal praying? How are we to apply these words in our prayer life? The following are some truths that we can glean for our personal praying:

The conclusion of the Model Prayer lays the foundation for our confidence in prayer.

Jesus’ closing words in the Model Prayer remind us that God is God. He is able to answer our prayers. How can we know that God will hear and answer us? It is because He is the eternal God who possesses the sovereign rule over the universe, exercising all-power and manifesting his utter gloriousness. These closing words of the Model Prayer should inspire you to pray in faith and in confidence. God always reigns. God always exerts His sovereign power. God always displays His glory. His eternal reign, power, and glory should stir our hearts to pray and trust Him to answer our prayers.

As the sovereign, reigning, and all-glorious God, He is fully willing and able to answer our prayers. We must believe and trust this about our Father! These closing words of the Model Prayer are intended to stir our confidence in God and His willingness and ability to hear our prayers. There is nothing in heaven or hell that can keep Him from answering our prayers.

The only limitation to His answering is His own holy and wise character and His gracious and loving will. In His wisdom and righteousness, He may say “no.” God is good and sometimes that goodness moves Him to say “no” to us. Just as a wise parent says “no” to a child’s pleas, our heavenly Father has to do the same.

Yet, we should never doubt or yield to unbelief. God is God and He is able to hear and answer us. The Word of God is clear – God can do beyond what we think or ask. The Word of God says in **Ephesians 3:17**, “Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to his power that worketh in us.”

Our confidence in prayer should rest in the truth that God is God. He is willing to hear us – He’s our Father. He is able to answer us – He reigns forever, eternally possessing supreme power and manifesting His glory. Our confidence should not be in our worthiness or our prayers. Our faith must look to the Father

who is willing and able to hear and answer us as we call on Him.

The conclusion of the Model Prayer teaches us to enforce our petitions with arguments.

In the Model Prayer, Jesus has taught us to ask for a variety of things. We are to offer various petitions to our Father. In these closing words, He enforces those petitions with reasons. We are to ask the Father for these things because of who He is. Jesus piles up reasons that we can ask the Father for these things.

What Jesus is teaching us hear is to “argue” with God. Someone has said that in prayer “God loves to be won over by the power of argument.” That’s not literally true and it can be misunderstood. God is more willing to give than we are to ask and He knows what we need before we ask.

However, these closing words of Jesus make an important point – God does want us to enforce our petitions with arguments or reasons. Our Father desires that we offer reasons to Him why He should answer us. We are to plead and wrestle with God by reasons. Our “arguments” should be offered with a humble and submissive spirit. Yet, we are to take reasons to our Father and plead with Him.

The conclusion of the Model Prayer is actually the basis for God answering each petition of the Model Prayer. These words are the reasons or arguments that we are to present to the Father for doing what we ask. Jesus gives us the petitions and then points us to the reasons why the Father should do this. By combining the petitions with the conclusion, He is training us to offer our petitions with reasons of arguments for God to do this.

For instance, we are to ask God to give us our daily bread. Why should the Father do this? First, it’s because of His reign. He is in control of all things and He can work to meet every need we have. Second, it’s because of His power. He has the power to meet every single need that we have. Third, it’s because of His glory – by meeting our needs He manifests how great and glorious He is. We ask Him to

meet our needs because of who He is. We “argue” for the answer because of who God is.

There are biblical examples of this truth. Jacob prayed this way when he found out that Esau was coming to meet him. He believed that Esau was coming with an army to kill him because he had stolen his birthright. His prayer is recorded in **Genesis 32:9-12**.

In this prayer, he asks God for deliverance and blessing (**32:11**). Yet, notice the way he asks for it. He gave God the following arguments or reason for why God should answer his prayer:

- God is the covenant God of his grandfather and father, Abraham and Isaac (**32:9**).
- God made him a promise that He would cause him to prosper (**32:9**).
- God made him a promise that his descendants would be more numerous than the sand of the sea (**32:12**).

Jacob makes his request based on these reasons. Dead men cannot prosper or have children. Jacob calls on God to be true to His covenant and His promises and to deliver his family and him from the hand of Esau. He wrestles with God based on these “arguments” or reasons. God heard Jacob’s prayer and granted a measure of reconciliation between the two brothers (**Genesis 33:1-16**).

Another biblical example of this truth is found in **Romans 15:30**, “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.” Paul is urging the Roman Christians to pray for him and for his ministry.

He strengthens and enforces his plea for their prayers with two phrases. First, he refers to the Lord’s Jesus Christ’s sake. He asks them to pray for the glory of Jesus and the exaltation of His name. Second, he mentions the love of the Spirit. This refers to the love of the Spirit for the church and believers. Paul asks them to pray for him because of the Spirit created love in their hearts.

Notice that Paul enforces his plea with reasons. If we do that with people, how much more should we do that with God? He is worthy

of our pleading, wrestling, and arguing with Him. If our petitions are important, shouldn't we come to God with reasons for Him to work? If we are burdened to ask of God, shouldn't our petitions be grounded in reasons for them?

Another example of this truth is in **Daniel 9:9-19**. His prayer is a model for humbly "arguing" with God. He offers God petitions from his heart and then offers reason after reason why he thinks God should answer his prayer. He asks for God to turn away from His anger and to restore the exiles back to Jerusalem and the land of Israel. Why should God do this? Daniel offers these reasons:

- God is the great and awesome God who keeps His covenant and mercy to those who love Him and keep his commandments (**9:4**).
- He is the righteous God (**9:7, 14, 15**).
- Mercy and compassion belong to the Lord (**9:9**).
- He is the God of great mercy (**9:18**).
- He pleads the sufferings of God's people (**9:7, 8, 15-18**).
- He declares that God's restoration of the people will bring glory to the name of God (**9:19**).

God responded by turning the heart of the king to allow the people to return home and providing them with what they needed to start rebuilding (**Ezra 1:1**). Daniel made his petition to God. But, he then offered reason after reason why God should do this.

When we go to God with our petitions, we should come with reasons. Yet, we need to come with godly reasons. We don't argue and wrestle with God based on any worthiness in ourselves or any other person. We don't come to God in self-righteousness but in a hopeless dependence on who He is and what He has revealed to us in the Word. We come with reasons that come from God as He has revealed Himself in the Bible. We plead with God based on who He is and what He has said in His Word. Daniel says it well, "O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications

before thee for our righteousnesses, **but for thy great mercies**" (**Daniel 4:18**).

I realize that this may be a new concept for you. Yet, the Word of God teaches that we are to make our petitions of God and then plead with Him for these things. There are times when we ask of God and He immediately grants it. Yet, there are times, often many more times, when we must persevere in asking, offering a variety of reasons why God should do what we ask of God.

Why should we do this? First, it honors God. We are humbly coming before Him to ask His blessing. We are seeking Him, wrestling with the only One who can bless and help us. Yet, at the same time, it shows our sincerity. Are our petitions to God the whim of the moment or the burden of our heart? A burdened heart will bring arguments and reasons. A burdened heart will wrestle with God until he receives an answer.

How can you plead with God? The following are some "pleading points" that you can use to wrestle with God:

- ✓ Remind God of His promises.
- ✓ Recall past answers.
- ✓ Pray the Word of God.
- ✓ Remind God of His character.
- ✓ Plead the blood of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Plead the needs and sorrows of people.
- ✓ Plead the glory of God.
- ✓ Plead God's relationship to you.
- ✓ Plead the insights that the Holy Spirit grants.
- ✓ Plead with tears (**Psalms 58:6**)
- ✓ Plead with fasting.

When you offer your petitions, come ready to plead with Him with reasons and arguments for Him to act. It's a helpful exercise to ask this question before we ask of God – Why should God answer this request? Present your case and then wait on the Lord!

The conclusion exhorts us to praise God in our prayers.

The Model Prayer begins and ends with the praise and adoration of the Father. Jesus

begins by teaching us to pray, “Our Father which art in heaven.” He closes with “For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.” This teaches us the importance of praise in our praying. We are to join our petitions with praise of God.

The highest purpose of prayer is not to receive something from God. Yes, God does teach us to ask of Him and in this way, we manifest our dependence on Him. Yet, prayer is something more, much more. It is the time to adore and praise our God. It is a time to offer Him the glory for who He is and what He has done. Our chief purpose in prayer is to honor and glorify Him. It is to offer Him the praise of which He rightly deserves.

Jesus teaches us to have a balance between praise and petition. We are to offer our petitions to God. He has just taught us in the Model Prayer to make petitions of the Father. We are to ask of God. Our asking honors our Father. He is our heavenly Father and wants to pour out His blessing on those who will ask of Him.

Yet, our Father deserves our praise. He is entitled to our adoration. His character ought to provoke us to glorify Him. His rich blessings ought to prompt us to spend time adoring Him. His action in our lives ought to invigorate us to offer praise to Him.

The word “praise” in both the Old and New Testaments means “to prize highly, to value greatly.” Praise is the expression of how much you prize and value God. It is making known to God why you value Him – why you cherish Him – why you love Him. Praise adores God for who He is; it is God-centered. You fix your gaze on God and tell Him why He is unique, valuable, and precious.

Praise is selfless – it is focusing only on God. It is not about our needs or our wants but about His greatness and worthiness to be praised. Everything else is pushed to the side that You might contemplate, meditate on, and openly declare God’s greatness.

The conclusion of the Model Prayer is teaching us that we must have the commitment to praise Him. It must be our settled determination to know Him and to adore Him. Praising God is not about adoring Him when

you’re on a spiritual high. It’s about adoring Him daily because of who He is.

It is a daily pursuit – a commitment to praise Him whether you feel like it or not – whether you have the best of circumstances or not. God is always worthy of praise. God is worthy of praise regardless of what is going on around us. When you gave your life to Jesus, God became your Father. You had the desire to praise Him. The natural result of salvation is the desire to praise God. The child of God has the desire to praise God. Yet, praise is not only a desire – it has to be a discipline for the child of God. Jesus calls us on to cultivate our praise of God when we pray.

The conclusion of the Model Prayer requires us to be sincere in our praying.

The last word of the Model Prayer is significant. That last word is “Amen.” Saying “amen” at the end of a prayer is not a formality that must be observed. We need to remind ourselves of the power of this word. When we say “amen,” we express our desire to God. The word “amen” means “firm” or “truly.” By saying, “amen,” we are saying this is my earnest desire – this is truly what I need and am asking for of my Father.

It’s a serious thing to say “amen.” When you say “amen,” you declare to God that this is your sincere desire. It is saying that the things you have prayed for are the objects of the inmost desire of your heart. It expresses how sincere you are. You testify that you have candidly prayed what is on your heart. “Amen” should never be used lightly; it is expressing that one is sincere in what he or she is asking.

Jesus teaches us to be sincere in our praying. We are to forsake any flippancy in seeking the Father. We are not to simply go through the motions. We are to call upon Him, sincerely pouring our hearts out to him. When we call on our Father, it has to be from the heart, earnestly desiring what we are asking of Him.

This is in direct opposition to the praying of the Pharisees. Jesus condemned their praying by saying, “And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are; for they love

to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have reward” (**Matthew 6:5**). These men prayed for a show; it was for public display.

Jesus commands us not to pray like this. He instructs us to pray from the heart. The believer is to call on God from a sincere heart. We are to be honest and earnest about what is on our hearts with our Father. Saying “amen” is the expression of our sincerity. We are saying that this is truly what is on my heart; this is truly what I feel that I need. To pray without sincerity is to be a hypocrite. Christ calls us to forsake any hypocrisy and to pray with straightforward sincerity to our Father.

The conclusion of the Model Prayer compels to rest quietly in God, trusting Him for answers.

When we say “amen,” it shows our sincerity. Yet, it also reveals our assurance – the assurance that God hears us and will answer us. The word “amen” is derived from a verb that denotes “to make firm or unmovable.” By saying this word, we declare that we have the assurance that God will hear and answer. It is the confession that God has heard and that I will now wait for Him to answer.

It’s a serious thing to say amen. By doing this, we affirm that our prayer before the face of God is true – that we are not lying or playing the hypocrite. At the same time, we profess our faith. We are saying that we believe God and will trust Him for the petitions that we have asked of Him. “Amen” is declaration of our trust in the Father. It is saying, “I have asked of You. Now I will quietly rest in You, looking for the answer you will give me.”

By saying “amen,” we are making known our wholehearted trust in God. We are confessing our belief in the faithfulness of God. By using “amen,” we are affirming that we trust God and that He will do what we ask of Him.

Jesus is teaching us to pray **and** believe. We are to ask and trust God for the answers. David does this in **Psalm 5**. In his prayer to God, David declares, “My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I

direct my prayer to thee, and look up” (**Psalm 5:3**).

David says that he will “direct” his prayer to God. This word is used of laying out the wood on the altar. It is arranged on the altar in an orderly fashion. What does David mean by this? He declares that he will bring his petitions to the Lord. He will lay them out before Him. Just as he would arrange wood on an altar, David makes known that he will arrange and lay out his petitions before the Lord. He will bring his desires and requests before the Father.

Yet, it’s important to notice what David says next. He testifies that he will “look up.” Once he makes his petitions to the Lord, he will begin looking for the answers. He will start looking to the Lord, expecting an answer from Him. On the one hand, he will make his requests from the Lord. At the same time, on the other hand, he will start looking for answers from the Lord. David expected answers from God!

That is what saying “amen” means! It means that I have sincerely asked of you and now I’m going to wait for you to answer. I have poured my heart out to you and now I will rest in You waiting for You to answer. When we say “amen,” we express our sincere desires and testify that we will quietly wait on God to answer.

Jesus is teaching us that we are to have expectation when we pray. It’s useless to pray if we don’t expect an answer. Why pray if you don’t expect the Father to answer? Of course, we pray with submissive hearts, knowing that God may have a different answer – which is wiser and better. Yet, the Word of God summons us to pray and believe God for answers.

Do you believe God for what you have asked? Is your prayer life characterized by asking and looking for the answer? Jesus calls us to a lifestyle of asking and looking for the answers. The next time you say “amen,” expect God to answer and start looking for the answers. When you pray through the Model Prayer, expect and look for God to answer. When you use these petitions, expect:

- That God would glorify His name through your life;
- That God will advance His kingdom in and through you;
- That God will teach you His Word, empowering you to obey Him;
- That God will give you grace for adverse circumstances that He allows in your life;
- That He will meet every need you have and the needs of those you pray for;
- That He will cleanse you of your sin and enable you to forgive others;
- That He will lead you away from temptation;
- That He will give you grace to face and overcome temptation;
- That He will give you strength and wisdom to overcome all the snares and traps of Satan.

Pray, believe, and look for the answers!

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