

**Kingdom Citizens**  
**Summary on the Lord's Prayer**  
**February 6, 2011**

**Introductory thoughts:**

1. The prayer was taught to the disciples of Jesus. It is still a prayer for his disciples. Only those who are committed to following Jesus Christ can pray this prayer with meaning.
2. The prayer, as a whole, is a community prayer. It is a "we" prayer, one we pray together as a body of believers.
3. The prayer also provides an outline for personal prayers. The elements include:
  - Praise and adoration
  - Help for daily needs
  - Confession
  - The need for protection and deliverance from sin
  - An acknowledgment of God's authority and our recognition and commitment to obedience

**From the prayer:**

1. The prayer contains both *intimacy* and *mystery*. Both are needed for a strong, healthy relationship. God is not our buddy nor is He a distant Figure incapable of knowing and being known. (Our Father... hallowed be Thy name)
  - Jesus invites his disciples to call God "Father" – intimacy
  - We stand in awe of His greatness and our inability to explain or understand Him fully (hallowed be Thy name)
2. The prayer acknowledges that God is not confined to a place – a church, a temple – but fills and inhabits the heavens. He is everywhere. His presence is with His children at every moment. (Who art in heaven...)
3. The prayer asks for God's will to be done, not in resignation ("I can't fight against God. I might as well give in.") but in relinquishment ("I can trust His will"). Willing submission to God opens the door to deeper relationship with Him. (Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done...)
4. The prayer frees us from worry about the accumulation of things because we know God can and will supply our daily needs. (Give us this day our daily bread...)

Matthew 18 – The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

5. The prayer acknowledges our hopeless indebtedness to God and our belief that He is willing to forgive. He does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. (Forgive us our debts...)
  - a. The importance of regular self-examination (prayer of *examen*)
  - b. The importance of accepting God's forgiveness
  - c. The importance of forgiving ourselves
6. The prayer acknowledges our willingness to forgive those who have hurt or offended us. (...as we forgive our debtors)
  - a. The offender is released.
  - b. The offended person is also released.
7. The prayer asks for protection when we are tempted and for God's wisdom when we are exposed to issues and experiences that would draw us away from Him. (Lead us not into temptation...)
8. The prayer asks for strength against the evil one, those he influences, and the outcomes of his influence. (... deliver us from evil [the evil one])
9. The prayer acknowledges that all things, all power, and all honor belong to God and that we are submissive to Him. (...for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever)