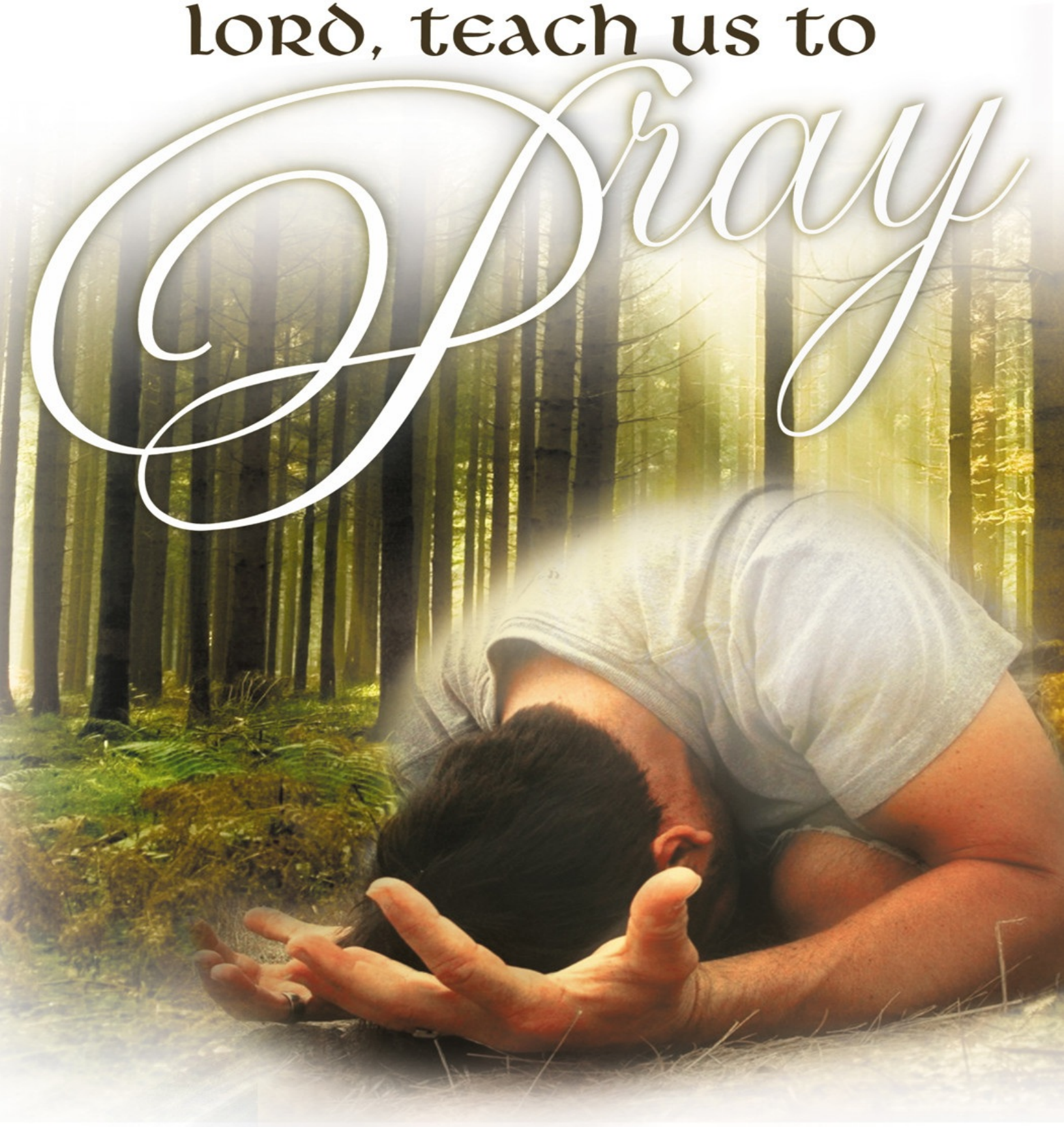
Lord, Teach Us to Pray



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Preface

The Lord Jesus' answer to His disciples' simple yet heartfelt request has become a model prayer that touches all aspects of our life.

I remember memorising this prayer in 1979 while still being a very new believer. Over these last 25 years of walking with God, this prayer has become very valuable personally to me.

The one prayer and quest with which I constantly seek God is on how to simply teach all believers the deep things of God, thereby spurring them to take hold of God for themselves. This study has been born out of one such quest.

I hereby humbly present this new book on Lord, Teach Us To Pray to the body of Christ on this 25th year of our ministry. I pray that every believer who studies these principles will build a strong prayer life.

Your loving brother
Sadhu Sundar Selvaraj

Chapter 1- A Perfect and Beautiful Prayer

There are many, many prayers written in the Bible. We have the prayers that Moses prayed; we have the prayers that the Judges prayed; we have the beautiful prayers that King David prayed; and we have the powerful prayers that the apostle Paul prayed for the church. Two such powerful prayers of the apostle Paul's every believer can use as models are found in the book Of Ephesians (chapters 1 and 3) and the book Of Colossians (chapter 1). If you want to grow in your spiritual life you can follow the pattern of those prayers. They will help you to grow great in faith and powerful in your spiritual life.

Among all the prayers in the Bible, however, the greatest is *The Lord's Prayer*. Why is it the greatest prayer? Simply because all the other prayers are man's prayers. The Lord's Prayer, on the other hand, was taught by the Lord Jesus Himself. But many believers have one great problem: we aren't able to spend much time in prayer. We like to pray. We desire to pray. But we simply don't know how to engage in prolonged prayer. When we try to pray we all do like what the apostle Peter did: *go to sleep.* In Luke 9:32 and 22:45 you will find that when the Lord Jesus was busy praying the disciples were busy sleeping. Why was that so? It's because when the Lord Jesus prayed, He really prayed — often times for a long time. He did not pray like us: *Lord Jesus, bless this food. Amen.*

A pastor once took me out for dinner. He said, *Brother, you please pray*. So I prayed, *Lord Jesus, thank You for this food. Amen.* He remarked, *A very short, sharp, and quick prayer you prayed.* So I told the pastor a story. Many years ago, a church elder invited me to his house for lunch. After having spent the whole morning in fasting and prayer my stomach was very, very hungry. The elder's wife was a great cook. The Indian people like the Chinese people always prepare different, different kinds of dishes for meals. When I looked at the food, I said, *Thank You, Jesus for all these nice dishes.* I sat down to have a good meal. Then I made a great mistake. I said, *Elder, please pray*. The elder said, *Alright, let's pray*. So he prayed. And he prayed. And he prayed. First he prayed for Asia. Then he prayed for Europe. Then he prayed for Africa, for North America, for South America. He finished praying 45 minutes later.

All my hunger was gone. When I looked at the food, I had no more desire to eat. I decided I would never ask this elder to pray again. So the Lord Jesus Christ is like that. He prayed, and He prayed. He poured out His heart in prayer. He prayed so long the disciples all went to sleep. Why did they do that? Because they didn't know how to pray. They prayed short prayers. After a while, they didn't want to pray. They wanted to sleep.

I started my Christian life just like anyone else. I was far from being a spiritual giant. I was not even a Spirit-filled man. My pastor, however, was a godly man. He always taught the Sunday School class, and he was the teacher for all the new believers. There were twelve people in my class. Our pastor was teaching us how to grow in our Christian life. Once he taught on prayer. He said, *You must learn to talk to God for a long time. Don't just pray one sentence. Talk to God. And when you talk to God, suddenly you will find the hours fly away.* I was really listening, and I desired in my heart to do just that. I was attending high school at that time. The next morning, before I left for school, I decided I would get up and pray. I got up at five o'clock, feeling very excited at the thought of praying hours with God. I placed the clock before me. I prayed. I talked to the Lord Jesus, talked about my life, talked about my school.

I prayed a long time. I thought in my mind: *One hour must have gone by — maybe even two?* I was praying for a long time, and I was about to say *Amen*. Thinking to myself that surely at least two or three hours had passed by I opened my eyes and looked at the clock. Only three minutes. I thought something must be wrong with the clock. It had to be three hours. So I went to check the clock in the living room. It also showed that only three minutes had passed. The battery must be dead, I thought, so I went through the whole house and looked at all the clocks. They all showed the same time. Only three minutes. I couldn't believe my eyes.

I prayed everything I had to pray and it took only three minutes! We all have this problem, don't we? We want to pray but we don't know how to pray or what to say. I prayed for this. I prayed for that. What else is there? The disciples had this problem. They were watching the Lord Jesus. He always prayed long hours and they always slept long hours. They may have thought, *How come He can pray such long hours?*

The Model Prayer

Once they found Him praying the whole night. Apparently He never slept at all. And that was not the only occasion. Frequently He prayed all night alone, kneeling down and conversing with God. So one day they asked Him: *Lord, teach us how to pray* (Lk. 11:1). The real question they were asking the Lord Jesus was, *Lord, teach us the secret how to pray? We want to learn how to pray like You. Teach us how to pray. Lord Jesus, we are always sleeping. We don't know how to pray for a long time. After praying for a short while, we do not know what else to pray.* Behind this simple petition — "Lord Jesus, teach us how to pray"— is a deeper question: Why is it we do not know how to talk with God? Romans 8:28 gives us the answer: And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. We do not know how to pray! That's the reason we ask other people to pray for us.

In the early years of my ministry, a lot of people came to see me for prayer at meetings. By the time I finished with praying for the last person, four or six hours had passed by. At about two or three o'clock in the morning, I would then get to sit down for my dinner. So I began to tell people not to come to me for prayer. I said, *You pray to Jesus directly.* One day the Lord Jesus told me: *If the people know how to pray, why would they come to you for prayer? True or not?* I said, *True, Lord. So don't turn away people. During my time on this earth I never turned away any person who came to Me. You must do likewise. No matter how many people come to you, don't turn them away. Remember, if they know how to touch God themselves, if they know how to take miracles from God themselves, they would never come to you. They are coming to you because they don't know how to come to Me. So help them. Pray for them and teach them.*

We can most definitely ask other people to pray for us. Even the great apostle Paul always asked other people to pray for him (Rom. 15:30; 2 Cor. 1:8-11; Eph. 6:18-20; Phil. 1:19). However, while we can ask other people to pray for us, at the same time we must also learn how to pray ourselves. We must learn how to touch God ourselves. Whenever we have a need, whenever we have any problem, we can always know how to talk to God. That is the main reason why the Lord Jesus Christ taught His disciples — and that means also us — how to

pray.

Let's look at Matthew 6:9-13. In these five scriptures we find the prayer the Lord Jesus Christ taught that has become known as The Lord's Prayer. Pray therefore like this:

> Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory. Amen.

This is the beautiful prayer the Lord Jesus Himself gave us. Almost all churches except Pentecostal churches pray this prayer. I'm not against Pentecostal churches. In major denominational churches, The Lord's Prayer is a compulsory prayer. But there is one big problem. When we pray this prayer every day in our life and in our churches, we become like machines. We rattle on, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done," praying more like robots than anything else.

In my ministry in Tibet I have seen how Tibetan monks pray. They can pray for long hours chanting the Buddhist scriptures. While chanting, their eyes wander all over the world. Their minds, it seems, are imagining many, many things. Their mouths chant mechanically with their monotonous-sounding prayers. And their hands do various things at the same time. Christians are often like that, especially when it comes to praying The Lord's Prayer. But, remember — when we pray like that, this most beautiful of prayers loses its power.

The Lord Jesus taught us that we must not pray mechanically in (Matt. 6:7). Don't recite and repeat The Lord's Prayer like a robot. The Lord Jesus says to us even now, *My words are not simply letters and ink on paper. My words are Spirit and life.* Don't ever forget that this prayer that the Lord Jesus Himself taught us is not just another prayer. It is full of spirit and life. It isn't a prayer formula for praying every day. It serves as a model prayer for us. In verse 9 of Matthew 6, the Lord Jesus says, "After this manner you pray." So what the Lord Jesus Christ

is actually telling us is He is teaching us how to pray after a certain pattern and model. If we look at The Lord's Prayer very carefully, we will find seven distinctive prayer points.

The Prayer's Beauty

These seven points in The Lord's Prayer are given to us build our prayers upon. The Lord is saying to us, *You don't know how to pray. You don't know what to talk to God about. I will teach you seven points of prayer. Let your prayer contain these seven points. Then your prayer life will be fruitful. Then you will know how to talk to God*. When your prayer is built upon the seven prayer points found in The Lord's Prayer, you will discover a new meaning, beauty, and power for your prayer life.

1st — OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

The Lord Jesus teaches us to call God "Our Father," indicating that we are a family in God. In the family, you can ask your father or mother confidently anything, isn't it? Every child who wants something would ask his parents. And he would ask with great confidence. So the Lord Jesus invites us to open our prayer with addressing God as our Father. At the same time, He wants us to bless and honour our heavenly Father's holiness. So the very first prayer point has to do with praise and worship. When you kneel down to pray, don't just rush into prayer. Wait on God. Worship the Lord first.

In John 4:23, the Lord Jesus says that God is looking for true worshippers who would worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. When you begin to praise and worship God the presence of God comes and fills you (Ps. 22:3). So the moment you kneel down to worship, the Lord God's presence will come and fill you. The Lord Jesus Himself will come and stand beside you — in fact very close to you. And He will listen to whatever you tell Him.

2nd — THY KINGDOM COME

What we are telling God here is this: *Lord God, You are the king of the whole*

universe. I recognize that You are a king. Let Your kingdom come rule my mind and rule my heart. I don't want to live an immoral life. Rule me, Lord Jesus. In actuality you are inviting God to come into your life. You are telling the Lord Jesus not to just stand beside you but come inside you: "Let Your kingdom rule me." Herein lies the secret regarding the indwelling Holy Spirit.

The Lord Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will come and be with you, beside you, and inside you (Jn. 14:16,17). For every person who is truly born again His presence comes in two ways: once He comes "outside" you; the other He goes "inside" you. Whether you are Catholic, Presbyterian, Lutheran, or Baptist, it doesn't make a difference. When you truly accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal saviour, the Holy Spirit comes and stands beside you. It is the Holy Spirit who helps us to believe in the Lord Jesus. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the faith to believe that Jesus is Lord.

As believers, the first thing we must recognize is that God is holy and we are unholy. Even if we say, *Come Jesus,* how could a holy God come inside our unholy body? It is here that we see the beautiful work of the Holy Spirit. Romans 1:4 makes mention of God as the Spirit of holiness. It is the Holy Spirit who comes into our body, cleanses our heart, and cleanses our life. In an instant He makes us clean. The moment you say, "Jesus, come!" your body is cleansed and made holy by the Holy Spirit for the Lord Jesus to come inside.

Everyone who is born again has the Holy Spirit standing beside him. But that is not enough. We need the Holy Spirit to get inside. This is why we seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit. *Holy Spirit, why do You stand outside? Come inside; come inside my life* should be the heart cry of every new believer. If I come to your house, and I come and stand outside your house, what will you tell me? *No, don't stand outside; please come in.* Will you say that or will you say, *Stand there just by the door. Here is the tea?* Will you say that? No, you will say, *Come in please. Why are you standing outside? Please come in.* In the same way, a born again Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian, or Lutheran should do likewise.

See how I'm very careful with the word I use. I didn't simply say, "Catholic," but "born again Catholic" and "born again Baptist," and so forth. When one is truly born again, regardless the Christian tradition, the Holy Spirit begins to

stand beside that person. But the Lord Jesus says the Holy Spirit will be "with you" and "inside you." So we are in fact saying, *Holy Spirit, come inside. Why are You standing outside?* When we pray to the Lord Jesus "Thy kingdom come," we are telling the Holy Spirit to come inside and rule our lives. So this second prayer point of The Lord's Prayer is about submitting our life to God.

3rd — THY WILL BE DONE

Before you were born into this world God had already written down all that concerns you in heaven. So you should pray, *God, what is Your will for me up there in heaven? Let that will be realized in my life. God has plans even for every nation. So you can also pray, Lord, let Your will for, say, Taiwan in heaven come to pass on this earth. Amen.* When you pray like that, God will reveal His plans for your nation to you. And the will of God for your nation will come upon the land. You can also pray, *God, what is Your will for me for my future? What is Your will for my family? What is Your will for my children?* Notice how on this point alone just how so many times and ways you can pray? Do you not see the beauty of it? With each point that you pray — for example, "Thy will be done" — the Holy Spirit can show you what is God's will in many different areas.

Some years ago, I was preaching in an Indonesian church in Singapore. While I was praying for the people, I saw the Lord Jesus walking towards me. The pastor was interpreting my message when the Lord Jesus came to stand next to me. The Lord Jesus had a folder in his hand, which He showed me. He said, *See this*. So I looked into the folder and saw everything about the pastor that was written in it regarding God's plan for his life. Many things were recorded there. Among them one sentence lighted up like a neon light. The Lord Jesus told me to look at that one point and tell the pastor about it. It is that the will of God was for the pastor to serve Him in full-time ministry. At that time I didn't know that the pastor was not in full-time ministry. But I did know that he was very rich and was successful in business. I did not know also that the pastor was planning in his mind to stop pastoring the church and devote his time fully to his business. He had been praying, *Lord, what is Your will? Go fully into business ... or pastor the church?* Because he prayed for God to show him His will, the Lord Jesus came into that meeting to show him God's will. When you pray, "Thy will be done," God will surely show you what is His will.

4th — GIVE US OUR DAILY BREAD

The Lord Jesus Christ is teaching us here to pray for our needs. We need food to eat, clothes to wear, and money to live in this world. Our children need education. We need good facilities for congregational worship. We need good jobs so we can look after our families. See how "Give us this day our daily bread" encompasses so many things we can pray for? Under this one prayer point are many other sub-points. We can pray for other people. You can pray for your pastor and his family. And you can pray for one another and for me. "Give us this day our daily bread" prompts us also to pray for our country, for good government, and for good leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-2). When you pray for good leaders, God will give you good leaders. If you don't pray, then wrong people would be appointed into government. And we will have a hard time living in this world. So this one prayer point- "Give us this day our daily bread"—directs us to pray for so many needs.

5th — FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE FORGIVE OTHERS THEIR DEBTS

When you pray this prayer what you are actually praying is *Lord, give me a clean heart*. In Matthew 5:23-25 the Lord Jesus says before you put the offering you are bringing to God into the bag, if you have anything in your heart against other people, don't give the offering. If you give, God will refuse the offering. God doesn't accept such an offering. First go and reconcile with your brother or sister. Get your heart right. Cleanse your heart first. Then you come with clean hands and you present your offering. The Bible says, "Who will come before God's holy hill? He who has clean hands" (Ps. 24:4). If you don't have clean hands you cannot lift up your hands and say, *Praise the Lord*! This is because when God looks down from heaven to see who is praising Him He will see your hands full of uncleanness. In this prayer point, the Lord is teaching about forgiving other people their sins. Don't keep unforgiveness in your hearts; don't keep hatred in your heart. If you keep hatred and unforgiveness in your heart you are opening the doors for the devil to attack you with sickness and disease.

Many years ago, a certain church elder's wife asked me to pray for her. She was suffering from severe arthritis. Her fingers were all bent. She was sitting on

a wheelchair because the disease attacked her bones. She was prayed for by many healing evangelists. She would get healed. Then she would get sick again. As I was about to pray for her, the Holy Spirit told me not to touch her and pray for her. She was living in sin. I was greatly surprised when the Holy Spirit showed me her heart, which was full of bitterness. She was always gossiping about different men of God and other church members, criticising them and backbiting them. A lot of unforgiveness was in her heart. This sin caused her sickness. *Tell her to repent if she wants healing,* the Holy Spirit said, *If she doesn't repent and get rid of all the unforgiveness she will die in the wheelchair.* I looked at this elderly woman, *the Lord Jesus says 'You have sin in your heart.'* She looked at me very sternly. "How dare you young fellow talk to me like this?" No, she never said that because she had respect for me. But she humbled herself: *You are right. I have these sins. What should I do?* I said, *Confess all of your sins. The moment you confess and you get rid of all the unforgiveness from your heart, and when you say amen, you will be healed. I don't need to pray for you.* For half an hour she prayed, confessing all of her sins, releasing all the hurts. When she said "In Jesus' Name I pray," the power of God flowed through her body. She was totally healed. I didn't need to pray for her. When the heart is clean, the power of God will come down. Do you get the heart of this prayer point? "Lord, forgive us our sin" is designed to help us forgive other people.

6th — LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM ALL EVIL

Everyday, all around us, we are faced with evil. You switch on the television and you are confronted with much evil in the godless programming. You switch on the computer and get into the internet and there is evil. You walk on the street and you see evil all over the place. And the Bible says the evil one-the devil-is seeking to kill you (Jn. 10:10). With so much evil around, it is no wonder why the Lord Jesus tells us to pray for our protection and we not falling into temptation. We must pray that God would keep us from all the plans of the devil. The scriptures tell us to be careful and to keep ourselves clean. We must not be ignorant of the devil's plan to kill us (2 Cor. 2:10,11). When you pray, *Father God, keep me from falling into temptation; keep me from all evil,* God will protect you. If there is any danger coming into your life, the Holy Spirit will warn you. "Be careful," "Do not go there," "There is danger there," "You can fall into temptation here" — these are some of the counsel the Holy Spirit will

give us to protect us from evil.

7th — THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

Our Lord is telling us here, “Give praise, thanksgiving, and glory to God.” Why? It’s because God has heard your prayer. But how do we know He has heard? You must exercise the faith to believe. When you pray, believe that God has heard your prayer, before your eyes see the miracle. Believe in your heart that you have already received what you asked. Then, according to the Lord Jesus in Mark 11:24, you will most certainly receive the answer to your prayer. So pray in this fashion: *O thank you, Father, for hearing this prayer: I give you glory, I give you praise, I give you thanks because you have heard and answered this prayer.* When you do so, do you know what will happen? The joy of the Lord will fill your heart. The Bible says in Psalm 16:11, *In [God’s] presence is fullness of joy*. When you give glory and thanks to God His joy will fill your heart and you will overflow with gladness. The Bible also says that the joy of the Lord is our strength (Neh. 8:10). God’s joy in your heart gives you strength, gives you faith, gives you power.

A Hidden Beauty

Thus far we have seen the great power, efficacy, and splendour of The Lord’s Prayer through the lenses of its seven prayer points. For the believer, The Lord’s Prayer stands as the premier model for effective prayer. But there is another hidden beauty besides its multi-faceted prayer focus. Look carefully and you will see how the text of The Lord’s Prayer falls into three neat groupings. To understand why it is grouped in this fashion I need first to state that every word the Lord Jesus speaks holds a beautiful mystery. Let’s recall His word in Matthew 6:33, which comes in two parts: first, *But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness;* second, *and all these things will be added unto you.* One scripture, two parts. The three-part grouping of The Lord’s Prayer actually fits very beautifully into these two parts of Matthew 6:33.

The first grouping of The Lord’s Prayer comes under the first part of Matthew 6:33. In *Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name* you are seeking God; *in Thy kingdom come* you are seeking God’s kingdom; and in

Thy will be done you are seeking God's righteousness. These first three prayer points fulfil the first part of Matthew 6:33: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." The next grouping - *Give us this day our daily bread, Forgive us our sins, and Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil* - fulfils the second part of Matthew 6:33: "and all these things shall be added unto you." The final grouping in The Lord's Prayer logically and sensibly follows with the expression of praise and thanksgiving to God: *For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.* Can you see the beauty of The Lord's Prayer?

Let me share with you one more secret. The scripture in 1 John 5:14-15 says God will hear and answer any prayer that you pray according to His perfect will. You can have the confidence that every prayer is answered if you know that you are praying according to God's will. But the problem is, many times we wonder whether a prayer we just prayed is God's will or not. How does The Lord's Prayer fit into this? In order to answer this question, ask yourself something. Who has taught us The Lord's Prayer? Answer: *The Lord Jesus*. And who is Jesus? He is God Himself. Jesus Christ is God of the whole universe. Although incarnated in human form, He still is God. So the prayer that He teaches us to pray accords fully with God's will. When you pray according to God's will, your prayer will be answered definitely. The Lord God Himself bestows upon us The Lord's Prayer so that we can always have our prayers answered.

It is the will of God to answer all our prayers. The reason is because our God is a good God and He is our loving father. How we habitually address God can affect our feeling of closeness with Him. If we always address God as "Lord God," we might unknowingly put a distance or a barrier between Him and us. Look how the Lord Jesus instructs us to call God "Our Father." He does not teach us to say, "Lord Father," for that also distances us from our heavenly Father. There is a big difference between addressing God as "Lord Father" and "Our Father" for only in the latter is there an absence of the domineering undertones of "Lord." In fact, in the Aramaic language spoken by the Lord Jesus, *Father* is **Abba**, an address that conveys the deepest affection and intimacy. "Abba" is just not "Father" but *Loving Father, Daddy, Papa*. When you call God *Abba Father*, you are drawn closer to Him emotionally. The fear you may have for a distant God is taken from your mind. You begin to feel a closeness with God. This is why throughout His earthly ministry the Lord Jesus

Christ taught that God is our Father.

Let us travel back to the days of God's people described in the book of Numbers. We are told that the people were murmuring against Moses because every day they were eating only manna: morning manna, night manna, breakfast manna, lunch manna, dinner manna; first day manna, second day manna, third day manna-and for forty years nothing but manna (Ex. 16). The people of God had just come out of Egypt. They had to eat manna, sleep manna, dream manna, talk manna. Their whole life was manna. One day they got tired of manna. So they complained to Moses: *Moses - what is this? Every day manna.* So Moses prayed to God. And the Bible says God got very angry: *Okay, from today, no more manna.* God sent them quails from the sea that blanketed the ground three-foot thick. The people couldn't resist. And God could no longer hold back His displeasure. He loosed a plague on them, and a sickness came upon their bodies. Thousands of the people died (Num. 11). This is the picture of God in the Old Testament the Israelites carried into the days of the Lord Jesus. Their relationship with God is quite distant. But God wanted to change that. So in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, He brought grace and truth (Jn. 1:17).

In His life and teaching, the Lord Jesus drew people closer and closer to God. He went to the Cross so that His spilled blood would enable many to draw near to God as God's children. He wants God's people to come to see God as "Abba, Papa, Daddy." For this reason, when you pray, lift up your hands and your heart, and tell Him, "Papa, I need food to eat" or "Daddy, I need help." Praying like this brings great love into your heart. Banish fear from your heart knowing that God is your loving papa. Pray with faith that Abba hears you. The Bible says in Hebrew 11:6 he who comes to God must believe in his heart that God is a rewarder of good things. Coming before God with great love takes away your fear and elevates you faith.

I have four nephews and the third nephew David is very close to me. One day three years ago I was preparing to go to Africa for ministry. He came to me, saying, *Uncle, where are you going?* I said, *I am going to Africa*. So he asked me what is in Africa. I said elephants, monkeys, donkeys, cows. Then I asked him if he wanted anything from Africa. He put his hand on his tiny head and thought for a long time. Finally he looked up at me, *Okay-when you come back, buy for me an elephant. What? I exclaimed, Do you know how big an elephant is. It's*

very difficult to bring. He said, *Why difficult? Just put it on the plane. The aeroplane can carry the elephant.* In his childishness it never occurred to him that it was impossible. To my three-year old nephew, all things are possible.

Beloved, it is the desire of our heavenly Father you pray to Him with the innocence of a little child and without unbelief in your heart. When you pray, pray with all faith and confidence knowing that Papa-God is always good. The intimacy of addressing God as "Papa" is part of the great beauty in The Lord's Prayer. It is the very author of our life, the very author of our faith, who has taught us this prayer. It is God Himself instructing us how to pray according to His perfect will. The Lord's Prayer is not only a comprehensive prayer it is also a perfect prayer. Its seven main prayer points encompass every detail of our lives. Little wonder why the Lord Jesus says, *After this manner therefore pray ye* (Matthew 6:9). When your prayers are built on The Lord's Prayer, I promise you in Jesus' name your life will totally change. You will grow quickly in the spirit. And you will mature much more in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. Most importantly, your heart will transform to become like the Lord Jesus' heart. So I urge you to learn to pray this prayer with this new understanding.

Chapter 2 - Our Father In Heaven

Even when the Lord Jesus was still among them, the first disciples struggled in their prayer life. On two key moments in His life-on the mount of transfiguration and in the garden of Gethsemane – the closest disciples who were supposed to be praying were soundly sleeping (Lk. 9:32; Mt. 26:40,43). Their problem is still with us, for believers today are no more successful in our prayer life. Like the first disciples we don't know how to pray and what to pray. But our problem is really greater. We have far more distractions and a lot less discipline. If we can't sleep we just might stay up all night watching TV. But the moment we pick up the Bible, the moment we decide to pray, we are fast asleep, sometimes even in a church service. A deeper understanding and appreciation of the greatest model prayer – The Lord's Prayer – is therefore more urgent than ever.

John the Baptist taught his disciples how to pray. So one day, one of the disciples of the Lord Jesus came to ask Him to teach on prayer: "Teach us, Lord to pray" (Lk. 11:1). The twelve apostles followed the Lord Jesus Christ for three years. They saw him preaching, healing the sick, casting out demons, raising the dead people, and performing other miraculous works. They had observed that whenever the Lord Jesus did active ministry He would spend a lot of time in prayer (cp. Lk. 5:16,17). So they came to a simple conclusion: the power in their Master's preaching and ministry resulted from prayer. So they didn't ask the Lord Jesus to teach them how to preach. They didn't ask Him to teach them how to heal the sick. But they wanted the Lord Jesus, to teach them how to pray.

The answers to all the problems and questions we face in life can be found in prayer. If only we knew how to pray. If only we knew how to talk with God, we would have no problems in our life. And when we do face problems we would know how to deal with them. The Lord's Prayer can really help us to pray effectively. As we examine it in greater depth, it will yield its secrets and deeper mysteries. We can then pattern our prayers after it and build up a successful and healthy prayer life. Before we go any further, however, let me lay one foundation right now. In many denominational churches The Lord's Prayer is habitually recited, sometimes monthly, sometimes weekly, sometimes even daily. Now I'm not going to say whether this is a good or a bad practise. What I hope to do is open your mind and understanding into the real spirit and life of this prayer. Let

me set one truth straight right now. Anything we do mechanically will have no life, purpose and meaning. The Lord Jesus Christ said many times the Pharisees and Sadducees prayed like robots. They repeated the same prayer over and over again. Buddhist monks do that. Hindu priests do that (Mt. 6:7). For hours they can repeat their prayer. Is there any life to it? Unlikely, because anything we make into a formula to be repeated has no power in it. There is no life in it. The Lord's Prayer is no exception. Mindless recitations will strip it of its power and life. However, when you pray The Lord's Prayer with all your heart, and from the innermost of your being, then it has great power.

Our Father In Heaven

Let us analyze the opening words in The Lord's Prayer: *Our Father who art in heaven*. This phrase can be broken up into two points. Firstly, "***Our Father***;" secondly, "***who art in heaven***." Let me ask you one question. Why does the Lord Jesus Christ teach us to call God "Our Father"? Why can't we just say, "Dear God"? Why can't we just say, "Father"? The Lord specifically says, "Our Father." Why does He do that? In order to answer this question, we need first to understand something about the concept of God the Israelite people had. How was God in the Old Testament perceived as? The Bible tells us that God dwells between the cherubim (Ps. 80:1). God tells Moses that from between the cherubim He will speak with him (Ex. 25:22). In those days, the Ark of the Covenant was kept in the Most Holy Place. Nobody could go in there except Moses, and also Aaron, once a year. The glory of God rested on the ark. It was a very frightening experience. The people knew God could not be seen by everybody. Only special people could see God. That was their concept of God.

In Exodus 19:2, God told Moses, I'*m going to come down in a thick cloud. I will come down with great fire and thunder and earthquake. Tell everybody not to come near the mountain when I come. Only you alone can come up the mountain. Everybody else must stand far away*. When the people saw the thunders and lightnings and the thick dark cloud upon the mountain, they all trembled with great fear because they saw God's awesome display of might. They were not going to get near God. They all had a terrible fear of God. Exodus 15:11 also tells us that the people harbored great fear towards God, even amidst their declarations of praise. So what was their perception of God? A very far

away God. A great God. A terrifying God. A frightening God. Their God was not only fierce, He was quick to punish His own people. In Numbers 12 you will read of one such incident. Miriam spoke against her brother Moses and God's anger came against her. Instantly she became a leper. On another occasion, the sons of Aaron the High Priest offered the wrong sacrifice and the fire of God came upon them, leaving only charred remains to be taken outside the camp (Lev. 10:1-5). In 2 Samuel 6 you read of a man called Uzzah who tried to steady the Ark of the Covenant when the oxen stumbled. Immediately the anger of God came upon him and slew him. In Acts 5, you will read how Ananias and Sapphira dropped dead in the presence of the living God. What does all these scripture show us? God is full of anger. He is a frightening God, a terrible God. This was the way the people saw God.

A Loving Father

But the Lord Jesus Christ portrayed God in an entirely different light to the people. His message is, "Yes He is the same God but He is not how you perceive Him." Let me tell you this truth: The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is a supreme God but, at the same time, He is also a deeply personal God. He is in fact the most wonderful person you can ever know. And He cares for you just like a good earthly father. A father cares for us. A father works very hard to provide food for the family to eat. A father gives us the money we need whenever we ask him. This is our understanding about a good father. So the Lord Jesus Christ was telling the people this: *When you look at God, don't just look at Him as a terrible God. He is a wonderful father who cares for His people, and who loves His people. He feels for His people. He is just not a sovereign God but a personable God with whom you can sit down and talk with.* In revealing God as a loving father, the Lord Jesus was teaching that prayer is not just asking for things. Prayer is a relationship between two people. It is a fellowship between close friends. It is a courtship between lovers.

The Lord Jesus Christ did not begin The Lord's Prayer with "Father in heaven." He began with the possessive noun *Our.* "Our Father" is our own father and not somebody else's father. The scripture in Psalm 48:14 very beautifully tells us *this God is our God.* He is our own personal God. If you go to India, and especially south India, you will encounter this peculiar custom. When you are meeting someone, you will be asked, *What is our name?* You won't be asked,

What is your name? They won't ask like that. To say "What is your name?" implies there is a big gap between you and me. They will not make a stranger feel like a stranger. They make him feel as if he is a part of their family. So they will ask, "What is our name?" As soon as a stranger hears like that, he will feel so happy, musing to himself, *O I'm not a stranger. This man has accepted me as if I'm his family.* The stranger will immediately feel so at home. They will also ask, *How many children do we have?* which really is *How many children do you have?* and not "How many children do we both have added together?" You see they make you feel at home.

In like vein, the Lord Jesus Christ employs *Our Father*, not *His father*, or *Somebody else's father*. What is the Lord Jesus Christ telling us? God and you are not far apart. You are one family. You are a part of the family of God. You are God's children. You are not the devil's children. You are not a stranger. You are not an orphan. You are not an outcast. You are a member of the household of God. This is why the Lord Jesus Christ says, "Our Father." God is our father-not somebody else's father. He is our very own father. Observe how beautifully the Lord Jesus Christ shows us how to address God. Every time He speaks about God He either uses the word *your Father* or *My Father*. He never ever says "God." He makes people see God in a different light. This is the most important aspect in prayer. If you get this first point wrong your entire prayer will be all wrong. In our approach before God in prayer, we must get this most basic understanding right.

Let's go little bit deeper. The Lord Jesus said, *God is our Father*. He calls God *Abba Father* (Mk. 14:36; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6). Earlier, we have already disclosed that "abba" comes from the Aramaic language spoken by the Lord Jesus during his earthly life. It is a term that conveyed great love for one's father. So when a son cried "Abba," he was not just simply saying "father." He was also communicating his intimate feelings of endearment towards his father. *My dear loving daddy* -that's "abba." Whenever the Lord Jesus Christ cries "Abba Father," He is calling out to God with great affectionate love. He is showing us God is very near and very dear to us. In just this one word "abba" the Lord Jesus Christ has revealed many things about our God: He is full of love; He is a very close to us; He is very tender towards us; whenever you look to Him you don't have to fear, you don't have to doubt; you can just hug Him and say *Daddy*; you can call upon God with great love boldly.

Let me reveal one secret to you. The original relationship between God and man is a relationship between a father and his child. When God made Adam, the relationship between God and Adam was not a relationship between a God and His believer. It was not a relationship between a Creator and His creation. It was not like that. What was the relationship between God and Adam then? A father and son relationship. How do we know this? In Luke 3 we have the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ. In verse 38, it is written, *Adam, which was the son of God*. The Bible doesn't say, *Adam, who was made by God*. Even if it were written like that it wouldn't be wrong. Genesis 1:26 and 2:7-8 tell us that God made man out of the dust of the earth. So it is not wrong to say, "Adam, who was made by God." But the Bible calls Adam the son of God. What the Bible is declaring is that right from the beginning of time the relationship between God and man is a father-son relationship. Such is the closeness of the relationship-and not one between a Creator and His creation, not one between God and His people, not one between a master and his apprentice, not one between a king and his citizens. Not any of such relationships.

How was the relationship between a loving father and his loving son or loving daughter like in the beginning? We might note that when Eve married Adam, she did not have a mother-in-law. Eve was spared of all those troubles that characterize many in-laws. Eve only had a father and a father-in-law. Beloved, let this truth sink into your heart - Prayer is not just asking for things. Prayer is a relationship. If you get this truth into your heart I promise you in Jesus' name your prayer life will be transformed. Your relationship with God will change. Your walk with God will change. When you look at God you will not look at Him with great fear. You will look at Him with great love because He is a father in your eyes.

Some people have difficulty looking at God as father. Some many years ago I was preaching in one church. A young lady came to me with a problem. She said, *When I was growing up my father never loved me; my father never cared for me. He was a very strict man, always beating me, never sitting down and talking with me, never ever telling me 'You are a good girl' or "Daddy loves you," never ever said like that. So I grew up in my family not looking up to my father as my father. I looked at him just like a man in the house. So that's why I cannot look up to God as my father*. I looked at the lady and asked her one question: *My dear daughter, how do you wish your father to be to you?* She

thought for a while, and then said, *I wish my father were a loving father. I long for that. I wish my father were a caring father. I long for that. I wish my father would love me very much. I long for that. I wish my father were supportive of me. I long for that.* So I asked her, *Did you get all that from your father? No. Do you want all that? Yes.* So I told her that whatever she missed out the Lord Jesus was willing to give to her. But she must look to God as her loving Father. She mustn't see her earthly father's face in God's face. She should just look to God and say, *Heavenly Father, my own father never loved me. But you love me so I love you*. The moment you say that you would look at God differently.

This is how the Lord Jesus Christ is teaching us. This is why He would always say, *My Father, your Father, Our Father*, in the Bible. In the days of the prophet John the Baptist, there was a wide chasm even between God's chosen people and God. There was a big wall of separation. The people did not have a relationship with God. So, among other purposes, the Lord Jesus Christ was sent by God to destroy that wall of separation and bridge that chasm, uniting man with God once more. How is such a unity to come about? By the changing of the mind, by the taking away of all the wrong thinking in the people's perception of God as just another pagan god-fickle, vengeful, cold, distant. When came before God they came only with fear. Even today, we carry a trace of the same attitude: when we come before God we don't know whether God would hear our prayer or not. Why do we have this problem? It's because in our minds God is far away. God is just a god. The Lord Jesus Christ says *No*. God is our Father. Our own Father. If you ask something from your father won't he give it to you?

A preacher in U.S.A. told his wife one day, *I'm going to pray in my room. I'm going to prepare the message for tomorrow's service. Don't let any visitors come and see me. If any phone call comes don't call me. Don't disturb me at all. I'm going to wait on God.* So he went inside his prayer room. He was praying and meditating the Bible. When this pastor was meditating or praying he never liked to be disturbed. If anybody disturbed him, even if it was his own wife, he would get very upset. As he was deeply meditating, suddenly somebody opened the door and came inside the room. The pastor looked up. Who was this person who dared come into the room? Even his wife wouldn't dare. Anger was boiling in his heart. The door opened, but nobody was there. He looked again, and then he saw a little girl-in fact his four-year-old daughter. Undaunted by his angry look, the daughter walked towards her father. The father was staring angrily at her.

Then she climbed on his laps. The father was still very angry because he had been disturbed. He never smiled at her. Very seriously he glared at her. The little girl climbed from his lap onto the table and looked him straight into the eyes. Father and daughter, eye to eye, the one fuming, the other not the least bit perturbed. Then the daughter put out two tiny fingers, dipped them into her father's cheeks, then wiggled his face from left to right. She squeezed his cheeks, and said, *Daddy, I love you.* Instantly, all the anger in his heart vanished. He reached out to hug his little girl. Wrapping his baby in his bosom, the father kissed her with great tenderness and affection.

God our heavenly Father is also just like that. When you say, *Father*; when you call Him, *My Father*; when you say, *Our father*; He would turn His loving gaze upon you. And when you say, *I love you. I love you, Papa* - when you say it like that-oh the heart of God would be so full of joy! He would pick you up, put you on His table. He would look into your face and He would ask you, *My dear son, my dear daughter, what do you want? What can I give you today?* Oh what a wonderful and blessed relationship!

Now let me show you another mystery. Let's meditate a little deeper on the same subject of why the Lord Jesus Christ employs "Our Father" in The Lord's Prayer. He could have taught the disciples, and us, to say "My Father in heaven," and that would still not be wrong. But He said "Our Father." Now when you say "our" you mean "more than one person." So when you are praying, "Our Father in heaven," how many persons are praying with you when you are all alone in the room praying? In such moments, how could you say "Our Father"? Shouldn't you say "My Father" instead? But look at the actual words of the Lord Jesus. He said, "Our Father." What did He mean by it? "Our," we know, signifies more than one person.

If you read the Bible very carefully, you will notice that whenever He was praying the Lord Jesus Christ always addressed God *My Father*. He would always also say *My Father said this* and *My Father said that.* And whenever He wanted to talk to the people He would say, *Your Father in heaven*. So look at what the Lord Jesus is saying, *My Father, Your Father.* When He arose from the dead, He looked at Mary Magdalene and told her: *Go and tell my brothers. I'm going to My Father and your Father* (Jn. 20:17). "My Father and your Father"- that's none other than *Our Father*. So what is the Lord Jesus Christ saying?

When you pray you are never alone. The Lord Jesus Christ stands by your side and He prays with you. And He will help you to pray (Jn. 44:13; Eph. 2:18). Many times we conclude our prayers by saying, *In Jesus' name I pray*. We might think that this is merely a formula. Let me share with you a deep mystery and truth. When Jesus says whatever you ask in my name He is not telling us that when you finish praying in His name you will get whatever you prayed for. Not just that but something deeper. He is telling us that when we pray together-when you and I (Jesus) pray together-while you are praying to your Father I (Jesus) am praying to My Father. Together we are praying to Our Father. When we do that God will certainly grant our prayer.

One day in the year 1983 in the month of November, I went into my room to pray. Many people had written to me for prayer so I took all the letters into my room to pray. I knelt down, got myself ready to pray. As I was just closing my eyes, I noticed somebody opening the door. Normally nobody would disturb me when I was praying. But the door opened and somebody walked in. When I saw who it was I was shocked. It was the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He was just like a real person. He opened the door and pushed the door forward. And He stood there at the doorway for a moment. He was wearing a long robe. It was a beautiful royal blue colour. I was so stunned I didn't know what to say. I didn't even say, *Welcome, Lord Jesus*! I never even said, *How are you, Lord Jesus?* I was dazed. You know, sometimes we think to ourselves, if I meet Jesus I will ask Him this question, I will ask Him that question. Have you ever thought like that? Let me tell you, when you see Him, you will totally forget everything. Your mind will draw a blank. Do you know that the Lord Jesus Christ is so glorious, so handsome, so beautiful, the moment you see His face you will be completely lost in His beauty? Nothing will you remember to ask Him.

The Lord Jesus came towards me. I was still stunned looking at Him. That was the first time I was seeing the Lord Jesus face to face. He came and knelt down beside me. That was the second great shock I got. The first shock was seeing Him face to face in person for the first time. The second shock was seeing the King of kings and the Lord or lords kneeling down beside an insignificant person like me. As I gazed at Him, He said, *My dear son, I have come to pray together with you.* Now that was the third shock to me. I steadfastly gazed into His face. *Put your hands on the letters*, He said. Now there were many letters, about three hundred. I didn't know what were all the requests in the letters. He

took His hand and placed it on top my hand and said, *Let us now pray*. As we were closing our eyes the Lord Jesus lifted up His face straight towards heaven and started to pray. *Our Father*, He began, and went on praying, tears rolling down His eyes like an overflowing stream.

Have you ever read Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 7:25? These two scriptures tell us Jesus Christ is praying for us in heaven. Revelation 5:5-8 tells us when you pray the angels of God carry your prayers to heaven and bring them to the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus Christ takes all your prayers and He intercedes for you before God the Father. Beloved, never ever forget that when you kneel down to pray, you and the Lord Jesus are praying together. That's why the Lord Jesus teaches us to say "Our Father." The Lord Jesus is praying to His Father while you are praying to your Father. The Lord Jesus and you, together you are praying to Our Father. When you pray together with the Lord Jesus, how can your prayers not be answered? Your prayers will always be answered because the Lord Jesus Christ is praying together with you. When you pray, when you say one word, the Lord Jesus Christ is standing beside you and saying, *Amen, Father, answer this prayer.* In church, when the pastor prays, we say "Amen" to his every word. In the same way, when you pray, the Lord Jesus Christ stands beside you. And He will also say *Amen. Yes Father, give my son this thing. Give my daughter this thing.* The Lord Jesus stands in agreement with you in prayer.

Our Father in Heaven

The Lord Jesus Christ says, *Our Father in heaven*. He doesn't just say "Our Father" and stop there. He says, "Our Father in heaven." Why does the Lord Jesus Christ very specifically use the phrase in heaven? It is to convey the uniqueness of God. It is to give us the realization that our God is not like all the other ordinary gods people follow or believe in (Ex. 15:11; Ps. 115:4-7).

But the Lord God, our Lord Jesus manifested in human form, is saying, *Our God is in heaven. He is not an ordinary god. He is a special God. He is the living God. He is not a god made by wood.* In order to draw our attention to the uniqueness of God the Lord Jesus says, "Our Father in heaven." Our heavenly Father is not on this earth like ordinary gods. During the times of the New Testament the Romans were having so many different kinds of gods and

religions. In fact they were even worshipping their king as a god. The Jews, who worshipped only one God, came under the influence of many other religions with their many gods because of the Roman yoke. Many cultures today, perhaps even the culture you come from, pay homage to many gods. Our Father in heaven, the Lord Jesus is saying to us, is a unique God. Up there, in heaven, a living God, a personal God, a very special God is waiting for you to recognize His fatherhood. After bringing us into a personal and close relationship and friendship with God through His blood, the Lord Jesus Christ is now opening our eyes to see the vastness of God. He is telling us, *Your Father, My Father-Our Father-He is a great God. He is sitting up in heaven.*

Why is He sitting up there in heaven, you may ask. The Bible says that God is so great that the heavens even cannot contain Him. This earth is too small for Him (1 Kg. 8:27). As the Lord Jesus looked at His disciples, anxious for a teaching on prayer, He purposefully began with the words, *Our Father in heaven*. He is telling them to take their minds off the smallness of God. *Lift up your eyes and look! God is a big God! God is a great God! God is a wonderful God!* The Lord Jesus Christ is trying to open their eyes. He would remind them of the words of the prophet Isaiah, that the entire universe could be contained in the palm of God's hand (Isa. 48:13). Look up into the night sky, take in the vast expanse of the heavens, and let your imagination go. Even the best scientists admit they do not know where the universe begins and where it ends. It is so big. All the images and pictures we have of the universe comprise just a small portion of the unsearchable cosmos. Now Isaiah in this scripture tells us the entire cosmos fits within God's right hand. Just one hand. This God is our Father. He is not somebody else's father. He is not your neighbor's father. He is our father. He is your own Father. Your Father is great. Your Father is majestic. Your Father is almighty.

Do you see what the Lord Jesus Christ is trying to do? First He tells them God is your friend, and in fact more than a friend. He is your heavenly Father. You can come to God expecting a loving embrace. After establishing our close relationship with God, He tells them to look further. Your God is a great God. Whatever you ask Him He can give it to you. So don't ask for small things. Your God is a great God, a big God. The Lord Jesus Christ is opening their minds, setting them free of the restricting perceptions of God shaped by tradition and oppressive foreign nations.

The Bible tells us that all things are possible with God (Matt. 19:26; Mk. 9:23). Nothing is impossible. Let that sink into your heart. All things are possible with our Father in heaven. There is nothing that God cannot do. Everything is possible with God. When you pray, look to God as your Father. Meditate on the bigness of God. When you kneel down to pray, when you close your eyes, when you look at God, don't think of God as a god. When you close your eyes, think, *God is my Father*. So when you pray with the right understanding, *Papa. Our heavenly Papa,* God will look down from heaven. *What do you want, my daughter?* He would ask, *What do you want, my son?*

Since God is our Father, and all things are possible with God, we can pray with believing faith. The Bible says that we must pray with faith (Jas. 1:6). So when God is our Father and all things are possible with Him, we can and must come boldly before God (Heb. 10:19). We don't have to be afraid. In this first lesson on prayer, the Lord Jesus desires for us to put great love into saying, *Our Father which art in heaven.* The hurdle you are facing will be cleared if you look at God as your Father today. If you look to God as your Father and with great love call Him *Our Father*, whatever you ask will be granted to you.

Chapter 3- Hallowed Be Your Name

Prayer is a wonderful family time. Don't just rush into God's presence, give him a shopping list, say "Amen," and then run away. You will miss the glory of God. Don't do that. Let us change our practice. Prayer is a wonderful family time between you and your Father. It's a wonderful family relationship between God and you.

The Lord Jesus Christ began thus: *Our father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name.* Why did the Lord Jesus Christ ask us to hallow the name of God? In Malachi 1:11 it is written that from everlasting to everlasting shall all people come to reverence and worship God's name. From everlasting to everlasting people everywhere shall burn incense to God's name. They will glorify His name. They will pay respect to His name. In the Indian culture, and also in the Chinese culture, when we go to temples we burn incense to God. This practise came from the Old Testament. God taught the Israelite people how to worship. In Exodus 30 God told Moses to make holy incense: *Everyday, the incense must be poured upon the Altar of Incense. And let the sweet smell rise up before My presence. As I smell the incense I will receive that prayer.* What is the incense? Psalm 141:2 says prayer is like incense rising up before God (also Rev. 8:3,4).

We should hallow the name of God because,

1. The name of God is BLESSED (Ps. 113:2).

2. The name of God is GREAT (1 Chr. 17:24).

3. The name of God is GLORIOUS (Neh. 9:5).

4. The name of God is HOLY (Ps. 111:9).

For these reasons the Lord Jesus Christ taught us to hallow the name of God. Firstly he had taken our hand and said, *This is your father*. He made us hold on to the hand of God: *This is your Father; Father this is your son, your daughter.* After establishing that relationship the Lord Jesus takes our hand again, *Come,*

let us go into the most holy place. God holds our hand and leads us into the Most Holy Place. In the Most Holy Place God is very glorious and holy. The tabernacle of Moses has three parts: *The outer court*, *the Holy Place*, and *the Most Holy Place.* Every priest can go into the outer court and the Holy Place everyday. But nobody can enter into the Most Holy Place, because in the Most Holy Place is the glory of God. Among all the priests, one is appointed as the high priest. Only the high priest is permitted to enter into the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. Even the high priest cannot enter the Most Holy Place every day. When he goes into the Most Holy Place he must carry blood in his hand. And his head must be bowed down. With great fear and trembling he would go into the glory of God. Do you know why he trembles so? It's because if there is even a small sin in his life the glory of God would kill him. If there is a small black spot on his robe the holiness of God would kill him. That place is called the Most Holy Place because the very glorious presence of God is abiding there.

What does the word *hallow* mean? It comes from the Hebrew word *hagious*, which means *holy*. "Hagious" also means *to set apart, to acknowledge, to give glory.* So when the Lord Jesus Christ said, *hallow the name of God* - He is telling people to honor the name of God because God's name is glorious, great and wonderful. "Hallowed be Your name" means God has a name. When Moses saw the glory of God on Mount Sinai he saw the power of God on a burning bush. And a voice spoke to him, *Go to Egypt and set my people free*. Moses then asked God a question. *If you are God what is your name?* (Ex. 3:13,14). God said, *You want to know My name? I will reveal to you now. I am that I am. I am the self-existing God. I have no beginning, no end. I am the everlasting God.* God revealed His name to Moses. God has a name and that name is "I am that I am."

But in the Bible there are also many other names given to God. Whenever the prophets and the patriarchs have some special experiences with God, whenever they have encounters with the living God, whenever their needs are met, they proclaim the nature of God with hearts full of joy and happiness. They proclaim some aspect of the character of God: "Oh God you are like this." And that proclamation becomes a powerful and wonderful name that blesses the living God. In Exodus 33 you will read of an encounter between Moses and God. Moses comes before God and he talks with Him. In verse eighteen he makes a very powerful prayer. He tells God, *Show me your glory. I want to see your*

glory. In verse nineteen God tells him, *Moses, because you asked me that I will now reveal My glory to you. Come and stand before me on this particular mountain. Early in the morning come and wait upon Me and I will proclaim My name to you.* So early in the morning Moses climbs up the mountain. As Moses was waiting on the mountain the glory of God came down. And a voice spoke. There God proclaimed his name. He said, *The Lord, the Lord God, gracious, long suffering, merciful, keeping mercy for a thousand generations* (Ex. 34:5-7). When God said, *I will proclaim my name,* the Lord proclaimed His name by describing His character. He said, "I'm gracious; I am full of love; I am merciful; I am long suffering; I keep mercy for thousands of generations." So what is God saying? He is revealing His character to Moses. The name of God reveals His character. The name reveals His nature all throughout the bible. When children are born they are given names. The name is not just a name but it reveals the character. It reveals the nature of the person. In the same way God has a name. One name only-but that one name encompasses His entire character. That character can be revealed in many wonderful ways. When the Lord Jesus Christ said, "Hallowed be your name," He is telling us to worship the name of God. What is God in your life? Describe the name of God. Worship the name.

In the Bible many characteristics of God are described in His name. Let me give you a few examples.

1. **Jehovah Elohim** (Gen. 1:1) - *The God who came looking for sinners*. So we worship as: *Oh Lord God, You are Jehovah Elohim. You came looking for - a sinner.*

2. **Jehovah Jireh** (Gen. 22:13) - *The God who provides.* So we worship as: *Oh Lord God, You are Jehovah Jireh. You provide all my needs.*

3. **Jehovah Saboath** (1 Sam. 1:3) - *The Lord of hosts*. So we worship as: *Oh Lord God, You are Jehovah Saboath who fights battles for me. You are warrior and protector.*

4. **Jehovah Rapha** (Ex. 15:26) - *The Lord who heals.* So we worship as: *Oh Lord God, You are Jehovah Rapha who forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases*

(Ps. 103:3).

5. **Jehovah Nissi** (Ex. 17:8-15) - *The Lord my banner.* So we worship as: *Oh God, You are Jehovah Nissi, who provides a banner of victory and covering protecting us from our enemies.*

6. **Jehovah Shalom** (Judg. 6:24) - *The Lord our peace*. So we worship as: *Oh Lord God, You are Jehovah Shalom who gives us peace, a peace beyond all understanding.*

7. **Jehovah Tsidkenu** (Jer. 23:6) - *The Lord our righteousness*. So we worship as: *Oh Lord God, You are Jehovah Tsidkenu. You are my righteousness. Thank You for covering me with Your righteousness. Thank You for taking away all the guilt and condemnation away from me.*

8. **Jehovah Shammah** (Ezek. 48:35) - *The Lord is present.* So we worship as: *Oh Lord God, You are Jehovah Shammah. Not only You are always present with us but You also come to abide with us in the flesh as Emmanuel. Thank You Lord Jesus for being always with us even to the end of age.*

9. **El Olam** (Gen. 21:33) - *The Everlasting God.* So we worship as: *Oh Lord God, El Olam, You live forever and ever. Your throne is established forever and ever. And You reign forever and ever. You are from everlasting to everlasting - The Alpha and the Omega, The Beginning and the End. Be blessed forever more.*

10. **El Shaddai** (Gen. 17:1) - *The Almighty God.* So we worship as: *Lord, You are El Shaddai. You are almighty - a God who is more than enough for all Your children. Like a father You protect and provide for us. Like a mother You nurse and breastfeed us with Your loving-kindness.*

11. **El Gibbor** (Isa. 9:6-7) - *The Mighty God*. This one name composes five names - *Wonderful, Counselor, Everlasting Father, Mighty God and Prince of Peace.* So we worship as: *Oh Lord God. You are El Gibbor.*

How wonderful You are in all Your works? How marvellous are Your counsels? Everlasting Father I worship Your majesty. Mighty God thank You for your wonders, signs and miracles. How great Your wonders are? Oh Prince of peace, thank You for filling me with Your peace which flows like a river all over me.

12. **El Elyon** (Gen. 14:18) - *The Most High God.* So we worship as: *Oh Lord God. The Most high and lofty God. How majestic You are? Your name is high above the heavens and reign forever.*

Worship and honour God's Name

When you go on worshipping the Names of God, the presence of God will begin to flood your hearts. The glory of God will begin to flood your spirits and a wonderful experience begins to take place. When you proclaim and glorify the Name of God, you are making a declaration of the character of God and what that Name means to you. The Lord Jesus Christ is calling us to worship the Name of God. Honor the Name of God. Treasure the Name of God. Just describe how wonderful and meaningful the Name of God is in your own life.

Just imagine it like this. You are sitting on the laps of the Lord Jesus. You are looking into His face. And you are telling Him, *Jesus, You are Emmanuel. You are always with me. You are Shalom. You give me peace. Jesus, You are the Bright Morning Star. You brighten up my life. Jesus, You are my righteousness. You cover me with righteousness. Jesus, you are the everlasting God. Death has no power upon You.* I have only given you some examples. When Jesus Christ was walking on this earth He revealed his own character in many names. In John 10:30 He says, *I am the Good Shepherd.* So you look at the Lord Jesus, say, *Jesus, You are a good shepherd. I'm your small little sheep. You will carry me in your hand. You will take care of me.* In John 8:12 and 9:5, Jesus Christ says, *I am the light of the world.* So you say, *Jesus, You are the light of the world. You brighten my life; You enlighten my eyes; You make me see the truth. O Jesus, You are the light of the world.* In John 11:25 Jesus Christ says, *I am the Resurrection and the Life. Like King David you can say, Jesus, You are my Resurrection. When I die I will open my eyes; I will rise up with You. My flesh will not see corruption; You will cause me to live forever with You because You are my*

Resurrection (Ps. 16:11).

Presence of God becomes real

What happens when you hallow the Name of God? This is another secret. When you hallow the Name of God, when you worship the name of God, when you glorify the name of God, a love relationship is built between you and God. When you go on giving thanks to God for His wonderful Name, love from your heart begins to flow out towards God. You are offering love to the Lord Jesus. You are giving your love as an offering to God. When you hallow the Name of God, the presence of God, the shekinah glory of God that is residing on the Ark of the Covenant will come and fill your heart. The presence of God will fill your heart. How is it possible? Psalm 96:9 says, *Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness*. That beauty of holiness is what Jesus Christ has taught us. So when you worship the name of God, when you hallow the Name of God, your heart is filled with the holy presence of God. Your heart will be filled with the glory of God. And your heart will be filled with the joy of God. When that happens a powerful faith grows in your heart. That will enable you to believe all things are possible with God. There is nothing great that God cannot do. Do you know how that is possible? Every time you say "Jehovah Sabaoth," you get the confidence that God will fight battles for you. You don't have to struggle inwardly. You are not alone. The devil cannot defeat you because Jehovah Sabaoth is beside you. When you worship the name Jehovah Sabaoth, the power and the strength that is in the Name fills your heart and your spirit becomes powerful. Faith grows in your heart. Authority rises up in your heart and boldness rises up in your heart. And you will know that you can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens you.

The Name of God in the Old Testament is very powerfully revealed in the New Testament. The Bible tells us that the Name of Jesus Christ has been highly exalted above all names (Phil. 2:9-11). That one name *Jesus* is now the King of kings and the Lord of lords-the most powerful name in the whole universe because in the name *Jesus* is a great mystery. What is the mystery? The name *Jesus* means **J**ehovah is **E**ternal **S**alvation for **US**. Jehovah is our salvation. Jehovah God is our redeemer. Jehovah God will remove all sins from us. There is power and majesty in the name .

Some years ago I was fasting and praying one day. I wanted to spend some time just waiting on God. A thought came into my mind. Let me just meditate and worship the name *Jesus*. So I close my eyes and I began to meditate the name *Jesus* in my mind. From my heart I began to worship that Name. *O Lord Jesus You are wonderful. O Lord Jesus You are the Counselor. O Lord Jesus You are the Good Shepherd.* I went on like this, worshipping and meditating at the same time. As I was doing that, in a vision I saw the heavens open before me. I saw just the word JESUS written in the heavens. When I saw that Name. I began to humble myself and worship that Name. As I went on worshipping, the name "Jesus" was transformed. It became the man Jesus. You see, John 1:1 says, *In the beginning is the word and the word was with God and the word was God.* And verse 14 says *the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.* So that was what I saw that day. First I saw the word Jesus. Then the Word became flesh and I saw the Lord Jesus standing there. When I saw the Lord Jesus I went on meditating again. I was just meditating the name of Jesus. And the Lord Jesus became glorified. His face began to shine. I went on meditating again. Then all His clothes begin to shine (Matt. 17:2).

From glory to glory Jesus Christ was being transformed. I kept on meditating, just thinking *Jesus, Jesus, Jesus*, and the glory was increasing and increasing. The glory became so bright I could no longer see the Lord Jesus but He transformed into a huge ball of fire. I then understood what the Bible says in Deuteronomy 4:24 and Hebrews 12:29, that God is a consuming fire, a devouring fire. My eyes were getting very painful looking at the glory. I went on meditating. The deeper I began to meditate and worship the Name, the bigger the ball of fire became. Suddenly the huge ball of fire exploded in a blinding flash of light and knocked me over. I fell down on the ground (cp. Ex. 34:5-8). I began to understand the scripture, that God dwells in unapproachable light (Dan. 2:20-22; 1 Tim. 6:16). When I got up I trembled with fear. I realized how powerful the name of Jesus is, how glorious the name of Jesus is, how holy the name of Jesus is.

Chapter 4 - Your Kingdom Come

In teaching this one point the Lord Jesus Christ is telling us that the kingdom of heaven belongs to God. The Lord *God is the ruler of our life*. When we pray He wants us to know and to acknowledge that God is the ruler of our life. In this one point the Lord Jesus Christ has taught us four things.

God is our ruler and king

When our hearts are bowed in prayer, our hearts must acknowledge this point that God is our ruler and king. The psalmist cries out like this: *My King and my God* (Ps. 5:2; 84:3). The psalmist acknowledges that God is the king of his life. Who is the king? What does a king do? The king sets rules for the people to live by. The king writes the law. These are the rules and conditions by which people should live. And did God as a king fulfill that? He certainly did. When the children of Israel came out of Egypt, as is recorded in the books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, God gave them rules and laws to live by. And in the New Testament God's rules are given from the book of Romans up to the book of Jude. Thus 21 books give us rules and laws for the New Testament believers to live by. Jesus Christ is our king. He is our ruler.

If a citizen of any nation breaks the law, say by robbing a bank or killing somebody-what does the law of the land demands? The murderer should be hanged. The robber is thrown into the prison. In the same way God's law also demands that the person who breaks the law be judged (Gal. 5:19-21). The Holy Spirit warns the church through the apostle Paul that any citizen of the kingdom of heaven who commits sexual sins or murder, has anger, is jealous, is full of envy, is causing false rumors, who is murmuring and back biting, causing division in the church, and spreading false teaching is breaking the laws of God. When you break the laws of heaven, you offend God, the righteous judge and king. As king, He is the ruler of the whole universe. 1 Timothy 6:15 tells us the apostle Paul received a revelation of Jesus Christ. He sees the Lord Jesus as a great judge of all the earth. He sees Jesus Christ as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

God has a kingdom over which He rules

God rules in a kingdom. When you pray "Thy kingdom come" what are you actually praying? You are saying, *God, let Your kingdom come and rule my heart*. The Bible tells us that when you accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, God writes His laws in your heart and mind. Not on the tablets of stone, not in a book, but in our hearts does He write all the law (Heb. 8:10). And He puts His Spirit inside us to guide us so we can be faithful citizens. Do you know why God does that? God doesn't just want to sit among us and rule us. God wants to rule us in our hearts. In Proverbs 21:1, it is written that the heart of a king is in the hands of God, and whichever way God wants He will turn the heart of the king. Now what does the heart of the king got to do with you? The Bible say that when you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior you become a king and a priest unto God (Rev. 1:6; 5:10). So when you become a child of God you become a king. You also become a priest (1 Pe. 2:9).

How is that possible? Why king? Why priest? The Bible says that Jesus Christ is sitting on the throne as king and priest (Zech. 6:13). Just like the Lord Jesus, you are also king and priest. Because we are also king and priest, when we pray Thy kingdom come, we are actually declaring: *Lord Jesus, come and rule my heart. I am a king and a priest to You. My heart is in Your hand. Guide me, lead me, rule me, let Your kingdom come in my heart.*

God doesn't rule over everybody. He is the king of the whole universe, but His kingdom consists only of His citizens. Who are His citizens? John 3:3 says, *Except a man is born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven.* If you want to see the kingdom of God, if you want to enter into the kingdom of heaven, you first must become a citizen of God. How do you become a citizen of the kingdom of heaven? By becoming a child of God (Jn. 1:12). How did we become His children? God pours a spirit of adoption into our hearts (Rom. 8:14-15; Gal. 4:6). When the spirit of adoption comes upon us, our spirits become alive unto God. We become born again-born into the family of God, born into the kingdom of God. This enables us to call God *Abba Father*, and we become the citizens of heaven.

If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you are not

a citizen of heaven. You can be born in a Christian family. All your life you may have grown up in a Christian family. But if you are not washed by the blood of Jesus, you are not a citizen of heaven. If you want to become a citizen of heaven, you must be born again. When you pray "Thy kingdom come," the kingdom of God comes and rules your heart. God's Spirit will lead you and guide you by His perfect will. Then you will be like a tree planted by the rivers of living water (Ps. 1:3). You will grow up as a healthy tree. All the works of your hands will be fruitful. You will be a very beautiful person.

There is another very powerful reason why we must pray this prayer. It helps in world evangelism. We are asking the kingship of Jesus Christ to come and rule in this world in places where the gospel is not heard before. You pray, *Lord, let thy kingdom come in Taiwan, let thy kingdom come in China, let thy kingdom come in Tibet.* When you pray like that God will let his kingdom rule. When you pray like that, how can the kingdom come except that more people become the citizens of heaven. How can people become citizens of heaven except they become born again? So when you pray for His kingdom to come, God will raise up many servants and handmaidens to go preach the gospel.

God's kingdom does not exist fully yet on earth

Until the kingdom of this earth becomes the kingdom of God, Jesus Christ will continue to reign only through the church. Why has the kingdom of God not fully come to this earth yet? When the children of Israel were slaves for four hundred years in Egypt, they were crying out to God, *Lord save us!* God heard their prayers and he sent Moses to set them free. They came to the Promised Land. While they were there God was king over them. God was ruling over them through His prophets. But the people told their prophets in those days *Give us a king. Give us a worldly king* (1 Sam. 8:5,6). Samuel the prophet was broken hearted, so he went and prayed. The heart of God was very broken. God told Samuel, *I wanted to be king over My people but these people don't want Me. They are rejecting Me.* So God gave them a king. The same thing happened in the New Testament. When Jesus Christ was brought on trial, He said to Pilate, *My kingdom is not of this world* (Jn. 18:36). Why did the Lord Jesus say it like that? When the wise man from the East came to worship the Lord Jesus, they asked a question: *Where is He who is born the king of the Jews?* (Matt. 2:2) The wise man recognized that Jesus Christ was the king of the Jews. But did the

people of Israel receive Him as their king? They said, *We don't want Jesus as our king. We want the emperor of Rome to be our king* (Jn. 19:15). In the Old Testament they rejected God as their king. In the New Testament they rejected Jesus Christ as their king. That is why the Lord Jesus said, *My kingdom is not of this world.* That is why the kingdom of God has not fully come yet. But whenever people receive Jesus Christ as King in their hearts, the Lord Jesus makes His kingdom there and He rules invisibly through their hearts (1 Tim. 1:17). So when you pray Thy kingdom come, you are saying, *Jesus come and rule my heart.* The kingdom of God is inside us (Lk. 17:21). And there the Lord Jesus Christ is sitting as the King of kings and Lord of lords. And He will rule your heart, lead your heart and guide your heart.

Why we need to pray this prayer?

All the angels and the saints in heaven pray this prayer, *The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of lord our God (*Rev. 11:15). When you pray "Thy kingdom come," you are proclaiming the lordship of Jesus over this earth. We must keep on praying this prayer until the kingdom of this earth becomes the kingdom of the Lord our God. Does it mean this world does not belong to God? When God made Adam, He gave him all the power and authority to rule this earth (Gen. 1:26). But when Adam disobeyed and sinned, he gave the power and authority to rule this earth to the devil. So Adam became a prisoner. The devil is now the king and ruler of this earth.

Let me share with you a secret. In Luke 4:1-13, the Bible records that the devil tempted the Lord Jesus. In one of the temptation the devil brought the Lord Jesus to a very high mountain (v.5,6). In one single moment he showed the Lord Jesus all the kingdoms of this earth and he said, *Jesus, take a look at all this kingdom. You came to this world for this. Bow down and worship me. If you worship me I will give you this entire kingdom.* How could the devil say that unless he possessed it? He told the Lord Jesus that all this kingdom was delivered to him. When was it delivered? Who delivered it to him? The moment Adam sinned he gave the kingdom of this earth to the devil. So the devil has this kingdom. He is the king; he rules this earth. When we pray "Thy kingdom come," we are transferring the lordship of this earth back to God. The devil is king over this earth. The devil rules us through sin. Romans 6:5 says let sin have no more rule over you, which means once upon a time sin was ruling over you.

That was how the devil was ruling us. Through sin the devil is king over our life. He made everyone of us prisoners by sin. When you pray "Thy kingdom come," you are declaring to the devil, *O Satan, this world doesn't belong to you anymore. I am now the citizen of heaven. Sin has no more power over me. I am set free. I am no more the dominion and kingdom of Satan.*

We hasten Christ's coming

Let me show you one very deep mystery in the Bible. This mystery will reveal to us why we need to pray this prayer. We read in the Bible, *And the four living creatures, individually having six wings, were full of eyes all over and within. Day and night they never stop saying holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty. Who was and who is to come. The living creatures offer glory and honor and thanksgiving to him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever. The twenty-four elders fall prostrate before him who is sitting on the throne and they worship him who lives forever and ever and they throw down their crowns before the throne, crying out; worthy are You, our Lord and God to receive glory and honor and dominion for You created all things. By Your will they were and were created*
(Rev. 4:8-11).

All the angelic hosts are worshipping God as a holy God. As they worship like that, notice what the twenty-four elders did? They prostrated themselves before the Lord Jesus. They took their crowns and laid it at the feet of the Lord Jesus. That is the most important point. They took their crowns and lay them at the feet of the Lord Jesus. Who wears a crown? A king wears a crown. The Bible also says you are a king and a priest unto God (Rev. 1:6; 5:10). You wear a crown too. When the twenty-four elders laid their crowns at the feet of the Lord Jesus, they are declaring His kingship and rule over them. Likewise, when we diligently pray this prayer as a believer-king-priest, we are inviting the kingdom of God to come rule this earth and us.

Chapter 5 - Your Will Be Done

When we pray this prayer we are praying for two things to take place: *for God's will to be done in our life as God has planned it for us up in heaven* and *for God's will to be done in our country.* God has a plan for every nation. That is God's will for that country. For example in Exodus 19:6, God gives a reason why He raised the nation of Israel. He said, *I have raised you up so that you will show forth my glory. I raise you up according to My will so that you will display to the whole world My power. I have raised you up so that all the world will know that you are a peculiar people to Me.* God was revealing His will for the nation of Israel.

Let us study this scripture very carefully - *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.* Earth means two things. This real world and us. How can earth refer to us? When God made man, God made us from the dust of the ground (Gen. 2:7). And the dust comes from the earth. So when we talk about the earth, in the natural we refer to the physical earth and in the spiritual us. When we pray "Let Your will be done on this earth as it is done in heaven," we are praying, *Lord, let Your will be done in my life.* God has a perfect plan and way for every one of us (Eph. 5:17). Many times we do not know what is God's plan and will for our life. So we have been praying like this: *God, I don't know what is Your will. Show me your will.* Why do we pray like that? We want God's best things to take place in our life. We want to do things the right way. We don't want to make mistakes in our life.

About 14 years ago, a friend of mine asked me to pray for him. There was this girl in his church that he loved very much. The girl too was in love with him. But their two families didn't approve of their friendship. So he came and asked me to pray as the boy's family had great respect for me. He told me, *If you pray and tell my father that it is God's will he will surely agree to this marriage.* But I told him, *I cannot pray for you because this is a pastor's job. Go and talk to your pastor about your problem. Your pastor is in a better position to counsel you and the girl and the family*. He held my hand: *You are not a preacher; you are my friend. So don't pray for a believer; pray for your friend*. I said, *All right; because you are my friend, I will pray for you.* I prayed, *Lord Jesus, what is your will? Should they marry each other? Is it Your will that this boy must marry this*

girl?

I prayed for three days. On the third day I saw the Lord Jesus in the Spirit. He came and told me: *Tell your friend it is not My will that he should marry this girl. And it is not my will that this girl should marry this boy. If they get married their marriage will break apart. Within six month their marriage will become hell to them. Tell them it is not My will.* I called my friend and said to him, *Come and see me. I have got good news for you.* He was so happy he came running to see me. He said, *Tell me quickly-what did Jesus say? Call my father right now and tell him.* I said, *Wait a moment. Good news must be told slowly. Sit down so that you will not faint because of shock.* He sat down, feeling very excited. I said, *My dear friend, I prayed for you very much. The good news is the Lord Jesus heard my prayer. And He came to answer the prayer.* My friend was so excited-and very anxious. *Tell me quickly,* he pleaded. So I told him, *The Lord Jesus said it is not His will that you marry this girl.* As soon as he heard that, all the joy and all the happiness fled away from his face. I told him, *If you marry this girl the marriage will break apart. You will have no happiness. Just six months and the marriage will become hell to you. Don't marry this girl,* I advised, *This is not God's will for you.* He was very sad. For a few moments he just kept quiet. Tears were rolling down his eyes. He asked me what to do. *Try to forget about it,* I said. He said, *All right. I will do that.* He took out a picture of that girl from his pocket. And he tore the picture up and threw it into the dustbin. Before he did that he took one last look. And then he threw away the picture. Tears were rolling down his eyes. I said, *Don't worry. God will bless you with a very good girl.* The boy then went home. The next morning, he called me: *You know, the whole of last night I was thinking, 'What if I fast and pray? Will God change His will? Will He? Will He?'* I said, *No, He will not***.** But then he said, *You are a preacher. Haven't you read the Bible? When God wanted to destroy Nineveh they all fasted and prayed. God changed His mind. They were not destroyed.* But I told him that was a rather different situation than his present situation.

Many Christians have a wrong thinking like my friend. They think fasting and prayer can change God. When you fast and pray it changes you. It doesn't change God. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). God is always the same. He doesn't change (Mal. 3:6). When you fast and pray your heart changes and you submit to the will of God. So this boy told me, *I am*

going to fast for three days. I said, *It is good for you*. He was actually as fat as an elephant-perhaps like a "mini" elephant. So he fasted for three days day and night and did not go to work. On the third day he called me*: I am so happy God has spoken to me. God said I could marry.* I said, *What did you say?* He said, *God has given me approval*. I looked at him and said, *It must be a strange God who spoke to you: God will not tell me no and tell you yes.* He said, *No, no-God spoke to me.* I replied, *Since God had spoken to you, go and do whatever you want to do.*

But still both the families never agreed to the marriage. So without the knowledge of their families they went to the Registry of Marriages and got themselves married. Two young people with parents, brother, sisters, but married like orphans. Exactly six months later I was preaching in his city. He came to see me. When he looked at me, sorrow was written all over his face. The very first sentence he said was? *I regret not listening to you. My marriage has become hell.*

I felt so sorry for him. Today, after 14 years, his life is still like that. His wife is still like that. For 14 years he has been shedding tears. Was that the will of God? No! It was not the will of God. He married the wrong person. For those who are planning to get married, be sure you don't marry the wrong person. All your life you will be shedding tears. Praying "Let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" will help you to surrender your will to God. We may be having our own will, our own plan, just like this friend of mine. My friend's own plan was to marry that girl. But that was not God's will. If he had prayed, "Let Your will be done in my life," God would have blessed him with a wonderful wife.

Let me also tell you another story-a positive one this time. There was a certain man praying for a wife. In a dream the Lord showed him a very beautiful girl that he was supposed to marry. He went for many days all over the town looking for this girl. And then he found the girl. She was his own church member. When he found the girl his heart was broken to pieces. You know why? That girl was blind. She was born without eyes. He thought in his heart: *How can God show me to marry a blind girl? Can he?* He was very sad. *Certainly this cannot be the girl that God showed me to marry,* he reasoned, *I must have seen the vision wrongly. Next time when I am sleeping I must put my spectacles and sleep, so when I dream I can see clearly*. He kept praying, *Lord Jesus, the*

Holy Spirit made a big mistake. He showed me the wrong girl. So show me a good girl, Holy Spirit-a girl with two eyes, good ears, and who can speak. This time he prayed correctly, he thought.

As he was praying, the Holy Spirit told him, *Just because the girl is blind you thought it is not from God. Suppose if the girl had eyes then would you have thought that this girl is from God?* He said, *Yes*. He was very convicted. He prayed, *Lord, I prayed for a girl to marry. You showed me this girl who is blind. Let Thy will be done.* So he went and told his pastor, *Pastor, I want to marry this certain girl.* The pastor was so happy because he was praying for this girl for many years. The pastor arranged for a day for this boy's family to meet the girl's family. When the girl's family heard about this they were so happy that God had answered their prayer.

The day came for their marriage. The bride and the bridegroom were standing before the pastor. The pastor was so happy. The girl was so happy. But this man was shedding tears. The pastor looked at the tears rolling down his eyes. The pastor thought this man was crying for joy. So the pastor asked, *My dear daughter, would you take this man to be your husband?* She said, *Yes*. Then the pastor asked the man, *My dear son, would you take this woman to be your wife?* He opened his mouth, his tears still rolling down from his eyes. He couldn't say anything. He said, *Let the will of the Lord be done.* It was a glorious wedding ceremony. After the dinner, the newly wedded couple entered into their bedchamber to spend their first night together. This is the best part of the story. In the Indian tradition the new bride brings a cup of milk and fruits to present to her husband. These two items represent two things. Fruits are sweet so the marriage should be sweet every day. Milk is white in color so the marital relationship should be pure between the married couple.

So with the blessing represented in these gifts that this girl brought her husband they boldly faced their new life together. After consuming the fruits and the milk, the wife suggested that they pray before consummating their marriage. They knelt down and she prayed. She was weeping and thanking God: *Who would marry a blind girl?* The girl was so thankful to God that this man had come forward to marry her. When she ended her prayer, she asked her husband to pray. He lifted up his hands and prayed, *O Lord God, why me? Have mercy upon me, O living God.* He cried. The girl held the husband's hand, *Don't cry*.

She thought her husband was also crying for great joy. Only he knew why he was crying. Despite his struggles, he prayed, *Lord, I thank you for this woman. I ask you for a wife. You gave me this woman. Blessed be the Name of the Lord God. Lord, we commit our marriage into Your hands. Let Your will be done.* When he said that, the powerful presence of God came down into the room. They could feel the presence of God. When he said the final *Amen,* the power of God touched his wife and she fell down to the ground. And when she got up both her eyes were opened. What a wonder! This is a true incident that happened in the city Penang in Malaysia. When you pray, "Let Your will be done," you know God would always give you His best for you.

Remember, when you pray, "Let Your will be done," God's will, will always be done in your life. Sometimes God's will may seem contradictory and not to our liking. There is one example in the Bible. The apostle Paul was in this particular city. A prophet called Agabus came and prophesied to Paul: *When you go to Jerusalem the Jews will bind your hands and they will kill you.* When all the disciples and the church heard this they became very sad. They held on to the hands of Paul. They held on to his feet and pleaded, *Paul, don't go to Jerusalem. Don't go to Jerusalem. We don't want you to die.* Paul looked at them: *Why are you crying like this? That is the will of God for my life,* he said (Acts 21:13,14). *I am willing to not only go to prison, but even to give my life.* When the people heard that, they all knelt down and looked up to heaven, *O Lord, let Thy will be done,* they prayed. It is very important for us to know what is God's will for our lives.

When God called me to go and evangelize the nation of Tibet I didn't know anything about Tibet. All I knew was it was a country in the world. When I wanted to head into Tibet for the first time the Lord told me, *No, you are not ready yet. Pray and wait.* So I prayed every day. When I was praying, the Lord Jesus Christ would appear to me in the Spirit and He would teach me about Tibet: the spiritual climate in the country; the culture of the Tibetan people; the religion of the people; the spiritual strongholds in that country; how to preach the gospel to the people.

Every day for two and a half years, through visions and through dreams, the Lord taught me. It was like a Bible school. I was fasting and praying for 40 days in the month of April, 1986. On the 40th day of my fast, the Lord Jesus appeared

in the Spirit to me. He told me, *When you go to Tibet you will go through much suffering. You may even lose your life. You may not have a place to sleep. You have to sleep on the streets. You may have to go hungry without food for many days. You will be hated by the people. They will put you in prison. Are you willing to go through all this?* I said, *Yes Lord. Whatever is Your will for me I accept it.*

From 1986 till today, eight times I faced death in Tibet. According to medical science I should have died. In my own body, when the sickness was gripping tightly on to me, I knew I was going to die. Yet each time the Lord Jesus Christ would supernaturally deliver me. How was I able to go through all this? Because I knew it was God's will. When you know what is God's will you have the assurance.

God has a will for us

There are three kinds of will of God. It is very important for us to know them so we can find out what is God's will in our lives.

1. Automatic will of God.

> ***ISAIAH 14:24***
> *24 The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying " Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, And as I have purposed, so it shall stand:*

The automatic will of God is like the laws of nature. For example, we are always breathing every single moment. Nobody will wake up in the morning, place the hand on the nose, and say, "In Jesus' Name-breathe!" Look at our heart-it beats automatically. When you go to bed do you put your hand on your heart and tell your body, *I am going to sleep now. So, heart, stop beating?* And when you wake up, do you say, *Body, now I'm going to wake up. Heart, wake up and start beating again?* Do you do that? So this is the natural law of God. It is the will of God that you breathe. It is the will of God we have the morning and the night. These are the natural laws. It is the will of God we are born and we die. All these are automatic.

2. *The desire will of God.*

> ***2 Peter 3:9***
> *9 I will that all man come into the saving knowledge of Christ Jesus.*

This will expresses God's desire that everybody will get saved.

3. *His direct command.*

> ***1 Peter 1:6***
> *6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials*

The call to a life of holiness is a will of God. But it is also a command. There are no options. You have to do it. When we pray, *Your will be done in my life*, we must know what is the will of God. Then God would make His will known to us.

God's will for us is Good

There lives a certain man of God in south India. In front of his house there was a big tree. Every morning, he would sit by his house and watch the tree and the birds and drink his cup of tea. One day, he noticed a small little bird making a nest. For many days afterwards, this bird would bring one stick at a time to the tree to make its nest. The bird was apparently going to lay her eggs in the new nest. For several days this man of God saw how the bird was painstakingly building its beautiful nest. There was also a big danger lurking close by. While the bird was busy making its nest, hiding behind a rock on the other side was a ferocious cat. Every day, the cat was waiting quietly, eyeing the bird watchfully. Every morning, the cat was watching, and was waiting patiently for the bird to finish the nest. And then it came time for the bird to lay her eggs. The cat also knew that many little birds would hatch from the eggs. Now the bird didn't know about the danger from the cat. But this man of God saw the cat. He wondered how to warn the bird about the danger there. He then thought of a plan. When the bird went away to get more sticks he climbed the tree, took a big stone, and put it inside the nest. When the bird returned to the nest it saw the big stone and

began to cry out, flying frantically about and probably thinking in its heart, *O Lord God, some wicked man has put a stone in my nest.*

It just flew around crying and beating its wings. And it flew away to another tree. Was the bird able to see the danger? Of course not! The bird was not able to see the danger. But the man saw the danger. So he put an obstacle in the bird's way so that the cat would not have the opportunity to destroy the bird and its little babies. In the same way, when obstacles come in our life, God may be slowing us down or bringing us to a halt because there are dangers ahead of us. So when you pray, *Let Your will be done in my life today,* God will show you if there is danger ahead in your life.

Several years ago I was going to the eastern part of Tibet. I had to take a bus from the city of Chengdu in China to a small village in the northern part of Tibet. From that village I would then head to another village. The entire journey would take two or three days by bus. So that morning I prayed, *Lord, today we are going to go to this place. Guide us, Lord; show us Your perfect will. Let Your will be done in our life today.* After praying that prayer I went to the bus station to buy the bus ticket. While standing at the bus station, the Holy Spirit said to me, *Don't go to this first village yet. Go to the second village first. Then you go to the first village.* The entire journey would take three long days of traveling. I thought in my heart, *Why did the Holy Spirit say like that?* Anyway, I prayed, *Let Your will be done*, and proceeded to buy the ticket.

We traveled for three days. When we reached the second village, we were greeted by a commotion. It seemed that a number of Chinese and Tibetan people were quarreling and fighting with the bus conductor. I was wondering what was happening, so I asked my associate a Chinese brother what was happening there. He went to enquire. When he came back there was great fear on his face. He looked as if he had seen a ghost. I asked him. *What happen?* He looked at me and said, *If I tell you, you would not believe it. You know, we were supposed to go to the first village*. I said, *That's correct.* He said that all the people who traveled in that bus never made it. When the bus was climbing up the mountain, the driver fell asleep momentarily. As a result, the whole bus fell off the mountain and everybody died. When I heard that tragic news I thought in my heart: *We were supposed to be in that bus. If we had gone in that bus we too would have died.* When we pray, *Let Your will be done,* God will direct our steps

in His perfect will.

Before we became Christians, we lived according to the sins of this world. We lived our lives not according to the will of God. We ruled our own lives (Eph. 2:2,3). When we became Christians and begin to pray *Let Your will be done*, we are actually saying: *Lord, You are my King and my God. May Your kingdom come in my life. Let Your will be done in my life. I allow You, Jesus, to rule my life. I allow You, Lord Jesus, to lead me and guide me.* The apostle Paul also prayed like that. He lived by the will of God. He said, For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain (Phil. 1:21). This is a very important prayer that all Christians must pray: *Let Your will be done in my life Lord Jesus.* When you do that the Bible says that God will teach us His ways. He will direct us in His perfect way for us (Ps. 32:8).

Let us consider an excellent example. The gospel of Luke records the Lord Jesus Christ praying in the garden of Gethsemane. The Lord Jesus Christ prayed, *Father, if it is Your will, remove this cup* (Lk. 22:42). Why did the Lord Jesus pray this prayer? He had gone through a lot of suffering. Now he was going to go through another suffering. He was going to be arrested. They were going to whip Him 39 times. They were going to put a crown of thorns upon His head. They were going to slap Him. They were going to spit on His face. They were going to treat Him horribly. Finally, they were going to kill Him on a cross. All this the Lord Jesus saw in the cup. So in His weakness He prayed, *My father, My father-if it is Your will remove this cup. Take away this suffering. It's too much. I cannot go through it.*

The Lord Jesus Christ actually knew for what purpose He came. In the Bible it is written, *O Lord, I came to do your will* (Ps. 40:8; Heb. 10:7). The whole life of the Lord Jesus Christ on this earth was to do the will of God. But now, it seemed, He couldn't take it anymore. His flesh was desiring to be set free from all the persecution. His flesh was desiring to be a free man. Then He prayed, *Father, not My way but Your will be done in My life. Amen. Not My will. I don't want to go through this suffering, but Your will be done in My life.* This prayer will help you to yield your life to the living God.

What is God's Will in heaven?

Now this prayer does not only say, “Let Your will be done.” It also says, *Let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*. Two things are mentioned here.

If God’s will is executed in heaven then that it must be translated and transferred on to earth. So you are actually praying, *Lord, let Your will that is in heaven be in my life on this earth.* This prayer teaches us a very deep truth and mystery: God has a perfect plan and will for you written in heaven (Ps. 139:16). So when you pray, Let *Your will be done in my life as it is in heaven*, you are actually saying, *Lord, I don’t know what is Your will for me. Make Your will known to me and I will do it on earth.*

About five years ago, I went to Australia. When I was there a few pastors gathered together and wanted me to pray for them. Among the group of pastors there was a woman pastor. She was a very godly woman. So as we were all praying I saw the heavens opened before me. I looked into heaven and saw a big table. The Lord Jesus Christ was seated at the centre of the table and around Him were seated many prophets and saints (Heb. 12:1). They all had long beard and white flowy hair. And all the saints looked very bright and glorious. When I looked at them I knew in my spirit these were some of the Old Testament prophets. Among the many of them I recognized one particular saint. It was the prophet Moses. He was seated beside the Lord Jesus.

There was a big scroll in front of the Lord Jesus. It seemed that the Lord Jesus Christ was discussing what was in the scroll with the prophets. As I was looking I was wondering what they were discussing. The Holy Spirit then opened my ears to listen in to their discussion. I heard the Lord Jesus talking with the prophets (cp. Amos 3:7). He said, *This is My will for My daughter*. I knew He was talking about the lady pastor in the group. The Lord Jesus showed a plan of a building. That plan of a building was for the new church the lady pastor was going to make. He was discussing with Moses about that. Why Moses? Why not the other prophets? I thought about that. Immediately the Holy Spirit helped me to understand. Didn’t God call Moses to build the tabernacle (Ex. 25:8)? So he had a lot of experience. The Lord Jesus was explaining to Moses and all the other prophets, *This is My will for My daughter.* What do you all think? Now, who would dare say *No, Lord Jesus, I don’t think this is good.”* So they all said, *Yes, Lord Jesus.* At that, the Lord Jesus looked at me: *Tell my daughter this building plan is My perfect will for her. Tell her to go ahead and*

do it, and not to get discouraged but to go forward. I didn't know then why the Lord Jesus was showing me all those things. So after the prayer was over, I pulled the pastor aside and shared with her what I had just seen. I explained to her everything. The pastor started crying.

Tears were rolling down her eyes. I asked her, *Pastor, why are you crying*? She said, *My dear brother, when I close my eyes to pray just now, the Holy Spirit said, 'I want to talk to you. Look at the face of Sadhu.' So I opened my eyes. I saw your face. You looked very handsome. When I look at your face there was perfect peace on your face. And suddenly a light began to shine on your face. It became brighter and brighter. And your whole face was shining like a sun.* And the Holy Spirit told me, *I am showing something to Sadhu concerning your life. Listen to whatever he will tell you.* She caught my hand. She said, *Brother, you do not know what problems I am going through. I am going through a lot of problems in trying to build this church. Half my church has left me because they thought this is not God's plan. And we have no money to finish the building.* Only then did I understand why God showed me the vision: to encourage this woman. The will of God for her in heaven must be translated on earth. The pastor was so filled with faith she was greatly encouraged and went on to successfully finish building the church. When you pray *Let Your will be done in my life as it is in heaven,* whatever is God's will for you written in heaven will be made known to you.

On another occassion I was praying for people who had written to me requesting prayer. I came across a note from someone wanting prayer for him and his family. He simply wrote, *Pray for me and my family*. What does "Pray for me and my family" mean? Is it to pray for good health, pray that he would have a house, or what? Many Christians make this same mistake. If you ask people to pray for you, don't just say *Pray for me*. Be specific in requesting for prayer.

When I saw the letter, I said, *Lord Jesus, I don't know what this person is writing for. I don't know what is his problem.* As I was praying in this manner, I saw the Lord Jesus standing beside me. He had a scroll with Him. Opening the scroll He said, *Look at this scroll. This is what this person actually wants. This is my will for this person. Now you pray according to this.* I looked at the scroll- God's will for that person recorded and stored in heaven. Then I prayed, *Lord,*

whatever is Your will up in heaven let it be upon this person on this earth. Amen. Simple as it seems, this is a very powerful prayer: *Let Your will be done on this earth as it is in heaven.*

Chapter 6 - Give Us Our Daily Bread

In this prayer, the Lord taught us to pray for our needs, *Give us our daily bread*. The Lord Jesus Christ is teaching us here to pray for all our daily necessities. Here the word *food* includes all our necessities. The Bible says *daily bread*. Bread is not just limited to food. It also includes clothing. It includes the money that we need. And all other necessities we need for our daily living. We need a house to stay. That is also a necessity. The Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray for all these things.

Pray for daily needs

Make your daily needs known to the living God. One of the names of God is *Jehovah Jireh*. Jehovah Jireh means the *Lord God who provides.* When was this name given to God? In Genesis 22, God told Abraham to offer up his only beloved son. *Abraham do you love me?* God asked. Abraham said *Yes, Lord. If you love me give me your son. Cut him up to pieces and offer him as a living sacrifice to me,* God said. Abraham's heart was broken. After one hundred years he finally got a son. God said, *Do you love me more than your life? Yes Lord. Abraham if you really love me give me your son? God said.* Abraham was about to say *Yes Lord. No problem.* Before he could say that, however, God said, *Cut him up to pieces and offer him to me as a sacrifice.*

Shocked at God's command yet Abraham said, *Yes Lord*. Why did Abraham say that? Because he trusted in God (Heb. 11:17-19). They climbed the mountain Moriah. As they were climbing up the mountain, Isaac, who was a small little boy, looked at Abraham his father and said, *Papa the wood is here; the fire is here; where is the lamb for sacrifice?* Abraham looked at his son. Handsome boy, very cute looking boy. The apple of his eye. When Abraham looked at his face he had no heart to say, *My dear son, you are the sacrifice. I'm going to cut you up in pieces*. He looked at his son with love and said, *My beloved son, God will provide. Don't worry. God will provide.* That is the name of the word Jehovah Jireh-God will provide. Just as he was about to strike, an angel stopped him. The angel said, *God has seen your heart Abraham. You are a perfect man. You are an upright man. You fear God. So God gives you a ram.* Our God is a

God who provides all our needs. When God made Adam, He said *My dear son Adam, I made all these fruits for you and all these vegetables for you. Eat as much as you like. Enjoy yourself Adam* (Gen. 1:29). God made this body and He put hunger there, so we hunger and eat food. God knows we need food everyday. So he told us to pray, *Our father in heaven, give us this day our daily bread.*

The children of Israel walked in the desert for forty years. In a barren desert you cannot go and cook any food, because there is no wood to make fire. The Bible tells us God sent manna down from heaven (Ex. 16). Every morning and every evening for 40 years. God told the people: *Everyone of you go and pick up what is enough for you just for the morning meal. Pick up not for the evening. I will send again when the evening comes. Just gather what is enough for yourself. Don't gather and keep for tomorrow.* Did the people obeyed Moses? Our human heart is very wicked (Jer. 17:9). It never obeys what God says. They took the manna, put it in their pockets, in their handbags, and they brought it to their tents. So they ate in the morning yet kept some manna. Afternoon time came. Stomach made noises. They opened their bags. All the manna had become worms. Evening time they gathered the manna once more. Again they put some in their handbags for the morrow, in case they got hungry in the middle of the night. When they opened the handbags again, all the manna had become worms. What happened? God told them, *Collect food for your daily needs not for tomorrow.* What is sufficient for today, you ask God. God will give you. That is what Jesus Christ taught us to pray, *Give us this day our daily bread.*

When I first went to the Tibetan area in 1986, I was in a state in India called Kashmir. In the eastern part of Kashmir there is a district called Ladakh. Many hundred years ago Ladakh belonged to Tibet. So thousands of Tibetans still live in that place. That was the place God told me to go. To go to Ladakh I have to walk for three days, climb up high mountains which are about 15,000 feet above sea level. And they are all covered with snow. You have to walk on the snow. During the early years of my ministry. I didn't even wear sandals. In India there are a lot of Hindu holy men who don't wear sandals. I walked on the snow mountain on bare feet. When I stepped on the snow my entire feet froze like iron. It was so painful. Tears were running down my eyes and my feet became two times bigger and I had to keep on walking for seven kilometers on the snow. And I had no food with me because I didn't know I had to walk in the wilderness. From morning till evening I did not have a single bit of food to eat-

not even water to drink. The only water was water from the snow. And the water was so icy cold. When you scoop up the water in your hands, your hands will swell two times the size. It was very painful. Without food and water, I walked for 30 kilometers everyday.

At the close of a certain day, I halted my journey but there was no place to sleep. There were no houses. But I found one small cave. So I went inside to sleep. As I was trying to sleep my stomach was making hunger noises. I prayed, *Lord Jesus, You promised to give this day my daily bread. Where is my daily bread?* Is it possible to get food in the desert? Not possible. I looked at my watch. It was five o'clock in the evening. The sun hadn't set yet. So I told the Lord Jesus, *Lord it was still day: "Your word says, 'Give us this day, not night our daily bread.' So before night comes, Lord Jesus where is my daily bread?* But in my heart I knew it was impossible to get food in the desert. So like a small little child, I told my heavenly father, *I know you cannot give me food in this desert. Anyway you are my papa. I'm your little son. So I just told you my desire. Good night.* So I went to sleep. You know you can never sleep with a hungry stomach.

As I tried to sleep, suddenly I heard the sounds of approaching steps, in fact the hoofbeats of horses, so I came out. Four Tibetan Buddhist lamas (monks) were passing by that way. When they saw me they greeted me. I also greeted them. Now I was coming from the south going northward. They were coming from the north going southward. After I turned back inside the cave, I heard some strange sounds so I came out to see. Those four lamas had also decided to camp for the night just beside the cave. As soon as they sat down, they took out their pots and pans and began to cook food. I said, *Hallelujah! God has answered my prayer and given me this day my daily bread.*

I came out of my cave. I tried to talk to the lamas, hoping they would give me some food to eat. They talked with me and began to cook their food. The smell of food entered my nose. So all my hunger flew away. I said, *God, You are a good God.* Now comes the best part of the story. After they finished cooking the food, everybody took up his plate, and a lama looked at me: *Where is your plate?* I said, *No plate. No plate? Oh too bad. You cannot have food.* I was disappointed. All the lamas put food on their plates and began eating. I was praying, *Oh Lord God, they are eating my food. Look at them, Lord. They are not*

giving me any food to eat. They are eating all the food. Lord God, this food is my food. I went on complaining like this (Ps. 142:2). There was nothing else that I could do. So with great sorrow I was just looking at them. I prayed Lord, touch their hearts, so that they would give me some food. The lamas took more food and continued eating. Finally there was little food left in the pot. Again the lama asked me: "*How come you came to this place without any cups and plate?* I said, *I didn't know. I am so sorry we got no extra plate to give you,* he replied. When the lamas finished with their meal, they proceeded to wash their plates. And I saw they were about to throw away all the remaining food. Spurred by hunger I prayed, *Lord Jesus you asked us to pray, 'Give us this day our daily bread.' It is still day—where is my daily bread?* But just when the lama was about to throw out the contents of the pot, he suddenly stood there thinking. Then he put all the food on his plate and gave it to me: *You eat all this food*. Hallelujah. So finally I ate to my heart's content. But now I needed some water but had no cup. The lamas made themselves each a very nice cup of tea and I didn't have a cup. Again the friendly monk turned to me: *Next time, don't travel without a cup.* I said, *All right, all right I won't.* He then washed his own cup, poured tea into the cup, and said, *Drink.* So I drank. I said, *Thank you Jesus. Hallelujah! Thank you Jesus!* So we all went to bed and the monk said, *Tomorrow morning at five o'clock we will leave. We will then have tea together*. I said *OK*, and then went to sleep.

Peacefully I slept. At five o'clock in the morning I woke up. When I came out of the cave, none of the lamas were there. I was surprised. I looked around the place. There was no sign of fire burning from the previous night. And there was no sign of foot prints from the horses. I was shocked. *Where is the fire, where are the foot prints?* I mused. Only then did I realize perhaps God had sent His angels. They looked like lamas, and they were sent by God to feed my stomach (cp. Heb. 13:2). You may wonder how can angels look like lamas. Let me tell you a mystery about angels. The angels who live in this earth to look after us look just like us (Heb. 1:14; cp. Acts 12:5-19). This is a mystery.

Have faith in God

The Lord Jesus Christ in teaching us this prayer was teaching us to have faith in God. The Bible tells us that even the animals when they are hungry they cry out to God: *God, give us this day our daily bread.* And God stretches out His hands

to bless all the animals (Ps. 104:21; Joel 1:20). When the Lord Jesus said to pray for daily bread, He was teaching us to trust God on a day to day basis. Every day we have needs. But people are always worried about tomorrow. We are not to worry about tomorrow (Matt 6:34). Let tomorrow take care of itself. Our human nature always worries about tomorrow, worries about next year, five years from now, ten years from now. The Lord Jesus told us to live one day at a time, just like how God gave manna day by day. The Lord Jesus taught us to learn to trust the living God because He is your Father. Your Father will provide you food. Your Father will give you clothes to wear. Your Father will give you money to take care of your life. Don't worry. Put your trust in the living God.

We can plan for tomorrow, not worry for tomorrow. We should plan for next year, not worry about next year. The Bible tells us to look at the ants (Prov. 30:24-25). Ants are very hardworking creatures. And they work very hard and they save for tomorrow. No ants sit down and cry. They don't worry; they save for tomorrow. In the same way we can plan for tomorrow, not worry over it. The Lord Jesus taught us pray *Give us this day our daily bread.* Why should we pray this prayer? The man of God *Agur* prays, *Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches - Feed me with the food You prescribe for me; Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the Lord?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God (*Prov. 30:8-9). This is why we are not to be rich. If you have too much money you will forget God. God gives us enough money-enough for our living. So you pray, *Oh Lord God, our Father in heaven, give us this day our daily bread*.

A Mystery

And there is another mystery in this prayer. The Lord Jesus said to pray this day for our daily bread. What is bread? Bread refers to the natural food. But there is a spiritual mystery for the word *bread*. Bread represents the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn. 6:48). When you pray, *Give us this day our daily bread*, you are reminding the Lord God His promise to give you this day your daily manna. This manna is the word of God (Jn. 1:1). So you pray, *God give me your manna—Your word today for my spiritual.* The Lord Jesus taught us that if anybody eats the bread of the life of the flesh of Jesus, if anybody drinks the blood of Jesus, he has eternal life, and he shall not die-meaning your spirit man will always be well and whole when you feast on the word of God (Jn. 6:51). Matthew 4:4 says man shall not

live by bread alone but by every word of the living God. You know this is a deep mystery.

There is a Catholic nun in South India. One day this nun was meditating the Bible. She read Matthew 4:4 - *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*. She meditated that verse deeply. Suddenly something struck her mind. According to this scripture, we don't have to live by natural food. The work of God alone is sufficient. That understanding went deep into her heart. From that day, every morning when she gets up for breakfast, she will have one cup of coffee. She will sit down and meditate the word. When lunch time comes, she takes one cup of coffee, and she meditates the word. When dinner time comes, she takes one cup of coffee, and she meditates the word. Thirty years had passed by. The nun is still practicing like that. How do you think she looks like? Skin and bones? No. She is quite heavy in size. There is power in the word of God. God's word will even become physical manna to our physical body. When you pray, "Lord give us this day my daily bread," you can also pray, *Lord Jesus You are the living bread. Today give me Your daily bread. Give me a new revelation of Yourself. Today, this day, make Yourself known to me. Give me a fresh anointing from You. Let Your presence become very real to me.*

This prayer glorifies God

When we pray this prayer we will also glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31). When I was walking in Ladakh with no food to eat for 12 days, every day I had to trust God for food. When you need to walk for 30 kilometers every day you need strength in the body. And the weather was so cold. If there is food in the stomach, it keeps the body warm. But without any food in the body I was feeling two times more cold than the weather. No food to eat, no water to drink, no proper clothing, walking on the snowy mountains everyday, I would be shivering and trembling. My teeth chattered so violently they felt like they could break into pieces. For 12 days I lived like that. Every morning when I wake up I would pray, *Papa give this day my daily bread.*

The Tibetans eat different kinds of food. Their bread is so hard that even the dogs and horses won't eat it. It is so hard you have to dip it in the tea and make it

stand there for 10 to 15 minutes for it to become soft. Everyday I was eating that bread. And the Tibetan tea is very different too. They put yak butter in their tea. And the yak butter has a very strong smell. And they also add a piece of rock salt in the tea. When they were bringing the cup of butter tea to me it was so nauseating that I would pray: *Oh Lord, bind my nose, bind the tongue. I need this tea to keep me warm. But the taste will make me vomit. In Jesus name, nose I bind you, tongue I bind you. Don't taste just drink.* This was my diet for 12 days.

One morning I had to sleep in a Tibetan monastery, which was very smelly, very dark, and full of demons everywhere. In the morning when I got up I knelt down and prayed: *Lord God, give me this day my daily bread.* Then I prayed: *Papa, for 12 days I've been eating this bread and this tea. Papa, I have a small desire today. I like to eat some Indian bread. And have a nice cup of Indian tea with milk and sugar. Papa, can You give me? I know You cannot give. All these people are Tibetan, they only have the hard bread and the smelly tea. Where to get Indian bread, where to get Indian tea? I know You cannot do that. Papa, anyway I'm your little son just talking to my papa about my little desire. Please do not feel bad that You are not able to fulfill my desire.*

Then I started walking that day, for we had to walk another 30 kilometers. As I was walking I totally forgot about the prayer I said to the Lord because I knew in my heart it was totally impossible to be fulfilled. I came to a place where the road divided in two ways. I didn't know whether to turn to the left or to the right. Just before the road divided there was a small house. So I thought I would go and ask for directions. When I entered into the house I saw two Indians in the house. Later on they told me that they were scientists from North India camping in these parts of the himalayas doing research on the snow leopards. When they saw me they got up from their beds, put their hands together, and greeted me. They looked at me and said: *O holy man, why have you come here?* I told them, *Please forgive me for disturbing you this morning. I need to know which direction to go*. As I was talking, out from the kitchen came a cook. He was carrying a plate and do you know what was inside the plate? Delicious Indian bread. I couldn't believe my eyes when I beheld the cook bringing the plate. The scientists told the cook, *Please give this to our guest - this holy man.* He brought the bread to me.

As I received the bread I thought in my heart, the bread is here but where is

the Indian tea. Before I could finish the sentence, the cook came with a cup of hot tea. My eyes welled up with tears as I thanked God for the provision. Nothing is impossible with God. If God can provide this Indian bread and tea in a totally impossible situation, surely he can provide anything.

All that we need to do is to pray, *Lord, give us this day our daily bread.*

Chapter 7 - Forgive Us Our Debts

The fifth point that the Lord Jesus Christ taught us in this prayer is *Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.* In teaching us this point to pray in the Lord's prayer, the Lord Jesus Christ taught us how to approach Him when we have disobeyed Him or have not lived up to His expectations.

Why do we need to pray this prayer?

Why do we need to pray for forgiveness? Firstly, sin alienates us from the presence of God. Sin blocks God's face from looking at us and blocks God's ears from hearing our prayer (Isa. 59:2). Knowingly or unknowingly everyday we commit sin. When we commit a sin or an act of disobedience, the fellowship between us and God is broken. God is light and there is no darkness in Him. So if we live in darkness, we cannot fellowship with Him (1 Jn. 1:7,8). Because sin brings about a darkness in us. When we sin, our fellowship with God is broken, but the Father and child relationship with God is not broken. You must understand this very well. When you disobey God, when you miss God, when you sin against God, when you go away from God, the father and child relationship is not broken. Only the fellowship is broken.

In Luke 15, the Lord Jesus Christ told us a very beautiful parable about the loving father and the prodigal son. The father loved the son very much. But the young man disobeys the father. He wants to go his own way. The father's heart is broken when his son goes away to live a very sinful life. Did the father told his son - *From today onward you are no longer my son.* No he didn't say that. Every day the father waited patiently. On the day the son actually came back home, on the very moment the father saw his son, the father did not say, *Why did you come back?* The father could say that because the boy has brought great shame to the father. But despite the son's rebellion, the father and son relationship is not broken. That relationship cannot be broken. Get this into your heart. God is our Father, we are his sons and daughters. No devil can steal that relationship (Rom. 8:35-39). No matter how far away we live from God, the moment you are full of sorrow and say, *Papa please forgive me*, He immediately puts his arms around you. This parent-child relationship can never be broken.

Why forgive us our debts?

The Lord Jesus taught us to pray, *Father, forgive us our debts.* What is *debt*? A debt is something that we owe somebody. Let's say I borrow money from you. I am in debt to you. I cannot just simply keep quiet and not pay you back. I must pay you back. When you borrow money from somebody that money doesn't belong to you. You must return it back. You have an obligation to return it back. In the same way, the Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray for our *debts* to be forgiven. Look at Luke 11:4, there, instead of the word debts the Lord Jesus uses another word *sins*. It is not "sin" - singular. It is "sins" - plural. Why did the Lord Jesus Christ not say, "Forgive us our sin" ?

The "sin"-singular- relates to our own nature before we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, when we still had the original sin problem. After you become a child of God, the sin nature is removed and you have become a new creature in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17). You have put on the divine nature of God (1 Pe. 1:4). The seed of God that is in your heart cannot cause you to sin anymore (1 Pe. 1:22-23). Because that seed of God is the pure word of God (Prov. 30:5). The Lord Jesus Christ is pure and there is no sin in Him (1 Jn. 3:5). So when the Lord Jesus the word, the seed, comes into Your heart, there is no more a sin problem. We are clean in the eyes of God. But in our everyday walk, we make mistakes. We commit sins. Such sins are different from the sin nature. That is why the Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray this prayer: *Forgive us our sins*.

We need to deeply understand why the Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray this prayer. Debt means what you owe someone. A debt is not only the forgiveness of sins but also the forgiveness of the consequences of the sin. Let me give you a small, simple example. Let's say there is a little boy and he commits a mistake. In anger his father slaps him. The father slapped him to punish him. That act is a sin. Why is it a sin? Firstly, we must state that disciplining a child is not a sin. If you spare the rod, you will spoil the child (Prov. 13:24; 19:18).

We must discipline our kids. Now that is different from when you boil with anger and you beat your children. That is wrong. One day I was praying and an angel of God appeared in my room and gave me a beautiful understanding of

how children must be brought up in the fear of God. On that day he showed me how children should be disciplined but parents must never ever discipline their children out of anger. When you discipline out of anger, you are not correcting the child. You are just torturing the child. Many parents are guilty of that. Father and mother fight each other and they beat their child. That is wrong.

The angel told me when parents beat their children out of anger, their guardian angels become very sad. And it grieves the heart of God. If you need to use the rod to discipline do that, but not out of anger. When you beat your child out of anger, the child is hurt, and you are angry. Observe these two things here. Firstly, when you discipline your kid out of anger, you contradict what the Bible says about being angry but sinning not (Eph. 4:26). What does that mean? Anger is our human emotion. It is natural to feel angry. But don't carry out that anger. When you carry out the anger it becomes a sin. When you beat your child out of anger you sin against God. So for that we pray, *God forgive us our sins.* And why do we pray, "Forgive us our debt?" It's because by spanking a child out of anger, you owe something. Who do you owe? The hurt feelings of the child you beat in anger. So you have to ask for the child's forgiveness.

Why the Lord taught this prayer?

We often forget that this is a very powerful prayer the Lord Jesus taught us. Sin brings about disobedience towards God. When we commit a sin we feel condemned in our heart. We dare not look at the face of God. Even Adam after he committed sin, dared not face God. He ran and hid behind some bushes (Gen. 3:8). Why? It is because of the feeling of guilt and condemnation in the heart. Does God condemn us? (Rom. 8:34). No! If God doesn't condemn us why do we feel condemned? The Bible tells us very clearly and beautifully that its our own heart that condemns us (1 Jn. 3:20,21). Our own heart carries a guilty conscience: *You have sinned; you are not worthy to see God; you are a useless fellow.* Our heart condemns us—not God, because the Bible says, *There is therefore now no condemnation to all those who are in Christ Jesus* (Rom. 8:1).

Once upon a time there was condemnation. When you gave your life to the Lord Jesus all the condemnation was removed. When God looks at you there is no wall of separation between you and God (Eph. 2:14). It is only our heart that

condemns us. Our heart condemn us because fellowship between God and us is broken. So our heart is trying to bring us back into a fellowship with God again. For the fellowship to be restored we need to pray: *Father forgive my debts. I have sinned against You. Forgive me.* This is the first reason why it is so important to pray this prayer. When you sin knowingly or unknowingly, when you are greatly tempted and you fall into sin, don't run away from God. Rather run to His feet and hold on to His feet: *Papa, please forgive me.* When you do that the Lord God will look down upon you, lift you up and say *Don't cry. You are my son. You are my daughter. I forgive you.*

Another reason why we should pray this prayer of having our debts forgiven is that the Holy Spirit will bring to our remembrance some sin we may have overlooked or forgotten. We might think it a small mistake—certainly not a big sin. But in the eyes of the holy God it is important. Remember, we pray, *Hallowed be your name*. Hallowed means *holy*. The Holy Spirit will bring to you remembrance a word you said that hurt a person. So now you need to ask for forgiveness.

About 50 years ago a mighty revival swept over China. One of the men of God mightily used by God was *John Sung*. He was used just like John the Baptist. He was such a mighty man of God, when he was standing and preaching, the fire of God would come upon him strongly. The platform that he was standing on would be burned as if literally fire was poured on the wood. Towards the end of his life, one day while he was praying, the Holy Spirit told him: *John, you are a robber.* He was very shocked. *What do you mean, Holy Spirit?* The Holy Spirit then told him: *Fifteen years ago you went to preach in this town. And you were staying with this pastor. You want to send a letter. So you borrowed one dollar from the pastor for stamps. And you promised to pay back the pastor. But you totally forgot that money. You are a robber, John.*

Fifteen years passed by but the holy eyes of God looks at everything. When God looks at you, He sees every small spot. The Holy Spirit wants to clean all the small spots so that when you stand before God you are spotlessly clean from head to toe. Nevertheless the Holy Spirit did not condemn John Sung, but helped him to confess and ask for forgiveness for that sin. So after he finished praying, he immediately sent a money order to that pastor. He wrote, *Pastor, please forgive me. Fifteen years ago I borrowed this money from you*. This prayer, as

we here learn, will help to bring to our remembrance the sins we have forgotten or overlooked.

The third reason why we should pray this prayer is that in it the Lord Jesus Christ is teaching us to be responsible for the sins and the mistakes we make. We cannot say, *No, I was tempted* or *The devil forced me to do that*. When we make a mistake we must take responsibility for that. In Genesis 3:12-13, you read the story about Adam and Eve after they had committed sin. God asked Adam why he ate the fruit He told him not to eat. What did Adam say? *Yes Lord, I ate the fruit. Please forgive me.* Did he say like that? No. He pointed his finger at his dear wife: *It was not me; it was my wife*. Adam did not only point the finger at his wife he also pointed his finger at God. He said *This woman you gave.* He blamed two persons. God looked at the woman: *Woman, why did you do that? No, I didn't. The serpent you made did,* said Eve. So God looked at the serpent. Poor serpent. It couldn't say anything for the devil had left it.

See what Adam and Eve did? Instead of taking responsibility for the sin they made they pointed the finger at each other. Adam and Eve were actually saying? *Lord, You are responsible for all this. If you didn't make the serpent we would not have sinned.* They did not take responsibility. As the result, he and his wife were chased out of the Garden of Eden. When the Lord Jesus taught us this prayer he was teaching us to take responsibility for the sins that we make.

Ironically, there is a big problem in our Christian life that results from this prayer the Lord Jesus taught us. We continue sinning because we know God would always forgive us. But God's grace cannot be taken for granted. The Bible tells us that worldly sorrow works death and godly sorrow produces life (2 Cor. 7:10). What is the difference between the two? Either you are just taking God's love and grace for granted or you are truly repentant and would not sin again. You know God would forgive when you ask for forgiveness after you have committed a sin. But if you go on a cycle of committing a sin over and over again while asking for forgiveness each time, it is likely the kind of sorrow you feel is not godly. You are saying, *Forgive me, Lord.* But you are not saying it with all your heart. When you are truly sorry for what you did, you won't go back to the sin again.

Believe and trust God to forgive

The Lord taught us that when we pray this prayer we should believe and have faith that God will forgive us (Mic. 7:18,19; 1 Jn. 1:9). When you sincerely say, *Papa, forgive me,* He would remove that sin from your life. The broken fellowship will then be mended again.

Once while I was praying for a certain brother in a vision I saw a book. In that book many of the sins that he had committed were recorded. There are many books in heaven (Dan. 7:10; Rev. 20:12). One of the books is called the *Book Of Sins.* In that book whatever sin you commit is written therein. You cannot lie. When you say, *Lord I never sinned. When did I do that?* That book will be opened. Within those pages your name is written there. Under each name is recorded in red ink all the sins committed. In that vision, I saw the blood of the Lord Jesus poured over a page of that brother when he asked for forgiveness. When the blood flowed down the page, all the sins that were written in it were wiped away (Isa. 43:25). The page became clean and white. This is why it is very important to pray, *Papa, forgive us our debts.*

We must forgive others

The Lord Jesus taught us not only to pray for the forgiveness of our debts but also to pronounce forgiveness for the debts others owe you. You not only ask God for forgiveness for your sins but you also pray, *Papa, I also forgive others of their debts to me.* Why did the Lord Jesus Christ teach us to pray like that? To teach us to show others mercy. We all are rotten sinners. He has showed mercy to us. God is telling us, *I showed you mercy. Now you show to the other person who sinned against you mercy*.

The Lord Jesus taught a very beautiful parable (Matt. 18:23-25). In that parable, He taught about how a servant receives forgiveness from his master. When the servant is freed of his debt, he goes and finds a fellow servant who owes him some money. But the money that this other servant owed him was little compared to what he owed his master. He dragged the debtor by the neck: *Give me my money. Give me,* he demanded. The poor man fell to his knees and begged: *I don't have money. Please give me time.* But the unforgiving servant

refused: *No. Until you pay back all your debt, your wife and your children will be in prison.* All the other servants who are watching this sad scene decided to go and report it to the master. The master called for this fellow: *You wicked servant. You owed me so much money yet I forgave you. Your fellow servant owed you only a little money. Why couldn't you show mercy to him? I showed mercy to you. Why couldn't you show mercy to him?*

When we pray this prayer we are reminded and required to be merciful to other people. The Bible tells that if you will not forgive other people God will not forgive you (Matt. 6:14,15). God says you will not be forgiven if you hold anger in your heart against other people. Even when you ask forgiveness from God, God will not forgive you because anger is a sin. Unforgiveness is a sin. So it is for our benefit that the Lord Jesus Christ taught us this prayer.

Now let me tell you something about unforgiveness. If you keep unforgiveness in your heart, bitterness in your heart, anger in your heart, it would bring disease and sickness in your body. The Lord Jesus said that when you want to bring your offering to God and you remember you have something against your brother, you are to reconcile with him before you give your offering (Matt. 5:23,24). Ask for forgiveness. Give forgiveness. Be reconciled. If you won't do that, then God will turn you over to the hands of the tormentors. And the tormentors will torment you until you let go of that unforgiveness. I never understood this truth for many years until one day I was asked to pray for a woman who was suffering from arthritis. She was about 50 years old. She was a tall and a heavy Tibetan woman. Her daughter, who is a Christian, asked me to pray for her mother. So I knelt down and laid my hands on her knees to pray. As I was praying my spiritual eyes were opened and I saw her heart. The curtain over her heart opened and I saw the five things written in her heart: these were the sins this woman had committed and they were all written very clearly in her heart. The Holy Spirit told me the sickness in her body was not caused by germs nor was it because of old age. It was a spiritual problem. The main thing I saw there was unforgiveness, anger and bitterness. The Holy Spirit told me: *Don't pray for her healing. That prayer will never be heard. Tell her to let go the bitterness, let go the anger, and instantly she will be healed.* So I stopped the prayer, looked at the woman, and asked her if she had such a struggle in her emotional life. Shocked, she stared at me. She asked me how I knew about her life. I said, *That wasn't important. Was it true?* She said, *Yes. Many people have*

hurt me much. For all the good I had done to them they have instead done me so much harm. So I told her, *My dear sister, this sickness in your body is because of bitterness. If you don't let it go you will never get healed.* She immediately prayed to ask God to forgive her. And she forgave all the people who had hurt her. When she said, *Amen,* she was instantly healed.

Another woman came to me for prayer. For 25 years she was suffering with asthma. She went to all the top hospitals in Malaysia. Taking medicine would make her feel a little better. But some time later the sickness would manifest all over again. Many men of God prayed for her. She would get healed. But after two or three months the sickness would return. So she came to me for prayer. I prayed for her. She was healed. Two months later she was having the same problem. So I prayed for her again. She was healed. Three months later, she had the same problem again. So I prayed, *Holy Spirit, what is the problem with this woman? Why can't she get permanently healed?* Then the Holy Spirit showed me that 25 years ago something happened in her life. Her husband had committed adultery and became unfaithful to his wife. Her heart was broken. She had so much love, care, and affection for her husband. All those feelings of love and affection were destroyed. She was so faithful to her husband, but her husband was not faithful to her. So she began to harbour a deep hurt and anger in her heart against her husband. But she never showed it externally. She was still a good mother and wife. In her heart, however, the tree of bitterness began to grow. Eventually it began to destroy her body. She began to have such severe asthmatic attacks that three times she almost died. This was what the Holy Spirit revealed to me concerning her problem.

The Lord Jesus said that if you don't forgive someone you would be handed over to the tormentors. What or who are tormentors? It is evil spirits that afflict you with sicknesses. How is it possible? When you sin you disobey God. You open the door for the devil to attack you. The devil puts all types of sicknesses on your body. So when this woman came to see me again, I told her that before praying for her, I had something to ask her: *25 years ago, did such a thing happen in your life? As a result you developed bitterness in your heart.* She was totally shocked because what was in her heart not even her husband knew. She never showed her disappointment to her husband at all. Externally, she was a loving wife. Nobody knew what was in her heart. Then she humbly confessed: *Yes, I couldn't accept what my husband did to me.* I told her, *Dear sister, if you*

want healing, you must forgive your husband. You must let the bitterness go. She said *It is very difficult for me to do that-very difficult. My heart is not in one piece now. For 25 years it has been broken to many, many pieces. I don't have a heart to forgive my husband.*

So I told her if you will not do that all your life she was going to have asthma, and it would kill her. After that she agreed to do what I said. I asked her to forgive her husband and seek the Lord Jesus for help. She knelt down and for 30 minutes cried her heart out for the 25 years of pain. She didn't pray anything. No word came out from her mouth. She just cried. Finally she was able to say, *Papa, I forgive my husband. I release him from the hurts he caused. I release the unforgiveness I had against him.* The moment she said that, I just touched her and she fell to the ground. I never even prayed for her healing. As soon as my fingers touched her forehead she fell down. For half an hour she lay on the ground. When she got up, a joy and peace was on her face. She was totally healed. That happened in 1985. We are now in 2004, and her sickness has not to my knowledge come back. She was totally healed because all the tormentors who were tormenting her left her. Are you keeping unforgiveness? Are you keeping anger? Are you keeping bitterness? Let it go. Get rid of every bit of it.

There is yet another reason why the Lord Jesus taught us this prayer. The Bible says that even as God has forgiven us, as Christ Jesus has forgiven us, we should also forgive one another (Col. 1:13). So when the Lord Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us as we forgive others," the Lord Jesus Christ is telling you, *My dear son, my dear daughter, I forgive you, so you also forgive others.*

Chapter 8 - Lead Us Not Into Temptation

This point in this prayer consists of two parts. Firstly, we make the petition *Lead us not into temptation.* We are asking God to deliver us from all temptation. When you pray this prayer, you are asking God to lead your thought life in the right path. We are asking God to hold our hands and help us to walk in a clean, moral pathway. The fifth prayer point *Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors of their debts* addresses our past sins. We have committed some sin so we ask God to forgive us. But the sixth point of prayer anticipates the occurrence of future, potential sins. We are praying, *Papa, keep me from all evil. Deliver me from temptation so that I don't fall into temptation and sin*. What a beautiful prayer! There is a prayer for past sin, and another prayer for future sins. You committed a mistake in the past. Now you pray that God would protect you from committing another mistake in the future. Do you see how very beautifully the Lord Jesus put all the points in the Lord's Prayer?

God allows temptations

Let's look at the first part now: *Father, deliver us from all temptation. Lead us not into temptation*. We see that God allows temptation to come into our life. The day the devil sinned in heaven God could have destroyed him once and for all. If God did that, we wouldn't have a sin problem today. But God didn't. God, for His own divine reasons, continues to allow temptation in people's lives. This is one way He keeps us always humble and make us recognize that He is our supreme leader. In praying this portion of the Lord's Prayer, we are saying, *Papa, you are my Father. Hold my hand. Don't let it go. I don't know how to walk in this world. There are dangers everywhere. Hold my hand, Papa. Don't let it go.*

It is the Lord Jesus Christ who as the good shepherd leads us by the still and clear water into safety (Ps. 23:1,2; Jn. 10:4). The essence of this prayer is *Papa, you are my shepherd. I am your small little sheep. Lead me. Guide me. Gently lead me*. If God allows temptation into our life does it mean that God is the one who sends these temptations? The Bible tells us that God cannot be tempted with evil (Jas. 1:13). God does not send temptation because there is no evil in God.

God's eyes are so pure that they cannot behold evil (Hab. 1:13). When Jesus Christ was walking on this earth He says, *Who can convict me of sin?* (Jn. 8:46). From head to toe, the Lord Jesus Christ is pure. There is no sin in Him, for He is absolutely pure (2 Cor. 5:21). If there is no evil and sin in God, know this truth today: God doesn't send temptation in your life. It is the devil who tempts us (Matt. 4:1). So we must pray this prayer: *Papa, lead us in the right way so that my feet don't fall into temptation.*

We can fall into temptation

There is the danger that we can fall into temptation. How is that possible? The Bible tells us that we still have our sinful nature (Eph. 4:22). Sinful pleasures within are always fighting against our spirit man (Gal. 5:17). Evil passions and sinful habits in our life pull us down spiritually. Our sinful nature can cause us to fall into temptation. Satan is always out there to set a trap for us.

The Bible tells us the three ways that the devil sets his trap for us: Firstly, *the lust of the eyes*; secondly, *the lust of the flesh*; thirdly, *the pride of life* (1 Jn. 2:16). It is through these three ways that Satan baits us.

In Genesis 39 we read the story about Joseph. Joseph was an upright man, a man who feared God very much. He was a holy man-very clean and very pure. His master's wife lusted after him because Joseph probably was a very handsome young man. So she set a trap for him. One day, when the master was away on official business, she told Joseph, *Joseph-bring that file. I want to check the accounts.* Duty conscious Joseph brought the file. While she was pretending to look at the accounts, she was in fact setting a trap for him to fall into sin. What did Joseph do? That morning he may have prayed: *Lord, keep me from all evil today. Lead me not into temptation.* So when the trap was set by the devil through Potiphar's wife to make Joseph fall, did he fall? No!

It was possible for Joseph to resist the temptation because the Lord was always with Joseph (Gen. 39:2). Even when he was in prison, the Lord was with Joseph in the prison (Gen. 39:20-23). God did not lead him into the temptation. God was leading him by the right way. But along the way the devil had set a trap. If God took care of Joseph, He would take care of you when you pray.

Father, lead me not into temptation. Guide my steps so that my steps don't stray into places where I can be tempted. Lord, hold my feet back from falling into temptation. There is sin everywhere. Father, help me to walk rightly.

God expects us to overcome

God expects us to overcome temptation. Why does temptation comes? Temptation is a test. In the wilderness God tested the children of Israel, to see whether they would obey God or obey their flesh (Ex. 15:25). Two divine purposes are accomplished in our temptation: *firstly*, God sees whether we will obey Him or not; *secondly*, we are shown the condition of our own heart. Sometimes we think we are very good and spiritually strong Christians. We think we are holy, and that we will not fall into this or that sin. But you will never know in a given situation what you would do. You might fall into the same temptation again and again. So temptations are like a test for you to see your own heart, whether it is good or evil. The Bible tells us that a person is tempted when he is drawn away from God (Jas. 1:14). How did Eve fall under temptation? God specifically told Eve, *Your heart shall always be with your husband.* Adam looked at her and said, *You are the bone of my* bone and *the flesh of my flesh* (Gen. 2:23). Then God said, *A man shall leave his father and mother's house and be joined together with his wife. They shall be one flesh* (Gen. 2:24).

So it was God's will that Adam and Eve should be together all the time, that they should always be in the glorious presence of God, always conscious of the presence of God. God had told Adam and Eve that every fruit of the trees they might eat except a certain tree (Gen. 2:16,17). Eve decided to go for a stroll. Looking at all the splendours of the jungle, by and by she came to the place of temptation. She was standing under the forbidden tree. Looking at its beautiful fruit, and thinking in her heart how so beautiful, so juicy, it looks, she pondered: *Why did God say Don't eat it?* While she was musing the devil in the serpent came along. It came by and she fell (Gen. 3:1-7). She fell because she was drawn away from the knowledge of the word of God.

We fall into all kinds of temptation when we are drawn away from God. When we pray *Lord, lead us not into temptation*, we are asking God to help us

overcome our sinful nature. We are asking God to hold us back from sin. In Jude 24 it is written that the Lord God is able to keep you from falling into temptation. When you pray this prayer- *Papa, lead me, guide me, that I will not fall into temptation*-God will uphold you in such a way that you don't fall into temptation. God expects us not to fall into temptation and commit sin.

In the Gospel of Luke 22:31-40 we see a record of a conversation between the Lord Jesus and Peter. The Lord Jesus told Peter: *Peter, the devil wants to trap you. He wants to shake your faith. But I have prayed for you, Peter, that your faith will hold strong, that you will not fall into temptation.* When the Lord Jesus Christ was praying, He had received a revelation that the devil had gone up before God's presence with this demand: *God, give me permission now to tempt this Peter.* God said, *All right*. How do we know such things do take place? Read Job 1. There it shows us very beautifully and clearly who is the cause to many problems in our life. The devil goes and asks permission from God, and God grants it because He wants to test our hearts. He wants to make us see how strong or weak we are. So the Lord Jesus warned Peter: *Peter-be careful. There is a danger coming for you.* Now, ponder a moment. Why did the Lord Jesus tell him that? If the Lord Jesus Christ did not expect Peter to overcome his temptation why would He warn Peter? By revealing the plan of the devil to Peter, the Lord Jesus was telling him: *Peter, this is what the devil is going to do. He is going to set a trap for you and he is going to make you fall into the trap. And you will deny knowing me. Peter, I have prayed for you that you will not fall. Peter, that alone is not enough. You also must do one thing*. The Lord Jesus told him: *Pray, pray, pray-that you will not fall into that temptation.* Did Peter prayed? No. He was sleeping. When he should be praying he was sleeping. As a result, when the time of testing came was Peter able to overcome it?

Let me reveal a secret. I was meditating deeply one day regarding how Peter fell. For 45 minutes I meditated on only one scripture. I couldn't understand how Peter fell. And then the revelation came to me. The Holy Spirit directed me to look at the apostles Peter and John. When the Lord Jesus Christ was going through the trial, the apostle John was standing by the doorway, looking simply at the Lord Jesus and watching the trial (Jn. 18:15). The eyes of the apostle John were always looking at the Lord Jesus. But where was the apostle Peter? He was out there in the courtyard warming himself by the fire (Jn. 18:16). His eyes were not watching the Lord Jesus. He was taking care of the lust of his flesh. So how

did Peter fell? Three reasons. *Firstly* he did not pray. *Secondly* he was drawn away from God. *Thirdly* he fell into the devil's trap of the lust of the flesh. Wasn't the apostle John feeling cold? Yes he was. The apostle John was also feeling cold but he was standing by and looking at the Lord Jesus. The apostle Peter was drawn away from God. He was taking care of his flesh. These three things caused the apostle Peter to fall into sin. The Lord Jesus Christ expected Peter to overcome temptation but Peter didn't do so.

In the year 1984 I was praying one day in the early morning hours. At three o'clock, as I was praying, I saw two evil spirits sitting in my room. They were talking and I heard their conversation. They were pointing at each of my family members: *This fellow-his weakness is this. Easy to make him fall. That fellow-while the preacher is preaching, he is looking at the bottle and doing something. Easy to make him fall. That woman-when the preacher is preaching, she is sleeping. Easy to make her fall*. They went on talking about every member in the family. Then they pointed a finger at me. Somehow they couldn't see that I was looking at them. *This fellow-we cannot touch him.* I was surprised when they said that. *Why?* I thought. *This fellow is always praying. He goes to the rooftop and prays. And a wall of fire is always surrounding him. Cannot touch him.* That day I learned one thing. If you live a life of prayer, the devil cannot touch you. He cannot even touch your shadow. Then one of the devils pointed his finger at my father: *This fellow-he got this weakness in his life. We will kill him in nine months times*. Upon hearing that, I spoke out against the demon: *How dare you say you can kill a child of God!* Then they looked at me and said, *Why not?* I was surprised and protested how it was possible. *Because they have sins in their life and God gives us permission to torment them. You watch. In nine months we will kill your father.*

When I woke up in the morning I told my father: *Be careful, you are a believer and you are still smoking, you are still drinking. Be careful. In nine months, the devil is going to kill you.* He just laughed. Every day I was watching and praying. Exactly nine months later, as he was returning home after an after-office drinking session with his friends, a taxi came out from nowhere and hit him while he was crossing the road. His legs were badly broken. His head hit the road so hard it could have cracked like a coconut split in half. At eleven o'clock in the evening, while I was praying, a phone call came. A police officer asked if this person was a member of our house. I said yes, for it was my father. He said,

You better come to the hospital now. Your father is going to die any time now. I woke up my mother: *Let's go to the hospital now.* At the hospital they showed us to my father. His brain was bleeding internally. Blood was all over his face. The doctor said he could die any time because there was an internal haemorrhage: *You better call all your relatives*. I went back home and began to pray. When I knelt down to pray I saw in a vision a serpent. The serpent looked very beautiful and it laughed at me. I asked the devil, *Serpent-why are you laughing?* It went on laughing: *See? I told you. I told you in nine months we will kill you father.* Only then did I remember. This was exactly the ninth month. *See - we have killed your father. Nothing you can do now.* I began to intercede very much for my father. As I went on interceding I saw a chain of fire come down from heaven. This chain went around the serpent's neck and began to strangle it (cp. Rev. 20:1,2). Soon, the serpent's tongue fell out and it died. I knew then that I had won the victory over my father's life. The doctor couldn't explain the miracle. My father not only survived, he had no permanent brain damage. Till today he is still perfectly alive.

When you pray this prayer *Papa, lead me that I will not fall into temptation.* God will show you clearly the danger that is going to come. Not only are you praying for your own protection from evil but God can also show you the dangers coming upon the lives of your family members so they may be able to keep themselves from falling into temptation.

Helps overcome temptation

The Lord Jesus once said be watchful unto prayer (Matt. 26:41). The practice of praying this prayer will always cause you to be watchful and alert. You will be looking out for danger wherever and whenever it comes. When you are always watchful in prayer, when danger comes you are not going to fall into temptation. This prayer will help you to overcome because God can reveal to you the traps that the devil sets. This prayer moves the hands of God to make a way of escape for you in the time of temptation (1 Cor. 10:13).

Several years ago I went to the eastern part of Tibet. One morning when I was praying like this: *Lord, there are so many dangers here. Please protect me and keep me. Lead me in the right way today. Where I should go? Which monk*

should I meet? How should I give your word? As I was praying, I head the voice of the Lord saying that the enemy will come in one way and flee in seven ways. I pondered over what the Lord said: The enemy will come in one way and flee in seven ways (Deu. 28:7). I couldn't understand it all but I knew one thing: *The devil will come, Lord, but You are with me. And You will make him run away in seven different ways. Amen.* So, after the time of prayer and meditation that morning, I started off again with a companion who was with me on our journey. There was a huge Tibetan monastery in that village. We decided to share the gospel with the monks there. Later in the evening, we returned to our lodging place. After dinner, as we were about to pray, we heard somebody knocking at the door: *Open, open the door*! I opened the door. Two Tibetan men were standing there. They looked at me, identified themselves as police officers, and instructed us follow them. I asked, *For what purpose?* They said, *Don't worry. Just come.*

We had no choice but to follow them to the police station. The inspector of police of the entire town was sitting there. He was a tall Tibetan man, and he had on his face a big smile and talked with me very nicely. *Where did you go this morning?* I said, *I just walked about your nice beautiful town. Did you go to the temple? Yes, I went there. What did you do there? Just looked around. What else did you do there? Just took some nice pictures of the temple and Tibetan monks. Anything else you did there? Like what?* I asked. *Like did you give out any booklets or tracts?* I was just about to ask him what tracts he was talking about when another two inspectors came into the room with a big bag full of all the tracts we had given out to the monks that morning. I was caught red handed. The chief inspector then asked me: *What do you have to say?* I replied, *I don't know anything. Look-it is in the Tibetan language. How do you expect me to understand what it said?* At that moment, a change came over the inspector's face. Anger was written all over his face. He looked at me like a wolf about to devour its prey. He said, *You came to our country to spread this false religion.* As he was talking, I remembered what the Lord Jesus said that morning, that the enemy would come in one way. So I knew then this was how the enemy had come. But I was not afraid because the Lord also said he would run in seven ways. It was my turn to smile. The inspector couldn't understand why I was smiling. There was another reason why I was smiling. When the realization of the word came to me I felt an urge in my heart to turn and look at my right side. Standing there was an angel about seven feet tall. He had a long sword in his

hand. I looked at the angel, and whispered, *Thank you, Lord Jesus. I had nothing to worry.* After two hours, the inspector told me, *All right go-don't do this anymore.* After thanking him we left, returned to our room, went down on our knees and gave thanks to God. The enemy came in one way and fled in seven ways.

The next day there was a strike in that town. No buses were moving so we had to stay another day. In the evening, another knock came at the door. I opened the door to the same police officer. So I asked him, *What do you want now? Come*, he said, *my dear Indian friend, let me warn you now that a strict police superintendent has just arrived. This news of your work was reported to him and he is very mad. You better be careful. You may end up in the prison.* I said, *No problem. Don't worry.* I remembered how the enemy would come in one way and flee in seven ways. So I went to the station. I was met by a short little Chinese man who was very ferocious looking. He never smiled. I could see anger and hatred written all over his face. He began to shout at me: *How dare you do that!* When he took away our passports, fear came into my heart. I knew this fellow was certainly going to throw me into the prison now. I saw no angel, so more fear gripped me. I prayed, *Lord Jesus, you said the enemy would come in one way but flee in seven ways. Where is your angel?* At that instance I felt a tug. I turned, but saw no angel. Instead I saw the Lord Jesus Christ Himself standing there. He had a sword in his hand. The Lord Jesus turned to me: *Yesterday was a small problem so I sent my angel. Today is a big problem so I have come Myself to help you*. The Lord Jesus himself will fight battles for you (Ex. 14:14).

For more than two hours the inspector questioned me. He was getting more and more angry because he couldn't find any evidence to incriminate me. I was just smiling. Finally, after three hours, he thrust my passport back into my hand: *Go-don't do this again!* As I was leaving his office he came beside me, pulled me aside, and looked straight into my eyes: *You know, I don't believe you. But I just don't know why I'm releasing you.* I mused to myself *I know. It's because Jesus is here.*

When you pray, *Lord Jesus, lead me, guide me*, God will keep you and guide you from all dangers. When you pray this prayer there is another very powerful thing that takes place. When you ask the Lord Jesus to not let you fall into

temptation, He will remember one thing: His own trial and temptation. The Bible says we have a high priest who is not a person who cannot be touched by our infirmities (Heb. 4:15). He was also tempted just like us. In the garden of Gethsemane he was tempted to give up the cross (Luke 22). When you pray this prayer *Lord lead me not into temptation*, the Lord Jesus will remember His own experience of being tempted. When He prayed God sent an angel to strengthen Him so He could overcome the temptation. God will also send an angel to strengthen you to overcome temptation.

Deliver us from all evil

The second part of this prayer says: *Deliver us from the evil*. Or deliver us from the evil one. The devil is always seeking to kill, steal, and destroy us (Jn. 10:10; 1 Pe. 5:8). When you pray this prayer it will protect you from all evil. When you pray *Papa, deliver me from all evil,* God will surround you and keep you from all evil. Don't fear the devil. In reality, the devil fears you. 1 John 4:4 says the Lord Jesus inside you is greater than the devil. The devil has no power. He is defeated (1 Jn. 3:8). So you don't have to fear the devil. The Lord Jesus Christ has given you power to overcome all the power of the enemy. In the name of Jesus you can cast out demons (Mk. 16:17). The devil will flee away from you.

In 1992 I was in the United States of America. I had a dream one night. In the dream I saw myself in a very ancient-looking European castle. I was walking about in the castle, just looking at its beauty. Then I came to a very dark area. I saw a demonic-looking creature a little distance away from me. When I saw the demon, fear gripped my heart. The first thought that came to my mind was *Run*. We do that don't we? Run away from the devil. And that was what I wanted to do. Just as I was about to run I saw the devil step forward to chase after me. I stopped for some reason and looked straight at the devil. He looked back at me. Then a thought struck me to go forward. I took one step forward. The devil took one step backward. I was surprised. Now faith entered my heart. So I said, *Satan, wait. Here I come.* When Satan saw me coming at him he started running (Jas. 4:7).

Through this dream the Lord Jesus taught me that the devil in fact fears us. When you believe in your heart that He who is inside you is greater than he who

is in the world, demons are afraid of you (1 Jn. 4:4). You don’t have to fear the evil. The devil is afraid of you.

Let us not neglect to pray this prayer every day: *Papa, lead me, guide me, so that I don’t fall into temptation. Papa, protect me and deliver me from all evil. Amen.*

Chapter 9 - Thine Is The Kingdom, Power, Glory

The last point in this prayer concludes with a note of victory. The Lord's Prayer opens with worship to God. It closes the prayer with another kind of worship. If you read the Book of Psalms very carefully, you will see that almost all the prayers in there follow the same pattern. It is opened with a worship, followed by a prayer of petition that tells of problems and trials, and then closed with the giving of glory and praise to God. So in the Lord's Prayer, the Lord Jesus teaches us how to pray over everything in the spirit of the Psalmist.

We are always very quick to say *In Jesus' Name. Amen*. But that's not how the Lord Jesus taught us. He said to pray like this: *Thine is the kingdom, thine is the power, thine is the glory, forever and ever. Amen.* This pattern of prayer derives from the Old Testament. In the Book of 1 Chronicles 29:11 you will find written there very beautifully the words: *Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in heaven and in the earth is thine: thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all*. This is the prayer pattern in the Bible we should follow. After you have lifted up your heart in prayer, don't just rush quickly into saying "In Jesus' Name I pray" in order to conclude your prayer. Pause a moment. Lift up your hands. Tell our God, *Father, Papa, thine is the kingdom, the power, the glory, now and forevermore. Amen.* There is great power when you pronounce that one last sentence. All the glory and the power of heaven will come down on you.

Let us look now at five things in this prayer.

1. ***For thine is the kingdom***. When you say that you are recognizing that God is the great ruler over your life and over all that is in the earth. You are also recognizing that God is the source who can answer your prayers. Even the promise in Luke 6:38 alludes to this, for it says, *Give and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down and overflowing*. The scripture goes on to say God will move man to give. When you say "Thine is the kingdom," while recognizing that God is the source of all our answers to prayer, at the same time

we also recognize one important fact: God also has the right to refuse to answer. If you pray this prayer with all your heart you acknowledge He is the King, and He has the absolute right sometimes to say no.

Sometimes we pray demanding or asking for the wrong things. When we pray, "For thine is the kingdom," we are telling God, *Papa, You are my Papa. I am Your little son. I want this one but if You think this is not good for me I submit my flesh to You. What You think is best You can give to me.* When you pray like this your prayer is pure before God.

2. ***For thine is the power***. In Matthew 28:18, the Lord Jesus says *all power and authority is given into His hands.* So when we pray, "For thine is the power," we are acknowledging that God is almighty. He has all the power to grant our miracles. We also recognize that God is sovereign, so He can grant whatever we ask. He can answer our prayer in a way that he thinks best. For example, when you pray that God would deliver you from all evil but find yourself in danger, it isn't because God is not helping you. God may not be helping you in the way you want Him to help you. He is helping you in a different way.

When I went to Tibet in November 1998 on my sixth prayer journey it was during winter. The whole country was covered with snow. Before we started the journey some Tibetans warned me we are going at the wrong time. Snow was everywhere. The mountains were all covered with snow. When our jeep was going up or down the mountain roads it was in constant danger of skidding off the mountain slopes. My companion and I prayed every day, *Lord deliver us from all evil.* Even before we started the journey the Lord Jesus told me He was coming with us and that He would keep us from all evil. But in that journey, three times we came so close to losing our lives for our vehicle could have fallen down the steep mountain slopes. Three times the tires of our vehicle were clinging to the very edge of the precipice. In fact more than once a tire went over the edge. Our jeep could have just plunged into some gorge or deep ravine. During such a moment, something almost funny happened. God had not prevented our vehicle from sliding over the edge. He could have commanded an angel to guide our vehicle with words like, *Make sure they don't turn to the left or the right.* He never did that, and I was disappointed. But I saw Him standing there-looking. He just looked, *Don't worry, I am here.* I was looking at Him: *Why don't you help me?* He was just smiling: *Don't worry. Don't worry. I am*

here. Don't worry. Throughout our long and treacherous journey I was amazed how the Lord Jesus protected us from all evil.

When you pray, "For thine is the power," you must recognize that God is all-powerful and almighty. He will send help to you, but not necessarily in a way you expect it. You must submit to His authority. He has the right to not answer your prayer if it is not in His will. I will reveal a secret to you. When you pray like this-in this manner and with such a spirit-all the time you will not fall into temptation. You will not make a mistake in your life. Though you have needs, though you have desires, you simply make them known to God: *Papa, these are my needs. I'm putting them down at Your feet. If it is Your will answer me. If not, I know You will give me Your best.*

About four years ago a Chinese woman called me from Australia. She said, *Brother, I've got a very serious problem. I want you to pray for me.* I asked, *What is your problem? I love this man in my church and he also loves me,* she replied. *But when I prayed, God told me, 'Don't marry this person. This is not My will for you.' So I asked her, What then is the problem?* She said, *The problem is, I wanted another confirmation. I wanted to be sure I heard correctly from God.* She also told me how she went and told her pastor. The pastor prayed for her, and then told her, *My daughter, God showed me you shouldn't marry this boy. This is not God's will for you.* Now the pastor didn't know what God had already told this woman. But God spoke the same word to the pastor. Then the woman said, *But pastor, I love this man.* The pastor told her, *Daughter, obey God*. So she decided to find a woman intercessor for prayer. After praying, the intercessor said, *Sister, God showed me you are not to marry this man.* But this determined sister decided to go to another woman to seek her fourth confirmation. Same answer. She went to a fifth person, another woman, and received the same answer. A sixth woman intercessor was sought out. Same answer. Seventh was a prophet. He also got the same answer from God. All these seven people did not know what God had spoken to the other people.

Finally she called me. So I asked her, *Sister, I'm number what?* She counted and said, *You are number eight.* So I told her, *The Lord Jesus spoke to you seven times. He told you not to marry this man. Why did He speak to you seven times? Because you are His daughter. He doesn't want His daughter's life to be messed up. He cares for you.* She said, *I know all that. Can you please pray and ask God*

what is His will? So I told her, *What do you expect me to say? Something good.* I said, *All right. I don't need to pray. I can tell you right now. It is not the will of God that you marry this man.* She became very sad. I could hear on the phone that she was crying. I told her, *Sister, let me now reveal to you your life.*

By the power of the Holy Spirit I told her about her life. I asked her, *Is it correct?* She said, *Yes*. I said, *Now I am going to tell you what is going to come to pass in your life.* I then told her what the Holy Spirit showed me. If she married this man her life would be destroyed. The Holy Spirit showed me that the man didn't love her. He was after her money. He was after her body. Afterwards, he would dump her. After I told her that, guess what was her reaction? She was so sad. She was disappointed that I also said no. Before she put down the phone I told her, *Sister, God loves you very much. If you will not obey God you are a great fool.* Till today I don't know what happened to her. She would be a great fool if she decided to go ahead and marry that man. God had warned her eight times.

When you pray, "For thine is the power," you recognize God's power and acknowledge God's authority. Your spirit says, *Lord, I submit this to You. You have the power. If it is Your perfect will grant it. If not, show me.*

3. ***For thine is the glory***. We give all the glory to God.

1 Timothy 1:7 says, *Unto the almighty God, the invisible God, the immortal God be glory, praise and honor.* What are you doing now? You are lifting up your heart with thanksgiving and praise to God for answering your prayer. We humans are ungrateful by nature. When God does something good for us, we very seldom show our gratitude towards God. Out of ten people who get blessed only one person is thankful. This is the divine quota. The Lord Jesus Christ healed ten lepers (Lk. 17:11-19). All the lepers were cleansed. As they were making their way to the temple they saw that all the leprosy left their bodies. They were so happy they were jumping and running towards the temple. One fellow, however, came running back to the Lord Jesus instead of running to the temple. He fell at the feet of the Lord Jesus and said, *Thank you, Lord. Rabbi, thank you.* When the Lord Jesus looked at him, with great surprise He asked him why ten fellows were healed but only one fellow was giving testimony. What

happened to the other nine? Our nature is ungrateful.

It is the same today. People get healed and get all kinds of blessing from God. How many people, however, give glory to God? Out of ten-only one. We should not be like that. We should always be grateful to God. That's why the Lord Jesus taught us, "For thine is the glory." Lift up your heart now and say, *Thank you, Father*! Lift up your heart and say, *I give you glory for answering my prayer!* The Lord Jesus says that when you pray, believe in your heart that you have already received what you prayed for
(Mk. 11:24). So if you believe in your heart that you already got it what should you do? You should lift up your hands and say, *Thine is the glory. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for answering this prayer. I give you praise, I give you glory, because you have heard my prayer. Thank you, Jesus. Praise you, Jesus. I give you glory.*

4. ***For thine is the kingdom, the power, the glory forever and ever.*** Why did the Lord Jesus also include the words "forever and ever?" With those words you are declaring to God a faith declaration. You're confessing the promise of faith in the word of God: *Lord God, you are forever and ever. Yesterday, today, and forever, you change not! Your word says in Hebrews 13:8 that You are the unchanging God. In Malachi 3:6 You say, 'I am God. I change not. For everlasting to everlasting I am God.'*

When God told Moses His name. He said, *My name, Moses, is 'I am that I am. From everlasting to everlasting, I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last. I am the beginning and the end, forever and ever.* When you say "forever and ever" you are declaring all this. You say it with all faith, *Lord God, I know you will answer this prayer because you are an unchanging God. Forever and ever you always answer my prayer. You are forever and ever.* When you do that your heart will bubble with joy. Your heart will overflow with praise. And without your realizing it you will lift up your voice, and sing glory to the Lord Jesus. You will praise, sing, and dance before His majesty. This is the reason why all the angels are always praising and dancing before God.

If you read the book of Revelation very carefully, you will notice that every time the angels sing and praise God they include these four words: *kingdom,*

power, glory, forever and ever. God is eternal, the great I am. He doesn't change. So when the angels praise God, joy fills them without their realizing it, and they just keep on singing and singing and glorifying the Lord God.

I have been privileged many times to see how worship takes place in heaven. It is so very beautiful. There are different kinds of musical instruments. All the angels will play them. Then everybody will dance before the Lord God. Nobody stands still like a stick. Every angel will be dancing. They will be lifting up their hands. They will be falling on their faces. Nobody sits down. Only on this earth do we sit down and worship God. Now let me tell you with a great pain in my heart. To sit down to worship God is very disrespectful. You know why? We are coming before the King. When you come before the King, you cannot be sitting down on the chair. You cannot be putting one leg over the other leg. You cannot be stretching out your legs as if you were sleeping. We are not coming before a mortal man. We are coming before the King. How should we come before the King? With humility, and with reverence, lifting up the holy hands. I saw the angels worshipping like that. They all held up their hands. Beautifully they all danced before God.

Let me tell you one amazing thing. When the angels dance even their wings move very beautifully in tune with the music. The movement of their wings, the movement of their hands, the movement of their legs are all beautifully synchronized. It is as if an invisible worship leader is standing before them and directing their every movement. Every angel will move together at the same time. They fall down and worship God at the same time. They stand up and lift up their hands at the same time. They sing glory to God at the same time. What does this show? The perfection of unity and the fullness of glory. When the entire congregation sing and worship with perfect unity the same glory up in heaven will come down (cp. 2 Chr. 5). So when you say *forever and ever your kingdom, your power, your glory be to You. Praise to You. You live forever and ever*, you are giving thanks to God with a heart full of gratitude and a heart full of thanks.

5. ***For thine is the kingdom, the power, the glory forever and ever. Amen.*** This *Amen* is a very powerful word. Essentially, it means *so let it be*. After saying all your prayers, after giving all the glory to God, your concluding "Amen" means this: *Lord, I have prayed very sincerely. I have placed my heart before you. Now*

let it be unto me according to my payer. This is what *Amen* means.

We also always use the word “Amen” in our daily conversation. When I say “amen” to what are you saying, I’m signifying to you that whatever you say let it be. I agree with what you say, so I say “Amen.”

Chapter 10 - Benefits of the Lord’s Prayer

When we pray this prayer based on the seven points we receive seven different benefits and results.

1a. ***Our Father***

Why did he ask us to do that? It is to establish for us a family relationship with God. But it goes a little bit deeper then that. When you call God “Father” you are healed of your broken heart. The Bible tells us that God is a father to the fatherless (Ps. 68:5; 103:13). When the fatherless look to God they can see a father. Before anything else, calling God “Father” will bring healing to a broken heart.

Once I was preaching about this in a church. One young lady came up to me for prayer. She said, *I can never look to God as my father*. I ask her why. She said, *When I was growing up my father never loved me. I do not know the meaning of a father’s love. He was a hard man. He was more like a master, a disciplinarian, than a father. I never had a good relationship with my father. How then can I call God father?* Many people have this problem.

We conducted a youth conference in India in 1998. About five hundred young people from all over the Himalayas came for the conference. One morning as I was ministering, the Lord Jesus told me there were many orphans there: *I want to bless them today. Tell them to come forward.* So when I said God wanted to bless the orphans, about two hundred young people came running to the stage. When they came running to the altar they just knelt down and cried their hearts out. When I saw all those young people, I was surprised. Young people always act bold. They act tough and they act cool. But inside them they are broken, they are weeping, their hearts are bleeding. More than two hundred young people fell on their faces, beat their breasts, and they were crying *Papa*. Each time they released that word, the healing love of God flowed into them. Boys and girls were unashamedly weeping and crying. A powerful healing anointing flowed in that auditorium. It began to heal broken hearts. At one point the Holy Spirit told me to look at a girl who was standing there as a member of the choir: *Go and tell*

her I want to bless her. I had seen the girl for the past two years. She had come to sing in the worship team. And she was always full of laughter, full of joy. If you are sorrowful, simply looking at the girl's face would make you cheer up because she was so full of joy.

I went near the girl, looked at her, and said, *My daughter, do you have a problem?* This young and petite schoolteacher looked up at me with tears swelling up in her eyes. She said, I *have a father and a mother but my father treats me worse than a servant. He never ever talks to me. He doesn't accept me as his daughter.* Saying that, this girl fell on my shoulders and she cried. I didn't pray for the girl. I just hugged her and I prayed: *Lord, let your healing love flow into her heart. Lord, bind her broken heart now. Lord, let her taste your father's love right now.* She fell to the ground. For one hour she was crying and crying. 25 years of hurt, pain and bitterness were coming out. The Lord put His hand on her heart and was healing her.

When you call out to God with "Our Father," a healing anointing will flow into your heart. It will heal your broken heart and bring you to a family relationship with God. And you will know that you are not an orphan. Not only that, God is always especially concerned for two groups of people in the Bible. One is the fatherless and the other the widows. He has great compassion for these two groups of people. He is a father to the fatherless and a judge to widows. Because these two people are the most helpless people. Society and everybody take advantage of these two groups of people. Who do they have? Nobody. When a helpless orphan or widow cries out to God as father, an anointing of God's love immediately fills her heart.

The house in India that I live in, and where our office is located, was donated to us by a poor widow. Many years ago this widow came to see me one day for prayer. She had a small piece of land and she had rent it to other people. In India we have a peculiar law. If you rent your house to somebody for 20 years, that house belongs to the tenant. A certain tenant had been living in the widow's house and on her land for more then 20 years. Legally that land and the house belonged to the tenant. But the poor widow wanted to construct a house for her youngest son. And the tenant refused to move and challenged her at court. So the case went to court. The widow knew very well her chances of winning. Her lawyer even counselled her, *Why are you fighting this case? One hundred*

percent you will lose. But she just filed the case anyway. She came to see me for prayer, so we sat down and talked. I told her, *Don't worry. We will pray now.* We knelt down. I lifted up my heart, and I said, *Lord Jesus, look at this woman. She is a poor widow. She doesn't have a husband. Even her oldest son has passed away. She has nobody to help her. You promised in the word that you are the judge for widows, and that you will fight on the behalf of widows. Now do something for her.*

As I was praying like that the Lord Jesus told me, *Tell this widow I would fight for her. The case will be in her favor.* From a legal standpoint, such an outcome was impossible. The widow was weeping and crying. I said, *Don't cry. Go in peace. The land is yours. Go in peace.* When she got home she knelt down and prayed. She said, *God, if what your prophet said is true, when I make a house, like the Shunammite woman I will construct a room and give it to him*. One month later, the judge ruled the case in her favor. It was a legal miracle. Is anything impossible for God? No, nothing is impossible for Him. The widow was so happy.

She constructed a new house on that land and made an extra room for me. She said to me, *Please come and take this place*. At that time our ministry was growing and we were looking for a bigger office place. So I told the widow that one small room was inadequate for our needs: *You keep the room*, I said to her, *I don't need it.* She fell down on her knees, and she said, *You cannot say like that. I must keep my vow. Please take it.* I said, *No, I can't.* But she wouldn't let me go. She was like the widow in Luke 18. She was nagging at me. So finally I told her, *This place is too small. You do one thing. I will pray right now and I will release you from that vow, so you are not guilty before God.* So I prayed, *Lord, in Jesus' name I take this house and I give it back to her.* But after doing that the widow was still crying. I went away for ministry, but one month later she met me on the street. She said, *When are you coming?* I said, *Why should I come? I already released you.* Right there, in the middle of the street, she started crying. Everybody was looking on, wondering what I did to that poor woman. I said, *Don't cry. See how everybody is looking? They may think I am going to kidnap you.* She said, *Please come to my house. At least come and put your feet there and pray*.

So I went to her house because I couldn't stand her nagging. When I went to

her house, I was surprised at what the widow had done. Since I had said one room was not big enough, she made two rooms. Two big rooms. She looked at me, *Can you now still refuse*? I was deeply moved. I said, *All right. I will take this place.* When our office moved in there we were praying a prayer of dedication. And as we were praying, the Lord Jesus told me, *As long as you stay in this house I will bless this widow like I blessed the widow of Zarephath*. Because of the one word the Lord told me, till today our office is located there, even though the two rooms have become too small now. And whenever I pray for this widow, I always pray, *Lord, You promised that You will bless her like that widow of Zarephath*. Twelve years have passed by. The widow can now write a book of testimony of how God has blessed her over and over again.

1b. ***Hallowed be Thy name***

When you pray this phrase, you are magnifying and worshipping the name of God. When you do that you are also proclaiming the holiness of God. When you cry *Holy, holy, holy,* the Bible tells us that God would sanctify you (Ex. 31:13; Lev. 20:8) . When you worship the name of God, God will stretch out His hands and sanctify you. Now let me ask you one question. The Bible tells us that our God is a holy God. So why then do the angels need to pray “Holy, holy, holy”? Even if they don’t pray like that, even when they don’t worship like that, God’s holiness will not change. Forever and ever He is holy. So why must the angels say that? Is it to remind God that He is holy so that He will not sin? The Bible, however, says God cannot sin, for no evil exists in Him.

This is a big mystery. The Lord was pleased and merciful to give me revelation on this. He said when the angels cry “Holy, holy, holy” it is not to remind Him about His holiness. When they worship Him, they become holy. The holiness of God flows into them and they become totally holy. In the same way, when you pray, *Hallowed by Thy name; Your name is holy; You are Jehovah Jireh; You are Jehovah Shammah; You are El-Shaddai,* you are worshipping the name of God, and the power in the name of God will sanctify your heart (1 Pe. 3:15).

2. ***Thy kingdom come***

When you pray this you are building a consciousness in your mind to obey the ways of God. The Bible counsels us to walk as the Lord Jesus walked (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:6). When you pray, "Thy kingdom come," you are saying, *Let Your kingdom rule my mind and rule my heart.* When you pray this prayer every day, the Holy Spirit puts in your mind the desire to walk like the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit changes your heart to think like the Lord Jesus. When you pray, *Thy kingdom come upon my mind*, you shall have the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5). Your mind will be transformed to think like the Lord Jesus. When you pray, *Thy kingdom rule my heart*, God changes your heart and makes it pure and holy. You will then have the same heartbeat as God. When you pray, *Thy kingdom rule my body,* the Holy Spirit will help you to walk in holiness every day. The thought of sinning will flee from your mind. Just one simple prayer point, but look at the transforming power it effects inside you (2 Cor. 3:8). You are not even praying for all these things but, as you pray this prayer, these invisible miracles begin to take place inside you.

3. ***Thy will be done in my life as it is done in heaven***

The Bible says God will instruct you, guide you, teach you how to walk in the right way, which is, in His perfect way (Ps. 32:8). Good ideas are not God's ideas. An idea may be good, but it may not be God's plan for you. God's plan may be different. Your pastor may have the true calling as a pastor. But I am an evangelist. So let's just say I tell your pastor, *Pastor, come to India and be an evangelist*. It's a good idea because your pastor can evangelize the Indian people but that may not be God's plan for him. So when your pastor prays, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in my life," the Lord may tell him, *My dear son, don't listen to Sadhu. It is a good idea but not my will for you. You got a higher and holier call than him.*

When I was starting my ministry in 1979, I was a very young believer. I got a call from God but I did not know what He wanted me to do. So I went and told my pastor. My pastor said, *O thank you Jesus, I was praying for an assistant. God has answered my prayer. Thank you, Jesus*. He then told me to go to Bible school. I didn't know how to go about it so my pastor took steps to get me into Bible school. The next morning, at two o'clock I was praying, as was my daily habit. As I was praying, an angel of God came down from heaven. The angel told me, *God did not call you to be a pastor but an evangelist. You don't go*

anywhere. Just fast and pray and wait on God. God will make his plans clear to you. Good idea it was for me to be a pastor but not God's idea. When you pray, "Thy will be done," the Lord will guide you. The Holy Spirit will teach you and show you what is God's perfect will for you so that you will not make a mistake.

There are many ministers who don't fulfill the will of God for their lives. By the mercies of God I have been to more than 40 countries around the world and ministered in many churches and conferences and the Lord has always showed me the lives of these pastors. Many of them don't do the will of God. It's not that they are doing bad things, but the wrong things. This is not God's will. I used to minister in one particular church in Singapore regularly. When I first went to the church, I prayed for the people after the message. The Lord Jesus came and stood beside me. I saw Him as clearly in an open vision. He pointed a finger at the pastor: *Now I will show you about his life.* He showed me about his call and about what God wanted him to do. He said, *Go and tell him what he is doing now is not my will for his life.* So I went and told the pastor. He never received that word from the Lord. For three years he did not do the will of God. As a result, his church never grew at all. This pastor got many top preachers from around the world to preach in his church but the church never grew at all. What is the reason? The pastor wasn't doing God's perfect will. Later, God sent another prophet to speak to him. He didn't listen to the second prophet either. The church felt dead. The people lost the joy of worshipping the Lord every Sunday, because Christ Jesus was not in their midst.

Finally, after four years, he received an invitation to go to another country to preach the gospel. You know how he got the invitation? He was getting tired of seeing his dead church. He himself couldn't stand his own church any longer. He was looking for an opportunity to leave the church. When this invitation came, he said, *Hallelujah! Thank you Jesus!* So he went abroad to preach. While he was preaching in this foreign country a mighty power of God came down. Hundreds of souls got saved. Signs and wonders took place. When he got back, he invited me out for lunch as I was in his hometown at that time. As we sat down together for the meal he said he regretted not listening to my word of the Lord for him years ago.

4. ***Give us this day our daily bread***

If you look at this prayer in the gospel of Matthew, it says, *Give us today our daily bread*, (Matt. 6:10). But in the gospel of Luke it says differently: *Give us our daily bread* (Lk. 11:3). In Matthew, it is "today"; in Luke, it is "everyday." Are they contradicting? No, it is one complete prayer. You pray, *Papa, give me bread today, tomorrow, and the day after tomorrow.* Every day, God gives you food. Let me reveal to you one mystery here. In John 10:10, the Lord Jesus says, *I have come to give you life and more abundant life.* The scripture here talks about two lives: *Life* and *Abundant life*. The first Life is *eternal life*; the Abundant Life is *every day life*. Give us bread today and every day. See the mystery the Lord put in this prayer? When we pray, *Papa, take care of me. Look upon me. I trust You for my living bread. I trust You for my necessities,* we are casting all our burdens upon our heavenly Father (1 Pe. 5:7). Even before you open your mouth to ask for anything, God will give what you need to you because you are trusting your heavenly Father.

At the height of the Asian economic crisis in 1998 I went to speak at one conference. As I was waiting on God for the meeting, an angel came down from heaven. He said, *When you go to the meeting tonight, this is the word God wants you to tell the people: 'This economic crisis will last for three years.'* This was in February 1998. *Tell the people not to worry,* the angel relayed, *Those who trust in God, God will take care of them.* If your heart is in God, if God is your trust, I promise you God will take care of you. He will make sure you have bread to eat and water to drink even when the supermarket runs out of food supplies.

5. ***Forgive us our debt as we forgive others of their debts***

Praying this prayer puts inside you the good sense of not being too quick to judge others (Lk. 6:37; 1 Cor. 4:5; 11:31). He who judges himself will not be judged on the judgement day. Every day you are praying: *Forgive me as I forgive other people*. Every day you are forgiving the people who hurt you, the people who backbite against you, the people who do evil against you. Every day you are releasing the hurts caused by such people. You are letting go of any unforgiveness. When you do that your heart will be cleansed. When that happens your mind is being renewed not to judge other people. The Holy Spirit will remind you not to speak evil about other people.

6. ***Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from all evil***

Praying this prayer builds inside you a sense of the fear of God. You pray every day: *Papa, I don't want to walk into sin. I will not fall into temptation.* When you pray like this every day, your heart grows in the fear of God. Hebrews 5:7 reveals that the secret key to the effective prayers of the Lord Jesus Christ is His holy life. The Lord Jesus always carried the fear of God before His eyes. And when you pray like that, God will put a hedge of protection all around you and no evil can touch you (Job 1:10). When you pray, "Deliver us from evil," a circle of angels will be sent to protect you (Ps. 34:7). Another circle of angels will be sent to protect your family. No devil can touch you.

7. ***Thine is the kingdom and the power and glory***

Your heart should be rejoicing with the praises to God. When you pray, "Thine is the kingdom," you believe with all your heart that your prayer is heard. When your heart is built up with faith that God will do all things because He is powerful, when you lift up your heart and give glory to Jesus, you will rejoice. Your heart will be full of joy. You are looking with the eyes of faith to the answered prayer in any given situation, in good times or bad times. Even when you are going through suffering and persecution, this prayer will keep you in the joy of the Lord.

In the Book of Acts we read of Paul and Silas being put into the prison (Acts 16:23-32). They were beaten mercilessly. Their backs were bleeding. They sat down and they looked up to heaven. Before they looked up to heaven Paul looked at Silas face and Silas looked at Paul's face. They wiped away each other's tears. They then looked up to heaven, *Lord God, why this suffering? We came to preach your gospel. Why did You not protect us? Why did You allow us to be beaten? Papa-why?* Did they pray like that? No. They were singing, they were dancing, they were laughing, and they were full of joy. How could they do that? Because they were always praying, *Thy kingdom come, Thy power, Thy glory, forever and ever.* Their hearts were rejoicing. They were so joyful. When you proclaim God's kingdom you proclaim His power, you proclaim His glory. And you are declaring that forever and forever He is God. You go on rejoicing and rejoicing. The presence of God floods your heart and your whole heart will

be full of joy (Ps. 16:11). The joy of the Lord will strengthen you and will help you to fight your battle ((Neh. 9:10). You shall keep quiet and Jehovah Sabaoth will fight for you (Ex. 14:14). So what happened to Paul and Silas? They were rejoicing. They had a worship service. The prison guard may have thought, *Poor Paul. Poor Silas. All the beating has made them mad*. When the apostles worshiped, the power of God came down. God fought for them and set them free.

A Perfect Prayer

In conclusion, let me reveal to you a deep mystery in this The Lord's Prayer. It will help you solve the one problem many believers have. When we pray, we are frequently tempted to think, *Will God hear my prayer*? Do you have this problem? The Bible says if we pray a prayer according to the will of God we can have the confidence that God hears our prayers (1 Jn. 5:14,15). So our problem is this, when we pray a prayer we don't know whether it is God's will or not. If you have such a problem I have good news for you. From this reading onwards your problem can be done away with once and for all. When you kneel down to pray the next time, you will no more have any doubt whether God hears your prayer or not? Because this prayer that the Lord Jesus Christ taught us is 100% the perfect will of God. How do I know that? It has to do with the one who gives us this prayer: the Lord Jesus. Who is the Lord Jesus? He is God Himself. Hallelujah! God Himself is telling you how to pray according to His perfect will so that all your prayers are always answered.

But it isn't all. When you pray this prayer, two other persons will come and join you in prayer. In Matthew 18:19 we are told, *If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything. It shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.* Two persons in total agreement: oneness. Who are the two persons? When you pray, "Our father in heaven," the Lord Jesus Christ will join you in prayer at that very moment. He is the second person. How do we know Jesus Christ prays? The Bible tells us the Lord Jesus Christ is sitting as a king on the throne and He is also a priest (Zech. 6:13; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25). As priest He makes intercession for us. When you pray, Jesus Christ will come and join you in prayer: so two of you are praying together.

But yet another miracle is taking place. Matthew 18:18 says, *When two or three are gathered in My name I am there in their midst.* Although "two or three" refers to physical people there is a hidden mystery here. The "two" means you and the Lord Jesus. Who then is the third person? It is the Holy Spirit who comes and joins you. And how do we know that the Holy Spirit does that? Romans 8:26 says we do not know how to pray but the Holy Spirit helps us to pray. Now not only will He help you to pray, if you read the scripture very carefully, you will see that it says the Holy Spirit prays for you. If you read further down the scriptural passage you learn that before the Holy Spirit prays for you He searches the mind of God. He completely discerns the will of God and then prays for you according to the perfect will of God (Rom. 8:27; 1 Cor. 2:11). So there you have it: all three of you are praying*: the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and you.* Three persons praying together-how can God say no? God will always answer your prayer.

Let us learn to apply this perfect God willed prayer in our lives. It will help you to develop a full and complete prayer life.