

Jesus and Prayer

If Jesus was fully God, was perfectly in line with God's will, why did he need to pray?

Number of reasons, two most relevant...

- To be with His Father. Prayer is about a relationship, not just getting through a list or performing a spiritual duty.
- To provide an example for us. To teach us how to pray - when, where, what, and the attitudes and motivations that drive prayer.

“Jesus’ example teaches us that prayer is about relationship. When he prays, he is not performing a duty; he is getting close to his Father.”

“Any relationship, if it is going to grow, needs private space, time together without agenda, where you can get to know each other... You don’t create intimacy, you make room for it.” - Paul Miller

How and Why Did Jesus Pray?

- The Bible records 33 different instances in which Jesus took time to pray.
- Jesus’ ministry began with prayer (Luke 3:21, *baptism*) and ended with prayers (Mark 15:38-39, *on cross*).
- He prayed regularly, “often withdrew to lonely places and prayed” (Luke 5:16).
- He often prayed alone (Mark 1:35; Matthew 14:23). Away from hustle/nature.
“And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, where he prayed” Mark 1:35
“He went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.” Matt 14.23
- He prayed during important times in his life: At his baptism (Luke 3:21-22), before choosing the disciples (Luke 6:12-13 - he prayed all night in the mountains, then called his disciples), before the transfiguration (Luke 9:28-29 - went with Peter, James, and John “went up on a mountain to pray. And as he was praying, his appearance was altered”), before his trial and crucifixion (Garden - prayed so earnestly he sweat blood, wrestled, submitted “not my will but yours be done”), and on the cross (Matt 26:36-46; 27:46).

- Jesus prayed after a personal crisis and before major turning points/miracles in his life and ministry (Matt 14:13,23).
 - He withdrew (probably to pray) after John the Baptist was beheaded and went away to pray after feeding 5,000 and before walking on water.

What Was In Jesus' Prayers? How can this be a model for our prayers?

- He prayed to commune with his Father, to continually submit to Fathers' will, and to give praise and thanks (Matt 11:27; Heb 5:7; Matt 11:25-26).

“During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up *prayers and petitions* with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his *reverent submission*.” Heb 5:7

- John 17 we see pattern for outward prayer, how to pray for oneself and others. Prayed for himself (glorifying to God), his close friends (unified and sanctified in the truth of God's Word, protected), and for believers & the world (remain in God's love, be unified, world would see).
- Parables/teaching on prayer -
 - God desires to give good to his children (Luke 11:5-13; Matt 7:7-11).
 - Father gives good gifts to those who ask (Lk 11)
 - “Ask and it will be given...” (Mt 7)
 - Pray to commune/relate with your heavenly Father, not to impress others (Matt 6:7-8).

“When you pray, don't be like the pharisees, for they love...go into your room, close, door...”
 - Pray persistently, consistently and in faith (Luke 18:1-9)

Persistent widow, grant me justice! “always pray and not lose heart” (v1)
At end, Jesus acknowledged her faith!
- We also get a glimpse into the topics of Jesus' prayers looking at the Lord's Prayer (Matt 6:9-13).

“I have always been amazed that the disciples didn't ask Jesus how to walk on water, how to still the tempest, or how to do any of his other miracles. They did,

however, ask Jesus to teach them about prayer... I'm certain that the disciples clearly saw the inseparable relationship between the power Jesus manifested and the hours he spent in solitude, conversing with his Father.” - R.C. Sproul

Big Idea: Jesus needed to be with the Father, so do we!

Questions

When you think about Jesus' prayer life, what stands out to you?

Brainstorm ideas on how someone can practically follow Jesus' example of prayer?

The Lord's Prayer

“Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name”

“Thy kingdom come”

“Thy will be done - on earth, as it is in heaven.”

“Give us this day our daily bread”

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”

“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen”

- Disciples did not ask for Jesus to teach them how to heal, how to perform miracles, how to answer questions like you do...they asked him to “teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). Shows the priority Jesus had, impact it had on them.
- Very Familiar: Perhaps the most quoted passage ever.
- Danger here, become so familiar we lose its beauty and power.
- Keller, “Jesus Christ gave [the Lord's prayer] to us as a key to unlock all the riches of prayer.”
- Should be used as a guide, topical pattern for our prayers - not necessarily for rote repetition over and over.
- Jesus said, “Pray then, **like** this...” Did not say pray exactly these words whenever you pray.

“It provides the manner of praying more than the content of the prayer; it gives a model or outline of the type of prayer Jesus intends for the kingdom community.”

(ZECNT, Osborne)

- *Not a formula, but a guide.* So it provides the basic topics and spirit of prayer from Jesus to use as a guide.
- Note, it is given to us in the plural form, “Our...us...we” It is important, and commanded, to pray in private... but it is also extremely important to pray with others, in community - both formally in worship and informally...I am incorporating practicing prayer together in this series. In prayer, get to know Jesus together!

Lord’s Prayer Method

- Using Jesus’ themes as a guide to how and what we pray for during a prayer time. Each phrase is used as a prompt to guide our words on that topic.

Play Piper Video for a Model: <https://vimeo.com/148557763>

ADORATION - starts with praise, God centeredness, Fatherhood of God

“Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name”

Hallowed, not used much (set apart/holy/sacred/to be revered). Gravesite of a revered person - Dawson Trotman’s grave. Quiet, reverent, set apart.

- Praise God for being our perfectly loving, caring, and guiding Father.
- Thank God for adopting us into his eternal family through Christ.
- Praise God that He is in heaven as sovereign Lord; reigning and ruling in glory.
- Adore His Hallowed name. He is holy, set apart, to be revered & honored by all.
- Pray God will make His holiness evident throughout the world & that we would honor his name, keep it sacred, in everything we do.
- Adore Him for any other characteristic of His person you want to highlight.

But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. (Isa 64:8)

You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba!
Father!” (Rom 8:15)

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called
sons of God! (1 John 3:1)

Our God is in the heavens, he does all that he pleases. (Ps 115:3)

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. (Isa 6:3)

“Thy kingdom come”

An adoration, he is the King, it is here - future, it is coming in fullness.
Also a prayer that it would come in our lives and world.

- Praise God that He is the King over earth and heaven.
- Praise God that He is advancing His kingdom through the gospel.
- Express awe and expectation as Jesus, the King of Kings, will one day return and rule in the new heavens and new earth.
- Pray God would extend His royal power, rule, glory over every part of your life - emotions, desires, thoughts, commitments.
- Pray His will, lordship, kingdom would grow in your family, friends, city & world.

All that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head above all. (1 Chron 29:11)

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as
a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matt 24:14)

There were loud voices in heaven saying, “The kingdom of the world
has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,
and he shall reign forever and ever.” (Rev 11:15)

“Thy will be done - on earth, as it is in heaven.”

Praise - sovereign, declaration it will be done

Prayer - we would submit to it in our lives, even when hard, see it world

- Praise God that He accomplishes all His purposes; what He plans, happens.
- Praise God that He reigns, His will is being done on earth and in heaven.
- Ask God to give you understanding into His will and that you would follow it.
- Pray that God would help you endure difficulties in your life according to His will - with patience and grace. Give humility to accept the hard things, as Christ did.

I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and
from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will
accomplish all my purposes.’ (Isa 46:9-10)

My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless,
not as I will, but as you will. (Matt 26:39)

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.
(2 Cor 12:9)

ASKING FOR NEEDS

“Give us this day our daily bread” - acknowledging his provision, asking for it.

- Praise God as the one who provides for us and gives good gifts.
- Express reliance and trust of God to provide each day's needs.
- Pray God would supply all your daily needs to live fully for Him.
- Pray that you would hunger for the Word of God, the bread of life. Pray that God would nourish you spiritually each day as you read the Word.
- Pray for the needs of others that come to mind.

The Father in heaven will “give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matt 7:11)
And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ
Jesus. (Phil 4:19)

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be
added to you. (Matt 6:33)

Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from
the mouth of the Lord. (Deut 8:3)

“[Jesus “the bread of life”] is God's ultimate provision for our spiritual lives...
Each time we pray for daily bread, we should recognize our deeper need for the
bread of life - the only one who can truly satisfy.” (Mohler, 118)

CONFESSION & PETITION

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”

Talk about the gospel here! Mohler emphasizes this in the book *The Prayer that Changes the World* (pp. 121-138). We are a forgiven people, community - we forgive as Christ forgave us.

- Praise God for the gospel, His eternal forgiveness through Christ's sacrifice.
- Confess any sins that have been a part of your life, ask for forgiveness and be assured that God hears and gives power to change.
- Pray God would bring to mind anyone you need to forgive. Pray for strength to forgive those who have wronged you.

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col 1:13-14)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn 1:9)
Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Eph 4:32)

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”

Does God lead us into temptation? James 1:13. God pushes us into sin, tricky - don't think so. [careful of detaching it from the next phrase]. When we are tempted, may we stand up under it and use your delivering resources. Another word for temptation in the Bible is trial/hardship - grant that we would be able to endure, stand up under a trial or hardship. Sovereign will here.

- Praise God that He is the deliverer, the savior - giving power to overcome.
- Pray for strength and wisdom when trials & hardships come your way.
- Pray that God would strengthen and protect you from Satan, the evil one.
- Ask for the armor of God to protect you against temptation and sin.
- Pray for ideas on how we can help one another fight sin and endure trials.

God cannot be tempted with evil, nor does he tempt anyone (James 1:13)
Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you experience trials of many kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance (James 1:2-3)
But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.
(2 Thess 3:3)

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the Devil's schemes. (Eph 6:10)

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen”

Some early manuscripts don't have this phrase, may not see it everywhere. Nevertheless, good truths. It ends with - declaring who God is!!

- Give thanks to God for His many blessings, His kingdom, power, and glory.
- Praise God that His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. He is on His eternal throne.

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the majesty and the splendor...in hands are the strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.
(1 Chron 29:11-12)

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. (Psalm 145:13)

Table Groups

Take the Lord's Prayer Method, a section at a time, appoint leader - read phrase, spend time using the bullet points and verses to guide your prayer time. Leader discerns when to move on.

Extra Quote

"The Lord's prayer moves from adoration and praise (*our Father, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come. Thy will be done*), to petitioning for our needs (*give us this day our daily bread...deliver us from evil*), to confessing our sins and asking for inner change (*forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors*), to thanksgiving for our blessings (*for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory*), and even for our difficulties (*thy will be done*)." All these "dimensions of prayer are crucial to use."

- Keller, *Prayer*, 124