

**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!**



Near to the Heart of God

Hymn 35



In My Heart there rings a Melody

Hymn 633



**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!**



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered over the open pages.

Call to Worship

Psalm 36:5-10

Psalm 36:5-10 Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD. How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light. Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your righteousness to the upright of heart!

I Love to Tell the Story

Hymn 619



O How I Love Jesus

Hymn 634





Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Receiving of the Offering



2 Corinthians 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Famous Quote:

“You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most ... It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance.”

JOHN WESLEY

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered over the book's pages.

Today's Message
“The Lord's Prayer”

Scripture text: Matthew 6:5-15

Our Praying (Matt. 6:5–15)

Jesus gave four instructions to guide us in our praying.

1. We must pray in secret before we pray in public .

Matthew 6:6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

It is not wrong to pray in public in the assembly (1 Tim. 2:1ff), or even when blessing food (John 6:11) or seeking God's help (John 11:41–42; Acts 27:35).

1 Timothy 2:1-4 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

John 6:11 Jesus then took the loaves, and **when he had given thanks**, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted.

John 11:41-43 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."

Act 27:35 And when he had said these things, **he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat.**

But it is wrong to pray in public if we are not in the habit of praying in private. Observers may think that we are practicing prayer when we are not, and **this is hypocrisy.** The word translated closet means “a private chamber.” It could refer to the store-chamber in a house.

Our Lord prayed privately (*Mark 1:35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.*); so did Elisha (2 Kings 4:32ff) and Daniel (Dan. 6:10ff).

2 Kings 4:32-35 When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed. So he went in and shut the door behind the two of them and **prayed to the LORD**. Then he went up and lay on the child, putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. And as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm. Then he got up again and walked once back and forth in the house, and went up and stretched himself upon him. The child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

Daniel 6:10-13 When **Daniel knew that the document had been signed**, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, "O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." Then they answered and said before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, **but makes his petition three times a day.**"

2. We must pray sincerely.

Matthew 6:7-8 "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. **Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.**

The fact that a request is repeated does not make it a “vain repetition”; for both Jesus and Paul repeated their petitions (Matt. 26:36–46; 2 Cor. 12:7–8).

Matthew 26:36-39 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "**Sit here, while I go over there and pray.**" And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "**My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.**" And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "**My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.**"

2 Corinthians 12:6-9 Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. **Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this,** that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

A request becomes a “**vain repetition**” if it is only a babbling of words without a sincere heart desire to seek and do God’s will. The mere reciting of memorized prayers can be vain repetition. The Gentiles had such prayers in their pagan ceremonies (see 1 Kings 18:26).

1 Kings 18:26 And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made.

3. We must pray in God's will (vv. 9–13).

This prayer is known familiarly as "The Lord's Prayer," but "The Disciples' Prayer" would be a more accurate title.

Jesus did not give this prayer to us to be memorized and recited a given number of times. In fact, **He gave this prayer to keep us from using vain repetitions.**

Jesus did not say, "Pray in these words." He said, "**Pray after this manner**"; that is, "Use this prayer as a pattern, not as a substitute."

The purpose of prayer is to glorify God's name, and to ask for help to accomplish His will on earth. This prayer begins with God's interests, not ours: God's name, God's kingdom, and God's will.

Robert Law has said, **"Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man's will done in heaven, but for getting God's will done in earth."** We have no right to ask God for anything that will dishonor His name, delay His kingdom, or disturb His will on earth.

It is worth noting that there are no singular pronouns in this prayer; they are all plural.

It begins with “OUR Father.” When we pray, we must remember that we are part of God’s worldwide family of believers. We have no right to ask for ourselves anything that would harm another member of the family.

If we are praying in the will of God, the answer will be a blessing to all of God’s people in one way or another.

If we put God's concerns first, then we can bring our own needs. God is concerned about our needs and knows them even before we mention them (Matt. 6:8).

If this is the case, then why pray? **Because prayer is the God-appointed way to have these needs met** (see James 4:1–3).

Prayer prepares us for the proper use of the answer.
If we know our need, and if we voice it to God, trusting Him for His provision, then we will make better use of the answer than if God forced it on us without our asking.

James 4:1-5 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? **You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.** You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "**He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us**"?

It is right to pray for daily physical needs, for forgiveness, and for guidance and protection from evil. “Lead us not into temptation” does not mean that God tempts His children (James 1:13–17).

In this petition we are asking God to guide us so that we will not get out of His will and get involved in a situation of temptation (1 John 5:18), or even in a situation of tempting God so that He must miraculously rescue us (Matt. 4:5–7).

James 1:13-17 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," **for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.** But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then **desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

1 John 5:18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

Matthew 4:5-7 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, '**You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.**'"

4. We must pray, having a forgiving spirit toward others (vv. 14–15).

Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

In this “appendix” to the prayer, Jesus expanded the last phrase of Matthew 6:12, “as we forgive our debtors.” He later repeated this lesson to His disciples (Mark 11:19–26).

Mark 11:19-25 And when evening came they went out of the city. As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. And Peter remembered and said to him, "**Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.**" And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, **whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.** And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

He was not teaching that believers earned God's **forgiveness by forgiving others**; for this would be contrary to God's free grace and mercy. **However, if we have truly experienced God's forgiveness, then we will have a readiness to forgive others.**

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another and, **if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.**

Our Lord illustrated this principle in the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matt. 18:21–35).

Matthew 18:20-22 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Then Peter came up and said to him, "**Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?**" Jesus said to him, "**I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.**

Matthew 18:23-27 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So **the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'** And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

Matthew 18:28-32 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, '**Have patience with me, and I will pay you.**' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, **so that we might live through him.** In this is love, not that we have loved God but **that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

We have seen that true praying is a “family affair” (“Our Father”). If the members of the family are not getting along with one another, how can they claim to have a right relationship with the Father? The emphasis in 1 John 4 is that we show our love for God by loving our brothers. **When we forgive each other, we are not earning the right to prayer; for the privilege of prayer is a part of our sonship.**

Romans 8:15-16 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Forgiveness belongs to the matter of fellowship: If I am not in fellowship with God, I cannot pray effectively. **But fellowship with my brother helps to determine my fellowship with God; hence, forgiveness is important to prayer.**

Since prayer involves glorifying God's name, hastening the coming of God's kingdom (2 Peter 3:12), and helping to accomplish God's will on earth, the one praying must not have sin in his heart.

If God answered the prayers of a believer who had an unforgiving spirit, He would dishonor His own name.

How could God work through such a person to get His will done on earth? **If God gave him his requests, He would be encouraging sin!**

The important thing about prayer is not simply getting an answer, but being the kind of person whom God can trust with an answer.

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Hymn 87

