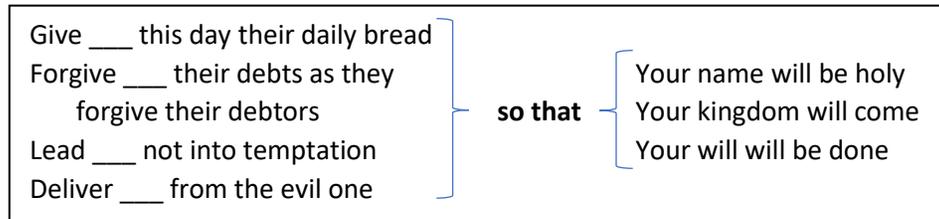


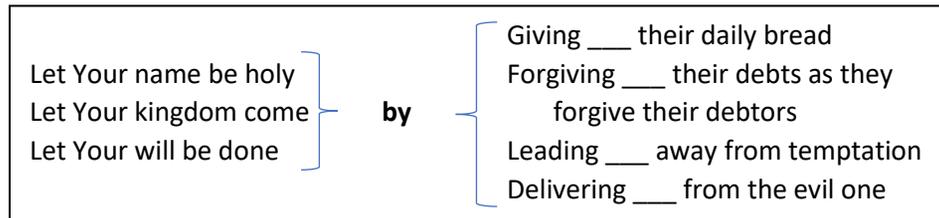
Praying God's Purposes from the Lord's Prayer

Even though there is a "Your" portion and an "us" portion of this prayer, the two parts are directly related. *The primary reason for the "us" portion is not simply to satisfy our big needs. It is to accomplish the three big themes on God's heart!* God never intended that we would pray the "us" requests simply to meet our own needs. We are to pray the requests of the second part **so that** the requests of the first part would be accomplished "on earth as it is in Heaven!"

This can be illustrated and prayed by looking at the two charts below. We will start with the requests of the second part and relate them to the first part. In each space (where the word "us" would appear) fill in a person or group in your city (our mayor, our city council, those who work in schools, etc.)



Now, we will begin with the first part and relate it to the second part.



Praying in the manner (and allowing the Holy Spirit to expand it with the other material in this brochure as well as His other ideas) will provide you 24 fresh ways (12 from each chart) to pray from the Lord's Prayer for your city.

Don't be satisfied with only the ideas in this brochure. There is much more! As you learn from Jesus how He wants you to pray, by listening to the Holy Spirit, the Lord's Prayer will give you an endless supply of powerful prayers!

[Taken and adapted from the book **Living Prayer** by Dennis Fuqua – available at www.lppress.net.]

Let the Lord's Prayer Guide Your Prayer for Your City

When Jesus gave us instruction on how to pray, He really expected we would obey it! Not in a rote manner of simply memorizing it and reciting it, but to use it as a pattern for our prayers. Throughout history great leaders in the Church of Jesus Christ have found this to be true: your best prayers will come as you obey Him and rely upon His Spirit to bring brand new prayers from this very old prayer.

Our Father, In Heaven

Notice, first of all, that He invites us to call Him "Our Father" (or "Papa"). He could have required that we bow low, keep our distance, and refer to Him as "Creator" or "Just Judge" or "The Most Holy One." He is all these things! But He invites us to speak to Him as His children: as family members. Remember this relationship as you pray. In certain ways, we are like Him and He is like us. We are close to Him and He is close to us.

But also notice that He is "in Heaven." Even though we are His children and we are like Him in certain ways, He is also totally unlike us! He is close to us, but He is also far above us! Apart from the work of Jesus at the cross, He would be totally unapproachable! We would have no access to Him.

As we pray, remember the balance that He is both like us and close to us as well as totally unlike us and far above us! We can approach Him with confidence but we should never be casual while doing so.

There are two parts to this prayer. You can see this by the use of the pronoun “Your” in the first portion and “us” in the second. Requests 1-3 make up the first part and requests 4-7 make up the second.

The “Your” part

The first three request Jesus directed us to are not about us, our city, or other earthly issues. They are about three **big themes on God’s heart**.

- 1) **Let Your name** [Your character, Your nature, Your reputation... etc.]
Be holy [be revealed, be revered, be received... etc.]
 - 2) **Let Your kingdom** [Your rule, Your government, Your reign... etc.]
Come [be established, be expanded, be embraced... etc.]
 - 3) **Let Your will** [Your desires, Your plans, Your purposes... etc.]
Be done [be known, be accomplished, be accepted... etc.]
- These prayers can be prayed as “stand alone” prayers.

Now, make it more personal by ending each line with the following phrases.

On earth [in my home, my community, my city... etc.]

As it is in Heaven [as it is where You are, in Your home, at Your place... etc.]

Next, add four key phrases to these lines.

“To me” can be added to the first line.

“In me” can be added to the second line.

“By me” can be added to the third line.

And “through me” can be added to each line.

So the lines could sound like this;

Let Your name be holy **to me** so it can be holy **through me**.

Let Your kingdom come **in me** so it can come **through me**.

Let Your will be done **by me** so it can be done **through me**.

And because we can pray this “in the plural” it can turn into...

Let Your **name** be more holy **to** Your church [in my city... etc.] so it can be seen as holy **through** Your church to those in my city.

Let Your **kingdom** come more fully **in** Your church [in my city... etc.] so it can come **through** Your church to those in my city.

Let Your **will** be done more completely **by** Your church [in my city... etc.] so it can be done **through** Your church to those in my city.

The “us” part

Requests 4-7 focus on four **big needs of mankind**. Having prayed that which is most important to God, we now turn toward what we need most.

- 4) **Give us** [we are not demanding, we are asking] **this day** [this phrase can be added to all 7 requests – we are in constant need] **our daily bread** [that which we really need, physically, emotionally, and especially spiritually – Jesus is the bread!]. We need Your **provision** and You are the best provider ever!
- 5) **Forgive us** [based solely upon the work of Jesus at the cross] **our debts** [that which we rightfully owe You and others] **as we forgive** [releasing, pardoning, no longer punishing, or requiring anything from them] **our debtors** [all who have hurt us in any way]. We need Your **pardon** and You are the best forgiver ever!
- 6) **Lead us** [direct us, guide us... when we know Your direction and when we don’t] **not into temptation** [anything that I may see as a substitute for fullness in Jesus, anything that seeks to take Jesus’ place in my life]. We need Your **direction** and You are the best leader ever!
- 7) **But deliver us** [keep us away from, nullify every scheme, break every weapon] **from the evil one** [the one who hates You and us, the one who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy us]. We need Your **protection** and You are the best protector ever!

Because we can pray this “in the plural” it can turn into...

Give **Your church** in my city everything it needs today. Let us look to You and You alone for our provision. Give us physical bread. Beyond that, give us wisdom, give us grace, give us love, give us peace. Then, give us fresh bread from Your word. Give us today’s “manna.” But most of all, give us more of Your Son, the bread from heaven!

And convince **Your church** of the value of forgiving. Convince us to quickly and fully release anyone who has sinned against us. Then grant us the forgiveness that we need as well. Let there be nothing between You and us.

Then, Father, lead **Your church** onto the path You have for her. Don’t let us wander away, but let us have ears to hear what you are saying and a heart to respond to Your nudges as well as Your clear direction in Your Word.

Finally, free **Your church** from every influence of the evil one. Let Your plans override his plans. Keep every believer in close, tight relationship with You. Use Your Word and Your Spirit to keep us on Your path.