

The Lord's Prayer: A Prayer for All Time

Chapter 50 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will explore the meaning of the seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer.
- The participants will reflect on the meaning of the seven petitions in the context of our world today.

Content Summary

1. Seven is the perfect number. There are seven petitions in the Lord's Prayer.
2. Three petitions focus on the glory of God the Father. Four more petitions focus on human needs.
3. Before we begin to pray our petitions, we address God as Father. We are children of God!
4. By saying *our* Father, Jesus tells us that God's love extends to all people.
5. The words "who art in heaven" do not refer to a physical, faraway place. Heaven is a way of life or a state of being. In addressing our Father in Heaven, we recognize God's nearness to us.
6. Petition 1: *Hallowed be thy name*. The word *hallowed* means "holy." "Hallowed be thy name" is a request for help in keeping God's name holy, to use it with reverence, to be in awe of our God.
7. Petition 2: *Thy kingdom come*. The Kingdom is a time of justice, peace, and love. In this petition, we ask God to help us put our priorities in order as we do our part to bring God's Kingdom into being.
8. Petition 3: *Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven*. Jesus told us that God's will is that we love one another. In this petition, we ask God to help us give and receive love.
9. Petition 4: *Give us this day our daily bread*. We ask for daily bread, for the basic food of everyday living, for ourselves, our families and friends, and everyone in the world. We also remember those who are hungry, not for material needs but for God.
10. Petition 5: *Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us*. The word *trespass* is another word for *sin*. We all trespass at times, and so we all need forgiveness. Holding on to hurts or seeking revenge blocks God's love and forgiveness in our lives.
11. Petition 6: *Lead us not into temptation*. A temptation is an invitation to do something wrong. This petition asks God to help us avoid people and situations that could lead to sin or tragedy.
12. Petition 7: *But deliver us from evil*. In this last petition, we ask God to deliver us from things that would harm us or turn us away from God. We pray with confidence that good will ultimately triumph over evil.
13. The last word of the Lord's Prayer is *Amen*, "so be it." The last book of the Bible refers to Jesus as *the Amen* (see Revelation 3:14).

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