



Scripture Nugget: The Order of Prayer

This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one (Matthew 6:9-13).

What we can learn from the prayer our Lord taught us. The “Our Father” prayer is said to be a perfect prayer. From it, we can learn the important things we should pray for and the order of their importance. Firstly, our Lord teaches us to address God the Father as “Our Father”. Once we really understand and accept that God is our loving Father in heaven, our hearts can open up in love and we are able to pour out our burdens upon Him. Our first duty must always be to render praise and adoration to God. Thus, “Hallowed be Your Name” comes straight after addressing God “Father”. Do we sometimes feel an inner inspiration to forget all our petitions and just to concentrate on praising and thanking God? It is a working of the Holy Spirit within us. Do we feel at a loss on how to praise God? Simple language from the heart is the best. However, many wonderful prayers of praise and thanksgiving are available if we need help on this. One of them is the “Divine Praises” a most beautiful, simple prayer we can easily memorize and use it to preface our personal prayers.

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven (Matthew 6:10). God knows the things we need and He expects us to ask for them. However, God wants us to trust Him and to place the concerns of His Kingdom of which we are a part, above our personal concerns, and He will take care of our concerns (cf. Matthew 6:33). Thus, the Lord wants us to yearn, pray and work for the coming of His glorious Kingdom, and that His divine loving will be fulfilled in every soul. Jesus, Himself provides us with a great example on this. The primary purpose of Jesus coming in the flesh is to regain God’s Kingdom from the powers of darkness. Jesus tells us that He lives to do the will of the Heavenly Father (cf. John 4:34). In the “Our Father”, “... *Your will be done on earth as in heaven*” comes immediately after praising God. In the Garden of Gethsemane, amidst the sweating of blood and tremendous stress, Jesus prayed not once but three times that God’s will be done in Him (cf. Mt 26:44). The Heavenly Father sent an angel to strengthen Jesus when He offered up His prayer (cf. Luke 22:43). We too can expect God to help us when we ask Him to give us all the graces we need to fulfill His will every day. God is the most loving and wisest of all fathers. His divine will is the safest and shortest road we can walk to our glorious, eternal inheritance.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, I praise and thank You for the wonderful gift of prayer. During Your time on earth, You set us a good example by always finding the time for prayer to the Father. Give me a great love for coming consciously into Your Presence through prayer. Help me find joy in prayer and make it an integral part of my life. Let me feel the need of my soul to render You praise and thanksgiving always. Through sincere and steadfast prayer, loosen all earthly bondages in me, re-ignite the fire of the Holy Spirit in my soul, and open the eyes of my heart so that I can recognize and accept God’s will for my life. Please give me all the graces I need to fulfill God’s will joyfully every day. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.