

Maximum Joy: Praying for Others

June 13-14, 2015

1 John 5:14-15 (All verses from New International Version 1984)

¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

INTRODUCTION: Thank you for teaching me to pray.

Praying for Others

1. Pray with the confidence of an eternal perspective.

- 1 John 5:13-14a *¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God.*

2. Pray to align your will with God's will.

- 1 John 5:14-15 *¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

When the idea is not right, God says, "_____."

When the time is not right, God says, "_____."

When I am not right, God says, "_____."

When everything is right, God says, "_____."

3. Pray for others to align their will with God's will.

- 1 John 5:16-18 *¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he*

should pray about that. ¹⁷All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. ¹⁸We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.

4. **Pray from what you know about God and pray to know Him more.**

- 1 John 5:19-20 ¹⁹We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. ²⁰We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true., And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

5. **Pray for God to be the top priority that guides and directs your life.**

- 1 John 5:21 *Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.*

T.A.P. Prayer

Thanksgiving

Ask

Praise

CONCLUSION: How to Say Amen.

G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.



Things I'd like to remember from this week's message:

Get each day's GPS downloaded to your computer/phone/etc. by going to this link clcm-gps.com or subscribing through **Feedly.com** (or other RSS Reader) to receive daily updates.

Martin Luther felt there were four parts of prayer in his own personal prayer life.

1. **Instruction** – What the Lord calls me to do.
2. **Thanksgiving** – What the Lord has blessed me with and how I respond.
3. **Confession** – Where I have failed and ask forgiveness.
4. **Petition** – Where I need God's provision and guidance.

A bit of a different GPS this week as we use Luther's explanation of the Lord's Prayer from the Small Catechism as our guide for prayer and weaving through these four parts each day – seeking God's instruction, expressing thanksgiving, honest confession and asking God's provision and guidance.

Monday: The Introduction: *Our Father who art in heaven*. What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

The First Petition: *Hallowed be Thy name*. What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

Tuesday: The Second Petition: *Thy kingdom come*. What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

The Third Petition: *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*. What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's will done? God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

Wednesday: The Fourth Petition: *Give us this day our daily bread.* What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Thursday: The Fifth Petition: *And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.* What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Friday: The Sixth Petition: *And lead us not into temptation.* What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Saturday: The Seventh Petition: *But deliver us from evil.* What does this mean? We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.