

Introduction

For the next 31 days, we want to invite you to journey with us as we explore the height, width, depth, and length of the Lord in the prayer that He taught His disciples to pray. Each day we will be focusing on different words and phrases from the Lord's Prayer so that we can spend more time in the ways that our Savior has instructed us to speak, listen, and be with Him in eternal dialogue. In each devotional, we will be praying and seeking greater unity and alignment with our Lord as we speak, listen to, and allow the Lord's Prayer to happen to us.

As we begin, I only ask you to consider a few things:

- Read and Pray Matthew 6:9-13 Everyday
- Give Space and Time to Read and Pray through this devotional each day
- Commit to connecting with another in being accountable to this, on sharing what you are feeling the Lord communicating, and on encouraging them to do the same.
- Partner this time with fasting. Give up something you do, watch, eat, etc. and in its place fill that time with reading, praying, and being with our God.
- Don't give up. His Presence is His Promise. Just be open.

So, welcome. We are excited to journey together; to pray, to listen, to speak, to shout, to be silent, to cry, to laugh, and to simply be with our loving King, because in all reality, He is overjoyed to simply be with us as well. Here's to the next season of diving into the depths of our limitless Father, our eternal Messiah, and our everlasting Spirit. Here's to growth, to challenge, to victory, and to the beauty of soaking in our Lord's love by praying in the way He has revealed to us. Amen.

Day 1

Our Father.

For Jesus to be speaking these words, to those people, in that time, in this way, was revolutionary. He was flipping the paradigm of how so many had viewed God as a distant Creator, a far-off idea that was Perfect but unreachable, or a Great Deity who could never be communicated with except for by the priesthood, prophets, kings, and religious leaders.

For Jesus to start His prayer with this relational, familiar, and intimate voicing of "Daddy," is to bring us to the place in which prayer makes sense. Prayer is relational as the Father, Son and Spirit are relational and create us in that manner. It is to be in eternal dialogue: to listen and to speak. Prayer is familiar as we can come in a reverent expectation that we are welcome, that our Abba is listening, and that ultimately, He has already been speaking, singing, and dancing over us in prayer as well. And finally, prayer is intimate, as well as corporate. Jesus speaks these words out revealing that this Father is not just His, but our's as well. When we pray in this manner, we can demonstrate that we are confident in our identity as God's beloved children, both individually and as a part of the Body of Christ.

Today, as you walk, work, run, breathe, speak, listen, look, drive, send emails, text, scroll, eat, etc. remember to come to the foundation of prayer. Come to the place in which you can speak and listen relationally, familiar with the voice of Love, and intimately in both the secret and corporate gatherings. In doing so, I believe we find rest, assurance, and the purpose of our existence: His name is Love. Amen.

Action: Today, when you find yourself believing God is not present, or that He is too far off to communicate with, simply breathe: **Abba, align me with You.**

Abba by Jonathan David Helser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8X34NLbEw2o>

Day 2

In Heaven.

Heaven is often thought of as an exclusive club or as an event that only happens once one passes on. It is boxed into the thoughts of being a location, and just a place reserved for the afterlife. However, the simple fact that Jesus' prayer begins with the communal and intimate mention of Abba who is then described as the Father in heaven reveals the depth of this small phrase mentioned a few times in this prayer. Not only is our Messiah demonstrating that the Father is close and beckoning for us to call Him relationally, but that if the Father is in heaven, then heaven is near and when we call the Father, His atmosphere—which is heaven—will be revealed.

As we look at Scripture's entire narrative, we see beautiful imagery of the new heavens and new earth as promised in Revelation 21. Specifically, in Revelation 21:2, this image of the new Jerusalem/holy city comes out of heaven from God. All too often we believe that God's location is in heaven, when in reality "heaven and the highest heavens cannot contain Him (1 Kings 8:27)." Heaven is not just designated as the location of God, but rather heaven is the location within God that is promised for all who believe and come into relationship with the Lord (Jn. 17:3).

In this manner, this phrase in the Lord's prayer is a recognition of how the Father and His atmosphere of heaven are wonderfully interconnected. This is to say, that when we pause in reverence of Abba's name and His atmosphere, we are making ourselves aware of His name and presence already around us and in the midst of us. Rather than us waiting for something that already is, we can shift our mindset and prayers to align with the One who was, is, and will always be heaven, both now and forever. Amen.

Action: As you live and move and have your being in the Lord today, remember that He is near, and that His atmosphere—heaven—is all around. Be mindful and pray: **Abba, align me with Your atmosphere.**

Our Father by Marcus Meier:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogYqYGPtDro>

Day 3

Hallowed.

Holy. Sanctified. Set apart. Completely other than. The very nature of our Abba, the absolute truth of His character is that He alone is God. There is no other God, no other Creator, no other Redeemer, no other Sustainer, no other Healer, Provider, or Banner. Our Lord is Holy.

All too often, we find ourselves trying to be overly relevant in the way we communicate about the Lord to the world around us. We try to enfold the Creator into creation, we attempt boxing the Limitless King with limited thoughts and philosophies, and we ultimately forget that God is in His very nature Holy.

This means that there is nobody else like Him. Nobody is God but God. Nobody is present like God but God. Nobody speaks like God but God. Nobody loves us like God but God. Nobody is gracious to us like God but God. Nobody is peace, mercy, hope, faithful, truth, freedom, and love but the Holy and Anointed One. Our God alone is God, and in us joining the prayer of Jesus, we are unashamedly declaring that there is One God and He is the Holy One.

As we walk through the day, many distractions try to sneak in and lie to us about the truth of the Holy Lord. We believe them all the time as we assume that other things are perfect, majestic, and worthy of our praise. Today, as you acknowledge and pray this prayer, remember the absolute holiness of our King. There is nobody like our God, and in His holiness, we celebrate the fact that nothing and no one else can sustain, love, or be faithful as our God was, is, and will always be. We don't just remember that He was holy, or is holy, but He will always be holy. Beloved, remain confident that nobody will love you or speak to you as our Holy God will. Amen.

Action: Today, I encourage you when you feel yourself engaging with other gods, embracing other idols, praying to other distractions, pray: **LORD, align me with Your holiness.**

Holy by Matt Gilman:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JGaAkW5Rpc>

Day 4

Be Your Name.

When we find ourselves asking to be aligned with the holiness of our God, we find ourselves asking to be aligned with the holiness of His Name. His is the Name that is above every other name. This Name not only reveals who God was, who God is, but who God will be. This Name is the revelation of our gracious God who has stepped into flesh and is manifesting His holiness in praying this phrase for His disciples to grasp onto, to breathe in and out, and to allow to happen to them ultimately.

In praying, "Hallowed be Your Name" we are asking for the Lord to align us with the nature of His name and His character. We are joining the great cloud of witnesses in asking to not only speak out, but to know, trust, love, and live from Yahweh Shammah (The Lord is There). We are believing and acting in the Lord who heals (Yahweh Rapha). We are declaring that in the complete otherness of His name, that Jesus is the only One that will save us and the only One that will be our Lord. We are assigning not just our faith in who God has been, but who God is right now, and who God will be forever.

As we believe in His Name, we are aligned with His Name, and ultimately, we begin to trust that who God says He is, is who He really is. We start to believe and live from the truth of who He says we are. We begin to live wholly and holy differently, because we are aligned with the Name that holds all things together and is the only Name that brings fullness and eternity of life. Amen.

Action: It is very easy to speak about other names with more fame or excitement than the Name of our Lord. When we find ourselves slipping into the mundane and repetitive cycles of declaring every other name but the name of the Lord, simply breathe: **Jesus, LORD, align me with Your Name.**

Holy and Anointed One:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkW_PhFw0zM

Day 5

Your Kingdom.

Before Jesus started the Sermon on the Mount, He began His public ministry by preaching, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven has come near (Mt. 4:17)." After this, He went throughout Galilee and the surrounding areas, demonstrating this Kingdom with healing, teaching, and preaching. He not only spoke out that the Kingdom had come near, but as the Kingdom, He revealed what this Kingdom was all about. It was from this place that He taught the many gathered from His public ministry during the Sermon on the Mount.

As He teaches on prayer, Jesus reminds His disciples in the phrase, "Your Kingdom come," that as we ask for the Kingdom, we are asking for the King who is the representation and manifestation of the Kingdom. Essentially, when we ask for the Kingdom to come, we are declaring that it is not our kingdom, and we are not the king. When we ask for the Kingdom to come, we are proclaiming that Christ Jesus is the Kingdom and the King, and that all we ask, want, and need is found in Him alone.

These words are not a light prayer. By all means, it is a dangerous prayer. It is a prayer that uproots systems in this world and declares that our hope is not found in government or nation, but in the King and His Kingdom. It is a statement that we are living in a monarchy and that our only vote is for the Kingdom to come, because in the Kingdom coming repentance, healing, and redemption are experienced. My vote, our vote, the only vote, should be for the Kingdom and the reigning King to come because it is this type of choice, or rather prayer, that leads to greater and better things. Amen.

Action: Daily we are confronted with different things we make kings, diverse kingdoms we choose to exalt above all other nations, and multiple ways of thinking that vote against the reign of the Lord Almighty. I encourage you, beloved citizen of the Kingdom, invite the King to come in. Open up you gates, be lifted up you ancient doors, let the King of Glory come in. Simply pray: **King of kings, align me with Your Kingdom.**

Build Your Kingdom by Rend Collective:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbdJXKqVgtg>

Day 6

Come.

One of my favorite items to receive in the mail is an invitation. Whether it be a funny video for an event in email or a fancy wedding invite, I absolutely relish in the opportunity to open the card or inbox to look at the details of how somebody has not only thought of me but taken the time to personalize a message to me and make it special for me to be with them. But when we were younger, that's not how we acted. Think about it: when we were children, we just wanted to have our friends over. We didn't think about if they were busy or about homework or how many chores needed to be done, we just simply asked for them to "Come over."

All too often in life, we find ourselves thinking God is too busy to "come over," or that we cannot create a good enough invitation for His Presence, or maybe that He, like many others in our lives, will reject our invitation or just not want to come at all. However, the reality is that our Lord places this specific word in the middle of His prayer for God's Kingdom to "come." It is the fanciest invitation we can mail out in our prayers. It is the most creative email we can send out. It is the simplest of phrases, but it is rooted in a deep trust that God has been, God is, and God will be present.

As we look at our lives, we can consider all the times, or rather all of time, in which God is not only present, but helping us be present. In asking for His Kingdom to come, we are asking for ourselves to be aligned with the God who was, is, and will always be present. And mysteriously, this Present One is consistently inviting us to be with Him. When we ask for God to come, we are aligning ourselves with the God who is present, and whose Presence we are being made aware. To ask God and God's Kingdom to come is to trust that His Presence is His Promise and that no matter where, what, how, when, or why, that God's promises are accessible, because His Presence is accessible, and His Presence is present. Amen.

Action: Today, as you feel yourself wandering about in the lands of the past or future, or maybe you are preoccupied with other things in the present, I would encourage you, carrier of the Lord's presence, to simply ask for the Lord to come. He is already there, but this invitation is special, and He loves receiving invites to parties, because really, He is the life and the party itself. Pray: **Holy Spirit, align me with Your Presence.**

Holy Spirit by Bryan and Katie Torwalt:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jZOu7oM7KQ>

Day 7

Your Will.

Jesus not only teaches on how we ought to pray but He models how we ought to pray. In stating that we should be asking for God's will to be done, He knows both the asking of God's will and the will itself very intricately. In the Garden of Gethsemane, as Jesus is praying and asking if there is another way to accomplish this task of atonement, He uttered a beautiful phrase that sounds so similar and surrendered, "Not what I will, but what You will (Mk. 14:36)." In other words, "Not my will but Your's be done." Jesus speaks from an immense position of trust, a deep status of humility, and the only place we should be living from: active petition and participation in the will of God.

When I proposed to my wife, I came up with a romantic and creative plan. I took her to the place where we had our first date, the first place we held hands, and eventually, the location where I would ask her one of the most important questions I could ask in our relationship. I wrote a song for her, and after singing it, I told her she was the most amazing woman I knew, and that I wanted to do life, family, and ministry with her. I asked her, "Will you marry me?" Long story short, she said, "Yes," but I think a lot of us overlook the key to the question. It is a choice that is presented, a request for somebody to reveal their desire, and ultimately, it is a powerful decision that is made when somebody responds to a question starting with the words, "Will you..."

As we look at this prayer, and as we pray this prayer, we are brought into a position of actually asking ourselves if our desires and decisions are for God's will to be done, or for our own. We are not just asking for God's will; we are asking to participate in it. We are not only praying with words; we are praying with actions. Just as our Savior demonstrated His longing for God's will to be done, He became the answer to that prayer in taking up the cross. Our goal is to not just to ask, but to believe, receive, and participate in the only will that is perfect, good, and beautiful. The Lord's will be done. Amen.

Action: As we start our days, it is vital to understand not only the importance of our words but our actions as well. One way of starting the day is by asking for the Lord's Will to be done and asking for Him to make you aware of how it can be done in you, through you, around you, etc. Partner in His will by simply speaking and living: **Abba, align me with Your Will.**

On Earth as it is in Heaven by Chris McClarney:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttXUFvDLP4E>

Day 8

Be Done.

Jesus' prayer continues in asking not only for God's will but for God's will to be done. This word is translated as "something that has come about or that continues to come about." The idea communicated here is one in which the person praying is not only asking for God's will to be done presently, but to become aware of God's activity in the past and to be open to God's work in the future as well. It is an invitation partnered with our surrender to the will of the Lord. We are inviting the Lord's history, present, and future promises to become our reality as we receive, give, and live from His will alone.

Many people are familiar with the phrase, "Everything happens for a reason." It has been a terminology that comes from a rich history of theology that believes that everything that happens is God's purpose. This means every good, and every bad thing happens because that is the intent of the Lord. I do not believe this is true. I believe that God has planned out every step our lives, that His will is available for us to receive and live in, but ultimately, because He created us in love, we have been given the freedom to choose His will and plan, or our own. Furthermore, I believe that when we come into the reality of believing, thinking, and aligning ourselves with His will, and making it our choice each day, we are creatively partnering with His robust history, present, and future.

In praying, "Your will be done" we are choosing, with our freedom of will, to align everything we are with the will of the One who not only knows all things but knows what is best. In this prayer, it may lead us to places that hurt, it may lead us to places in which things happen that seem like they are bad or dangerous, it may lead us to times of stretching and challenge, but really this is all promised. The beauty of this prayer is that it comes from the same One who instructed His disciples, "In this world, you will have trial and tribulation, but take heart, for I have overcome the world (Jn. 16:33)." When we ask for the will of the Lord to be done, we ask for His divine victory to be our history, our present, and our future, and we can continue to receive and live from that victory when we continue to choose to pray, "Your will be done." Amen.

Action: Make a list of all the things in your life in which you are confused, questioning, hurting, insecure, or needing direction. As you look at each item speak out verbally, "Not my will, but Your will be done." Finally, next to each item write something like, "This does not define me," or "This is not the end," or "God's victory is where I live from." At the end of this exercise, simply breathe out, **Lord, align me with Your activity.**

Can I Have More of You by Kim Walker:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pX1e-JXb1lg>

Day 9

On Earth.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He spoke, and things came into existence. Without Him, everything that exists, would not exist, but because of and through Him, all things hold together. He saw all that He created, and He called it good. As He formed humanity from the dust of the earth, He spoke again and declared all of creation—humans included—supremely good.

In Jesus' furtherance of this prayer, He is including the creation that is held together in Himself. He is leading the parade of creation as He prays these two simple words, "on earth" as it is in heaven. He is affirming both the original goodness and intention of His Father in the creation of the earth, but also the brokenness and pain in which the world is crying out for restoration and redemption (Rm. 8:18-25).

In asking for the earth and heaven to align, we are petitioning for the creation to return to the intentions of the Creator: supreme goodness. We are asking for a shifting of atmosphere, as we invite the environment of heaven to permeate the air, dirt, waters, and resources of the earth. We are not just calling the creation around us, but the creation within us into alignment with the Lord and His climate. We are calling ourselves into the beauty of His intention and reminding ourselves that what He called good and supremely good, can become even more as the One who is Eternally Good, is filling those spaces with Himself. As we ask for God's presence on earth, we are asking for, receiving, and living from the promised redemption that Christ has made possible. Amen.

Action: In the midst of our brokenness it is easy to wallow in places of pain, fear, or insecurity. I would encourage you, beloved, to remind yourself of what God originally called you and how He sees you through His Son. Call yourself and the world around you into the atmosphere that God is and will always be. Pause, and repeat: **Creator God, align the earth with You and Your work.**

The Earth is Yours by Gungor:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4EPnM62O8A>

Day 10

As it is.

Our Lord does not just stop in recognizing the present reality of the earth but moves forward to what He continually prays—for the creation and all its inhabitants to be brought into oneness with heaven and all its inhabitants. Jesus' prayer in John 17 is a beautiful example of how these three little words call forth for unity between God and His creation. Jesus prays, "I pray for those who will believe in me, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me (Jn. 17:20-21)."

The Savior of the world is teaching us to pray from His passionate and beautiful desire to see all people and all of the earth find unity in the only True and Pure Source of unity: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In His praying these simple words, He is revealing that the way for us to live is not to completely remove ourselves from the world, but rather to be a place in which heaven invades this world.

The early Celtic Christians of Ireland referred to these locations and moments of the closeness and seeming unity of heaven and earth as "thin places." These thin places are gracious times and spots in which the veil between heaven and earth is lifted, and one can glimpse the glory of God. In praying "on earth as it is in heaven," we are asking for thin places. We are asking to experience them, and ultimately, to become a thin place in which people encounter the very presence of God sustaining, redeeming, and breathing His life-changing grace and love through us. Some would say these "thin places" lead to a heretical view of heaven, earth, and God, but I would say that Jesus' prayer, lifestyle, and the very fact that He was both God and human, leads us to a lifestyle that looks like His: in which heaven and earth are unified and demonstrated in us. Amen.

Action: I encourage you today, beloved, to make a list of all the places in your life that are anything but "thin places." In this list, I would challenge you call these places into alignment with the truth of who God is, and the truth of who You are as the temple of God. Simply proclaim over each place, person, etc. this prayer: **Triune God of Love, align us with Your unity.**

Unify by Ryan Hall:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ruv_Bj5Cnc

Day 11

In Heaven.

As mentioned in Day 2 of this devotional, sometimes we relinquish heaven to something that is only for after our days on earth here and now. Other times, we try to understand heaven as the location in which God is, rather than as Scripture points (Rev. 21), the location that comes out from God. As we partner today in praying the prayer our Lord taught us to pray, we come to a beautiful reality in which we can ask for not just heaven as a location, but heaven as a Person to permeate, unify, and become our past, present, and future reality.

In asking for heaven and earth to align, we are requesting for the atmosphere of heaven—which is the atmosphere of the throne, and the One enthroned, the Light, the River, the city that is named “The Lord is There”—to be made manifest in our lives. This is so vital in understanding this prayer because we are not asking for something minimal, but we are asking for something, or rather Someone, who is the Maximum.

Jesus’ prayer is for the Kingdom to come and for the will of God to be done on earth as it is in heaven. In praying this, we are unifying ourselves with the request of our King, and we are choosing for our vision, experience, and lifestyle to be in alignment with not just an eternal location, but an eternal Person. And this Person, namely the Lord Almighty, can do immeasurably more than we can ask, think, or imagine. As we pray this prayer today, we are calling ourselves to be more aware of the Lord, His atmosphere, His attributes, His works, and His presence. In doing so, I believe we are reminding ourselves that heaven is in God and that now and in the end, our goal is the same: to be found in God alone. Amen.

Action: We place such high value on other places, people, food, jobs, etc. We make paradise the vacations we have had, beaches we have visited or fantasies that we envision. However, the raw reality of the story of Scripture is that heaven is found in God alone, and in the end, our goal is be found in God alone. In your moving, living, and breathing today, I encourage you to pray: **Lord of heaven, align me with You.** In doing so, I believe we will find ourselves more awake and open to the Lord and His atmosphere rather than any other lord or atmosphere.

You are Heaven by United Pursuit Band:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wakrPSA6dHQ>

Day 12

Give us.

One of the biggest and strangest ideas floating around in the family of God today is the concept that we cannot ask or bother God to provide for us. I understand that we don't need to be those who are naming and claiming expensive cars, million-dollar homes, or other means of prosperity that is unnecessary. However, I do not understand how many cannot ask God for basic necessities or even the best necessities. His very name is Yahweh Jireh, which means the Lord who provides. His very nature is to provide, and He not only provides for us, but He delights in doing so.

Psalm 35:27 states, "May those who delight in my vindication shout for joy and gladness; may they always say, "The Lord be exalted, who delights in the well-being of his servant." Many do not believe that the Lord finds joy, pleasure, and delight in the well-being of His servants. There are many different factors, but the primary variable that sticks out to me is that we don't think we are worth it.

The simple truth of the Gospel is that we may not be worthy of God's love and grace, but His cross speaks out the reality that we were, are, and will always be worth it. When we come to the Lord and ask for Him to give us something, He delights. When He gave Himself on the cross, He considered the joy—us—that was set before Him (Heb. 12:1-2) and delighted in giving Himself to us. God is a Giver and the Giver of every good and perfect gift. When we ask, we can pray in confidence, knowing that He is Faithful and that everything He promises comes to pass (Josh. 21:45), everything He starts He will finish (Phil. 1:6-7), and everything He speaks will not come back void (Is. 55:11). Our God is able to do more than we can ask, think, or imagine (Eph. 3:20). So, I believe we are empowered through this prayer to ask for more, think bigger, and imagine greater things because that is who our God was, is, and will always be. He's a Good Father who loves to bless His kids. We only need to ask. Amen.

Action: Many of us do not find ourselves as good enough to ask the Lord for His generous gifts. However, the beauty of our God is that He gave Himself for us and demonstrated His love, even while we were still in sin. Rather than wallowing in the brokenness and pity of thinking small things about yourself and God, I exhort you, declare boldly that **"God is God and He loves to love me."** Rise up, beloved servant of the Most High God, speak out, Yahweh Jireh, the Lord who provides, align me with Your generosity.

Give Me Jesus by Matt Stinton:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGcwAW4rH8Y>

Day 13

Today.

I love the fact that the God of the universe dwelt in a human body, lived, breathed, experienced all things as we did, and walked among us. I love it. The reality that God not only knows what it is like to be Creator but to step in creation as Creator. It's beautiful, and it's challenging to me, because the One who is Eternal, who is not bound by past, present, or future, came and lived presently on earth.

One of the things that I am most challenged by in life is being present. I am continually thinking of the future, of other things that I need to get done, of other people, of burritos, etc. I struggle in being present because I rush because I am too afraid to actually be present, or be loved, or be completely honest. But I have found that when I am present, and I allow myself to be loved, to be honest, and just to be, I am most myself and I am most open to seeing, knowing, and being with God.

When Jesus prays, "give us today our daily bread" He is reminding us to not rush around, to not worry about tomorrow, to stop running from the present moment, because in the present moment God's love is just as strong, fierce, and beautiful as it is in tomorrow's moment. The greatest thing about this prayer is that the One who is Eternal, and is holding time, is calling us to slow down and be scandalously present.

John Ortberg writes about this concept in the book *Soul Keeping* in which he asks Dallas Willard what it means to be spiritually healthy. Willard responds, "You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life." I believe that when we acknowledge that we are in need and that God is going to provide enough for the day, that we can be at peace knowing that we don't need to rush ahead or stay behind, we can simply be with the One who was, is, and will always be. In praying for today, we are aligning ourselves with the One who is beyond time, yet He is present with us no matter where, when, what, how, or why. In praying for today, we are opening our hearts to be present as God is present with us. Amen.

Action: For our "action" step today, I would encourage you to not do anything but sit and listen to the song "A Little Longer" by Jenn Johnson. Just be with God. Let yourself become more aware of Him, and just listen, just sit, just breathe, just be. He is present, yesterday, tomorrow, and today, He is present. **Pray: Sustainer God, align us with Your being present.**

Not in a Hurry by United Pursuit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeWuavHf4oY>

Day 14

Our Daily Bread.

I think it is amazing that Jesus knows exactly what He is saying at all times. For me, sometimes I react or respond without thinking about it. It's wired into my brain, or something I choose to do because it's the "only option." However, for our Savior, He is intentional in all of His words and ways.

When He speaks this portion of the prayer, He is revealing God's provision from the past, present, and future being fully understood and fulfilled in Himself. We are reminded of the Lord's provision of daily bread in the wilderness as bread appeared from heaven for the wandering Israelites each morning, with enough on the sixth day of the week to provide for the Sabbath the following day (Exodus 16:4-5). We see the Lord's promise to give grain, wine, and olive oil to a barren land and people who had turned to other gods and promises in Joel 2. And finally, we see the fulfillment of these promises in the flesh, as Christ Jesus appears and reveals Himself as the bread from heaven, broken for our wholeness and crushed to provide what we need each day and beyond.

He is revealing Himself when providing for the masses of 4,000 and 5,000 as He breaks bread and distributes it. He is manifesting Himself at the Last Supper as He does the same action, and finally gives the disciples understanding that He indeed is the Bread of Life, born in the House of Bread (Bethlehem), and broken to bring us wholeness.

In asking for our daily bread, we are not only asking God for necessities in life such as food and water, but we are asking for the One Thing that we genuinely need: Him alone. I encourage you to recognize that when you are praying "give us our daily bread" that you are asking to be aligned with the provision of what you actually need, not just on earth, but the truest and purest provision from the One who is our Daily Bread. And again, He loves to give it to those who ask. We just need to ask in order to receive it, or rather, receive Him. Amen.

Action: We all have our wish lists for birthdays, Christmas, groceries, etc. We all have basic needs and we all desire the more. In a way we all are similar to the younger brother of the prodigal son parable in Luke 15. However, we are also very similar to the older brother in that story, who had no idea that everything his Father had was his already, and all he needed to do was ask. I would encourage you today to simply come before the God who loves to bless you and ask, **God who knows us, align us with Your provision of what we need.**

One Thing by Housefires Music:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ri7R5GfW1iw>

Day 15

And.

Jesus continues His example of how to pray with the word "and" to start the next sentence. This is immediately following His asking for God's provision of daily bread. He has no problem in asking for more directly after He has requested something the sentence before. It is interesting to me that many in the Church, who would say they are Christians and children of God, have trouble asking their Heavenly Father for the things they need, let alone the things they want.

There seems to be a common theme of thinking that one is too unworthy to receive from God, to come to the Communion table, to experience the presence of the Lord, or to simply ask for what we are called to ask. Many would assert that Christ has made those who receive His love and grace worthy of asking, of coming to the table, or of being with God. However, I would assert that just as the writers of Scripture are careful to point out: there is only One found worthy, and that is the Lamb that was slain, the Lord Almighty (Rev. 5:12). Actually, what we see about those outside of God is that they have become useless/unworthy (Rom. 3:12) by turning away. It is the cross of Christ Jesus that reveals that we are not worthless, but rather that we are full of worth. If we truly believe God came in the flesh and died in our place, we are declaring, therefore, that the Lord has given the ultimate price, Himself, to pay for us: meaning we are worth the ultimate price!

With this stated, we can be worth a lot, yet still unworthy to receive it. BUT this is where grace comes in. If we were worthy to receive it, then we wouldn't need grace. This is the goodness of our God, who gives us grace that covers and empowers us to receive all that He has for us.

All of this to say, Jesus is exemplifying the way in which we should recognize that we can ask for more because our God is a God who delights in giving to His servants (Ps. 35:27). We may not be worthy of asking, but through the grace and merciful love of our Lord, we can come to ask again. We should not be afraid of saying "and" in our prayers, because God is never out of resources and finds pleasure in giving to those who ask. Jesus empowers us to know that even if we are unworthy of it, we can and should ask because His grace is an abundant overflow, and ultimately, He declares that we are worth it. So, ask again, beloved, our Lord can give again and again. Amen.

Action: Again, some of us may find it hard to ask based upon what we believe about ourselves or about God. I would encourage you throughout the day to simply ask God how much He loves to give to you. I would challenge you to align yourself with the way He sees you and loves you, because He continues to speak that, "You are worth it!" When you find yourself slipping into another place of timidity to ask or receive from the Giving God, pray, **Gracious Father, align me with Your boldness to ask again.**

Yes and Amen by Housefires Music:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EI22G5YpVds>

Day 16

Forgive Us.

Our Lord is so faithful to us in each phrase of His example prayer. He demonstrates such beautiful humility and compassion toward others and the self in recognizing our complete need for God's presence, provision, Kingdom, will, and forgiveness. As Jesus continues to pray, He reveals a specific prayer that should change the way that we think, speak, act, and live.

He prays, "Forgive us our debts..." as a continuation of asking for the good promises that our Father has for each one of us. We are blessed to read this from another timeline as His disciples. The disciples hearing this would have understood this as a continuous request for a covering over their debts, sins, and trespasses. Whether it be each day, week, or month, there were consistent failures and struggles that they all dealt with differently. The prayer for them would be for forgiveness as they recognized their debts and their need for forgiveness.

The exciting thing for us is that we read this beyond our Messiah's death and resurrection. This means that we understand this from a perspective in which a dear spiritual father and mentor, Dave Collins, would state, "When Jesus died on the cross for our sin, all of our sins were yet future." We read this, and ultimately, we pray this prayer as a recognition that Christ has paid for every one of our sins already. This is a realization with the disciples of the past that we need forgiveness, and with disciples of the present and future that forgiveness has been given to and for all debts.

With this said, when we pray this short phrase, we are not necessarily asking God to forgive things He has already forgiven. Instead, we recognize our need for God, humbling ourselves, and aligning ourselves with what He has already given. It is not that we are earning forgiveness by what we say, but rather receiving forgiveness by what Christ Jesus has done and by our response to that work. This prayer is a beautiful reminder that God's abundant mercy and grace extend to all corners of our lives. The question is not about His giving; it is about our reception. Asking for His forgiveness is receiving a gift that empowers you to walk freely and freely forgive those around you as well. Amen.

Action: Throughout the day we find ourselves engaging in practices, words, activities, thoughts, and interactions that may not be freeing, but rather binding. They may be things we think are building up debt, that are hurting our relationship with the Lord, with others, with ourselves. I would encourage you to remind yourself of who God was, is, and will always be. Simply praying "Forgive us" may be that aligning with His Truth that is needed. I would challenge you to pray throughout the day, **Lord, align me with Your forgiveness.**

Forgiven by Bethel Music:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34Tvwff3Ku0>

Day 17

Our Debts.

Jesus' prayer continues with "forgive us our debts." I love that Jesus is compassionate, humble, and gracious enough to pray this prayer. He was completely pure, perfect, innocent and holy. He did not need to pray this for Himself, but rather, as the Good Shepherd He was, is, and will always be, He prays this to lead us to understand His heart and intentions toward us more fully.

In praying this, He is revealing a position of profoundly understanding both the reality and weight of our actions. He is encouraging us to see the pain of our debts, but not to sit in that pain. He is calling us forth because He examples not only through this prayer but through the cross that the goal is for these sins and trespasses to be forgiven and released. It is not something that we need to clothe ourselves with, identify ourselves through, or continue to carry as if it is a burden that we need to lug around for our lives.

Instead, the Beautiful Savior relinquishes this pressure Himself, as the only One worthy of doing so. He reveals this by speaking the very statement that pays all debts in John 19:30. "Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit." When Jesus speaks out "it is finished" He is referring to the completion of atoning for all of sin, debts, and trespasses. The phrase in Greek is the word **ΤΕΤΕΛΕΣΤΑΙ** (tetelestai), which means, "Your debts have been paid." It is written in a grammatical tense that is called the perfect tense. This tense refers to past tense completed action, with ongoing consequences in the present. In other words, the phrase would really be, "Your debts have been paid and will continue to be paid." Isn't that good news!?

Not only this, but this phrase was commonly used when criminals would pay their prison sentences. They would owe a debt to those around them, and to pay it back they would have to fulfill the justice sentence. Once their debt was paid in full, they could be reinstated into community and society. This phrase, "it is finished" would be stamped on them and people would know they had paid their debt. This is the beauty of this prayer: our debts have been paid, will always be paid, and we have been brought back into community!

The good news for us is that our Lord does not just lead us to a place of knowing we have debt, but He teaches us to pray from His payment for our debts. We can rejoice in this prayer because of His atonement for our wrongful deeds. We can also come with sober hearts knowing that it only took place through His painful death on the cross. When we pray this phrase, we experience the bitter-sweetness of our Messiah's sacrifice; we align ourselves with the beauty of who He is and what He has spoken as truthful in our lives. It is finished, beloved. Amen.

Action: Today, simply remind yourself of all that God has done. Pray, **Jesus, align me with what You have said. "It is finished" indeed.**

It was Finished by Bryan and Katie Torwalt:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBgYFxWBfdk>

Day 18

As We Also.

The power of the Lord's Prayer is that it is not passive. It is a constant movement forward into action. It is never leaving us without something to do, but it is only doing that which is understood from being and abiding. As Jesus continues to teach His disciples to pray, He is beautifully and graciously leading them to live by abiding in Him.

More times than not I hear people only refer to the covering properties and power of grace as if it is some magic eraser that clears only our sin-stained walls. The reality is that the grace of God is not just covering for us—which it is, and it is primary to this next point—it is also empowering for us. The grace of God is a gift that is given that we do not deserve or earn. It is us speeding down the freeway, getting pulled over by a highway patrol officer, and instead of being given a speeding ticket, we are given a check for \$10,000. Here's the beauty of that grace: it is not just for our frivolous or convenient spending, it is rather for our distribution and generous extension to others as well.

When we pray as our Lord did, "as we also," we are aligning ourselves with the empowering grace of God that doesn't sit back in passivity or even aggressive passivity. It is an alignment that calls us forward into action. It is a challenging and yet gloriously rewarding lifestyle that is committed to the original covenantal blessing our Lord: I will bless you to be a blessing to the nations (Gen. 12:1-3).

The goal of this prayer is to step outside of the radical individualism of our culture and to embrace the reality that this prayer is both intimate and corporate. It is the practice of speaking the things that we will do, just as our Savior exemplified. Jesus never spoke anything He hadn't done, was doing, or was going to do. His Word does not return to Him void, and He empowers us to pray and live in the same manner. As we pray "as we also" today, I would encourage you to do so in remembrance that God's grace has covered and empowered you not just to receive but to give. Amen.

Action: Some days it is easy to just receive in passivity for ourselves. It is more convenient to not look at the person asking for money on the side of the road. It is 'better' for us to avoid that one person. It is much 'healthier' for us to make sure only we are good with God. The grace of God speaks beyond each one of these lies and reminds us that He has covered and empowered us to align with His activity. When you find yourself stepping back to those places of passivity, pray, **Abba, align me with Your empowering grace.**

I've Got A River of Life covered by Jeremy Riddle:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CcdEoXL3Hjs>

Day 19

Have Forgiven.

Jesus prays, "Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors." This prayer is one that is neither easy nor is it convenient. We are challenged to join in this prayer because we live in a culture and world in which the majority of people want what best benefits them and them alone. Forgiveness sounds great as long as it is a gift for me that I do not have to extend it to those around me. As we saw yesterday, God's grace and extension of forgiveness are not just covering but empowering. This is a beautiful reminder that we have been not only authorized but equipped to receive and give forgiveness.

When we join in this prayer of our Lord, we are asking to be aligned with His action toward those around us. This is difficult because it is so much easier for us act how we want to toward those around us. But when we join in praying this prayer, we are speaking out the reality that our feelings and thoughts don't define us or dictate how we live. We believe that God's vision, action, and love for those around us is ultimately better than ours, and when we pray these two small words, we are declaring great actions in our lives.

This is not just a prayer for us to believe in God's activity toward those around us, but to participate with Him in that activity. It is one thing to say we believe in God's grace extended to all people, but it is another thing to practice that forgiveness to all people as well. It is interesting that this phrase, "as we also have forgiven" is in the past tense, as in it has been a completed action. This means that we are not only aligning ourselves with God's completed works, but we are living from those actions as a way to empower our present activities.

It is the beautiful reminder that even if we don't think we have the strength to forgive in the past, present, or future, that it is from God's past, present, and future activity that we pray, live, move, and have our being. As you pray this today, I encourage you to remember the Lord's movement in the past toward you and how you can join in that action toward those around you, because, ultimately, this is the best activity you can live from today. Amen.

Action: Make a list of those people in your life that you are avoiding, that you have been hurt by, that you don't want to see again, that you do not want to forgive. Ask the Lord for His heart toward them. Ask Him about how He sees them, how He loves them, and what He is doing in their lives right now. Ask the Lord how you can partner with Him in that activity, or how you can best bless that activity from where you are now. Simply ask, **Holy Spirit, align me with your action toward those around me.**

His Banner Over Me by Bethel Church:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxPpOZXNL-w>

Day 20

Our Debtors.

As a part of this prayer, we are led away from passivity and individualism toward the action and empowering grace of our Lord. We are called to not just act from our vision but the perspective of our King. Jesus prays this difficult prayer that may challenge us on many levels, but He reminds us that whether we are victims, whether we are victimizers, whether we owe debts or have debts owed to us, our call is to forgive.

This activity is even harder to complete when we are doing this from our vision. For example, we can forgive our debtors by word of mouth, but that doesn't mean that we have stopped seeing them as debtors. In the vision of the Lord, those who were once far off have been brought near, those who were once in slavery are now set free. It is not a forgiveness that is extended without a relationship and reconciliation. Similarly, when we pray these small words, we are reminded of what others have done to us, but most importantly, we are reminded to ask the Lord about how He sees them.

Proverbs 29:18 is a powerful wisdom statement that beckons us to think about vision and our lives. Solomon writes, "Where there is no vision, the people perish; but happy is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction." Without proper vision, it is dangerous to live at all. It would be a completely absurd request to drive somewhere blindfolded. Yet, somehow, we think it to be wise to look at others and ourselves blinded by our vision.

The goal of praying this prayer is not just to keep people in their place of indebtedness to us, but rather to align ourselves with God's vision of those around us, and freely see through the only perspective that brings freedom, truth, and wholeness: The Lord's. As you pray this today, I encourage you to remind yourself of God's vision and align yourself with His vision that brings true wisdom and freeing activity in your life and the lives around you. Amen.

Action: As we saw in Proverbs 29:18, it is not encouraged for people to live without vision, or even a tainted vision. I would encourage you today to realign your vision with the Lord's. Ask the Lord to show you His vision for those places in your own heart, in the relationships you have, your workplace, etc. Continually pray throughout the day: **Jesus, align me with Your vision of those around me and myself.**

You Are My Vision by Rend Collective:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGbNdf32RCs>

Day 21

And.

As if one time is not enough to reveal that Jesus' complete trust is in His Father's delight to give Him more, He continues this prayer with another "and." As we talked about on day 15, we are called to come with expectation, asking for more because our Lord wants to give us more. We are not called to shy away from this "and," but instead we are empowered to remember that our God is the God of immeasurably more (Eph. 3:14-21). Our King is the One who calls and provides for every need. Our Lord is the One who able to do far beyond what we can ask, think, or imagine.

As we continue to pray today, let us come with great anticipation and expectation. Let us come with humility and confidence. Let us ask with boldness and reverence. Let us remember God's faithfulness and grace. And, let us believe beyond how we think and feel. Our God is a God of the more and the limitless. He is continually working and growing and leading us to the greater things He promised that His disciples would do (Jn. 14:12).

When we pray this prayer today, we are calling ourselves into alignment with the Lord's "and." We are centering ourselves not in how we think or feel about what we do or do not have, but rather we find ourselves more located in the truth of the Shepherd who guides us, gives us rest, sets our tables, prepares our meals, follows us with mercy, and provides so that we lack nothing. As we start our prayer today with an "and," we are believing who God really was, is, and will always be: the God of the immeasurably more and the God who loves to give the immeasurably more to those who ask. Amen.

Action: Many times throughout the day we may find ourselves wanting to limit the Lord to the boxes of what we think is enough or of what we think we are worth. We want to place a restriction on how much God loves us, rather than opening ourselves to the reality that His love is never stopping, never ending, and ever-pursuing us. If and when you find yourself in these states of mind and life today, simply breathe out: **Jesus, align me with Your immeasurably more.**

God of Abundance (Spontaneous Song) by Housefires Music:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLkCDA-VjUw>

Day 22

Lead Us.

M.D. Arnold says, "A good leader leads the people from above them. A great leader leads the people from within them." This is the precisely the beauty of our Leader and Shepherd who leads both above and within us. This is the pursuit of our Savior's example of prayer: to direct the disciples from above and from within as He calls us to declare that we are dependent upon the Shepherd's guidance. As we pray "lead us," we are declaring that we are not just 'dumb sheep,' but we are capable of making decisions, and our sole desire is to follow the lead of the One who is capable and knows the way.

When we pray, "Lead us," we are ultimately asserting that God's direction, God's will, God's Kingship and Kingdom, and God's life are the best things for us. We are by no means claiming that we cannot do things or make decisions, but rather that we want to partner with the Shepherd who has been leading us before we were born. We are declaring that we trust the Father to guide His children into the best things, we desire for the Son to show us how He walked and walks, and we long for the Spirit to remind us and empower to walk in those same ways.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6)." The glory of praying and asking for the Lord to lead us is that we are not just concerned with our understanding, or our benefit, but rather we are interested in the Savior's direction for all of humanity as He guides us into the best things for us: Himself. Today, as we pray, "Lead us," I would encourage you to remember that it is the most secure thing we can speak out in trusting that the One who has been leading will continue to lead. We can trust that His leadership is perfect, and we can follow in His steps. Amen.

Action: There are many types of leaders that take our focus off of the leadership of the Lamb. We fix our attention on presidential candidates and policies more than the King and His Kingdom. We set our hearts toward celebrities and their escapades more than the greatest Leader and Teacher whose healing and freedom is more exciting than anything we tend to worship. When you find yourself looking elsewhere, pray: **Good Shepherd, align me with Your leadership.**

Shepherd by Amanda Cook:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMW-O9GB-UY>

Day 23

Not Into Temptation.

One of the most beautiful things to me about Jesus is that He not only knows about us, but He knows us. The author of Hebrews writes, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have One who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (Heb. 4:15-16)."

Our Lord is not a far-off entity that does not understand or does not want to know us. Instead, our Messiah is one who has come, taken on flesh, experienced the ups and downs of human life, knows our triumphs and pains, knows our struggle and our overcoming, and can empathize with us as He has encountered and knows our weaknesses. In this, we recognize that Jesus is not just exemplifying for us how to pray, but how to trust and live in the leadership of His Father. Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted (Mt. 4:1). Jesus experienced the highest temptations to not participate in the Messianic fulfillment of atoning for all humanity's sin. Nevertheless, His prayer was for the Lord's will to be done.

Yet, He calls for His disciples to pray "lead us not into temptation." Another way of saying this is, "Don't lead us into testing." In speaking this out, we are not necessarily asserting that there will not be testing or temptation, but we are asking for God's leadership over ours. We are promised trial and tribulation, but we are not promised temptation and testing, especially from the evil one. I believe that when we find ourselves living from our leadership alone, rather than receiving and living from God's direction, we are ultimately leading ourselves into temptation and testing.

As we pray, "lead us not into temptation" today, I encourage you to remember that our Lord is faithful, that He has experienced it all, and that if we find ourselves in temptation, He has overcome it. Let us pray for and from His leadership rather than leadership that will lead us to places we do not belong. It is in His leadership that we belong, and I believe we are declaring that when we pray these words. Amen.

Action: It is so easy to live from our own leadership; to think that we know what is best or that we have arrived and figured it all out. The prayer that is at hand today is one in which we can believe beyond our limited minds to an unlimited Resource of Freedom and Strength. Believe for those resources in your life today, pray out: **Jesus, align me with Your freedom and strength.**

The Lord is My Shepherd by Will Matthews:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-e6-Ufhbc1s>

Day 24

But.

I love that our Lord never leaves us alone to our circumstances, diagnoses, or issues. Our King is present, able, and always looking for us to recognize that “with humanity this is impossible, but with God, all things are impossible (Mt. 19:26).” We serve the God of the second chance and possibility. We have the hopeful assurance that one day, at the right time, all things will come into alignment with the creative imagination and intention of the Creator.

Jesus is well aware that all things are possible for His Father. As Jesus continues His model prayer, He is empowering the disciples to state, “There may be something wrong, something bad, or an ‘impossibility,’ but my God is able.” Jesus is building up His disciples to believe in the truth of who God was, is, and will always be. This is the God who does not just take Ezekiel to a valley of dry and hopeless bones in Ezekiel 37, but this is the Lord who breathes life and His Spirit into these bones. This is the God who is present and will continue to be present as He will never leave nor forsake you (Deut. 31:6). This is the God who sustains all things and holds all things together in Himself, and is able to take care, as He already is, for what we ask, seek, and knock.

It’s amazing how one word can change so much. A simple “but” can be the shifting of how we see a situation, a person, a job, or a disaster. A small phrase can be so paramount in scaling above the ground level to see, think, and speak with the One we are called to be with—the One who is both above and within. As we pray this today, I encourage you to remember that what is impossible for you is possible for God. I exhort you to recognize that whatever it is, our God is able, and longs to give you the creative imagination to see that He is already at work and will continue to be so. Be strong and courageous, beloved, our God of miracles will never leave nor forsake you. Amen.

Action: I encourage you today to make a list of the impossible things in your life. It could be stuff at work, relationships, finances, car troubles, or it could just simply be your own personal struggle with God. When you make the list, write next to each “impossibility” the words ‘but God.’ As you write this down, simply pray: **God of Second Chances, align me with Your creative imagination.**

God of Miracles by Chris McClarney:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6m5oxG3_C5g

Day 25

Deliver Us.

Throughout the story of God, our Faithful Father has been delivering the people of God from awful and terrible things. Sometimes it was from other group's decisions, such as the Hebrews being freed from slavery to the Egyptian people. Sometimes it was from their own choices such as idolatry and dependence on other kings and religious systems. Ultimately, we see the greatest deliverance that our Lord gives us is from the enemies of evil, sin, death, and ourselves.

This deliverance takes place in Christ Jesus, and Christ Jesus alone. It is a gift to all, and all are empowered to receive it and live in it. It is an alignment with the truth and reality that where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. It is a fixation upon the way and life of complete deliverance from oppression and sin.

As Jesus prays this prayer, He is encouraging His disciples to remember how faithful the Lord has been and that this is the resource for us asking for Him to do what He has done, is doing, and will always do: bring people into freedom. It is a petition of leading us away from evil and into the embrace of goodness. It is a request to be led into grace and love rather than pride and fear. It is a prayer for the life that God is to be the life that we live. And finally, it is a prayer for our old self to be rid and our new self to be realized, received, and empowered.

As we pray this prayer today, I would challenge you to not think that you cannot be delivered. All too often I hear people saying that they have done things God cannot redeem them from or that are unforgivable. The reality is that our Lord is faithful to bring anybody back from the worst and the impossible because He came back from those places. Our God is the Resurrected King, and His Kingdom is ever-breaking into our lives with the good news that His story has always been filled with freedom and deliverance. The question today is: will you pray this prayer to align yourself with His story of liberty and salvation? It is available. All you need to do is ask and receive. Amen.

Action: There are many steps that follow these prayers and many programs developed to ensure a constant walk in deliverance and freedom. I support and encourage you to look into those programs and ways of living out the gifts of God. However, it all starts with you asking and aligning yourself for what God has given. As you continue your journey, or maybe begin your journey, pray: **Holy Spirit, align me with Your story and deliverance.**

No Longer Slaves by Jonathan David and Melissa Helsler:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TkUMJtK5k>

Day 26

From.

As Jesus continues His prayer, He speaks out “deliver us from the evil one.” In this phrase, it is so easy to pass over the word ‘from’ while reading and praying. We are drawn to the actions or the nouns associated with this sentence. We love the concept of deliverance, and we love that we are being delivered from the evil one. But that one small word, ‘from,’ is so vital in understanding the core of this prayer. It is an asking to be moved from one place to another. It is a petition in which we are lifting our hands to the Father who will pick us up and bring us into the beautiful location of His heart.

One of my favorite things about flying is the onboard nap. One time I remember flying from Los Angeles to Chicago, and I fell asleep before we even left the ground at LAX. When I woke up, we were somewhere over Nevada. It was amazing to me that a short time of sleep could pass while so much movement could take place as well. Before I knew it, we were landing in Chicago, ready for the events ahead of us.

In this same manner, I find it interesting that the best way in the Kingdom is the way that finds rest in the Lord’s work and movement. We can strive for worth, for attention, for hope, for peace, and for life itself, yet, only Christ is the source of all these things. When we pray this prayer, we are not just asking to be delivered from situations or circumstances, but we are also requesting to be relocated and realigned with the truth, the way, and the life.

When we are petitioning to be “delivered from,” we are actually calling ourselves and those around us to remember that our location right now may be in time and on earth, but our eternal destination and place is in the Lord. We are not downplaying situations, relationships, or work problems, but instead, we are realigning our vision to see from the eternity of Christ Jesus, rather than the temporal perspective of our immediate reaction or limited words. Beloved, I encourage you today to remember that our Lord is eternal and eternally faithful. When we pray this prayer, let us sit back in the beauty and glory of His work alone, as He brings us from glory to glory. You will be amazed how much movement will take place when you start to live from the Lord’s work rather than from your own. Amen.

Action: Today, I would exhort you to find comfort in all that God has done, is doing, and will do. Make a list, speak them out, declare them in the air, sing them, or sit in the silence of how great and majestic the Lord is in His working and willing for beautiful and glorious things. When you can, today, speak out: **King of heaven and earth, align us with our new location in You.**

Glory to Glory by Will Matthews:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuAjUul-iUM>

Day 27

The Evil One.

Many people struggle with the question of why bad things happen to good people, or how, if God is all-powerful and all-loving, do evil things and people exist? It is interesting to me that the questions of our day are often straying from who our Lord was, is, and will always be. Not only this but when people describe something today, they tell what it is not. "Love is not fearful," or "Peace is not war." The list can go on, but I think you're getting it.

The reality at hand today, as we continue in the Lord's prayer, is that Jesus is teaching His disciples to pray for deliverance not just from the evil one but from all evil. It is an acknowledgment in this prayer that, ultimately, what we are believing is that God is perfectly good, and in God's perfect goodness, He is capable of delivering us from the evil one and the schemes of evil. What we are also acknowledging is that in our praying this, by free will, God is capable of allowing things to take place. In my opinion, it is not God's will for hurricanes, tsunamis, tornados, wars, bombs, divorce, addictions, etc. to split apart humanity from one another or Himself. I believe it is God's intention for all to come to know Him by His goodness.

This is the beauty of this prayer: that when we are asking for deliverance from evil, we are also praying for deliverance to good. We are calling forth the truth of who God will always be: good. We are remembering the eternally secure hope of the Good One who has been, is, and will continue to be good no matter what we think, say, or do. We are embracing the fact that in God's goodness, people can receive and live in that reality, or reject and live in their reality. We live in a broken and hurting world, filled with evil things and situations. In the midst of it all, we worship and pray to a Whole and Healing God, filled with good things and situations, ready to give Himself freely to a world that only needs to come and ask.

This may not answer every question you have, it may not be what you think is best for you or those around you, but I submit to you today, that our God is Good. I suggest that God's goodness empowers us to not only stand forth in good things but also to take back what has been stolen. Today, we don't just pray for deliverance from, but deliverance to. It is a request to receive and live from the only pure, truthful, and gracious good there is: The Lord Almighty. Amen.

Action: Joel 2 is a promise from the Lord to the people of God that everything the enemy/evil one had stolen, God would give back to His people. I believe this promise today more than ever, and I believe that the Lord wants to pour forth more and more goodness over you. I encourage you to listen to "Take Back" by United Pursuit Band, and while listening allow the Lord to guide you in what things He wants to restore to you. During this time, pray: **Holy God, align me with the Good One.**

Take Back by United Pursuit Band:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TFxgGb6SBM>

Day 28

For Yours.

One of my favorite worship songs is by Jon Thurlow, and he sings, "I want to give all that's inside of my heart to You." It is simple, eloquent, beautiful, and mysterious. It is a powerful way of singing and speaking out surrender to God as not just Savior, but as Lord of our lives. My favorite part of this song is in the last two words: to You. Sometimes I sit and sing these lyrics until I realize that there are more than three chords and two words that I can sing to the Lord. Still, it is a beautiful reminder that all we are and all that exists is to and for the Lord. It is a confidence that we can find true worship not in the most complex or wordy responses, but in the honest and straightforward declaration of: to You.

As Jesus concludes His prayer, He is reminding the disciples of where, or rather, in Whom this prayer begins and ends. As we speak out the benediction of this prayer, we are declaring that it is for, from, to, because of, and in the Father that this prayer finds its fulfillment. It is not just for us or taking advantage of what we can get from praying. It is for the One who is more than happy to bless us and to be with us. It is for the One who does not need worship or to be praised but calls us to do so because it is the best thing for us. It is the ultimate recognition that God is God, and we are not; that God is Creator and we are the creation.

It is the understanding that no matter what may come, no matter who may hurt us, and no matter where we may be our God is good, our God is present, and our God is worthy of praise. Why? Before you were born, as you live now, and after you leave this earth, He will continue to sustain, redeem, and lead into eternal life. He has paid the highest price, He has given us all we need for life in godliness, and He has provided so much that we lack nothing. The testimonies are endless, and so is our God's goodness. The Lord is, indeed, worthy of all things.

When we pray this prayer, we are declaring that we can only breath, speak, live, move, and exist because of the Lord. It is from the Lord, and it is for the Lord. As we pray this today, I encourage you to not just speak this out for things, people, or places around you, but for yourself. I hope that as you pray "for Yours is the Kingdom" that you would genuinely be aligning yourself with all that God was, is, and will be. It was from and is for Christ alone, and as we speak this out today, may we live this today and forever. Amen.

Action: Sometimes it is much easier to place limits or conditions on God, rather than remain open to who He has been, is, and will be in our lives. I believe we distract ourselves and others by these limits and conditions, and I believe, today, that the Lord wants you to walk in true knowledge of who He is. I encourage you, when you feel like slipping back into those limits and conditions, step forward in God's love and ask: **Limitless God, align me with all You are.**

All is For Your Glory by Laura Hackett:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxuhwGvrlBE>

Day 29

Is the Kingdom.

One year I was watching the movie "Benchwarmers" and was caught up in tears during one of the funniest parts of the film. In the end scenes, some bullied children are allowed to play baseball in a championship game of a tournament started by men who were bullied as kids too. The scene is supposed to be hilarious with kids striking out and throwing bats, running into each other, etc. As I watched, instead of laughter, tears streamed down my face. I asked the Lord, "What is happening!?" He responded with something that shook me to the core. I felt like He was saying that this scene was a portrayal of His Kingdom. All these kids have always been told that they are unworthy to be on the field, and because of that, they believed they didn't belong. I felt like the Lord was saying that although we may be unworthy, we belong with Him, in His Kingdom. It is by grace that we can come to be with the King and all the royal children of the King.

The end of Jesus' prayer is a conclusion that points it is for God, and it is from God alone. It is an ending that reveals the beginning and the present as well. It is a creative way in which we can join in this prayer to not seek to make idols out of the things of this world, but to rather trust in the in the King of kings. It is from and for the King that the Kingdom comes and brings forth the beauty of what government should look like: family. It is a Father who sends His Son who gives His Spirit so that orphans could become adopted sons and daughters, heirs and coheirs.

It has always been about God bringing forth a family so that we could reveal that human hands do not make the highest form of government. Instead, we can point to a King who is a Father who wants to be with and love His children. That's good news. And when we speak out this prayer today, "For Yours is the Kingdom," we agree with how God powerfully loves and guides us into a true and gracious relationship. When we speak this out to today, we repeat our earlier request, "Let Your Kingdom come, and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." When we pray this, we are trusting that the leadership of the King and the incoming Kingdom of God is ushering forth a family of beloved sons and daughters. It is a beautiful vision, and I believe when we pray this prayer, we are opening our eyes to see the Kingdom the way the King does. Amen.

Action: If we truly believe what our Lord said is true, we believe that the family He has been bringing together is one that able to implement change and transformation in the world. This is because the government of the Kingdom is all about relationships and a family that empowers one another to live fully in the glory of God. I encourage you today to declare this prayer as a way of asking to live as a Royal Child:

King of the Kingdom, align us with Your government and family.

The Anthem by Jake Hamilton:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzmFSBmrd1Y>

Day 30

And The Power And The Glory.

Jesus ends His model prayer but declaring that is it from and for the King of the Kingdom that we can give all that we are, including power and glory. When most people think of power and glory, they think of conquering by brute strength, by overcoming with authoritative dictation, or maybe claiming the fame through a heroic activity such as winning a championship or stopping a fire.

The reality we see in Scripture is that our King is Victorious, our Messiah conquered the grave, and our Savior is illustrated as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. We also see the reality that the Victory of the King came through His death and atonement for sin on a cross. We know that the Messiah conquered the grave by first entering into it so that He could be raised from it. And finally, we see that the Lion of Judah is revealed as the Lamb who was slain. We recognize the authority, power, and glory of God made known in the humility, death, and obedience of our Savior to break and distribute Himself for all to receive love and life.

When we pray this prayer, we do not just recognize the God who can speak and form all of creation, but also the God who came as the Word that laid down His life to recreate all things. We realize the One and Only God whose love is pure and perfect. We see the One revealing power through humility and authority through the humiliation of a Roman torture device.

In this manner, when we speak these words, we are declaring that the Lord is All-Powerful, and His great power is His love. We agree with who God was, is, and will always be, and in doing so, we proclaim that we are not seeking to gain power, authority, fame, and glory for our own needs, but instead we are laying it all down at the feet of the One who is worthy. We are taking up our most precious, authoritative, and powerful features here on this earth and saying that in the Kingdom humility is true authority and we would rather be aligned with the King and His Kingdom. In praying and living this way, we just may be giving more glory and power to God than in pursuit of earthly riches and power. To God alone be all power and glory. Amen.

Action: In the world, the thought of riches, power, glory, and authority run together very closely. It goes so far that people even place their identity in the amount of money they have (their net worth), the position they hold (I am a CEO), or how many people/companies they oversee. I believe these are all actions out of insecurity and pride, and I believe the greatest sign of power is in humility. Today, I encourage you to read Philippians 2:1-11. After reading, please pray this throughout the day:
Jesus, align me with Your humility.

The Humble King by Brenton Brown:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YV_3l6Ng5lA

Day 31

Forever. Amen.

Jesus concludes the model prayer for His disciples with, "For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." I love the depth, beauty, simplicity, and the utmost reverence and surrender in these words. Specifically, the last two words of this prayer are a mysterious reminder of how prayer is not just temporal words and actions, but an eternal dialogue leading to eternal activity.

It is so easy to get caught up in the day to day grind of waking up, getting to work, working, getting home, making sure food is prepared, kids are where they need to be, sleeping, and repeating. It is challenging to remain present in the midst of full days and packed schedules. It is hard to stay engaged when we see hundreds of people each day who are all expecting and needing something from us.

But I believe the Lord gives us a lens to reveal a greater vision and perspective in our lives. Jesus ends the Lord's Prayer with "Forever. Amen" and in doing so, He shows us that we are not called to be caught up in time. We are not supposed to be focused on God for one day a week, or only pray before meals, or during a meeting with a pastor. I believe when we sincerely pray in the manner our Lord encourages us to, we reveal that Jesus' blood has bought more than Sunday, and in fact, it has bought every part of our lives.

When we pray "Forever. Amen," we are agreeing that God came for all of our lives and we are giving all of our lives to Him to have. We are proclaiming that every bit of glory, fame, power, humility, brokenness, pain, victory, etc. is all for Him, and that He is worthy of all of us, and so much more. We are shifting our eyes from the stagnant cycle of the temporal to the enriching future of eternity and the activity of the Eternal King, who is calling His children to be with Him, forever. So today, and always, let us pray as our Lord has called us. Let us agree with who God was, is, and will always be. Let us say "YES" to what God has done, is doing, and will do. And, let us align ourselves with His eternity; let us pray this from His lens of eternity; let us speak out, "Forever. Amen."

Action: Today, I simply encourage you to sit in silence. Don't try to clear your mind. Allow the things that are stressing you out, making you anxious, fearful, or doubtful come to mind. As each topic or issue surfaces, speak out: **Eternal God, align me with eternity.** I believe that the Lord wants to give you greater perspective and insight in this time. Open your heart, beloved, He is speaking.

Forever Reign by Hillsong:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=au3EGgISYMc>

Conclusion

Congratulations! You made it 31 days! I am so thankful to have journeyed this time with you and I am truly believing that the Lord has been at work within us together. My prayer is that as you move forward into this next season ahead, that the words, the prayers, the vision, the time in and with Jesus would inspire you to live out His prayer every day. I hope that this devotional would be an encouragement to you and a refreshing, healing balm for your heart.

I would encourage you to not stop here. Repeat the devotional. Continue to pray through the Lord's Prayer. Start another devotional. Just keep reading, praying, meeting with others, and sharing what the Lord is sharing. Keep on moving forward. His promise is for us to move from glory to glory.

Again, thank you, and as I wrote in the introduction: Don't give up. His Presence is His Promise. Just be open. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.