

Six Wishes

Have you ever noticed how short and simple is the model prayer Jesus taught us, the Lord's Prayer? Nothing long-winded and fancy. Short phrases. Simple words.

The shape is also simple. The prayer is framed by an opening, *Our Father in heaven*, and a closing, *for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen*. The body of the prayer is six short petitions:

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us today our daily bread

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one

Think about this for a moment. What if God were to give you six wishes? You could ask for these wishes each and every day. What would they be? Money, health, comfort, a fulfilling life?

But look at the "six wishes" Jesus gives us in the Lord's Prayer. Our loving heavenly Father knows and wants what's best for us. What does He tell us to ask for every day? None of our typical requests are anywhere on the list.

Have you ever listened to children when they're on an outing? It doesn't matter what magnificent sights are all around them. Their requests are, "I'm thirsty," "I'm tired," "Do we have to . . . ?" "Is it lunchtime yet?" They react out of temporary desires. They speak out of pain, fatigue, or false expectations. They don't know what's best for them. They can't see the whole picture. They're entirely wrapped up in their own immediate comfort.

As God's children, we tend to react the same way. What we ask from God often has very little to do with our real happiness. We don't know what's best for us.

So why does our Father give us these six petitions to pray every day? The first three teach submission, asking for God's will. The last three teach dependence, asking for God's daily provision and deliverance from sin.

Why these six? Because they focus first and foremost on our relationship with our Father. They say, "Father, I need You. I need Your will, Your provision, Your forgiveness, Your protection."

The Lord's Prayer focuses on our relationship with God our Father, for that is the key to happiness. That relationship is the key to peace, strength, and harmony in every aspect of life.

What kind of relationship with God does this prayer teach and form in us?

- Simple, natural, open, and intimate
- Submissive
- Trusting and dependent

Hymn: [Our Father Exalted](#)

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