

The Request for Needs

Matthew 6:9-13

Pastor GL Wong

Prayer is fundamentally about a relationship with God as our Father. In the second half of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to bring our own needs in three petitions before God our Father. We often bring our perceived needs before the Father. However, the Father knows our greatest needs—even before we ask Him. The last 3 petitions in the Lord's Prayer help us to discover what we really need.

3Ps You Need to Bring Before the Father in Prayer

1) Provision

v11 – This petition is specifically for material provision; physical sustenance—basic necessities like food, clothing, shelter and money. Jesus invites us to come before the Father in dependence for *daily* provision—whether you are in riches or in poverty. Do you pray daily for God to provide for you? Or has your confidence shifted to how much you have accumulated?

Come to the Father in a spirit of humility, asking Him to provide what you need to sustain you from day to day! Aside from admitting your need for Him in this petition, it is also a cause for thanksgiving to our Father who richly provides. The one who recognises the provision of the Father responds by giving. Give in faith as you recognise God as your Provider!

2) Pardon

v12 – There is a need for us to be pardoned from our spiritual debt. Our sinful nature has failed to meet the mark and accumulated a debt we owe to God. This is not only in terms of committing a sin, but leaving undone the good we ought to have done—a total tireless loyalty to Him; a zealous love for Him and all His people. This happens on a daily basis; we are far more selfish than we think.

In this petition, Jesus connects what we owe to God, to what others owe to us.

Whenever we find ourselves upset or hurt because of unmet expectations, Jesus invites us to begin with asking God for forgiveness. And with the forgiveness given to us by God, we now extend it to those who have hurt us. Forgiveness is a necessary fruit of repentance and must be brought up verbally in prayer.

Believing in Jesus necessarily cancels the debt we owe to God. However, we still ought to continually ask for forgiveness from God not as our Judge (for we have been justified in Christ), but as our Father (for we have been adopted as His child). We ask for forgiveness in prayer because prayer is relational.

3) Protection

v13 – God brings circumstances into our lives to test us. He ultimately intends good through the testing of His people. Jesus is calling us to pray for God's protection when we are tested; that it will not turn into a temptation to sin. Where God meant it for good, Satan uses these trials for evil. We have a need to ask for spiritual protection.

Jesus teaches us not to be complacent—thinking we have no need of protection. Instead, we are to cry out Him in humility for deliverance and protection as we cling onto His promises.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever! Amen. – the end of this prayer breaks out in praise. Ask God to meet our needs so that we can live our lives wholly and solely for Him! Run to our Father and rejoice in Him because He delights in You! We can end our prayers boldly with an "Amen" because we ask in Jesus' name.