

Did you realise the aim of prayer (and Christian service in general) is to bring heaven to earth! Jesus did so and in His Name, we do in our words and deeds.

- iii. Acknowledging our need of His help
 - Provision (v11) – Like the daily Manna in the wilderness
 - Forgiveness (v12; v14-15) We need to let go of bitterness and resentment to take hold of God's love
 - Protection (v13) – The Evil One was defeated on the Cross. We shall see total deliverance on Jesus' return.
- iv. Reminding ourselves of His supremacy (v13b)
To Him belong the kingdom, power, and glory!
Is anything too hard for the Lord?

3. THE CHALLENGE

We need to see Him and listen to Him – as we come to Him in prayer.

In doing so we will uncover His will, receive his provision and forgiveness to go forward in our spiritual pilgrimage, allowing Him to lead us and deliver us safely as we go where He wants us to be!

Where will prayer take you in your walk of faith with your Heavenly Father this week?

While it is frustrating that we cannot meet with one another and chat. It gives us a greater opportunity to follow Jesus lesson in becoming a disciple of prayer – shut in with God!

Pastor Andrew

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CHURCH AT HOME

Sunday 24th January 2021

Sing or read the Hymn & Chorus

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, uttered or unexpressed,
The motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh, the falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of an eye, when none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech that infant lips can try;
Prayer is the sublimest strains that reach the majesty on high.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice, returning from his ways;
While angels in their songs rejoice, and cry, "Behold, he prays!"

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, the Christian's native air,
His watchword at the gates of death; he enters heaven with prayer.

No prayer is made on earth alone; the Holy Spirit pleads;
And Jesus on the eternal throne, for sinner intercedes.

O Thou by whom we come to God, the life, the truth, the way,
The path of prayer thyself hast trod; Lord teach us how to pray!

Draw near to God and He'll draw near to you;
Draw near to God and He'll draw near to you.
Lift up holy hands to Him and sing of what He's done;
Open up your hearts to Him and praise Him for His Son.

Prayer

Our loving Heavenly Father, thank you for the privilege of prayer. Thank you for making it possible for us individually to come into your throne room. How we need your help! You rule and have the power we need to see in our troubled times. Help us! Save us from ourselves and our wisdom. May your kingdom come, may you be known and seen in the lives of your people in the darkness of our world. May you be glorified in my life and your church. Amen.

Bible Verses for today

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him" (1 John 5.14-15)

Read Matthew 6.5-15

"Shut in with God"

"Life's best outlook is a prayerful up-look!"

At the time of writing we continue to face the frustration of Tier 4 lockdown to combat the spread of the more virulent strain of Covid-19. There seem few positives, but perhaps one is found in Matthew Chapter 6. We could use the time well in prayer and deepening our relationship with the Lord. The passage records what we call, "The Lord's Prayer" though perhaps, "The Disciple's Prayer" might be a better title.

Jesus used the outline as an aid to help us to structure and focus our prayers.

Jesus stresses the need for quiet when we pray. Find a place of quiet and close the door behind you. Shut yourself in with God. How about it during lockdown?

Prayer is not about being seen (v5) but rather it's about seeing God.

Prayer is not about many words (v7) its about listening to God.

1. THE ADDRESS

The prayer Jesus taught begins with to whom and where our prayers are addressed to: "Our Father in heaven" (v9a) He is "your" Father – but when you pray remember He is Father to all His children. He:

- i. Is unseen – so faith is required
- ii. Sees all – His focus on you is total wherever you are
- iii. Rewards – in earthly and heavenly blessings and through developing relationship with His children
- iv. Knows what you need – He is thoughtful towards you. He is mighty in power but also detailed in his care.

2. THE CONTENT

After where and to whom we address, Jesus explains how to pray (or why we pray). We pray:

- i. To hallow His Name (v9b) – His Name is above all others and He deserves our best.
- ii. To see His kingdom come and His will be done (v10a)