

- ✎ Finally, we are down to the last phrase of this model prayer, “lead us not into temptation.” Before we can dive into the meaning of that, we need to be reminded ourselves of what Jesus has taught us and the purpose of prayer.
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1. Jesus went against what we think about prayer and what we try to accomplish in prayer.

- ✓ Starting with the first three prayer requests in the model prayer, they are not about us, they are about God’s glory, kingdom and will. We approach prayer as a means to get what we want, and we get mad when we don’t get it. We try to hold God hostage in prayer citing “John 15:7” but we extract that one from its context.
- ✓ Faith is based on the facts of what God has already said not on the fantasies of our imaginations. In Romans 10:17 faith in what God has already said is what He’s answering, faith in His revealed will is what He hears. If we abide in Him and His word abides in us, then we will know better than to ask things that are outside of His will or outside of His permission. Why does He teach us to put His glory, kingdom and will first? Because it is what’s best for us. His kingdom, His will, His glory are the most important things for us; and we disagree with that! We say, “Teach us how to pray, Jesus” but when He does we effectively say, “Oh, that’s not how you pray!”
- ✓ First of all, Jesus calls the shots! He’s just trying to help us. We come to Him for help, let Him help you! In asking Him how to pray we are implying that we do not know how! Jesus doesn’t give us the best way to pray, He gives us the only way to pray! Request of priority, His kingdom His will and His glory are first. Requests of Humility, feed me, forgive me, these humble us and that is what is best for us.

2. Jesus teaches us dependency whereas we come to God in prayer asking for independency: we just want answers not a relationship with Him.

- ✓ Notice, there is no request for anything that requires an answer. I’m not saying that we don’t ask Him, the Bible says bring all your requests to God. Give us our daily bread; forgive us, deliver us from evil, do any of those things require answers? How do we typically think about prayer? Our thoughts mostly revolve around answers and how to get them from God, isn’t that interesting? “The pastor told us not to pray for anything that requires an answer,” but I did not say that! God answers our prayers, He does! In fact, Jesus follows this with a whole section on why we need to keep on seeking answers from God. But when Jesus modeled a prayer for us He didn’t give us a single clause that needed an answer. Mind blowing!
- ✓ Jesus isn’t teaching us every last thing that goes into a prayer but, instead, the things that matter most in prayer, and one of those things is not anything that needs an answer. Here’s the reason as summed up by the illustrious Oswald Chambers, “The purpose of prayer is not that we get ahold of an answer but that we get ahold of God.” It’s the difference between giving a man a fish and teaching him to fish.

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus,” Philippians 4:6-7. Notice, it’s not “the answers from God will guard your hearts” but “the peace of God will guard your hearts.”
