

## RELEVANT PRAYER

TEXT: **Matthew 6:8-15:**

***<sup>8</sup> Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him.***

***<sup>9</sup> After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name.***

***<sup>10</sup> Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven.***

***<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread.***

***<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.***

***<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

***<sup>14</sup> For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you:***

***<sup>15</sup> But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.***



### INTRODUCTION:

New words and phrases are in wide usage. We read of *polarization* and hear of the *generation gap*. We know of people who are in the process of ruining their mind by trying to expand it. We are suddenly confronted with the seriousness of *ecology*. Did you know these things and many more are dealt with in the precious words of our Lord's Prayer? The words the Master taught His disciples to pray are vital for today's living. His words are timeless as Truth always is.

### 1. OUR FATHER

No possibility of *polarization* here. In praying like this, we admit brotherhood under God through Jesus Christ. This brotherhood crosses economic, racial, and cultural lines, and it bridges the *generation gap*. These divisions disappear when people unite to pray, in sincere belief, "Our Father".

## 2. WHICH ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME

Here we are reminded of His splendor, majesty, and greatness. We think of words like *infinite* and *unchanging*. We think of songs like "How Great Thou Art". People searching for mind-expanding agents need to turn their thoughts to their Creator. Think glorious thoughts of Him and of His plan for His people, and of eternity. These thoughts will truly *expand* the mind. Don't permit sentimental thoughts like *the man upstairs*. Don't limit your definition of an Almighty God to *somebody up there*. Remember His unique divinity. **Like Isaiah, see the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up.**

***Isaiah 6:1: In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a Throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple.***

## 3. THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Why do we often say this with grim determination, as if we were getting ready for some drastic disaster in response to this petition? True, sometimes we are disciplined and tried, but God's Will is also that we become the finest persons possible, with full use of the talents He has given our environment.

It is by His Will that we love Him, and that we love others. It is by His Will that we be good stewards of this earth that He has given us. Those interested in our *ecology* are telling us we have not been good stewards and have not done His Will in caring for our environment. For our very self-preservation, and for our own advancement, we desperately need to say, "Thy Will be done".

## 4. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

This can mean spiritual food. We need the Bread of Life every day, and this prayer can be for His Spirit to direct our lives. But it means physical food, too. In praying this, we imply we are aware of the needs of those in the poverty areas in our country and around the world. But are we aware enough to devote time, energy, and money to share with them? Or are we content to just use our means to figure out new, exciting menus for already overfed



families and friends?

Be gentle and thankful when you touch bread. Heaven's winds have caressed it. His hands have blessed it. Be gentle and thankful when you touch bread.

## **5. FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS**

We must become as eager to forgive as we are to be forgiven! We must feel as much joy in giving up a grudge as we do in laying claim to God's pardon of our own sins! When we can be this forgiving, the divorce rate will show it! Family life will bear evidence of it! Psychiatrists and doctors will see an amazing and wonderful change in their patients. They will lose many, also.

It is deadly to carry an unforgiving spirit; it is a joyous freedom to be able to forgive! Forgiveness is part of God's Will. Grant it to others, and accept it from God.



## **6. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION**

Yielding to temptation, doing things we know are wrong, makes us hypocrites. The way to insure victory over temptation is to give our lives completely to His leading, and know that His Spirit working in us will be stronger than any outward temptation.

## **7. BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL**

What is evil in your life or in your home? Is it sin or failure or pain or illness or bereavement? This prayer is not intended as a means to escape all these things. Jesus' disciples who were taught this prayer faced these things, and so have we all. But this is a prayer for deliverance from these things:

**A. Deliverance from sin is repentance and forgiveness.**

**B. Deliverance from failure is that He can make all things new.**

- C. Deliverance from pain and illness is strength to endure, or power to overcome.**
- D. Deliverance from the sorrow of bereavement is assurance of eternal life!**

When evil does come to your life, you can accept it and live in rebellious pessimism, or you can know the miracle of God making all things work together for your eternal, spiritual growth and well-being.

**8. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER.**

These words are like an anthem of praise, addressed to a Sovereign God Who is adored. Implied here are reverence, trust, serenity, and joy!  
AMEN.