



The **SECRET** *of*
EFFECTIVE
PRAYER

GARY HARGRAVE



Do you want your prayers to be effective? Then we must learn the laws or principles of the Kingdom. In this time of great need that the world is facing, it is essential that our prayers be as effective as possible. Whether it be in our own lives, in our community, or in the entire world, we must have faith that when we pray, something will happen. We should not grow accustomed to our prayers not being answered. On the contrary, we should sharpen our expectation to receive great things from the Lord.

*You cannot pray more effectively than to pray
the way the Lord Himself taught.*

SEE MATTHEW 6:9-13

To learn the secret of effective prayer, we need to look no further than a familiar passage of Scripture in Matthew 6: The Lord's Prayer. After describing ineffective prayer, Christ said, "Pray, then, in this way" (Matthew 6:9). You cannot pray more effectively than to pray the way the Lord Himself taught. Let us examine some of the principles contained in the verses of this prayer.

Ray Hargrave



Hallowed be Your name.

Christ Is the Door To the Father's Presence

Yeshua (Jesus) begins by describing prayer as an intimate relationship with the Father. When you pray, go into your closet with the Father (Matthew 6:6). He did not say, "Pray to Me and I will relay your prayers to the Father." He said, "Go directly into the Father's presence." Christ is the way to the Father (John 14:6). He also said, "I am the door of the sheep" (John 10:7). If you want to walk into a room, do you stand in front of the door and never use it? Christ is the door to the Father's presence. He wants you to use Him to walk in.

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

If we lose the concept that the primary purpose of Christ is to reconcile us to the Father, then we are missing God's objective. As a Christian, you know you are saved. Do you know why He saved you? He removed your sin to reconcile you to the Father, so you could stand in His presence (Hebrews 10:19-22). When we enter His presence, our greatest need has been answered. Christ answered the prayer of all humankind from the time we first began to call on "the name of the LORD" (Genesis 4:26). Yeshua ended the separation between God and His creation.

Typical of Jewish prayer, the petitioner enters the presence of the Holy Name (*HaShem*) with worship and adoration before making any requests. Therefore, the first thing we do once we enter God's presence is worship Him and say, "Father, holy and sanctified is Your name!" Bless the Father. Bless Him! Love and worship Him. Thank Him. He sent His Son to die for us so that we can enter His presence. His presence is the answer to whatever we ask, whatever we need. All it takes is His presence. Our worship of Him brings the solution to every problem.



*"Your kingdom come. Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven."*

MATTHEW 6:10

Heaven is Moving to Earth

Next, Yeshua directs us to pray, "Your Kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." This confronts the paradigm that our walk with God is based solely on the spiritual aspect. Like the Jewish faith, Christians have the Messianic hope of Him who comes to rule and reign on the earth (Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 7:13-14; Jeremiah 23:5-6).

Both the heavenly and the earthly manifestations are aspects of Christ's ministry. He is a spiritual being who took dominion in the spirit realm (Ephesians 1:20-21). Yet Christ Himself is waiting until His enemies are made the footstool of His feet (Hebrews 10:12-13). We cannot be disengaged from the idea of the physical realm. Whatever Christ has done spiritually must manifest physically on the earth. Christ gave us the keys to bring what is spiritual, what is in heaven, to the earth.

Yeshua said to Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven".

Matthew 16:19



Believe that whatever you bind on this earth has been bound in heaven (Matthew 18:18).

Believe that whatever you loose—whatever you cut free or dislodge—on earth, has been cut free or dislodged in heaven. There are things that need to be dislodged. There are wicked people throughout the earth, and the power behind what they are doing is fed from the realm of spirit (Ephesians 6:12). That power needs to be cut off.

In a sense, heaven is moving to earth, and we are the movers. We are actively engaged in the process of applying Christ's victory over satan (Romans 16:20).

And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Revelation 12:9

Satan has no more connection with heaven. He has been cut off from heaven. We are looking for the opposite to happen for us. We are looking to connect ourselves with Christ's power and authority in heaven so that His Kingdom and His will is done on the earth. The Lord gave us this prayer for a reason. Let us apply it in the earth right now.



"Give us this day our daily bread."

MATTHEW 6:11

Partake of Christ Every Day

To understand the next aspect of this prayer, we need to understand what Christ taught us to demand from the Father. The following passage identifies exactly what we are looking for when we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread."

Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."

John 6:32-35

Christ is the bread of life, and we need this bread daily in our lives. Yeshua is saying, "Never stop asking. Never lose your hunger. Come before the Father every day and demand Christ in your life." We could respond to that by saying, "Well, I received Christ. I believe. I ate of the bread of heaven and I'm saved." I think He is talking about something more than that. If He were talking about the salvation experience, why would He say that we need to come daily and demand this bread? But something is missing in our walk with God if we keep trying to live and walk every day in the energy of a meal that happened years ago. If you are going to have strength to live as a believer, you need feeding every day. It is a daily walk and relationship with Christ, and every day you must partake of Him.



“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

MATTHEW 6:12

Forgive to Be Forgiven

In the next part of this prayer, the Lord challenges us with an aspect of forgiveness that we often fail to understand. Understanding the concept is easy enough. Little children understand it. If someone owes you money and you forgive the debt, that person owes you nothing. Likewise, if God forgives your debt to Him, you no longer owe Him your life. The difficulty comes when we realize what the Lord is saying. “Forgive us our debts, **as we also have forgiven** our debtors” (emphasis added). Suddenly, this concept is not so easy anymore. Forgiving others in the same way that God forgives us is a hard concept, not just to understand, but to live.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.”

Matthew 18:23-27

The debt owed to the king was so great that the slave, his wife and children, his house and everything he owned would have had to be sold to repay it. Our debt of sin is also very great. Just as it was with that slave, our debt not only affects us, but it also affects everyone we are around—the entire family of God. Yet, like the king in this parable, the Lord felt compassion for us and forgave us our debt completely.



Now, continue reading the parable (Matthew 18:28-35). The slave who had his debt forgiven found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii. Seizing him by the throat, he demanded, "Pay back what you owe!" His fellow slave begged for mercy, but he threw him into prison until he could pay back what he owed. His master had forgiven his enormous debt, but he refused to forgive his fellow slave's small debt. When his master found out, the unforgiving slave was handed over to torturers until he repaid all that he owed. At the end of this parable, Yeshua said, "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart" (Matthew 18:35). Yeshua made the same point at the end of His teaching on prayer:

"But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions"

(Matthew 6:15)

Of all the concepts He could emphasize, Christ only mentions our requirement to forgive others. That is because everything depends on it (Mark 11:25). If we do not forgive others, the rest of the prayer is a waste of time because our debt is put back on us, and God does not hear us.

Can we come to the place where we forgive others just as God forgives us? We know we cannot do it in ourselves, but we know that Yeshua was able to do it (Luke 23:34). Lord, Your body was broken for us and Your blood was poured out for us, and in them is the power to forgive (Luke 22:19-20). We let go of the debts thoroughly and completely, until the debts of others are obliterated from our very being. We forgive others from our hearts.



*“And do not lead us into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.”*

MATTHEW 6:13

God Wants to Deliver Us from Evil

To understand the next part of this prayer, we need to look at the Greek text. The Greek word for temptation here is more specifically translated as “testing.” You could read this verse as, “Do not lead us into testing, but deliver us from evil.” Read what Yeshua said to Peter at the Last Supper.

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

Luke 22:31-32

In the Greek, the word demanded means “obtained by asking.” In addition, the expression “to sift you like wheat” is related to turning someone over to someone else with the intent of torture and torment. Essentially, Christ was saying to Peter, “Satan has demanded, and it has been granted, that you be sifted, tested, and tormented” (Luke 22:31).

When we look at the experience that Peter went through, it was devastating. He was literally turned over to Satan that he might have his way with Peter. Peter’s experience was like Job’s experience.

“But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.” Then the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

Job 1:11-12



BE
PREPARED

Thereafter, we read of all the torture and torment Satan imposed on Job. Again, it is beyond our human ability to conceive that God the Father would allow Satan the access to severely torture someone who is serving Him. Our concept of walking with God is that we should be blessed. We should be protected by God. All the blessings should increase, and things should get better and better and greater and greater. In fact, that is the Kingdom; but there is a preparation that happens prior to the Kingdom.

To understand why Christ allowed Peter's testing, we must recognize that Peter was getting ready to move as an apostle in the power of God, to move in miracles and the things of the Kingdom. Yeshua had said to him, "Once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers," implying that his brothers

would have a similar experience. This explains much of what believers in Christ have lived under. We are being prepared to move in the authority of the Kingdom, and we experience testing that is often severe. It is the will of God, however, that we be delivered from evil.

After Job was tested, he received a double portion (Job 42:10). Christ Himself was tested in the wilderness, and Satan was given access to touch Him. But there was a moment when Christ said, "Go, Satan!" (Matthew 4:10). There was a moment when the testing ended. Now is the time for us to say, "Be gone, Satan!" We declare the end of the testing and access by Satan in our lives. That access must end, and the blessing must begin. We anticipate that what was taken away from us by the experience of testing will be restored (Joel 2:25-27).

Apply the Disciples' Prayer

Begin to apply these principles in your life. The Lord's Prayer probably should be called "the disciples' prayer," since Christ's teaching was in response to a disciple's request, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). We need to relate to it as our prayer as well. It is something the Lord gave to us to use and to apply. Reciting the Lord's Prayer is fine. But its power and effectiveness unfold when we understand and apply the deep principles it contains.

For Further Study

For a deeper study of this important subject, read the book **Experience Heaven on Earth**. This book is available from Hargrave Ministries with a gift of any amount.

ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org.

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

Hargrave Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported through the generous contributions of ministry friends and partners. To learn more about the work of Hargrave Ministries or to partner in its outreach to Israel, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org

