

Matthew 6:9 (NLT)

Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.

Have you ever been looking for a job, so you look for ways to create a great resume? Maybe you search the internet trying to find out about how to create a resume or search for someone who creates resumes for people. But you know what? If you have Microsoft WORD there are actually several resume templates that you can use, for free. But you wouldn't take one of those resume templates and just put your name on it and submit it to an employer. No, you would fill everything out. All the different jobs you have worked at, your experience, your strong points, even including references that an employer can contact to verify your work experience.

But that's kind of what we call, the Lord's prayer. I say "we call" because someone gave it that title, but the bible doesn't. But if Jesus was asked this same question today:

† **Luke 11:1 (NLT)** *Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."*

Would Jesus possible say, here's a template that you can use for prayer. Because we understand what a template is in our computer aged society. It's a starting point and we are to fill in the blanks ourselves.

But I also noticed something that I never saw before, the "Lord's Prayer" in today's devotion verse is from Matthew chapter six, which is part of the sermon on the mount. There is also a Lord's Prayer in Luke chapter eleven, which we just read that one of the disciples came to Jesus and asked him to teach them how to pray.

I have to wonder since it does not mention the disciple name, if he heard Jesus teach at the Mount of Beatitudes, or if he did, but he just wasn't paying attention, because Jesus gave the same template in His Sermon on the Mount about how to pray as the one when Jesus taught them how to pray when He was asked.

Before we jump all over this disciple, people do the same thing today with God's word. Jesus clearly says: *Pray like this* which does not mean repeat this word for word. I wonder if God is thinking sometimes, I wish they would just pray their hearts to me, and stop repeating the template prayer that My Son, Jesus gave then to follow.

† **Luke 18:1** *Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.*

Men always ought to pray, not repeat a template prayer.

† **Psalm 62:8** *Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah*