

Matthew 6:9 (NLT2)

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

Now I lay me down to sleep.

I pray the Lord my soul to keep.

If I should die before I wake,

I pray the Lord, my soul to take.

God bless mommy and daddy, and my sister, and my brother, and my grandma and grandpa, and my dog...

A simple pray that some teach their children to repeat over and over again every night before they go to sleep. But if you think about it, you are not really teaching your child how to pray, but instead, you are teaching them one prayer to pray, over and over and over and over..... Which is not praying, but being like a parrot repeating what it was taught to say.

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, and notice what Jesus did not say, “ok guys, now right this down and repeat it over and over” No, Jesus simply said: ***“Pray like this”*** which is different then, “Pray this”.

Yet how many times have you heard people pray over and over, what people call “The Lord’s Prayer”? It is probably one of the most know parts of scripture in the bible, and even non believers know this prayer, because they hear it in movies, on TV shows and even hear Christians or Catholics repeat it over and over in church.

Did you realize that right before Jesus gave the Disciples the example how to pray, He, said, ***“And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.”*** Matthew 6:7

Did you see it, ***“do not use vain repetitions.”*** Yet, what do people do? The opposite, because they ***“use vain repetitions”*** when they repeat what Jesus gave as an example to do, even though right before it, He says not to do it.

Also note that Jesus does not say that this is a magical formula, and if you pray it, you got it made and will get whatever you want, because Jesus once again says that, ***“Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”*** Matthew 6:8

Also if you read this example that Jesus gave on how to pray, notice a few tiny words that are never said. What are they? Words like “I” or “me” or “mine”, but instead Jesus says to use words like ***“Your”, “Yours”, “Us”, and “We”*** because Jesus was teaching us that when you pray, it’s

not about you, just like He said, ***“your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”*** So, if He already knows our needs, then there is no real need for “I” or “me” to be said in prayer. Now that does not mean that you can not ask God for anything, because as a Father enjoys hearing his kids ask for things once in a while, how much more does our Father like to hear us bring our requests to Him.

Jesus goes on to say, ***“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”*** **Matthew 6:25**

Yet so many go to God only when they are worried, yet Jesus tells us not to worry. Why? Because when you worry, you are saying in a sense, that what you are worried about is more powerful than God, because if you know that God is more powerful than what you are worried about, you wouldn't be worried. Instead, you would be going to God with a request. Just like if your child comes to you asking for dinner, it's because he or she is hungry, not because they are worried that they will never eat again.

So it should be when we go to the Father in prayer, because Jesus said, ***“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*** **Matthew 6:33** and what are ***“All these things”*** that ***“shall be added to you.”*** that Jesus is talking about? Simply, our daily needs (not wants).

‡ **Matthew 6:31** ***Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'***

So, teach your children to pray, but don't teach them to repeat what you tell them to. Teach them to use their own words, and pray their own hear, saying whatever they want to, to God.

‡ **Luke 18:16 (NLT2)** ***Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, “Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.”***