

The Lord's Prayer
Gospel of Matthew 6.9-12
pastor Pawel Bartosik

1. There are certain rules concerning prayer. This means that we need to learn how to pray.
2. *The Lord's Prayer* is the model prayer. On one hand, Jesus taught it to the Disciples so that they prayed repeating its word— He said: *when you pray you say*. On the other hand, on the basis of its content, we can draw conclusions about our prayer— what we should remember and what the priority in our prayers should be.
3. **Our Father.** The first words immediately indicate to WHOM we should pray. Jesus in the model prayer, did not indicate that we pray to angels or saints, but to God Himself. The Lord's Prayer is a prayer of *a family*. It is the prayer of the *community*. Jesus doesn't teach us to pray: *my Father*, but *our Father*.
4. **Our Father in heaven.** It cuts all the agonizing about earthly perceptions and images of God, the god being in stone, in flower or in every human being. We are not pantheists. Not everything is God and God is not everything.
5. **Hallowed be Your name.** A Christian who says, "I am not interested about whether God's name is respected in my country or at School. It is important just that I worship Him"— does not understand the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.
6. **Your kingdom come.** We focus all the time on God's plan, not on ourselves. We want to implement God's intentions in the world. So the Lord's Prayer kills our self-centeredness because often, even in prayer, we prefer to think of ourselves than of God's glory.
7. **Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** In general, we don't have a problem with accepting the fact that God's will happens in heaven. But the same on the Earth? It must be an exaggeration. But Jesus really said this.
8. **Give us this day our daily bread.** It is an expression of our dependence on God. Since we are still in need and still depend on You, we ask You to supply us every day.
9. **And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.** Remember that God has forgiven you more than He requires you to forgive your neighbor. If you don't want to forgive your neighbor, don't say the Lord's Prayer because it would be asking for your own judgment.
10. **And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.** These words represent a request to God to protect us from situations that expose us to temptation. In other words: "Lord, we know that we are weak so we ask you to save us from temptation, that we wouldn't resist. Protect us so that we do not have to struggle with the temptations we wouldn't overcome"
11. **For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.** The last sentence is *Doxology*— worship of God, which also finishes our services. We have to remember that God's kingdom will prevail in the world, to Him belongs all the power and His is the glory and the power.
12. Let's say the Lord's Prayer with even greater dedication and understanding of what we say. Of course, let us not replace daily prayers in our own words. If you don't know how to pray, what to pray, remember the structure of *Our Father*. It teaches us what issues should be a priority in your prayers.