

THE LORD AND HIS PRAYER

April 21, 2013 Matthew 6:5-13 by Bob Branch
Connecting With God Thru Prayer, Part 3

MAIN IDEA: To learn to pray with the Lord's Prayer is to *build* the most solid foundation, *set* the truest direction and *connect* with God with the most consistency possible.

THE PRAYER ITSELF

¹**Jesus' prayer** (Luke 11:1; 5:16)

²**You're coming with me** (Mt. 11:28-30)

³**Obvious Priority** (Matthew 6:33)

⁴**Creates an Appetite:** (Proverbs 25:2; Eph. 1:17-18; Mt. 5:6)

⁵**Pathway to Partnership & Dependence** (John 15:5, 7-8)

⁶**Both Inward & Outward Perspective** (John 5:17, 19-20)

⁷**Invitation in Words & Themes** (Luke 11:2) .

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

CAVEAT: Problems with associations...

IN HEAVEN: God is transcendent.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. **Isaiah 55:8-9**

Thank you that you are not affected, nor swayed by my circumstances... you're above them, yet you are near and care for me. I anchor into you!

1. Invitation into close **CONNECTION**, **CARE** and **AUTHORITY**.

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. **Romans 8:15-16** (Gal. 4:6; Mark 14:36)

► Describes **His connection to you**. Personal. Security. Stability. (Deut. 10:15; 1 John 3:1)

Father, thank you that you have connected yourself to me. That I am yours. That does not change. You secure me and stabilize me.

► Describes **His care for you**, Loved. Looked after. Noticed. (Luke 3:22; Gen. 6:13; Jer. 31:3)

Father, thank you for your love for me. I am a loved man. Always in your care. And, that you are always there.

► Describes **His authority in your life** to bring correction, discipline. To mold and shape you. (Heb. 12:4-11)

Father, thank you that you are molding and shaping me that I may share in your holiness. That your discipline is always for my benefit. I trust you. You have authority in my life.

2. Invitation to be an **APPRENTICE SON**.

"My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working... Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."

John 5:17, 19

Father, I'm your apprentice, in the family business of bringing your kingdom to this world. Open my eyes. Show me what you're doing. Let's bring the kingdom today in all my spheres. I depend on you.

3. Invitation into **HOPE** and **RELEASE**.

Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son, and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me." **Exodus 4:22-23**

I'm in, Father. Let's bring your saving, reconciling and healing work to the world. Reconciled with you, with each other. I'm signing on to be a Kingdom son-daughter today.