



Practically Praying

Prayer :: Connecting to God

July 20, 2008 - SFC

Interested in exploring today's message a bit more deeply?

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Matthew 6.9-13

Notice the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray begins with *Our Father* not *My Father*. What do you think this says about the Christian faith?

Although not a word we use often, *hallowed* is a concept we can appreciate. It means *holy* or *sacred*. It is a term of both reverence and adoration. Why do you think the prayer begins with words of adoration, praise and respect?

Is there a difference between thanking God for *what he has done* and praising God for *who he is*? Take a moment to write a prayer below that focuses on who God is. Perhaps you would like to read Psalms 24 and 29 for inspiration.

Now write a prayer that thanks God for what he has done. Suggested reading: Psalm 103.1-5

Describe what it means to pray: *Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.* What are we asking God to do? How does this relate to our belief that God is at work in our world?

Notice the phrase *Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.* Do you pray daily for God's guidance? Do you pray that he would keep you from those things that might trip you up? What do you think might happen if you made this a daily practice?

You, LORD God, are my mighty rock and my fortress. Lead me and guide me, so that your name will be honored. Protect me from hidden traps and keep me safe. Into your hands I commit my very life. Lord, set me free. You are my faithful God.

Psalm 31.3-5