

## The Lord's Prayer(1)

April 8, 2021

I received a request to expound on my statement that we should not repeat the Lord's Prayer. I am happy to, considering that I grew up reciting that prayer many times in church and Sunday School. I decided to share my response with the whole group because others may have the same request. This is another case where in-person discussion would be better, but I will try to explain it as best as I can.

First of all, the prayer I'm referring to is in Matthew 6:9-13. The first two points I consider to be very important are as follows:

- Jesus warned His disciples not to use meaningless or vain repetition when they prayed, thinking that God would hear them better—God knows what we need before we ask Him (Matthew 6:7-8). I believe He said this as an example so that they wouldn't pray the same prayer over and over, including the one He was about to tell them.
- In Matthew 6:9 Jesus starts by saying to pray in this way or manner—He didn't say to pray the exact words. I tried to focus on the *manner* of prayer in the last two lessons that encompasses the components of the Lord's Prayer (recognizing God's sovereign will, that He provides for our needs, and that we should remember God's forgiveness and depend on Him when facing temptations).

It is interesting that this prayer in Matthew 6 is the one that is recited (despite the warning not to repeat prayers). Some brethren strongly believe that it should only be recited as it is in the King James Version. But then there is the *same* prayer in Luke 11:2-4, only it isn't quite the same—it is more of a streamlined version. I don't recall hearing anyone recite that version. Why are they different? The answer to that is another extensive study that would include far more than the Lord's Prayer, but which may not result in a conclusive answer (at this point I only have an opinion).

I also said in a recent lesson that the specific requests in the Lord's Prayer do not apply today. More on that in the next texts.