

Sunday September 8th 2013
Lord Teach Us To Pray
Part Ten

1). Mt 6:9 ¶ *"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

a). As that which we know as 'the Lord's prayer' draws to a close we find the second half of v13 returning us to the subject of v10.

b). The second half of v13 reiterates, 'Yours is the Kingdom' and adds to it, and [Yours is] 'the power', and [Yours is] 'the glory forever. Amen'. And it is the last half of v13 that we are going to explore in some depth today and inevitably this will take us back to foundational truth that I am happy to remind us of - 2Pe 1:12 ¶ *For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.*

c). It may appear at first sight redundant to say this but, the Kingdom – the heavens and the earth within our present context [and by extension the whole universe] is God's and no one else's - Ge 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

d). It is then God's creation and it was created for God's purpose – Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

e). And that purpose clearly has to do with rulership – this particular province in God's universe was created with a view to it being ruled in a specific way, with that rule from this province eventually extending out into the ever expanding universe - Isa 9:7 *Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end,*

f). God had established a provincial ruler over that which we call the heavens and the earth - Eze 28:14 *"You were the anointed cherub who covers; I*

established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

g). The one we know as Satan, whom scripture describes as 'the god of this world' – through Satan's rebellion however - Isa 14:13 *For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'*

He has been disqualified to rule although he, at present, retains his position awaiting the time when a new Ruler will take his place - Ps 2:5 *Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: 6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." 7 ¶ "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'"*

h). It has always been God's purpose from the unspecified ages of eternity past that His Son should rule over 'the heavens and the earth' – something that might lead us to wonder, 'Then why Satan?' – but this is a question we have no business to ask - Isa 29:16 *Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?*

Isa 55:8 *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

i). And if we may draw from Daniel for a moment we will remember – Da 4:17 *'This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.'*

2). Again for reasons that we do not need to concern ourselves with God has decreed that His Son shall not rule on His own, but will rather have a Bride to rule with Him - Ge 1:26 ¶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

a). And this Bride, to fulfill God's purposes, needed to be a completely new creation – a creature totally unique in God's universal Kingdom being made in the image and likeness of God Himself – a 3 part being with a body, a soul and a spirit who exists entirely by God's grace and power, brought into existence to share God's glory. There is no power to produce life other than God's and there is no glory except that which is God's which He alone chooses with whom He will share it – Heb 1:3 *who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power,*

b). Everything in the world around us and everything in the universe beyond, from black holes to the birth of stars are upheld 'by the word of His power' and nothing else. And all is moving with mathematical precision towards the culmination of God's plans and purposes for the ages – Eph 2:7 *that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

c). Now the point is this, we are here being woven into the tapestry of God's purpose within the warp and weft of time – we are not here for ourselves, but so that His purpose in us might be accomplished – submitting ourselves wholeheartedly to God's purpose is where joy resides and fulfillment is to be found as we day by day go deeper in the understanding of the privilege we have of being a part of that purpose as we are embroidered together with one another by the thread of relationship, inseparably intertwined with one another and our Lord - Joh 15:11 *"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 1Co 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"*

3). To develop this theme a little more let's return again to foundation –
Ge 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

a). The formation of man from the dust of the ground produced the first human – the unique being from whom the Bride for God's Son would come, but this first human was without life until God 'breathed into his nostrils the breath of life' – life only came to the inanimate Adam through God's breath, through the impartation of God's Spirit. And it is the impartation of this breath that made possible both the Man's and then the Woman's spiritual union with God. To talk of life in this context then is to talk of spiritual life – having a living human spirit that enables communion with God for the purpose of God's plans being fulfilled in us.

b). This is the very thing that distinguishes us from the animals. All animals have life, but their life did not come from the breath of God, they do not have spiritual life, they are 2 part beings only.

c). Now because of the Woman being deceived by the serpent and Adam entering into her sin, being a type of Christ, both Adam and the Woman died – they did not cease to live, but rather that 'life' which was given to them died; it was a spiritual death and as a result all subsequent humans are born 'dead in trespasses and sins' – from the moment of our natural birth we are all alive through the animating principle of the blood - *Le 17:11 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood,*

But we do not have spiritual life, we have no ability to be in communion with God and we are therefore alienated from His purpose for us.

d). We find ourselves then, following our natural birth, in exactly the same position that Adam was in after he had been formed from the dust of the ground – devoid of 'life'. And the solution to our spiritual deadness is exactly the same as it was for Adam – the impartation of the breath of God –
Eph 2:1 ¶ And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 ¶ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7

that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

e). At the moment we 'believe on the Lord Jesus Christ' God breathes into our nostrils 'the breathe of life' – we are baptized in the Spirit with the result that our human spirit is made alive and is therefore able to have communion with the Lord so that we would no longer be alienated from His purpose for us.

f). It is at this moment, as a result of our birth from above, that we find ourselves in the likeness of God – a 3 part being – Joh 3:6 *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

but the numerology is as far as that likeness goes and we are certainly not in His image having no covering of glory and no honor and majesty – Ps 104:1 ¶ *Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, 2 Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment,*

g). At the moment of our new birth it is our spirit alone that is fully and irrevocably redeemed, which is no small thing, but we still have an unredeemed soul and both redeemed spirit and unredeemed soul reside in an unredeemed body. Now according to the scriptures - Ro 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

h). It is because the wages of sin is death that our unredeemed, sin connected body gets old and dies – the penalty for sin must be paid which is why Paul refers to his body as 'the body of this death'. And the same would be true for our unredeemed soul – if following our birth from above, the redemption of our spirit, we then did nothing else then our soul must ultimately pay the penalty for sin which is death – and death we must understand to be separation from God within the context of rulership within Christ's Millennial Kingdom with respect to the eternally saved.

i). And we will have noted from Ephesians Chapter 2 that our unredeemed body and unredeemed soul 'walked according to the course of this world' – in other words in harmony with the god of this world.

j). But the good news is this – in the antitype of - Ge 1:3 ¶ *Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.*

Light shines in us bringing division between that which is light and that which is darkness; bringing division between that which is now God conscious and

that which is still sin conscious - 2Co 4:6 *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

k). And just as Adam was a completely new and unique creation for the purpose of rulership, so we, at our new birth are also a totally new and unique creation for the same purpose - 2Co 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

4). The good news gets even better - Ro 12:1 ¶ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. 3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*

a). Although our soul exists at present in an unredeemed condition God has provided the means and the way whereby our soul, and subsequently our body, can be redeemed thereby finding life in the age to come. With regards to the soul there is a present on-going work of redemption that will find its fulfillment yet future when this redemption is realized - 1Pe 1:9 *receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.*

b). And as we see from Romans Chapter 12 we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice – through the life we now have through receiving the Breath/Spirit of God we are to choose to ‘sacrifice’ the lusts of the flesh as a continuous action – this would be what we find in - Ro 6:13 *And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*

And - 1Co 9:27 *But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

And - Mt 16:24 ¶ *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

c). And then in conjunction with presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice we are not to be ‘conformed to this world’ – ‘this world’ we will remember from last week refers to the present system of rulership under Satan and his angels as they control the affairs of the Gentile nations for the

purpose of their own ambitions. We are not to be involved in this in any way, for to do so would defile our high calling – in this we would see the contrast we are shown in the OT between Abraham who dwelt in ‘the high country’ and Lot who sat in the gate of Sodom.

d). Rather than being conformed to this world we are to be continually ‘transformed’ – this is the metamorphosis and this is to be accomplished by the continual ‘renewing’ of our mind - Eph 4:22 *that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

Col 3:9 *Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,*

2Co 4:16 *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*

e). The Greek word used that is translated ‘transformation’ concerns an inward change, a change within our heart if you will and such a change as this we cannot do for ourselves as we have no power to do anything in the realm of the Spirit – Joh 15:5 *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*

f). This can only be accomplished through the power of God and we are to remain passive in the process - patiently enduring.

g). We will no doubt remember what we saw last week concerning the god of this world - 2Co 11:14 *And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*

Although we see Satan ‘transformed’ the Greek word translated here is not the same as that in Romans Chapter 12 – this word [metaschematizo] refers to an outward change only – that which could be accomplished by our own efforts. Keeping to a list of do’s and don’ts as a demonstration of righteousness would be the classic example. Adam and the Woman trying to replace the glory they lost through the use of fig leaves would provide a great picture for this. There is nothing we can do that can ever produce the covering of glory, for the glory is His and His alone and does not exist apart from Him and this must also be true for the means by which the glory is attained.

h). Now we also see that our transformation takes place through the continual renewing of our mind, a mind that is renewed in ‘knowledge’. And

the word translated 'knowledge' speaks of a mature knowledge and such a mature knowledge can only come from one place – the Word of God.

5). Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is living and powerful,*

a). The Word of God is 'living', the written word, that which we call our Bible is alive, just as the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Word made flesh is alive. And the written word is powerful; it is filled with the power which is God's alone - Ro 1:16 ¶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

b). And this power of God through the Word which is alive is 'to salvation for everyone who believes' – for everyone who has faith to the saving of the soul.

c). Now, at the outset this morning we saw how life was imparted to the inanimate Adam through the breath/Spirit of God and for the written Word of God to be alive it must be the same Spirit with the same life giving properties - Joh 6:63 *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God [lit. God breathed], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

d). And so, we will realize then that we received life at the moment of our eternal salvation, the salvation of our spirit, and if we are to continue to have this life in order that we may receive the salvation of our soul, thereby fulfilling God's purpose for us, then God must continue to breathe that life into us on a continuous and progressive basis so that we would have life for the age to come. Just as God alone gave us spiritual life so only God alone can sustain that life within us – we cannot do it for ourselves.

e). And this life can only be breathed into us through our proper engagement with the Word of God - Jas 1:21 *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

f). Just as if the breath were removed from our mortal body so our mortal body would be dead, if we refuse the in-breathing of the breath of life so we shall also die, separated from the Lord with respect to His Kingdom, for the age to come.

g). This would bring us again to 'give us this day our daily bread' and alongside this we would place Jesus' words to Satan in the wilderness, taken from Deuteronomy 8:3 - Mt 4:4 *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*

h). This exact same truth is presented this way in - Eph 5:18 *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*

i). And then presented this way in the companion scripture in - Col 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom,*

6). Now there is something very important we should note at this point from the example of the nation of Israel - Heb 4:2 *For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.*

a). The first generation of Israel to come out of Egypt received the good news of God's purpose for them; they received through God's word the breath of God that was capable of giving them life with regards to the fulfillment of God's purpose, but this life was not forthcoming, although it could have been, because what they heard was not mixed with faith - their hearts were hardened through unbelief.

b). And the danger for us is the same - we may choose not to believe that which God has said because we bring our fallen intellect into play rather than letting our mind be renewed - 1Co 2:12 *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

c). The verse that follows on from this makes quite clear that the 'natural man', the one without the breath of life, cannot understand that which is spiritual - 1Co 2:14 *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

d). The 'natural man' can comprehend the words and follow the individual 'stories' to some degree, but he is not capable of understanding the spiritual truth contained in the scriptures because he has no spiritual point of reference.

e). And I wonder if reliance on our intellect, that which we have of the 'natural man', rather than submitting to God by receiving with meekness the

implanted word, is the reason so many fail to see or understand the simplicity of the message concerning the salvation of the soul?

f). May we always humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and allow His work to be completed in His way within us so that He may exalt us in due time.

g). Just to encourage us as we close for today let's read once again –
Isa 55:10 *"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

h). We will continue with this next week – if the Lord is willing.