



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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Matthew 6:9-15 Commentary New Revised Standard Version

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

follow the verse-by-verse [*International Bible Study Commentary*](#). **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** will help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the *International Bible Study Commentary* website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. You can discuss each week's commentary and lesson at the [*International Bible Study Forum*](#).

(Matthew 6:9) Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Rather than chanting phrases to God, Jesus teaches His followers how to talk to God with reason and respect. The Lord's Prayer covers some, but not all, of the most important and reasonable topics for our prayers to include. The child of God begins by recognizing that God is our Father; God is the specific God of the Bible and not the god of some other religion. We come to our Father as a child, but also with the respect due to Him and His Name—lifting up clean hands to Him.

(Matthew 6:10) Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Believers pray for Jesus' kingdom to come; for Jesus to reign visibly over and in the world as the visible King of the universe and not just as the invisible King in heaven. We pray for God's will to be done in our lives, and for us to know and do His will; that is, love God and obey His commandments, bring joy to His heart and live a holy life. We pray for His will to be done by everyone on Earth, and we pray for God to rule over all and overrule all who might do evil in the world.

(Matthew 6:11) Give us this day our daily bread.

We ask God to provide our daily food and meet our daily needs. For some, bread may be all that is available to them because of poverty, persecution, oppression, war, or disasters. Sometimes, God will use His children to provide the food that is needed by others; perhaps through a food pantry. This prayer can include all that a person needs for life: food, clothing, shelter, protection, and spiritual needs.

(Matthew 6:12) And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Our trespasses, sins, or debts are what we owe to God and to others for the wrongs we have done to them, intentional and unintentional, by commission and omission. We cannot make right every wrong we have done. We can and should try to make right our wrongs when it is practical,

advisable, and wise (that is, “make amends”). We need forgiveness by God and others. Just as many who have sinned against us cannot always repair the damage, we need to forgive them too.

(Matthew 6:13) And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

“Time of trial” is, perhaps, a better translation than “temptation,” for God will never tempt anyone to do evil. The devil will tempt us to do wrong. We can pray that God will protect us from being tempted by the devil to do evil. We can pray that our resolve to do right will not be so tried that we fail the test. We can pray for God to rescue us from the devil or anyone who would lead us into evil.

NOTE on Matthew 6:13 in the King James Version. Some later Greek manuscripts added the words translated in the King James Version of the Bible: “For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen” which are omitted from most contemporary English translations. Even later Greek manuscripts added the words: “for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost for ever. Amen.” These additions to the Lord’s Prayer are consistent with what the Bible teaches in other places. For example, compare the addition in the King James Version with 1 Chronicles 29:11-13—“Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the

earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.” Compare “of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost for ever. Amen.” with Matthew 28:19-20—“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”

(Matthew 6:14) For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you;

We can rejoice in this promise if we forgive others their trespasses against us. Unhappily, too many people who claim to be Christians refuse to take this verse seriously, because they persist in living unforgiving lives. But along with this wonderful promise, Jesus gave the warning in the verse immediately below. The forgiveness of God for your sins is conditioned on your forgiving others who have sinned against you. A spirit of unforgiveness can lead to many debilitating health issues.

(Matthew 6:15) but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

If someone comes to us and repents and is truly sorry for their sins against us, we must forgive them as an act of our will, even though our feelings may not forgive them immediately. We may forgive them, but never want to be their friend again. We cannot always control our feelings, and when tempted to feel unforgiving we need to forgive again as an act of the will and ask God to help us forgive. Refusing to forgive anyone, even those who do not repent or seek our forgiveness, will only hurt our own hearts and spirits, perhaps ruin our health and shorten our lives. It is best to try to forgive and report to God in prayer that we do forgive anyone who has wronged us. We can do our part to remove any barriers to God's forgiveness.

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