

An Agenda for Prayer

Luke 11:2-4

1A Address, 2b: 'Our Father, who is in heaven,

1B God is the Creator of the universe, who has rightful authority over all;

2B He is *our* Father exclusively, ruling out the worship of idols or any other god.

3B He is on His throne in heaven, in sovereign control of all events.

2A First request, regarding the reputation of the Lord, 2c: let Your name be sanctified.

1B The sanctification of the Lord's name is the primary purpose of human history.

2B The Lord's name is slandered through the agency of fallen angels and their human minions.

3B The Lord's name is sanctified through spiritual growth.

4B Therefore, this agenda item is for the spiritual growth of self and others, so that the name of the Lord is sanctified in and through their lives.

3A Second request, regarding the Kingdom, 2d: Let Your Kingdom come.

1B For the church age believer, the next event is the rapture of the church, the gathering of God's own to the Son.

2B After the tribulation comes the kingdom, at the second advent of Christ.

3B The coming of Christ means the loss of everything in this world. Therefore, this is an expression of love for Christ's appearing, and a disavowal of love for the world and the things in the world.

4A Third request, regarding the will of God, 2e: Let Your will become, as in heaven also upon the earth.

1B God's will is not being done on the earth, at least not fully.

2B Only insofar as His will is done in the heart of a human being is His will done at all.

3B This is the second part of "kingdom come," and it even includes judgment from God over all.

5A Fourth request, regarding physical provision, 3: Give us our sufficient bread according to a daily pattern.

1B We have a right to ask for daily provision of our needs from God. Not to hoard, and not to waste, but for what we need each day.

2B All that we have comes under the principle of stewardship; it belongs to the Lord, and we are to recognize that, even in a time of great prosperity and surplus.

3B If the preceding indicates our purpose, then this reinforces the principle. Living is Christ, and dying is profit.

6A Fifth request, regarding personal forgiveness, 4a: And forgive us our sins, for also we ourselves forgive everyone who owes us.

1B This prompts us to examine our relationships, both with God and man.

2B Our attitude toward the sins of others is to mirror that of God. Our fellowship with Him depends on it.

7A Sixth request, regarding temptation and evil, 4b: And do not lead us into temptation, but save us from the evil."

1B God's guidance of our lives may bring us through many trials, but His motivation is to purify and glorify, not to destroy.

2B This reminds us of the purpose of testing, and that God's grace provision is sufficient for our godliness.