

# The Lord's Prayer

Ever wonder what it would be like if God answered *during* your prayer?

**Our Father, Who Art In Heaven.**

*What's up?*

**Hey, don't interrupt me! I'm praying here.**

*But... you called me!*

**Called you? Naw, I didn't call you. I'm just prayin' it up. "Our Father who art in Heaven..."**

*There... you did it again.*

**Did what?**

*Called me. You said, "Our Father, who art in Heaven." Well, here I am, so what's shakin', bacon? What's on your heart? What's on your mind?*

**But... but... I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Our Father. It makes me feel good, like I'm doing something right.**

*Well, all right. Go on then.*

**Okay. "Hallowed be Thy name..."**

*Whoa! Hold the phone... What do you mean by that?*

**By what?**

*By "Hallowed be Thy name"?*

**Oh, yeah, *that*... umm, well, errr... dang, I don't know what it means! How in the world *should* I know? It's just a part of the prayer..... but shoot, what exactly *does* it mean?**

*It means honored, holy, wonderful be my name.*

**Ahh... yeah, yeah. That makes sense. My bad. I guess I just never thought about what "hallowed" meant before. Shanks! Now where was I? Oh yeah – "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven..."**

*Do you really mean that?*

**Sure, why not?**

*Well, what're you doing about it?*

**Doing?? Umm... you mean like being a good Christian and all that kinda stuff?**

*Yeah, something like that...*

**Well, I go to church every weekend!**

*Well whoopeeding! That's a start, yes. But it's not enough. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian anymore than going to the garage makes you a car.*

**Oh. Yeah. You've got a point there. There's more to being a Christian than just "looking" like one, eh?**

*Yup.*

**So you're saying that if I really want Your kingdom to come and Your will to be done than I need to do more?**

*Precisely. A LOT of people go to church, but it doesn't really mean anything for them and they don't even really know WHY they go – it's kinda silly, actually. I'd rather have 3 people go to church and be willing to change their lives than 300 MILLION people go to church and never open their hearts. A "wanna-be-saint" gives more hope to the world than a whole bunch of "wanna-be-like-everyone-elsers". Being a REAL Christian today is counter-cultural.*

**Alright, alright... Look, Lord, if you don't mind, I'd like to finish up here. This is taking A LOT longer than it usually does.**

*Continue then.*

**Okay. "Give us this day our daily bread..."**

*Snack attack? Ya hungry??*

**Hungry??**

*Yeah, for some bread?*

**Bread?? Oh, yeah, that. Umm... no, it's just an expression.**

*Well what's it mean?*

**Err, uhh...**

*It means that I can fill you with what you really need and what you really want. And not just your belly, but your SOUL. Do you see how spiritually hungry this world is? How many people seek but never really find? It's because y'all are trying to fill your spiritual hunger with the things and pleasures of this world! Your bellies get full and your pockets grow fat, but your hearts remain so empty and alone, longing for something more...*

**Yeah, come to think of it, a lot of people really don't seem that "happy" – well, maybe for a little bit, but it doesn't last forever because they either run out of "toys" to buy or something big happens in their life and kind of *wakes* them up.**

*Exactly right. People are "hungry" but they aren't looking for the right kind of "food". I am the only one who can fulfill the real hunger within you, the hunger for love, the hunger for truth. For "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst" (John 6:35). You just prayed for me to fill you up with the "bread" from heaven – the stuff that helps you REALLY LIVE.*

**Wow... I didn't realize there was so much involved with such a short lil' prayer!**

*Pretty cool, huh?*

**Yeah.**

*Well, keep going then.*

**But...**

*But what?*

**I'm scared to.**

*Scared?!? Of what?*

**Of what you're going to say next...**

*Try me.*

**"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us..."**

*What about Suzy Q and everyone else who has done wrong to you?*

**See! I knew it. I knew you would bring her up... why, Lord? She's told lies and spread all kinds of rumors about me, she refuses to pay back the money she owes me, and she's been a jerk to me for the longest time. There's no way I'm forgiving her!**

*But what about your prayer?*

**You mean the last line that I said?**

*Yeah, the "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" one.*

**I didn't really mean it.**

*Well, at least you're honest! But sheesh, that's quite a boat-load of anger and hatred you're still holding onto, isn't it?*

**Yeah, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even with her.**

*No you won't. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet – it's destructive. You know how unhappy you are.*

**But...**

*But nothing. You've gotta forgive Suzy Q. Then the hate and sin will be Suzy's problem, not yours. You will have settled the problem as far as you are concerned.*

**Ahhh... I know you're right, but this isn't gonna be an easy thing to do.**

*Of course it won't be! Was it "easy" for me to die for you on the cross?*

**No.**

*But I still forgave you, right?*

**Yeah.**

*Then you've gotta do the same for Suzy Q. You've gotta completely forgive her. It'll be tough, but I will be with you. I'll give you the strength to do it.*

**Okay. I'll do it. I'll forgive her.**

*Awesome. Now come on, just a little more to pray.*

**Alright. "And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."**

*Good! I'll do just that. But remember, don't put yourself in a place or situation where you can be tempted.*

**What do you mean by that?**

*Ha. Nice try. You know what I mean.*

**Yeah... I guess I do.**

*Right. And always remember that even if you are tempted, I will show you a way out. I will always give you a chance to avoid sin, because "I am faithful and will not let you be tested beyond your own strength" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Just call on my name, turn to me, and you'll be a'ight.*

**Sounds too good to be true!**

*I know! But it IS true. I will never abandon you. Only you can abandon me. So stay close, pray often, love much, and you'll begin to see just how true and awesome this all is.*

**Amen, amen.**