

PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

Take three days this week to dig deeper into God's Word, applying the lessons from today's text.
(Quotations from J.I. Packer, *Praying the Lord's Prayer*, 2007, Crossway)

Day 1 — Matthew 6:5-6

Psalm 27, 139—the *naturalness* of prayer in the life of one who genuinely knows God

Luke 18:9-14—two opposite ways to approach God... which man do you resemble?

"It is not too much to say that God made us to pray, that prayer is (not the easiest, but) the most *natural* activity in which we ever engage, and that prayer is the measure of us all in God's sight. 'What a man is alone on his knees before God,' said the saintly Murray McCheyne, 'that he is—and no more.'"

Day 2 — Matthew 6:7-8

1 Kings 18:20-40—two prayer sessions, opposite results! Note the differences.

2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1, 6-7—a father who cares for his adopted son, without being asked!

"We should certainly not content ourselves with parroting other people's prayers, nor would God be content if we did (for what parent could be happy if his child only ever spoke to him in quotations, thus limiting his conversation to the reciting of other people's sentiments?) But as another pianist's interpretation of a piece can help a budding musician to see how he can best play it (not, perhaps, in quite the same way), so we are helped to find our own way in prayer by seeing how others have prayed, and indeed by praying with them. And overarching everything we have the Lord's Prayer as our guide."

Day 3 — Matthew 6:9-13

Luke 11:1-13—"Lord, teach us to pray!"

Romans 8:26-30—"We do not know what to pray for as we ought"

"The Lord's Prayer should be put to service to direct and spur on our praying constantly. To pray in terms of it is the sure way to keep our prayers within God's will; to pray through it, expanding the clauses as you go along, is the sure way to prime the pump when prayer dries up and you find yourself stuck. We never get beyond the prayer; not only is it the Lord's first lesson in praying, it is all the other lessons too. Lord, teach us to pray."

Summit Family Prayer Reminders

- Praise God for the birth of **Dane Alexander Thiessen**, born May 20 to Darryn & Sarah.
- Pray for **John Gouldin**, hospitalized last week with pneumonia, and others battling health concerns, including **Robin Koster** and **John Irvan**.
- Pray for **Jay & Anne Dahlhauser**, sensing God's call to missions and seeking His guidance as they interview with Christ for the City, International.
- Pray for three couples recently united in marriage: **Luann Robison & Jim Cooper**—May 24 in Sioux Falls; **Erin McClellan & Tim Meyer**—Friday, June 4 in Fremont, NE; and **Kristine Henderson & Tony Henderson**—Saturday, June 5 at Summit Church.

Send a note to office@summitefc.com to receive our daily prayer & news updates. Printed copies available in Atrium.

Sunday, June 6, 2010 • Summit Evangelical Free Church, Alta, IA • Pastor Doug Corlew
Summer Series: *The Lord's Prayer: Making It Your Own* (Matthew 6:5-15), Message #1

WHEN YOU PRAY

Matthew 6:5-8

The Lord's Prayer may be familiar to you, but how about His *preceding* instructions?
Our Father desires that we develop an *authentic* relationship with Him in two ways:

1. _____ (v 5-6)

2. _____ (v 7-8)

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