

HOTLINE TO HEAVEN



DEAR GOD,

Dear God, Thank you for being the big man upstairs. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Dear Lord, If you heal my mom, I promise I will be more committed.

Dear God, forgive me for getting drunk last weekend. Help me on the next organic chemistry test.

Dear God, Protect me from knowing what I don't need to know. Protect me from even knowing that there are things to know that I don't know. Protect me from knowing that I decided not to know about the things that I decided not to know about. Amen!

Follow Up Prayer
Lord, Lord, Lord. Protect me from the consequences of the above prayer. Amen.

Mostly Harmless, p. 111

TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD



WHY

Why would we ask God for stuff like this and ask a fictitious blue puff of smoke for stuff we really want or need?

What's the difference between God and a genie?

IMAGINE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

MAJOR LIFE DECISIONS



DAILY CONCERNS

MR. PRESIDENT

Liz went to visit her sister Debbie in Belair, California. During her stay she planned on visiting her sister's church. On Sunday Debbie mentioned the President was a member of the church and that he attends services when his schedule permits. Liz thought to herself, "What would it be like to meet the president?"

It was hard to concentrate during church that morning. On that day only 10 rows separated Liz from the leader of the free world. Questions paraded through her mind. Could she talk to him? What would she say? How could she thank him? Would the Secret Service men grant her access to him?

After the service ended Liz decided to take a risk. She walked down the aisle and whispered to one of the security men, "Is it OK if I talk to the president ...?" With a quick nod he motioned yes. For the next few minutes Liz talked with amazement to the president. She was surprised. It was so easy to have access to him and communication was inviting.

PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER



In Old Testament times, the high priest was the only person allowed to enter the Holy of Holies—the inner court of the temple where God’s Spirit resided. A thick curtain separated this portion of the temple from the people. Once a year the priest was allowed to approach God for forgiveness of sin for all the people. It was a time of fear and trembling as the priest would prepare the sacrifice and enter through the thick curtain to submit in reverence before God. When Jesus was crucified, the curtain tore from top to bottom because never again would a priest have to give a sacrifice. Jesus is our sacrifice and now nothing separates us from God. Jesus is our high priest—every day, every moment we can enter the presence of God.



CONTEXT



Prayer is a common theme in the book of Luke. Luke focuses on it more than any other gospel writer, emphasizing both Jesus’ life of prayer and his teachings on prayer. In this passage both emphases come together.



LUKE 11:1-4

11:1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

11:2 He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be thy name, your kingdom come.’”

11:3 Give us each day our daily bread.

11:4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.”

Know who you’re talking to . . .

Father, hallowed be Thy Name



PAPA

Jesus introduced in His prayers a significant new intimacy with God which far surpassed anything assumed in Judaism. Though the concept of God’s fatherhood appears in the Old Testament, never before is the Father-child relationship placed in such tenderness and trust. The Aramaic word *Abba* (Mark 14:36) was probably the original term used by Jesus in all instances where the Father was addressed. It conveys the idea of familiarity, the kind of chatter a child would use in speaking to his “daddy.”

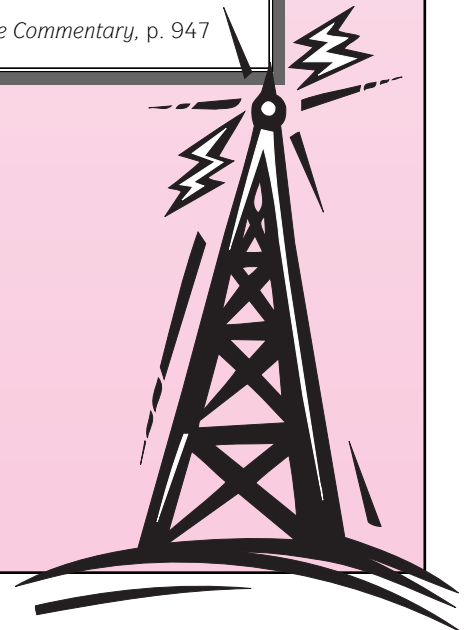
—Robert Coleman, *The Mind of the Master*, p. 46



PRAISEWORTHY

Hallowed means “let your name be regarded as holy. It is not so much a petition as it is an act of worship; the speaker, by his words, exalts the holiness of God.”

—*The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, p. 947



Know what you're talkin' about . . .

Your kingdom come.



PREEMINENCE

This means we not only request that God's name be honored, but also that His values, ideals, plans, love, ways, and laws be implemented in human beings' relations with him and with each other.

Preeminence:

1. What does it mean to put ourselves under His Kingship?
2. Describe what that would look like in your life.

Give us this day our daily bread.



PROVISION

God urges our understanding of Him as the author of sustenance itself. Bread is emblematic here of all our physical needs—shelter, clothing, transportation, money, etc. It also underlines the basic uncertainty of our temporal life.

Provision:

1. Do you feel dependent on God for your every need? Why or Why not?
2. How would your life change if you *felt* dependent on God for your most basic needs.

Forgive us our sins for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.



PARDON

Since the one praying has called God "Father," he is already a believer. Consequently, he has already received God's permanent declaration of eternal forgiveness at his salvation. The forgiveness he should extend to others, therefore, is not the basis of salvation but a prerequisite for daily fellowship with the father (1 John 1:5-10). Though our relationship with God is secure, our fellowship with God (i.e., the quality of the relationship) is to be daily maintained through confessing our sins to Him. One way our daily maintenance of fellowship with God is evidenced is through a willingness to forgive others who have offended us.

Pardon:

1. What difference does it make to know you are forgiven?
2. How do you experience the forgiveness that God has given you?
3. What are the benefits for forgiving others?

And lead us not into temptation.



PROTECTION

We are to acknowledge the fact that we can quite easily be tempted; this reminds us that no one is immune. We must be vigilant. It is true that God will not lead us into sin. Therefore, another way to say this is, "Lord, please deliver us from situations in which our risk of yielding to sin is too great for us to withstand."

Protection:

1. Why do you lead yourself into temptation?
2. Look up 1 Corinthians 10:13. What do you learn about temptation from this passage?
3. What would happen if you stopped and prayed the moment you were tempted?

