

"HALLOWED BE THY NAME"

Matthew 6:9

Introduction: The model prayer contains an invocation and 7 petitions. The first 3 are centered on God, name, kingdom, and will. They are intended to permit God to work within the heart of the one praying.

The second section focuses on the need of man: bread, forgiveness, guidance, deliverance from evil, and it closes with an anthem of praise.

Jesus is trying to encourage us to take a larger interest in God's cause. We are to place ourselves SIDE by side with God. We agree with God and accept His purpose for our lives.

The first petition is often misunderstood, overlooked and generally ignored. "Hallow," "Holy," "Hold in reverence."

The one praying needs to be conscious of the sacred name of God, all God is, does, and is going to do is wrapped up in His name. Jesus encourages us to be concerned with God's unique and holy character and purposes.

What kind of reverence do we have today of God? Do we even have an awareness of holiness? Have we lowered God's name to "chum, pal, benevolent man in the sky?" We have got to realize God is creator and is HOLY!

I. ATTITUDE OF REVERENCE ILLUSTRATED

1. Isaiah provides an example: (Isaiah 6)
2. Peter recognized Jesus' deity: (Luke 5:8)
3. John on the Isle of Patmos reacted as any believer should (Revelation 1:17)
4. Answered prayer comes when we do not take liberties and acknowledge our Father as the Father to whom angels veil their faces and before whom we fall on our knees.

II. OUR WORLD IS A PROFANE WORLD

1. "Holy" - to separate and part, eventually to the use of God and His service which later came to mean "pure and without sin or imperfection.."
2. Opposite of "Hallowed" is profane. The idea exists today that the world and mankind itself belong to no one, especially God thus God is ignored. Life is incomplete and disappointing.
3. To pray as Jesus teaches concerning the holiness of the Father is to pray that every one might recognize God's holiness and dedicate themselves totally to Him.

III. A PLEA FOR DIVINE INTERVENTION

1. "Hallowed be thy name" is a request for God to reveal and declare His Holiness.
2. It means that we are asking God to burn out all that which is wrong and to eliminate all that is impure and worldly from the mind and heart.
3. It is requesting that God would overrule the heart and life that the Holy name of God would not be treated lightly or be blasphemed.

IV. A PROMISE TO COOPERATE

1. Jesus encourages us to have an attitude of reverence toward God and God's will in EVERY area of our life.
2. To acknowledge God's holiness is to express sincere adoration of our hearts for God's holiness and purity.
3. It is acknowledging our love and affection for Him because of what He is.
4. It is dedicating ourselves to God because of WHO and WHAT He is.

CONCLUSION:

1. Profanity is a verbal expression of an attitude which is opposite of this petition.
2. To pray this prayer and then take lightly God's holiness or Name is to tramp into His Holy presence with muddy feet.