

“The story of prayer is the story of the impossible: of how we creatures of flesh and blood lay siege to heaven, speak to the Maker of all things, and await, with confidence or hopeful skepticism, a response.”

**—Carol and Philip Zaleski
*Prayer: A History***

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

Luke 11:1

Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat! - *Job 23:3*

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. - *Romans 8:26*

Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. - *1 Samuel 1:13*

“Prayer...brings heaven into the ordinary.”

—Tim Keller

***Prayer: Experiencing Awe and
Intimacy with God***

Prayer is the puzzling practice of communicating with God.

Pieces of the Prayer Puzzle—Matt. 6:9-13

- **Adore—v.9**

**No one has ever seen God; the only God,
who is at the Father's side, he has made
him known.**

John 1:18

Pieces of the Prayer Puzzle—Matt. 6:9-13

- **Adore—v.9**

- **Adore God for who He is**

“All right-minded praying starts with a long look Godward.”

—J.I. Packer
Praying the Lord's Prayer

Pieces of the Prayer Puzzle—Matt. 6:9-13

- **Adore—v.9**
- **Align—v.10**
 - **Align our lives with His will and commands**
 - > **Does my life match what is going on in heaven?**

Pieces of the Prayer Puzzle—Matt. 6:9-13

- **Adore—v.9**
- **Align—v.10**
- **Ask—v.11**
 - **Ask God to provide and bring any concerns you have to Him**

Psalms of Lament are an invitation to ordered congregational authenticity.

Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am helpless. Your wrath has swept over me; your dreadful assaults destroy me. They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in on me together. ¹⁸You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me; my companions have become darkness.

Psalms 88:15-18

Pieces of the Prayer Puzzle—Matt. 6:9-13

- **Adore—v.9**
- **Align—v.10**
- **Ask—v.11**
- **Admit—v.12**
 - **Admit our sin, our need for grace, and the requirement that we forgive others**
 - > **Confess your sin, forgive others' sin**

“Those who do not think about their own sins make up for it by thinking incessantly about the sins of others. It is healthier to think of one’s own. A serious attempt to repent and really to know one’s own sins is in the long run a lightening and relieving process.”

“Of course, there is bound to be at first dismay and often terror and later great pain, yet that is much less in the long run than the anguish of a mass of unrepented and unexamined sins, lurking in the background of our minds.”

–C.S. Lewis
Miserable Offenders

**In the New Testament
Forgive = Release (see Luke 4:18)**

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Pieces of the Prayer Puzzle—Matt. 6:9-13

- **Adore—v.9**
- **Align—v.10**
- **Ask—v.11**
- **Admit—v.12**
- **Acknowledge—v.13**
 - **Acknowledge God is in charge and we need His help each day**

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- **Adore—v.9**
- **Align—v.10**
- **Ask—v.11**
- **Admit—v.12**
- **Acknowledge—v.13**
- **Amen—v.13**

“‘Amen’ is perhaps the most serious word you can utter. It means, ‘yes, that is what I believe! This is what I hope to happen, and I’m going to live in such a way that reflects this belief and hope.’ Much like a wedding... there is an ‘I do-ness’ to ‘amen.’”

—Brent A. Strawn

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- **Align—v.10**
- **Ask—v.11**
- **Admit—v.12**
- **Acknowledge—v.13**
- **Amen—v.13**
 - **Amen: what I have said is true, therefore, let it be so**

The Picture Behind the Puzzle—Matt. 6:9-13

- **An Almighty Father who is attentive to His children**

The Big Picture of the Lord's Prayer

- **Your name, Your kingdom, Your will
(An Almighty Father)**
- **Give us, forgive us, deliver us
(Attentive to His Children)**

**But to all who did receive him, who believed
in his name, he gave the right to become
children of God,**

John 1:12

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