

# Religion

Scripture Of The Week: "His Disciples said unto Him, Lord, teach us to pray... and He said unto them, when ye pray, say "Our Father." Luke 11:1 & 2

## REFLECTIONS

### Shall We Pray

*Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.*

*Matthew 6: 9-13.*  
Most of us have either heard or repeated this prayer at some point in our lives. Some of us hear this occasionally at special events, or as a weekly ritual at church. For others it's a daily routine because we learned it as children and have always "said our prayers." We could probably repeat it in our sleep--some of us do.

This prayer has spanned the essence of time, the mix of cultures, the global sphere, and the most difficult group--the differences of religious beliefs. We have acquired degrees, stately positions, political aspirations, various accomplishments, and

have reached the "top" so to speak, yet we cannot improve this simple petition.

Let's look at what we are asking "Our Father."

"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." "But Lord, we have to go over here first, we have to finish this project, we have to close this deal so we can acquire all this money, when we're finished we will see what you have in mind. Matter of fact, as long as we're succeeding, we don't need to concern ourselves with 'Thy will'." How simple--when "His will is done", everything falls in its proper place. No need to go astray.

"Give us this day our daily bread." What more could we want? Clothes, houses, money, cars, fame?--the list goes on. Asking for nourishment alone seems not enough.

"Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." When we internalize this exchange, it gets to be a real heavy request. Can we actually be good to the persons we think owe us something? Like, "Lord be patient with us as we are with those around

us." If He really forgave us the way we forgive one another, there would be no need for the word compassion to exist.

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." The Lord must work overtime on this one. If we seriously meant for Him to deliver us, He would probably need all the angels to help carry the overload. Can we imagine the amount of interceptions it must take to keep just one of us on the straight and narrow?

"Our Father...Hallowed be Thy name...for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever." Our flesh should respond with goosebumps, our ears should resound like clapping thunder, our eyes should fill with tears of adoration and awe. Our hearts should burst with praise, our physical bodies should leap to unmeasured heights, and our souls should connect with heaven!

Our Father! Our Father! He hears us all. He has the power. He is the power, forever! "Amen." So be it!

## High on TLC!

by Mattie Ann Callier Spears

In a time when men, women, boys and girls are seeking to find something to hold-on-to...to trust in...to believe in...to make them feel good...but, instead of finding satisfied people, we find a myriad of confused, disillusioned and unhappy people.

So many different avenues are being sought and tried to bring about relief, such as: alcohol, sex, drugs (of every conceivable kind), lying, stealing, hatred, cheating, food, cigarettes, coffee (all caffeine sources--teas, chocolate, cola) and the list goes on and on. These represent only a few easily accessible resources which mankind has chosen to further his handicapped situation. This list even includes murder, and satan created the list.

Satan is the main source of all these over-indulged stimulants.

In my weekly visits to the prisons, I have found many, many older men, older women, young men and young women who are sitting in prison because of overindulgence in or on something that eventually led them to commit a crime...and, many of these people claim to be Christians. So many of them say, "Yes, I am a Christian; but, I fell by the wayside."

As I visit the "general populous" and the "Alcohol and Drug Units" (which are separate from one another), I've met individuals of all races--male and female. Each had a story to tell--but, each story had a common denominator... "Addiction" Sin! An addiction that was allowed to control them, divert their attention, take their eye off the prize, knock them down on their bellies, face-down in the muck and mire.

Satan presents himself in so many attractive, incandescent, alluring ways. You hear so many people saying, "I just couldn't help myself. You just don't understand how it is out here."

Satan will lie, cheat, deceive, be your friend or even turn himself into an angel of light (11 Cor. 11:14). You see--he is after your most prized possession... your soul.

The "supreme accuser" causes humankind to have everything worked

out in his mind. Don't you know that every time we use ourselves as sources of wisdom: We fail. Let God be your main source. For the Scripture says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not to your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)

In every area of life, we falter without the help of the Holy Spirit.

As individuals continue to assume that they are solely cognizant of what transpires in their life, there will continually be prisons and other places filled with confused, supposedly intelligent individuals going straight to "Hell".

Scripture again proves to be a worthy source, for it states, "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (St. Matthew 6:33)

Christian believers--your work is cut out for you! What is the solution? What do you tell these confused minds? Tell them, "If you want to get high...if you want to freak-out on something, get high on TLC. Freak-out on TLC." Yeah! Try it! I know that you'll never turn back. You see--TLC is "The Living Christ".

Let your life be full of TLC. Hide God's word deep in your heart so that you won't sin against God. (Psalms 119:11) And as David said, "with all my heart have I sought thee: O let me

not wander from thy commandments."

The key word in that passage of scripture is--sought. Are you seeking the Lord? Or--are you seeking other (worldly) ways and means to figure out your problems? "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:6)

We could surely save ourselves a lot of "wear and tear" if we would just put our trust in the Lord; instead of trusting in man.

Some people hold onto rocks and say that this source helps them to connect to the earth. I don't want to be connected with the earth. I want to be connected to and with the one who made the earth.

Some people worship the cow and they refuse to eat of its meat; but, I shall worship the Lord my God for he hath made the heavens and the earth and all that dwells within. Yes! He even made you and me.

The Accuser (Satan) places all these foolish ideas in our heads and hearts--only if we let him.

Heaven and hell are real places. Don't wait until it's too late to make up your mind.

When the world's addictions come upon you, draw strength from the Holy Spirit. Don't stick nothing

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When you feel yourself slipping—Tie a knot in the end of the rope and hang on—Help is on the way.



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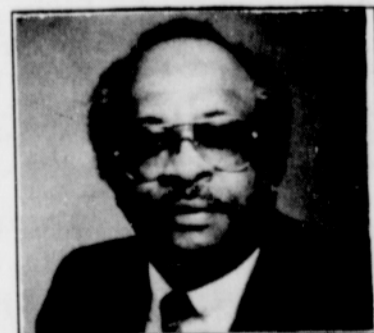
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I Peter 4:11

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