

The image features a dark blue background with a yellow border. The border consists of a thin yellow line forming a square. At each of the four corners, there are decorative elements: a horizontal line extending from the top-left corner, a vertical line extending from the top-right corner, and a fan of five yellow lines radiating from the corner. The text is centered within the square.

The Life of Jesus (23)

The Lord's Prayer (1)

Matthew 6:9-13

# #1 The Importance of Prayer

Prayer plays a vital role in Christian life. Prayer is important because it's basically a conversation with God. Through prayer we can develop a personal, meaningful relationship with him.

When we pray, we get to know God's will toward us better. **God brings our life into alignment with his vision** and plans. Through prayer, we keep him in the forefront of our minds day by day.

We see the importance of prayer in Jesus' life. He began every day with prayer, and even when he was crowded by many people and busy teaching them, he always tried to find a place to be alone so that he could pray to God. **The foundation of Jesus' ministry was his prayer life.**

No Christian can deny the importance of prayer. But, we should also know that **it's important what we pray for.** In many cases, we pray for things that are not in line with God's will. So, we should learn how to pray and what to pray for. The most important prayer in the Bible we should always apply in our prayer life is **the Lord's prayer.**

## #2 The Sermon on the Mount and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's prayer is included in the Sermon on the Mount.

The Sermon on the Mount refers to a series of teachings Jesus taught on a mountainside in Galilee.

Even though we know the importance of following these teachings, we often feel uncomfortable when we learn about them because we see them as standards of being Christians, and because we often find ourselves not living in accordance with these teachings in our everyday lives.

However, these teachings are not standards that we must meet to 'be' Christians, but they are new ways of life that we should seek and that we can now live out with Jesus Christ 'as' Christians. And, now that we believe in Jesus and he remains in us and works in us, we can now truly seek these new ways of life in Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord's prayer is what builds us up as true children of God and helps us form our mindsets in accordance with God's will. We can see this in the structure of the Sermon on the Mount.

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## #4 Chiasm

Matthew deliberately arranged each of the teachings in a specific order, and by doing so he emphasized certain teachings.

The Jews liked to use a special structure to emphasize the main theme of a piece of writing. It's called 'Chiasm.' In this structure, they put the most important content in the middle. The name chiasm is from the Greek letter **chi(X)**.

In chiasm, a sequence of ideas is presented and then repeated in reverse order.

A B X B` A`

Here, each letter represents an idea. In this structure, the two ideas (A and B) are presented first and then repeated in reverse order (B` and A`). A and A` correspond to each other in some way and so do B and B`.

And, the third idea 'X' is located at the center. In this structure, all the ideas are important, but **idea 'X' is the climax.**

## #5 Chiasm and the Sermon on the Mount

Many passages in the Bible are written in chiastic structures. And, many scholars suggest that the structure of the Sermon on the Mount is also chiastic.

### The Structure of the Sermon On the Mount (Matt. 5–7)

A 5:1–2 Frame: Context

B 5:3–16 Intro. – the beatitudes and persecution

C 5:17–20 Introduction of the Main Section  
(Law and prophets)

D 5:21–48 Main Section (Surpassing the Law)

### X 6:1–18 Climax: Christian Life

D` 6:19–7:11 Main Section (possessions and judging)

C` 7:12 Conclusion of the Main Section  
(Law and prophets)

B` 7:13–27 Conclusion

A` 7:28–8:1a Frame: Reaction– the audience's response

Even though they don't perfectly match each other, we can see that the ideas and subjects are structured around the climax passage (X) located in the middle.

## #6 Chiasm and the Lord's Prayer

More importantly, it seems that the X passage itself is also chiastic.

### The Structure of the Passage X (Matt. 6:1-18)

A 6:1-4 Righteousness before God – almsgiving

B 6:5-8 Prayer words (not empty words)

X 6:9-13 The Lord's Prayer (the climax)

B` 6:14-15 Prayer words (need for forgiveness)

A` 6:16-18 Righteousness before God – fasting

Here, we see **the centrality of the Lord's prayer**. The Lord's prayer is the center of not only this passage, but also the Sermon on the Mount itself. What Matthew shows is that **the center of Christian life is the Lord's prayer**.

Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount aren't easy for us to follow. But, Matthew is saying that **there's a key to living out this life. And, that's the Lord's prayer**.

The Lord's prayer enables us to seek God's will and helps us align our lives with it. The key to living out God's will for us lies in our relationship with God primarily built up through our prayer lives.

## Memory Verses

“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Mt 6:9-13) (5)