



Last week, we looked at John 17, which we chose to call the "Lord's Prayer." Today we are going to look at what is traditionally known as "The Lord's Prayer," and we're calling it the "Disciple's Prayer." How's that for confusing the issue right up front?

Jesus first gave us this prayer on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:5-13) and again when the disciples asked him to teach them to pray (Luke 1:1-4). It is not a "prayer formula" but a "prayer dynamic."

### **PRAYER CONNECTS US TO GOD.**

*Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.*

Prayer is not something you do. It is someone you are with.

The God before whom all nations rise and fall turns his attention toward you when you pray.

*James 4:8, Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.*

## **PRAYER CONNECTS US WITH GOD'S AGENDA.**

*Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Prayer is the pipeline through which flows the power of God's Kingdom authority.

Prayer is the means by which God's will is accomplished on the earth.

*James 5:16, The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results. (NLT)*

## **PRAYER CONNECTS US TO GOD'S PROVISION.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Prayer reminds us on whom our whole life depends.

When we pray, we are realigning our consciousness with the reality that we are not self-sufficient creatures.

## **PRAYER CONNECTS US WITH GOD'S GRACE.**

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Prayer is the primary way God infiltrates our character.

Prayer allows the Holy Spirit to breathe on my personality and character, exposing my sin so that I may place it and my depravity under the blood of Christ.

Prayer is where God heals me of guilt and shame...of anger and bitterness... of pride and unforgiveness.

## **PRAYER CONNECTS US WITH GOD'S VICTORY.**

*Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

Life is a battle. Spiritual warfare is not a fantasy. It is a reality.

In prayer, we see what is hidden. Our spiritual eyes are opened. We understand the nature of the struggle.

*Ephesians 6:11-13, Take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons...Put them to use so that you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way...This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and his angels...You're up against more than you can handle on your own. So take...every weapon God has issued and when it's all over but the shouting, you'll still be on your feet... Prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. (Msg)*