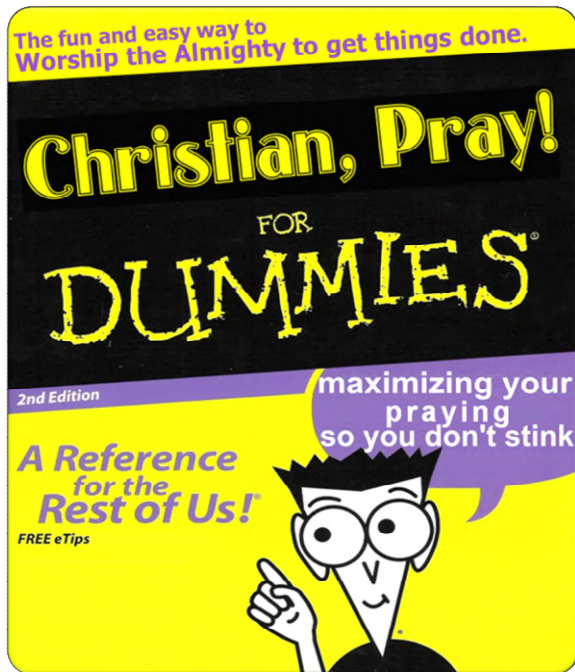


God's prayer is found Matthew 6:9–13. Then again in Luke 11:2–4 when the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus does not respond with comments about posture, attitude or sentiment,



tradition, clothing or feelings. He teaches specific words of God that serve as the foundation on which all Christian prayer is built. When Luther taught Master Peter the Barber to pray, he began with the Lord's Prayer, meditating first on one petition and allowing that petition to serve to help discussion and understanding.

As prayer is so central to daily life, this understanding of the Lord's Prayer is 'foundational'. So although it is a "deeper doctrine of the Word" Luther's Small Catechism includes it. Why? Prayer spills over to the Christian's entire life, in every peak and valley of our journey home to heaven. Consider the layout of the Catechism: The Ten Commandments primarily teach the Law and the Creed primarily lays out the Gospel. The Lord's Prayer directs attention to situations in daily Christian life using Law and Gospel. Let's follow Luther's lead and meditate on the Lord's Prayer, as he summarized them in his Catechisms (both Large and Small).

1. Definition: Prayer is an act of worship in which believers in Jesus Christ worship our heavenly Father and call directly on Him for anything, at anytime, anyplace, with any words, concerning any and every situation.

How does prayer—

- A) humble arrogant attitudes?
- B) strengthen trusting hearts?

2 How does **1 Peter 3:12** show us God only listens to the prayers of those who believe in Christ Jesus?

3. How does **Galatians 3:26-27** show us that believers in Jesus are God's children? How does this affect our worship?

4. What words in **Ephesians 3:12** tell us how we are to pray to God almighty, our Father, in heaven? Why might this part of worship be hard for some?