Christ's Model Prayer

PART 1

"Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
Matthew 6:9–10

Application Questions

1. Disciples today must reflect on the extent to which their prayers correspond to the Lord's model prayer. What is meant by, "Everything in prayer turns upon the kind of God we pray to"? How is our perspective about God reflected in our prayers?

2. In the Old Testament the fatherhood of God is not a central theme. Why then did Jesus teach us to pray calling upon God as Father (Matthew 11:27; John 1:18; 14:9; Romans 8:15)? What does this teach us about a Christian's relationship to God (Matthew 5:16, 45, 48; 6:1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18, 26, 32; Hebrews 4:16; 10:19; Ephesians 3:11-12; etc.)?

3. How does the Bible balance awe and intimacy in our thinking about God (Exodus 15:11; 20:20; 34:36-37; Numbers 14:18; Isaiah 41:13; Proverbs 1:7; Psalm 138:2; 1 John 4:18)?

4. What does it mean to "hallow" something? How can we hallow God's name (Matthew 5:16; John 15:8; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Philippians 1:9-11; 2:14-15; 1 Peter 2:12)?

5. What does "knowing" God's name involve (Psalm 5:11; 9:10; 91:14)?

6. What is Jesus telling us to pray for when we say, "Your kingdom come"? Which best describes what this pertains to: (a) the Lordship of Christ in our hearts, (b) evangelism, (c) the rule of Christ on earth that was inaugurated at the coming of Christ. Consider Mark 15:34; 1:15; 11:10; Luke 22:18.

7. Are you wholeheartedly able to pray "Your will be done" at this particular point in your life? Why or why not? How do you feel about God's will?

8. In the Lord's Prayer, what do the first three requests deal with? Are your prayers motivated by the vision that God's will must be done on earth as it is in heaven, for His glory?

9. Is prayer really necessary? Why? What is its purpose?

10. Do you find prayer easy? What hinders your prayer life? When you pray, how do you picture God? Does that help or hinder you?