

# **1 HC 122 – Pray That You May Honor God’s Name**

Beloved in the Lord: **You pray to your Father in heaven through faith in Jesus Christ** (the basis of your prayer), **asking for things that are good** for you and your neighbor to do the things God wants you to do (the principle of your prayer), and you do so **in a sincere and humble 谦卑的 way** (the attitude in your prayer). **But what specifically are those good things for which you must ask?** Today you will see the 1<sup>st</sup> of 6 petitions (祈求, 请求) in the Lord’s Prayer. In this 1<sup>st</sup> petition you **ask God that you might make his name holy (bring honor to his name).**

And in order to make God’s name holy, you are really asking God to

**Help me to know you**

**Help me to worship you**

**Help me to serve you**

Our goals are: That **you will be moved to pray “hallowed be your name” (尊你的名为圣) with your heart, that you will reflect God’s holiness in your life, worship, and service.**

122 Q. WHAT DOES THE FIRST REQUEST MEAN?

A. **Hallowed be thy name** means,

**Help us to really know you, to bless, worship, and praise** you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice (公义), mercy, and truth. And it means, **Help us to direct all our living**– what we think, say, and do– so that your name will never be blasphemed (被亵渎) because of us but always honored and praised.

## **Help me to know you**

### **1. We often hear the term “Hallowed be your name,” so what does “hallow” mean?**

**“Hallow” means “holy.”** In history, there was a day to honor holy men – November 1. It was called All-saints day or Hallowed Day. And the day before that, October 31, Hallowed Day Eve, was shortened to become Halloween 万圣节.

### **2. What does it mean to “hallow God’s name?”**

When you hallow God’s name you hallow God. God’s name represents his person.

### **3. So if “name” represents the person, what does it mean to “hallow” God?**

You can’t make God holy in his essential (本质的) nature. He is already perfectly holy. To “hallow” God means you **treat him as holy** and that you **cause others to treat him as holy**. You **reverence and respect him and urge others to do so.**

### **4. In order to hallow God you have to know God.**

**You have to know his person. You have to know his qualities.** You have to **know his plan of salvation (救恩)**. **Jesus verified that without knowing God you cannot know truth.** **God is the source of truth.** Man corrupted truth because of his fall into sin and his consequent evil desires. Jesus reiterated the fact that you must know God and to know God you must know him. You must know God experientially 在经验上, 实际上, not just in your head.

**John 17: 3** "And this is **eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God**, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

### **5. How can you know God?**

#### **a. You must know God through his Word...a Word that the Father reveals through his Son and Spirit.**

**Matthew 16: 17** Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and **blood has not revealed (启示) this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**

God had promised to reveal this truth about himself even more clearly later.

**Jeremiah 31: 33** "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will put My law in their minds**, and **write it on their hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' **for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest...**

#### **b. You must also know God’s work through natural revelation and throughout history.**

If you don’t take the time to **see God in nature**, and if you **don’t learn of him in history by reading good books**, you won’t fully know who he is, and you won’t worship and serve him like you should. Our next points:

## **Help me to worship you**

### **1. You hallow God’s name when you worship and praise him.**

**a. You praise God for his unlimited power – on earth and in heaven.** That almighty power is seen in the creation of the world, and it is seen in the saving of wretched (悲惨的) sinners.

**b. You praise God for his wisdom.** You see his wise way of creating and sustaining the world and you see his wisdom in working out salvation in the lives of mankind. For example: Jesus came at a time when it was historically perfect for him to come. There was peace in the world through a strong Rome. There was a common language. There was security. There were roads for traveling. There was a limit to Jewish power (so they didn't kill him sooner). There was respect for other religions.

**c. You praise God for his kindness.** Even while man waited for Christ to come, God protected and provided for his people and kept the Line of Promise. Men tried to stop it, but couldn't. This is a repeated theme in the OT.

**d. You praise God for his justice,** a justice that is permanently established so man would know exactly what God required. God does not have changeable (可变的, 多变的) justice like civil governments today.

**e. You praise God for his mercy.** Example: God did not destroy the world as he could have done when man sinned. God mercifully prepared a way back to him and told Adam and Eve of Jesus Christ – that eternal sacrifice for sins.

**f. You praise God for his truth.** God did not hide truth from man. Examples: God told man exactly what his condition was and how he could be redeemed. Why? Man cannot understand truth; it is (and can) only be explained by God. Without God, your framework for truth is corrupted. These are just 6 key attributes of God, but there are many others.

## **2. Look at scriptural illustrations (例子) of hallowing God's name and the resulting praise.**

### **The great Prophet (先知) Moses' account:**

**Exodus 34:6** And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering (长久忍耐), and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression (过犯) and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." 8 So **Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.**

**The godly King David** dedicated (奉献) much of his life, including his nights, to bless, worship and praise God **for who God was and what he had done.** He wrote down many of the songs we still use today to hallow God.

**Psalms 145:3** **Great is the LORD**, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. 5 I will meditate on the **glorious splendor (光辉)** of Your majesty, And on **Your wondrous works.** 6 Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare **Your greatness.** 7 They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of **Your righteousness.** 8 The LORD is **gracious and full of compassion**, Slow to anger and great in mercy. 9 The LORD is good to all, And **His tender mercies** are over all His works. **10 All Your works shall praise You...**

**The weeping prophet Jeremiah** yet praised God as all-seeing - omniscient (全知的) . He knew that God saw the plight (困境) of the righteous and God saw the wickedness of the enemy.

**Jeremiah 32:16**"Now when I had delivered the purchase deed to Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD, saying: 17 'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made **the heavens and the earth by Your great power** and outstretched arm. There is **nothing too hard for You.**

Jeremiah knew that when men got this truth they would glory in the Lord.

**Jeremiah 9:23**..."Let not the wise man glory in **his wisdom**, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 But let him who **glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD,** exercising lovingkindness 慈爱, judgment, and righteousness 公义 in the earth...

**Even the saintly Mary** understood that she should praise God for her salvation in Jesus Christ.

**Luke 1:46** And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced (欢欣) in **God my Savior.** 49 For He who is mighty has done **great things for me**, And holy is His name.

**The most educated Apostle (使徒)** understood that he should praise **God** for his great knowledge.

**Romans 11: 33** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable (难以探寻的) are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor (策士) ?" 35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" 36 **For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.**

**Surely you can praise God when you know him and his mercy.**

**Psalms 115: 1** Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth. (耶和華啊, 榮耀不要歸與我們, 不要歸與我們; 要因你的慈愛和誠實歸在你的名下! )

### 3. When you hallow God you will cause others to praise God...like your children...like your family and friends...

#### Help me to serve you

#### 1. Not only are you to know God and praise God for all those things mentioned, you are also to live all of your life for the glory of God: in your home, job, church, supermarket, school, on the lake, or while visiting family and friends.

Romans 11:36-12:1 - 36 **For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things**, to whom be glory forever. Amen. I beseech (恳求) you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies** a living sacrifice (活祭), holy, acceptable to God, which is your **reasonable service**.

It is especially important **even when you have troubles and tragedies** (灾难) in your life to continue to serve God.

#### 2. You are to live a life of service under the direction of God.

What you think, say, and do...must be directed by him. There are no excuses based on contemporary (现代的) situations **that will allow any excuse from faithfully obeying God's law**. "I'm too busy to serve the Lord" just won't fly with him.

Matthew 5: 16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your **good works and glorify your Father in heaven**."

There can be no compromise (妥协) in serving the Lord. It is popular to compromise these days. Compromises are promoted. But God rejects compromise in serving and worshipping him.

#### 3. You are to serve God well so that his name will never be blasphemed and that God will never be cursed or treated with contempt 轻蔑.

Imagine the insults Aaron's sons brought on God for their contempt of his name. Imagine the same contempt many preachers have brought on God because of their sinful indulgence (放纵). Imagine if you are a Christian student in school and you cheat on a test...won't that make your fellow students have little regard for the name of your Savior? That's not hallowing God!

#### 4. You serve God, by living for Jesus Christ, so that his name will be praised.

Instead of causing blasphemy of God, you will cause men to praise him with clear tones of joy and thankfulness. When you stand for the principle of God's Word on civil issues or on the sports field, you will cause men to hallow God's name.

#### Conclusion:

You must know God, his name and his nature, well. Many don't know him well. Others have a watered-down view of God. This is why they are never able to worship and serve God well.

But brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. Dive into his Word so that you know all the glorious details of God's nature and work.** Be dissatisfied with just the knowledge that God is really, really great and he sent his Son to die for you. Know the greatness of his love, the fierceness 猛烈, 强烈 of his anger, the awesomeness of his power, the strength of his discipline 管教, and his controlling of all things and using even bad things for your good. Know his sadness at your sins, his truth by which you can believe and live, and his joy at your prayer and worship. There is so much to learn about God.

**2. Learn to worship him- worship him as he has dictated (讲) in his word**, not based on what you may like or dislike, or what is popular, or what you think God might like or dislike. Only he determines how he is worshipped. If you worship in a wrong way, God's name will not be hallowed.

**3. Serve the Lord like you belong to him**, like you are a redeemed child of King Jesus. Your walk, talk, and thoughts must reflect your knowledge of who he is and what he has done for you on the cross. This will even cause others to hallow his name.

Finally, if God is not your Father, you cannot hallow his name as Christ commands you to. If you want to hallow God's name you have to become his child first, and he made that possible by his Son shedding his blood for your sins. This is love at its best – for one to give his life as a substitute (代替) for a sinner. Ask for adoption.