

Food for Thought on the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's prayer...embraces all heavenly and spiritual things within it, so much can be poured into every least detail that heaven itself is not great enough to contain it all, and this of course depending on the capacity and use of each individual. As one penetrates more and more inwardly, the more plentiful and abundant is the content (Spiritual Experiences 1790).

We are told in the Heavenly Doctrines that comparing different passages in the Word can be a useful tool in helping us to see the inner meaning. One way to learn more about the Lord's Prayer might be to compare it to another series in the Word such as the Ten Commandments or the seven days of creation.

Below is a page showing a parallel comparison between the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments which was done by Rev. Ray and Star Silverman as part of their program *Rise Above It*. Such parallels are fascinating and can offer us a different way to explore the meaning of the phrases of the prayer. What insights into the nature of the prayer and the Ten Commandments does the Silverman's comparison give you?

A similar kind of parallel look was done by Rev. Erik Sandstrom in *New Church Home* several years ago (1975, volume 39, pp. 152-156, 170-175), looking at the seven sentences of the Lord's Prayer in relation to the seven days of creation.

You might want to try exploring this technique to see how it can help you develop your understanding of the Lord's Prayer. This will not necessarily be a line-by-line comparison, but a way to see how the Prayer encompasses all the truths of the Lord's Word. Finding connections for the phrases of the Lord's Prayer in other parts of the Word can enrich our understanding of it. Places in the Word to start exploring might include the 23rd Psalm, parts of the Ten Blessings, or some of the Prophecies of the Lord's coming.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
and
The Lord's Prayer

You shall have no other gods before me.
Our Father who art in the heavens

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name vain.
Hallowed be Thy name

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land that the Lord your God is giving you.
As in heavens so upon the earth

You shall not murder.
Give us this day our daily bread

You shall not commit adultery.
And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors

You shall not steal
And lead us not into temptation

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
But deliver us from evil

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
For Thine is the kingdom,

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.
And the power, and the glory

Forever. Amen.