



**TO GLORIFY AND ENJOY GOD
WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM
STUDY 21**



**& PRAYER AS A MEANS OF GRACE
AND THE LORD'S PRAYER &**

Review –

1. What is a “Means of Grace”, and what *are* the “Means of Grace”?

Question 98: What is prayer? A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God,⁽¹⁾ for things agreeable to his will,⁽²⁾ in the name of Christ,⁽³⁾ with confession of our sins,⁽⁴⁾ and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.⁽⁵⁾ ⁽¹⁾ Ps. 62:8 ⁽²⁾ 1 John 5:14 ⁽³⁾ John 16:23 ⁽⁴⁾ Ps. 32:5,6; Dan. 9:4 ⁽⁵⁾ Phil. 4:6

Question 99: What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer? A. The whole word of God is of use to direct us in prayer,⁽¹⁾ but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called The Lord's prayer.⁽²⁾ ⁽¹⁾ 1 John 5:14 ⁽²⁾ Matt. 6:9-18 compared with Luke 11:2-4

1. “*An offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will*”
 - a. How might we know if we're praying “*for things agreeable to His will*”?
 - b. What incentives does God give us “*offer up our desires*” to Him? See Matt.6:8; Jn.16:27-28
2. “*In the name of Christ*”
 - a. Why is this so important?
 - b. Which office of Christ directly affects and interacts with our daily prayer lives?
3. “*With confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies*”
 - a. Do you think every prayer we offer should contain these elements? Why or why not?
4. “*The whole word of God is of use to direct us in prayer*”
 - a. Suggest some practical ways you can use the “*whole word of God*” to direct you in prayer
5. “*The special rule of direction is ... The Lord's Prayer*”
 - a. In what ways can the Lord's Prayer be used to direct you in prayer?
 - b. In what ways may it be abused?

Question 100: What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us? A. The preface of the Lord's prayer (which is, Our Father which art in heaven⁽¹⁾) teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us;⁽²⁾ and that we should pray with and for others.⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ Matt. 6:9 ⁽²⁾ Rom. 8:15; Luke 11:13 ⁽³⁾ Acts 12:5; 1 Tim. 2:1,2

1. “*Draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us*”
 - a. How is it possible to reconcile “*reverence*” and “*confidence*” in prayer?
 - b. Think of Scriptures that illustrate what our approach to God in prayer ought to look like
2. “*We should pray with and for others*”
 - a. What venues are available to you in this Church to put this into practice?

Question 101: What do we pray for in the first petition? A. In the first petition (which is, Hallowed by thy name⁽¹⁾) we pray, That God would enable us and others to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known;⁽²⁾ and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ Matt. 6:9 ⁽²⁾ Ps. 67:2,3 ⁽³⁾ Ps. 83 throughout

1. “*That God would enable us and others to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known*”
 - a. How does this petition tie in with Catechism Q&A 1?
 - b. What does it mean to “*glorify Him*”? Can an infinitely glorious Being have His glory added to?

Question 102: What do we pray for in the second petition? A. In the second petition (which is, Thy kingdom come⁽¹⁾) we pray, That Satan’s kingdom may be destroyed;⁽²⁾ and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced,⁽³⁾ ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it;⁽⁴⁾ and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.⁽⁵⁾ ⁽¹⁾ Matt. 6:10 ⁽²⁾ Ps. 68:1,18 ⁽³⁾ Rev. 12:10,11 ⁽⁴⁾ 2 Thess. 3:1; Rom. 10:1; John 17:9,20 ⁽⁵⁾ Rev. 22:20

1. “*Satan’s kingdom may be destroyed*”
 - a. What is “*Satan’s kingdom*”?
 - b. Why must it be destroyed in order for Christ’s kingdom to come?
 - c. How is it destroyed?
2. “*That the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it*”
 - a. What is the “*kingdom of grace*”?
 - b. How may we each advance this kingdom?
3. “*That the kingdom of glory may be hastened*”
 - a. What is the “*kingdom of glory*”?
 - b. How may we each “*hasten*” this kingdom?

Question 103: What do we pray for in the third petition? A. In the third petition (which is, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven⁽¹⁾) we pray, That God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things,⁽²⁾ as the angels do in heaven.⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ Matt. 6:10 ⁽²⁾ Ps. 67 throughout; Ps. 119:36; Matt. 26:39; 2 Sam. 15:25; Job 1:21 ⁽³⁾ Ps. 103:20,21

1. “*Make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things*”
 - a. Explain how Matt.26:39 and Job 1:21 illustrate this prayer in action
 - b. *How* do we:
 - i. *know* His will?
 - ii. *obey* His will?
 - iii. *submit* to His will?

Question 104: What do we pray for in the fourth petition? A. In the fourth petition (which is, Give us this day our daily bread⁽¹⁾) we pray, That of God’s free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ Matt. 6:11 ⁽²⁾ Prov. 30:8,9; Gen. 28:20; 1 Tim. 4:4,5

1. “*That of God’s free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life*”
 - a. How do the following Scriptures underline the fourth petition? Prov.30:8; Job 38:39-41; 1Tim.6:6-10; Ps.145:15-16

Question 105: What do we pray for in the fifth petition? A. In the fifth petition (which is, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors⁽¹⁾) we pray, That God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins;⁽²⁾ which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ Matt. 6:12 ⁽²⁾ Ps. 51:1,2,7,9; Dan. 9:17,18,19 ⁽³⁾ Luke 11:4; Matt. 18:35

1. "*Which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others?*"
 - a. Does our forgiveness by God *depend* on whether or not we have forgiven others?
 - b. How does the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matt.18:23-35) illustrate this point?

Question 106: What do we pray for in the sixth petition? A. In the sixth petition (which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil⁽¹⁾) we pray, that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin,⁽²⁾ or support and deliver us when we are tempted.⁽³⁾ ⁽¹⁾ Matt. 6:13 ⁽²⁾ Matt. 26:41 ⁽³⁾ 2 Cor. 12:7,8

1. "*Either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted?*"
 - a. What do the following texts teach us about temptation? James 1:13-15; Luke 4:13; Matt.26:41; 1Cor.10:13

Question 107: What doth the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us? A. The conclusion of the Lord's prayer (which is, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen⁽¹⁾) teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only,⁽²⁾ and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him.⁽³⁾ And, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.⁽⁴⁾

⁽¹⁾ Matt. 6:13 ⁽²⁾ Dan. 9:4,7-9,16-19 ⁽³⁾ 1 Chron. 29:10-13 ⁽⁴⁾ 1 Cor. 14:16; Rev. 22:20,21

1. "*In our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him.*"
 - a. Why do we often overlook this element of prayer?
 - b. Where in the Bible might be a good place to look to encourage us in this element of our prayers?
2. "*Amen*"
 - a. What does the word mean, and explain the Catechism's explanation of its value in our prayers

*"Prayer and sinning will never live together in the same heart.
Prayer will consume sin, or sin will choke prayer"* (J.C. Ryle)

