

<b>ACTS PRAYER MODEL</b>		
<b>A</b>	<b>ADORATION:</b>	Praise the Lord for being the awesome God that He is.
<b>C</b>	<b>CONFESSION:</b>	Admit your sins and ask for God's overflowing forgiveness and mercy in your life.
<b>T</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING:</b>	Thank God for all the wonderful things He has done.
<b>S</b>	<b>SUPPLICATION:</b>	Bring request for others and yourself to God and in all things, pray that God's will be done.



## OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN

God is our  
**FATHER**

He created us

He adopted us  
through his work  
of redemption

As God's children we pray  
boldly and confidently

**Address**

**"Heavenly Father,  
we are your dear children."**

## HALLOWED BE THY NAME

God's  
**NAME** 

Is Revealed in His Word  
and Is Placed on Us  
Through the Means of Grace

**HONORED**

- By teaching  
God's Word faithfully
- By living according  
to God's Word

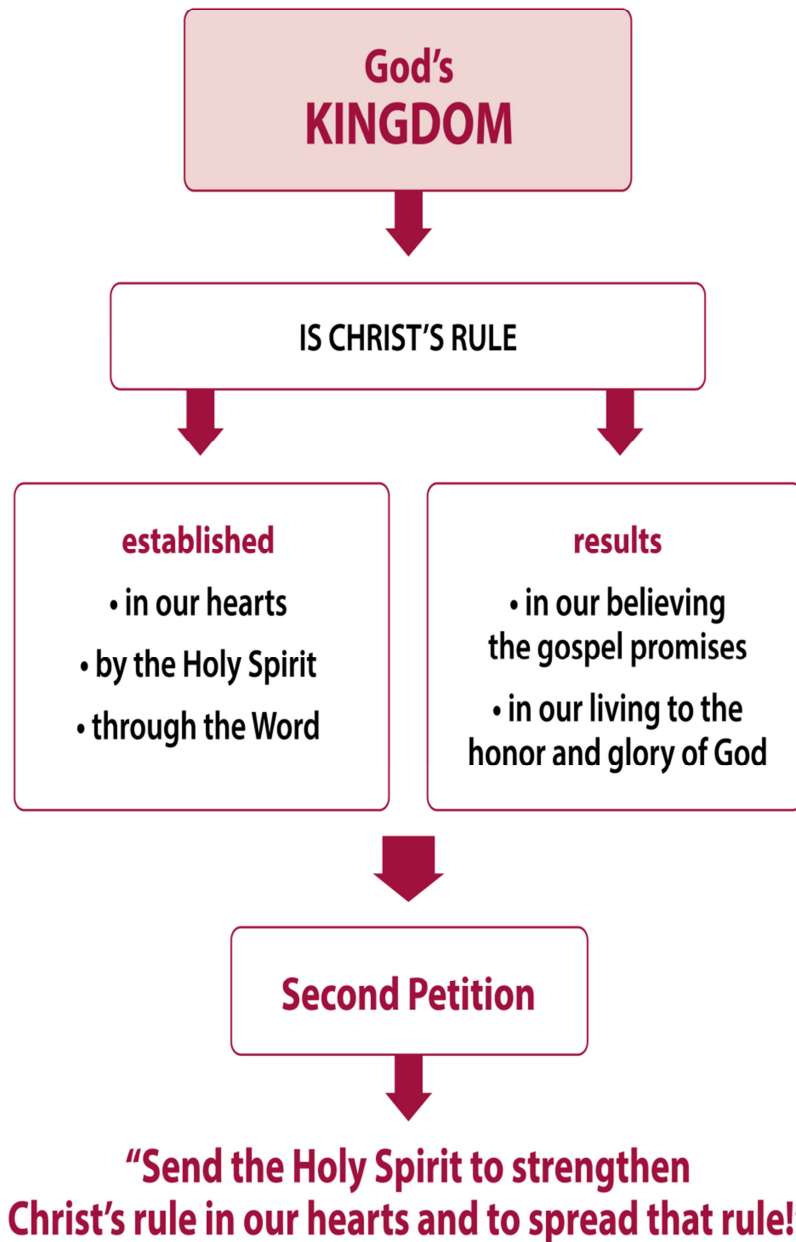
**DISHONORED**

- By teaching contrary  
to God's Word
- By living contrary  
to God's Word

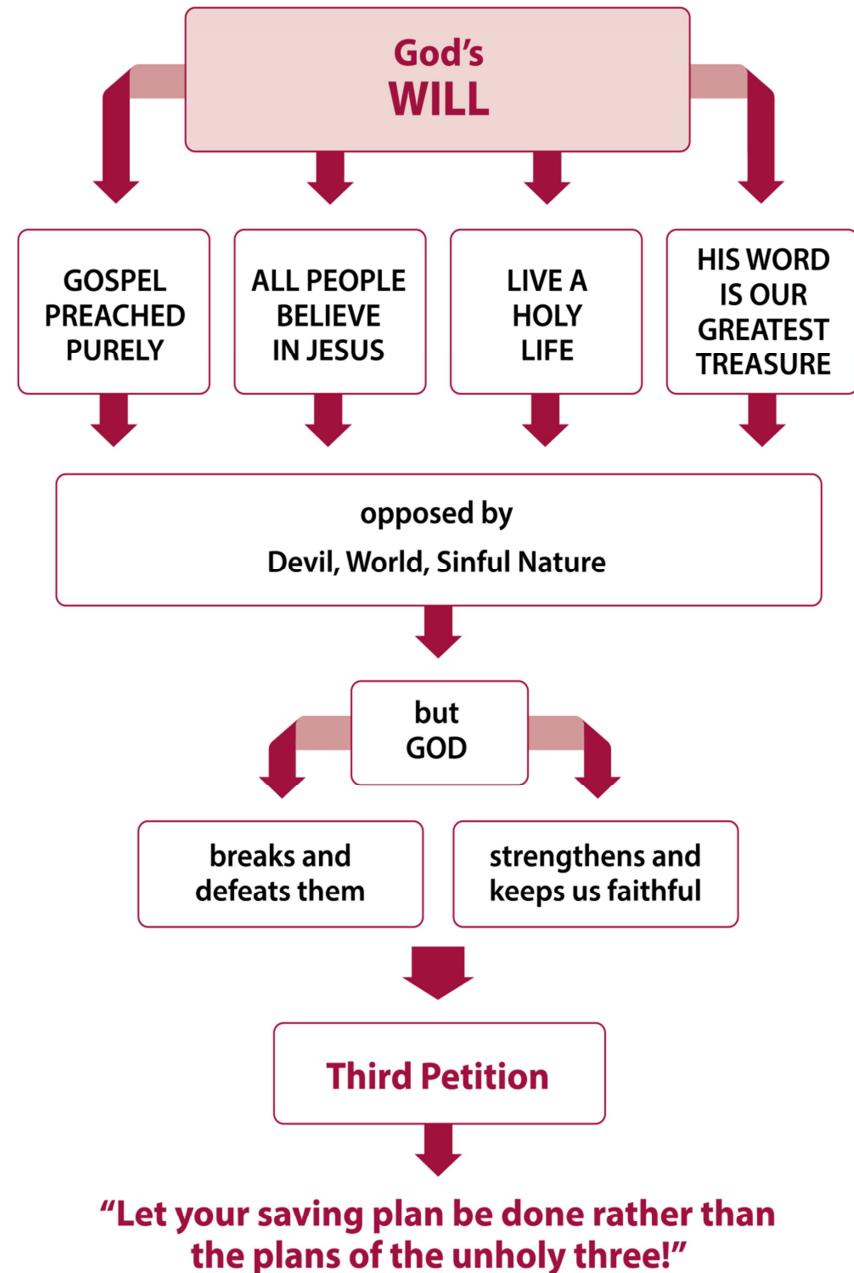
**First Petition**

**"Help us to teach your Word correctly  
and live according to it."**

## THY KINGDOM COME



## THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN



## GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Daily  
BREAD

Everything God gives  
for our bodily welfare

Received  
by us  
with  
thanksgiving

Which we  
trust God  
to supply  
each day

To enable us  
to honor him  
with our  
lives and works

Fourth Petition

**"Provide our bodily needs day by day!"**

### Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God surely gives daily bread without our asking, even to all the wicked, but we pray in this petition that he would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What, then, is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes **everything that we need for our bodily welfare**, such as food and drink, clothing and shoes, house and home, land and cattle, money and goods, a godly spouse, godly children, godly workers, godly and faithful leaders, good government, good weather, peace and order, health, a good name, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

God graciously gives us everything we need (daily bread) for our lives. He provides for us one day at a time. Just think of everything that God does for us: he gives us air to breathe, clothes to wear, homes to live in, books to read, and we could add many more things to this list. He does this even though we don't always ask for all these things, and he certainly gives them to us even though we do not deserve them.

Psalm 145:15,16 *The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.*

Jesus teaches us in this petition that every good thing we receive in our lives from day to day is a gift of God for which we want to thank and praise him.

**Please note:** We are taught to ask for what we need for today. Too often we worry about tomorrow and even far ahead into the future. But we have a loving God who has promised always to take care of us. Jesus teaches us to trust God and not to worry. God will never stop taking care of us.

1 Peter 5:7 *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

## FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES

### FORGIVENESS

means

assures us

GOD GRACIOUSLY  
WIPES ALL OUR  
SINS AWAY  
FOR JESUS' SAKE

GOD GRACIOUSLY  
GIVES ALL THAT  
WE ASK HIM  
IN PRAYER

- Gives us peace with God
- Moves us to forgive all who sin against us

**Fifth Petition**

**"Graciously cancel our debt of sin  
and lead us to do the same for others!"**

**Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins or because of them deny our prayers; for we are worthy of none of the things for which we ask, neither have we deserved them, but we ask that he would give them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.

So we too will forgive from the heart and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Because of our trespasses (sins), we have built up a huge debt against God. We deserve his punishment—death and hell. God in his mercy has forgiven us this debt. He sent his Son to pay our debt for us. Jesus did this when he died on the cross. The debt we could never repay, even if we had trillions of dollars, God forgave. Therefore, Jesus teaches us to ask God not to look at our sins but, rather, at his grace and for Jesus' sake to give us all the things we pray for.

Because God forgave us a huge debt, we learn from him to forgive the small debts (sins) that any of our fellow humans beings might owe us.

*Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

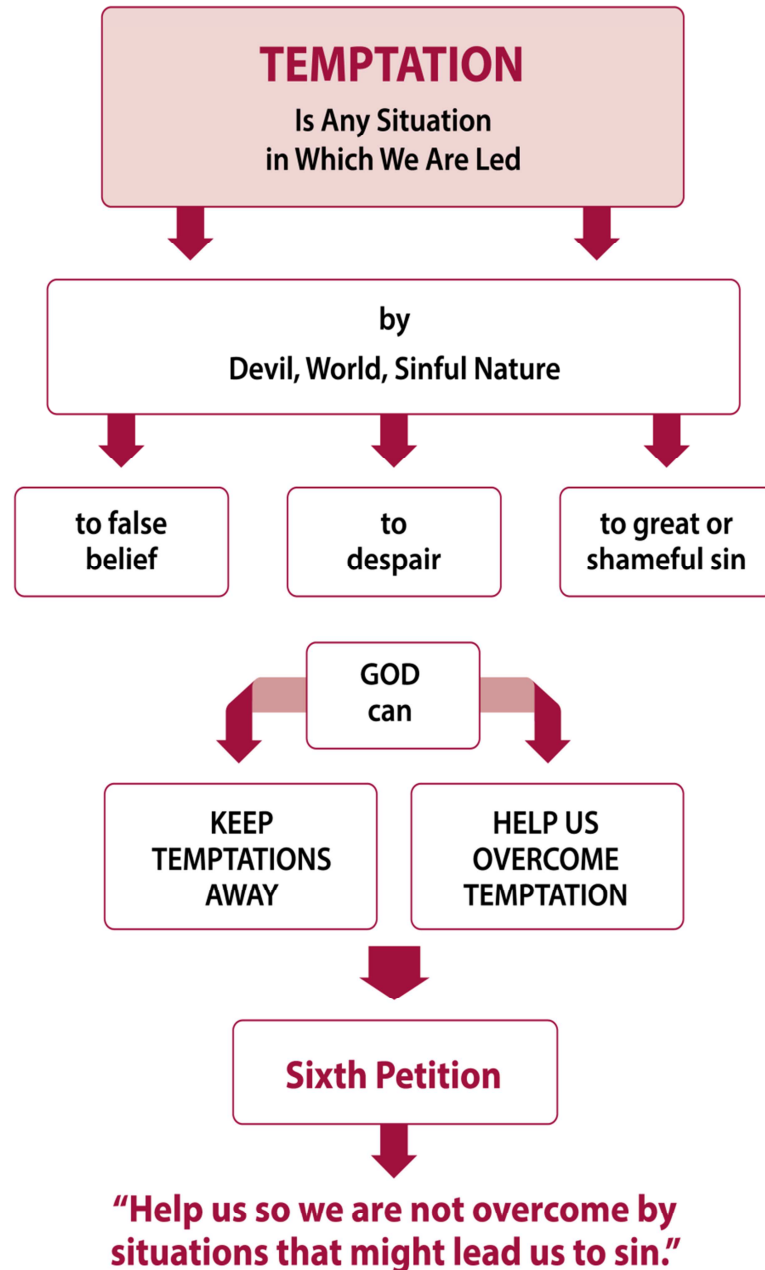
**Trespass - Doing something that we should not  
(sin of commission)**

**Debt – Not doing something we should  
(sin of omission)**

**Sin – includes both actual sins above + original sin**

**Original sin produces actual sin; like the root of the tree**

## LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION



### Lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

God surely tempts no one to sin, but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or lead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins; and though we are tempted by them, we pray that we may overcome and win the victory.

In the Third Petition, we learned that we have three great spiritual enemies: the devil, the world, and our flesh. These enemies try to lead us into false belief, despair, and sin.

**False belief** is believing something contrary to God's Word. For example, reincarnation (dying and then coming back in another earthly life) is a false belief. People die once and then face judgment.

**Despair** is doubting God's promises. A person who faces a serious illness might be tempted to doubt God's love for him even though God assures us that he always loves us and takes care of us.

**Sin** is any thought, word, or action that goes against God's will for our lives. For example, not giving God the best of our time and offerings is a sin.

God does not lead us into temptation because He cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone. Rather, He alone has the power to guard and keep us from temptations or to help us overcome and win the victory over them. Therefore, He wants us to pray to Him for help in our battle against temptation. We need this help because by ourselves we are certainly no match for these enemies.

1 Corinthians 10:12,13

As Luther says, God surely tempts no one to sin. However, God does allow us on occasion to endure hardships of various kinds. He does this for our benefit, to strengthen our faith, to bring us closer to him. The devil tempts us to lead us away from God, but God tests us in order to bring us closer to him. It's like tempered steel, which is hardened by reheating it and cooling it in oil. So God seeks to strengthen our faith by the various troubles we endure in this life.

1 Peter 1:6,7

## BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

### EVIL

#### The Work of Satan

The result of sin

The origin of pain

- suffering
- sickness
- natural disasters
- hurtful actions
- false teaching
- spiritual danger

#### God

Keeps it from us

Permits it to come but

- uses it for our good
- uses it to discipline us
- uses it to lead us to repentance
- helps us bear it

Delivers us from it completely in heaven

### Seventh Petition

**“Bring us safely through the many hardships of life to our heavenly home!”**

### But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

In conclusion, we pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every evil that threatens body and soul, property and reputation, and finally when our last hour comes, grant us a blessed end and graciously take us from this world of sorrow to himself in heaven.

Here we ask God to deliver us from the troubles and suffering (the evils) that are so much a part of this world. Some people argue that there cannot be a God because there is so much suffering in the world. When a seven-year-old dies in a fire, for example, some people lose their faith in God. However, God is not the cause of suffering in the world, even though he sends it for our good. God in his mercy sent his Son to deliver us from the guilt of our sin and also from the consequences of sin (evil and suffering).

God rescues us from evil in the following ways:

1. He often keeps evil from us entirely. (Examples: days on which we are not sick or have no car accidents)
2. He uses the troubles in our lives to serve for our good. There is a saying that God sometimes puts us on our back in order that we might look up.
3. When he permits evil to come into our lives, he gives us the strength to be able to bear it.

We read in the Scriptures that the devil is like a roaring lion, prowling around, looking for someone to devour. We read of people who were possessed by demons. We read of Job, who was caused great hardship by the devil. Thus we might be led to wonder how much power the devil has over us and over the world. We need to remember that the devil cannot move one inch beyond the boundaries set by God. In the case of Job, the devil had to seek God's permission in each instance before he caused Job any suffering. God's power is much greater, and we can count on God's promise to use his power to keep us safe.

## DOXOLOGY

We are confident that  
our prayers are

ACCEPTABLE  
to the  
Father  
because

- Jesus commanded us to pray
- We are praying for his kingdom and to his glory

HEARD and ANSWERED  
by the  
Father  
because

- He promised to hear our prayers
- We pray knowing he rules over all and has the power to answer our prayers

**Amen.**  
Yes, it shall be so.

**"We are sure you will hear and answer our prayers!"**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

What does this mean?

We can be sure that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven and are heard by him, for He himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Therefore, we say, "Amen. Yes, it shall be so."

How do we know that our prayer is acceptable to God? How do we know that he hears it? In the Doxology of the Lord's Prayer, we express the certainty that God hears our petitions by using the word amen, which means, "Yes, it shall be so."

We know that our petitions are acceptable to God because Jesus taught us to pray in the words of this prayer. In the Lord's Prayer, we are praying for his kingdom and glory.

We know that our petitions are heard by God because he has given us the gracious promise that he will hear us. We also know that God has the power to answer our prayers because he is almighty. Nothing is impossible for God.

God promises to hear our prayers. However, he does not promise that he will always give us exactly what we ask for or give it to us precisely when we ask for it. If that were so, wouldn't a lot more of us be millionaires? In fact, it's good for us that God doesn't always give us what we ask for, because we often ask for things not realizing that they really are harmful. God in his wisdom and love listens to our prayers and determines how to answer them in accordance with his good purpose for us. We need to remember that all God's dealings with us are based on perfect love. He will always do what is best for us.

If you had a three-year-old son, and he asked for a power saw, you would say no, wouldn't you? I hope so. If you gave him what he asked for, he might seriously injure himself. At the very least, he would do serious damage to your house. God answers our prayers in a similar but much higher way. The apostle Paul once asked God to take away his "thorn in the flesh"—some illness or ailment that was bothering him. God's answer was this:

God had a reason for Paul to keep on bearing whatever illness he had.

Often God says yes to our prayers. Sometimes he says no. He might even say later, although we might not realize it at the time. Whatever his answer is, it's always the right answer.