

THE OUR FATHER: AN EXPANDED VERSION AS AID IN PRAYER

by Rick McKinney, December 2005

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN

Our Father, you who dwell in unapproachable light and have created all the stars and galaxies, all life and all creatures, all spirits and all persons, have, out of love, deemed to send your Son into our world as a sacrificial offering to deliver us from sin and enable us to be called your children, endowed with awesome dignity, identity and eternal calling.

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

Therefore, in view of your mercy, your grace and your great love we cry holy, holy is your name. May you be blessed, may you be adored, may you be praised, may you be magnified, may you be lifted up above all for you are holy, you are love, you are wise, you are strength, you are wondrous, you are great, you are life, you are peace, you are joy.

THY KINGDOM COME

Gracious Father, may your kingdom of love and truth come into our world, our culture, our families, our children, our youth, our marriages, our mothers, our fathers, our aged, our singles, our men, our women, our bishops, our clergy, our vocations, our missionaries, our churches, our communities, our country, our government, our leaders, our soldiers, our imprisoned, our poor, our sick, our troubled, our disabled, our dying, our departed, our sorrowing, our unemployed, our work, our recreation, our prayers, our finances, our health, our relationships, our whole lives.

THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS HEAVEN

May your will be done in all our thoughts, all our words and all our deeds. We offer unto thee all that we are and all that we have, things noble, things ignoble and things mundane. Into your hands we surrender and entrust all our earthly desires, comforts, hurts, relationships, finances and possessions. In trust we unite these offerings to your Son's offering that they may become like the things in heaven where there is neither rust, nor decay nor corruption. Maranatha, come Lord Jesus into our world and into our hearts.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Father, give us what we need for the day's journey, the bread of communion with you and living water to drink. We ask for and trust that you will provide for our physical needs, our emotional needs, our social needs, and our spiritual needs. May your provision be enough that we might share it with others in need and may we find serenity to accept the things in life we can not change, the courage to change the things we are called to change, and the wisdom to know the difference.

AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESSPASSES

Father forgive us our sins – in our thoughts, in our words, in our actions, or in our attitudes or in how we may have failed to appreciate, failed to act, failed to speak, failed to reconsider or failed to trust and to pray. Forgive us when we have failed to honor you and your name, or failed to honor our parents and those in authority, or failed to honor our neighbor's good name, our neighbor's things, and our neighbor's personhood. Forgive especially any deadly sin we may have given reign in our lives – be it envy or lust, gluttony or greed, anger or laziness, and pride.

AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESSPASS AGAINST US

Father, as we accept your forgiveness we freely choose to forgive those who have hurt us in any way trusting that you will remove any bitter feelings we have toward them and to heal any emotional or spiritual damage they may have done. We pray for your good will in their lives and trust in your transforming will for our own.

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

Father, we acknowledge our frailty and ask that you lead us far away from the temptations that we so easily fall into. Teach us to make specific plans to avoid those temptations and we ask that you provide an interruption during those moments when we are about to fall. We place our frailties at the feet of your Son's cross and the tomb of his resurrection.

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Father we pray that you deliver us from that enemy who plots our harm and our separation from you. We know also that this fallen world is subject to disease, disorder, death, and destruction, but through it all we pray that we may find our dwelling in you and you in us.

AMEN

Amen Lord Jesus. May your kingdom of love and truth come, achieved by your redemptive power for your divine glory.