



*Living the Lord's Prayer:
The Way of the Disciple*
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Putting the “Our Father” into Practice

“Our Father, who art in heaven . . .”

The prayer is familiar, so much so that we can recite it without thinking. We’ve had it explained to us many times, and we think we understand its meaning. But is there more to the simple, well-known words? Father Albert (pronounced *Al-bear*) Haase draws from the writings of Francis of Assisi, Martin Luther and Thérèse of Lisieux, as well as his own experiences as a priest and missionary, to explore a deeper understanding of this teaching of Jesus. He examines each line, explaining its importance and how it can shape and grow us spiritually.

Our Father “*The first word of the Lord’s Prayer reminds us of our relationship with others and with the wider family of creation.*” **who art in heaven** “*Language is incapable of accurately describing the transcendent God. The God who lives in heaven has taken on human flesh, thus making holy all human flesh.*” **hallowed be thy name** “*Praying the name of Jesus has the power to open us to the experience of unceasing prayer.*” **Thy kingdom come** “*The kingdom can come in the slightest of circumstances. All it takes is an awareness of God’s love for us, the love of others in a manner appropriate to our lifestyle, surrender to the present and living joyfully and peacefully.*” **thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven** “*Doing the will of God is allowing our baptismal commitment to influence every decision.*” **Give us this day our daily bread** “*To pray for daily bread is to follow the way of spiritual childhood. It is also to commit to becoming the bread of life for the hungry of the world.*” **and forgive us our trespasses** “*Praying for forgiveness is a vivid reminder that God frees us from debilitating guilt and forgets our past. No sin is written with indelible ink.*” **as we forgive those who trespass against us** “*God’s forgiveness of our sins impels us to forgive others with mercy and compassion. A process of inner healing can sometimes help facilitate our offer of forgiveness.*” **And lead us not into temptation** “*We pray against temptation and commit to resisting Satan’s eight thoughts, which attack the body, mind and soul.*” **but deliver us from evil** “*Spiritual darkness purifies us from the ego and can help transform us into little Christs. As a cross, it challenges us to surrender to God with trust.*”

Living the Lord’s Prayer looks at these verses with fresh eyes and new insights from both the past and the present. Haase’s commentary and reflection will help readers to understand why it has often been referred to as “an abridgement of the entire Gospel.” Not only will studying it change the way we think, it will change the way we live.