

the follower's prayer

Heavenly Father...

Father. . . Abba. . . Daddy. I take comfort in knowing you are my Father, a Father who is intimately concerned and connected to his children—to me, to my closest friends, to my students. Heavenly Father, I look at the world from such a limited vantage point. But your vantage point is heaven, a place of complete knowledge and infinite power. A place where nothing escapes your scope, your attention, your reach—yesterday, tomorrow, and today.

Hallowed be your name. . .

I praise your name—the I AM. It's sacred, holy, unique, and glorious. May my thoughts and words reflect your name, your character, your purposes, and your person so that people see you clearly in my life and in my community—the church. When I think of you, I want to pause in wonder.

Your kingdom come. . .

May it come today and may I believe that it is coming more today than yesterday. Jesus, you said, "The kingdom of God is near." I believe that, because you, the King, came near. Draw near to me in my life today. Change me as you've promised to do. As I gather with other believers, help us to make it a tangible expression of your body. And may we, your body, bring hope to the hurting and the needy—to the desperate places on earth where the poor, the broken, the hurting, and the powerless live. Bring your kingdom to the students I so desperately love—to their homes, schools, workplaces, and hangouts. Bring it to their single parents. Bring it to our neighborhoods.

Your will be done...

Bend my will toward yours. Plant in me a hunger to know your will and your timing. I trust you to do your work in my life, my world, and the world that you so passionately love. May we not see your world as a lost cause, but seek to bring heaven back to earth through the assurance of redemption and the hope of the Cross.

Please provide. . .

This prayer is my declaration of dependence. I need you today, tomorrow, and every day for the things that seem impossible—and even for the things I feel I have under control. I want to discover your continual provision. I want to live in the truth that in you, Jesus, all things are held together. I may never measure up to the standards and expectations of church members, so-called friends, and co-workers. But you sustain me.

Forgive and make me forgiving. . .

Heavenly Father, forgive me for my sin. I hate that word—"sin." I would rather call it a mistake or lack of judgment. But it's sin—rebellion, treason, and hatred toward you. Have mercy on me, based on your righteousness, Jesus. Thank you for speaking in my defense (1 John 2:1). And as I experience your mercy and grace, may I pass the same on to others who've wronged me.

Lead me, deliver me. . .

. . . From the things that tempt me—money, sex, power, acceptance, approval, and success. Keep me from spiritualizing my life rather than dealing with the realities of life and the pitfalls that await me apart from your leading. May my "quiet times" be moments when I cling to you, declaring that I need to be led, lest I perish.

Ultimately, I have hope, for. . .

Yours is the kingdom

Yours is the power

Yours is the glory

Forever and ever

I never want to take the prayer you gave me, Jesus—the Follower's Prayer—lightly.

Amen. So be it. May it be true. Right on.' ■

JESUS-STYLE YOUTH MINISTRY