



THE LORD'S PRAYER

(ANNOTATED)

By Sally Klein O'Connor

Our Father...

Abba, Daddy, my Shelter, my Rock and my Refuge,
my Sanctuary, my All in All.

You who are my Maker and my Friend.

Wrapped in splendor and light, Awesome Majesty, Entirely holy!

You bend down to touch me—from Your glory to my clay—
and I am bowed before You.

That You, Who are without spot or blemish,
should take delight in me is beyond my understanding.

You, who birthed me in water and blood,
and hear the sighs and screams of my soul in the dark of night.
You have claimed me out of the muck and mire of my existence

and called me "Daughter."

I belong to You.

You planned for me before I ever drew breath,

and all Your plans for me are good.

Though the world forsake me.

You have claimed me as Your own and will never leave me.

O Daddy please hear me!

In heaven,

Place of God's ever-expanding glory, ever-increasing light

extending outward from the Person of God

in perfect union with Himself—and with others.

Holy! Radiant! Glorious! Life eternal,

consuming mortality, burning up the unholy.

The Holy Place where sin and death cannot enter

—ever—

and Joy unspeakable reigns without end.

Where the air itself is laden with continuous songs

of adoration and praise.

And Life unhindered, unbound, streams from The Holy One

to all who worship Him.

Those who dwell therein are awash
in the sea of His unending presence and love.

***Hallowed be
Your Name,***

You who taught the wind to whisper,
the stars to sing,
the sun to shine,
exalted,
adored,
blessed,
praised,
lauded be You,
who are above all.

You who spoke light from darkness
and created worlds with a word,
only You are worthy of praise,
Great and Mighty One.

Far beyond the reach of the words and wisdom of men,
You speak and nations crumble.
Who of us can stand before You
and not be smitten in body and soul?

You are the All Consuming Fire,
yet more tender than a mother's love
for her infant babe.
In Your whisper there is healing and restoration.
You to whom the angels bow,
all creation will one day bend its knee
in awe and wonder.

Your kingdom come,

Let peace pour like a river through Jerusalem
to all nations,
that walls between brothers will come down,
all in a tumble.

Let Love overtake hatred,
and the sweet power of Your kindness
turn the hearts of many
from stone to flesh.

Let Your goodness be declared to all nations!
Let the whole earth rejoice
for You have reconciled us to Yourself
through Your Son!

You have broken down the barriers

between our sinful clay

and Your pure and holy glory

through the blood of the Lamb.

You bent down from heaven

to draw the heart of man

back to Yourself.

Let this great good news go out

into all the world,

that those who are broken in heart and spirit

can be made whole,

for whom the Son sets free

is free indeed!

No chain can keep captive those already ransomed.

Darkness cannot hold us prisoner anymore.

You have raised us from the grave,

from the ashes of despair

and seated us alongside Your Son

in glory and gladness.

We are free!

Free!

***Your will be done
on earth as it is
in heaven.***

All that is truly good—
the only good that actually exists in and of itself—

is in You,

and is pure and absolute.

So let it be done in this darkness and earth
as it is already declared and done in the Light.

Let Your mercy triumph over justice
and fall upon this dry, parched planet

like a warm rain,

soaking our souls

so that it squeezes through our skin

and wets everyone we meet.

Let the blind see,

the lame walk,

the deaf hear,

and the mute speak.

Let the naked be covered

and the poor fed.

Let the oppressed go free!

Etch Your compassion in our still cold

and indifferent hearts,

and let each of us have compassion for one another.

Let us love each other

as You love us!

***Give us today
our daily bread.***

Hope in the face of a world despairing.

Peace—beyond the cessation of violence,

in spite of circumstances that cannot be resolved—

deeper than merely ending the noise

within and without.

Peace that comes when I hear You walking

in the still of my soul,

holding my heart together,

speaking in the silence.

Love in a world that is loveless,

that rarely shows kindness.

In the face of fear, hatred, violence, and despair,

Lord give me the capacity to love

as You love.

Faith that holds on and never gives up,

believing Your goodness
when almost every circumstance in life
would seem to testify otherwise.

Let my lips and life declare,

You are good!

Forgive us...

Deliver us, Lord!

Bring us out from the heavy bondage of our sins.

Cleanse us!

Cover us in the folds of Your mercy

and wrap us in Your robes of righteousness.

There is nothing in me deserving Your kindness.

Naked in my uncleanness,

I stand entirely permeated

by the very nature of sin.

Exorcize me!

Break the bondage generations old

and destroy the chain forever,

that not one link remains united to another.

Sever—forever—any and all connection

to my mind and heart!

Release us from the hard shell of our shame.

Wash away the stain of our sin
and the reek of our uncleanness.

You who see through us,
know too well we cannot save anyone,
especially ourselves.

Expose our delusions and illusions.

Align our hearts to You who are Truth.

Set us free!

***Our debts
(trespasses/sins),***

Darker than the underbelly of a garden,
and as ancient as Eden,
lies that twist and writhe in my soul
like a serpent.

Some that originate with me,
and others breathed, whispered,
taught me by those before me.

Weeds in the garden of my soul—
unchecked, untended—

their roots will choke off every good fruit that grows,
until the soil of my heart lies still and barren,
cold like stone,
ruled by despair.
DELIVER ME, O GOD!

***As we also have
forgiven our debtors.***

I bow down and offer back
what You have given at such great cost,
freely to me.
Who am I to withhold the kindness
You have shown me?
Am I pure?
Am I without sin?
Can I cast the first stone?
Or am I made of the same dust and earth
as the one who wounded me?
I press my face to Your feet
and worship You who are the Lover
of my soul!

And these are my only gifts to give—
the very same mercy and grace
You have extended to me
I extend to all others,
as You enable me by Your Spirit.
This then is my sacrifice of praise,
the evidence of my adoration!
As I release those whom I have judged,
I kiss your hand and wash Your feet,
and pray,
let Your love govern my heart
all the days of my life!

***And lead us not
into temptation,***

Drinking to drown and eating to subdue
the hunger in our souls.
Returning one unkindness with another,
no matter how justified,
we begin walking a road
of bitterness and distrust.
Tasting vengeance,

looking to lust,
speaking lies,
hating what the Lord commands we love—
our God,
ourselves,
and each other—
keep me from these invitations
to walk away from all that is good
and holy.
Lead us out from our tired orbits
of earth and sin
into the heaven-born radiance
of Christ in us,
the hope of glory.

***But deliver us from
the evil one.***

Author of Lies,
always seeking to kill, steal, and destroy
all that is good,
that comes from the only

True and Living God.

Loveless One,

whispering into our weaknesses,

igniting our darker longings with a hellish flame,

causing my soul to crave

what it should not have.

Only You, my God,

can save me

from those darker undulations within!

Only You can rescue me

from the evil that would consume me.

I bow down my soul and life

to my Maker and Lord,

recognizing Your absolute power

and sovereignty over all things—

including my life!

For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory

Forever

Amen



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