

Thought for the Day 9th November - John Thew

“Lord, teach us to pray” – Luke 11.1

A friend recently sent me this *Lord's Prayer Check List*.

Jesus did not just give his friends a set of acceptable words for talking with the Creator of the Universe. He taught them the essence of relating to that same God who is the promise-maker and promise-keeper. The God who invites us to turn and be part of his own family.

The *Check List* is all couched in the negative. Never mind. See how you go at translating it into the positive.

Here we go. Phrase by phrase, the *Lord's Prayer*.

OUR I cannot say this unless I am one with a group of God's other children.

FATHER I cannot say this if I have not received Jesus, His Son.

I cannot say IN HEAVEN if I am so occupied with earth that I am laying up no treasure there.

I cannot say HALLOWED BE THY NAME if I am not seeking to honour His name in my life.

I cannot say THY KINGDOM COME if I am not doing all in my power to hasten its coming.

I cannot say THY WILL BE DONE if I am questioning, resentful or disobedient to His Will for me.

I cannot say ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN if I am not prepared to devote my life to His service here.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD I cannot say this if I am ungrateful for past provision, or greedy for more than we need.

FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THEM THAT TRESPASS AGAINST US

I cannot say this if I harbour a grudge against anyone.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION I cannot ask this if I deliberately place myself or remain in a position where I am likely to be tempted.

DELIVER US FROM EVIL I cannot ask this if I am not prepared to fight evil with all the spiritual weapons available.

I cannot say THINE IS THE KINGDOM if I do not give to the King the disciplined obedience of a loyal subject.

I cannot say THINE IS THE POWER if I fear what men may do, say or think.

I cannot say THINE IS THE GLORY if I am seeking glory for myself.

I cannot say FOREVER AND EVER if my horizon is bounded by the things of time.

I cannot say AMEN if I do not truly mean every word of the prayer ... and if I am not prepared for this prayer to honestly cost me everything.

Lord, teach us, not just what it means to pray, but teach us to pray.