

# Concord Ministry

Post Office Box 28205  
Baltimore MD 21234

[ConcordDove@mac.com](mailto:ConcordDove@mac.com)

443-813-8077

<http://thesignofconcord.com>

If you want Peace, seek Justice for all

Walk in Righteousness, depending on the Love and Spirit of Christ, as His servant forever

Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

June 26, 2024

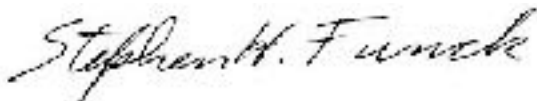
Dear Redeemed of the Lord,

Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. What does it mean to "Hallow" God's name? What does "Hallow" mean? How can we do that? Jesus is good at saying stuff. He is not so good at explaining. The whole Bible is like that, full of stories, prophecies, not so full of explanations. Either God forgot, didn't realize or God intended to say what He said. I believe God is competent and all powerful. The Bible says exactly what He intended. It is His eternal Word. "Your kingdom come. Your will be done" What "Kingdom"? Where, when is it? Do you see it where you are? His will is easier to understand. Without paying close attention it is possible to get a general idea of what God wants, His will, by reading the Bible.

He says we are to pray to Him, ask His guidance and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Many do and many have been blessed by His presence in their lives. That is not all. Some have done that and gone very wrong. God has given more. He has lead His people for thousands of years, guiding and directing them in His ways, His truth. Pentecost was the "Birthday of the Church" when the Holy Spirit filled all His followers. God is powerful. He accomplishes all He wants to do. So the history of the Church is the record of His accomplishments.

Sadly all people are sinners. Even Christians do and think wrong. Satan continually tries to lead all into error. The history of the church is the record of the conflict between God and satan, just as our personal lives show the same conflict. The mistakes, sin, errors actually help reveal the truth. Most of the time, in most places the Church has been mostly on the same path and teaching. Error, satan, shout about all the faults in the Church. Just like satan shouts in your ear about all your faults and makes the right things you have done and thought appear wrong. All Christian Churches are sort of correct. Some are better than others. Some that are big on being correct in teaching give in to temptation of pride and lovelessness to the erring. So they are just as wrong, maybe worse than those who are not as correct.

In the name of Jesus, called by God to proclaim His Love for all,



If you prefer a paper copy mailed, let me know.

If you would like to add someone to this mailing list, send me their name and address.

Pastor Stephen H. Funck

"King of Kings" ISBN: 9798373867931 Amazon print or kindle

The background of the life of Christ, footnoted with links to sources

He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves,  
but for him who died and was raised for them. 2 Corinthians. 5:15"



Published on World Challenge <https://worldchallenge.org>

### Building on the Rock

By David Wilkerson

Beloved, you are not building on the rock if you need a preacher to thunder at you to obey God, if you need a set of do's and don'ts. You don't need a book of rules; you need a passionate love for Jesus. You need to be so in love with him that you know what pleases him.

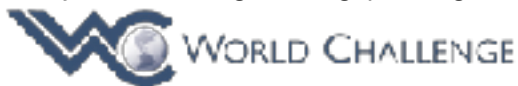
"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matthew 7:24, NKJV).

The more you love him, the easier it is to serve and obey him. You will no longer care what the world says about you. You can answer, "I've heard from my Father, and I'm doing the good pleasure of his heart." When your heart is enraptured with Jesus, such obedience naturally flows out. You won't have to constantly go before the Lord, crying, "Oh, God, break the power of the devil over me!" All those chains will begin to fall off as you get to know his heart.

Are you in love with Jesus? If your answer is yes, I have several questions for you. How can you go throughout the week without spending time in his Word? How can you not yearn to get alone with him in prayer? How can you not have a time of love-talk with your Father, praising and worshiping him, seeking to learn what pleases him? These are foundational to obedience.

Jesus tells us, "He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him" (John 14:21). What an incredible promise, all based on an obedience of love.

Search the gospels and get to know Jesus's words as recorded in Matthew 5-7, beginning with the Sermon on the Mount. As you learn his words, do them! God's commandments are not grievous; they are not a heavy burden laid upon us. On the contrary, obeying them becomes easier the more you grow to love him. That is building your house upon the rock. When the storm comes, you can stand unafraid. Nothing will move you because you are walking in loving, pleasing obedience to the Father.



Published on World Challenge <https://worldchallenge.org>

### God and His Ways Are Just

By Gary Wilkerson

A. W. Tozer said that every problem we face is actually a theological problem. Strange, isn't it? You would think it would be a psychological, emotional or physical problem. I agree with Tozer, though; the core of most of our problems is theological.

Theology dictates not only our behavior, but it defines the core values of our lives. Our behavior, actions, will and emotions spring from that. If we don't understand that God is a God of grace, then we're going to live under condemnation, guilt and shame. If we don't understand that he's a God of holiness, we may end up living a compromised life because we feel like he isn't worried about us and that our lives are no big deal. If we don't believe God is fair and just, we're without direction like feathers blowing in the wind.

Justice is a subjective word to humans but not to God. What God does is just, but it also comes out of the justness of his very character. It's the arbiter, the red line, the final word of fairness in all of the universe. He is just; therefore, he is impartial. He is non-discriminatory. He doesn't see life as we humans do because, as the source of all things, he is outside of time and space.

There is no outside rule that God must look and adhere to. Rather, he is the rule. In other words, when God does a thing, it becomes just because he defines—he is—justice. Whatever he wills to do becomes a just action in itself. This is probably the most common and serious problem people have with God. We measure him by our human perception of him rather than understanding that he is the yardstick that everything and everyone is measured by.

Even at the height of our own intellect or experience, we "see in a mirror dimly" (1 Corinthians 13:12, ESV). There is hope, though, beyond our feeble powers of understanding! Letting go of ourselves and spending time with God are the superpowers that deliver peace.

The closer we are to God, the more we comprehend him and the fact that he is completely trustworthy. Rather than raging against him because he doesn't meet our expectations, we lean into and rest in him. He is wholly just and fair and good, and his love for us is without limit.

## The Lord's Prayer - Martin Luther - Small Catechism

Our Father who art in heaven. What does this mean?

Answer. God would thereby with this little introduction tenderly urge us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that we may ask Him confidently with all assurance, as dear children ask their dear father.

The First Petition. Hallowed be Thy name. What does this mean?

Answer. God's name is indeed holy in itself; but we pray in this petition that it may become holy among us also. How is this done? Answer. When the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God also lead holy lives in accordance with it. To this end help us, dear Father in heaven. But he that teaches and lives otherwise than God's Word teaches profanes the name of God among us. From this preserve us, Heavenly Father.

The Second Petition. Thy kingdom come. What does this mean?

Answer. The kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer, of itself; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also. How is this done?

Answer. When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead a godly life here in time and yonder in eternity.

The Third Petition. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. What does this mean?

Answer. The good and gracious will of God is done indeed without our prayer; but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also. How is this done?

Answer. When God breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will which would not let us hallow the name of God nor let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith unto our end. This is His gracious and good will.

Praying is important. It is an attempt to connect with God. We are foolish people. For many who are distant from God or who grew up with few or no examples of religious practice, prayer seems dumb. For them going into a worship service seems bizarre. One major reason for that is they have nothing familiar to compare. It is the same situation we would face if we walked into a PhD level mathematics class. In the same way if you were raised in one kind of worship tradition and went to one from another style, it can be hard to get anything out of it. Shouting, tent revival is nothing like proper liturgical form. All religions have prayers, blessings for meals. If you are distant from God, begin by recognizing that the food you eat is His gift, His creation. You will begin to understand your whole life is in His hands. You will begin to see spiritually, the first steps in being transformed.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.

Bless us O Lord, and these thy gifts, Which we are about to receive, from thy bounty, Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

God is great, God is good. Let us thank him for our food. By his hands we all are fed. Thank you Lord for our daily bread. Amen.

Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the Universe, for you give us food to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, we thank You for the food before us, the friends beside us, the love between us; And Your Presence among us.

Come Lord Jesus be our Guest, Our morning joy, our evening rest, And with our daily bread impart, Your love and peace to every heart. Amen. Amen.

Jesus knew and prayed the following prayers, (taken from a longer prayer).

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the earth.

Praised are You, Lord of the Universe, who has created the fruit of the vine.

*The Problem of Pain*. Copyright © 1940, C. S. Lewis Pte. Ltd.

The problem of reconciling human suffering with the existence of a God who loves, is only insoluble so long as we attach a trivial meaning to the word 'love', and look on things as if man were the centre of them. Man is not the centre. God does not exist for the sake of man. Man does not exist for his own sake. 'Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created' [Revelation 4:11]. We were made not primarily that we may love God (though we were made for that too) but that God may love us, that we may become objects in which the Divine love may rest 'well pleased'. To ask that God's love should be content with us as we are is to ask that God should cease to be God: because He is what He is, His love must, in the nature of things, be impeded and repelled, by certain stains in our present character, and because He already loves us He must labour to make us lovable. We cannot even wish, in our better moments, that He could reconcile Himself to our present impurities—no more than the beggar maid could wish that King Cophetua should be content with her rags and dirt, or a dog, once having learned to love man, could wish that man were such as to tolerate in his house the snapping, verminous, polluting creature of the wild pack. What we would here and now call our 'happiness' is not the end God chiefly has in view: but when we are such as He can love without impediment, we shall in fact be happy.

#### God's Existence

Believing that God really existed and that He is a good God, the Christian student wanted to prove this to his professor. So he asked him another series of questions and here's how their conversation went:

Student: "Does cold exist?"

Professor: "Of course, have you never been cold?"

Student: "Cold does not exist. Cold is the absence of heat. You measure temperature by how much heat is in the atmosphere. Does darkness exist?"

Professor: "Yes"

Student: "Sir, you're wrong. Darkness does not exist. Darkness is the lack of light. You measure how dark it is by the lack of light. Does evil exist?"

Professor: "Of course, it exists. Haven't you seen the crime all around the world?"

Student: "Sir, the evil does not exist, at least not unto itself. Evil is the absence of God, evil is what happens when men don't have God's love in their hearts. Evil is like cold when there is no heat and darkness when there's no light."

This story is told in many versions. It is ancient. God created all out of nothing. God is all there is His name Yahweh in Hebrew Exodus 3:14 is translated "I AM" but is closer to the English word "Being" " Colossians 1:16f For in Him (Christ) all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."