

**115 Q. NO ONE IN THIS LIFE
CAN OBEY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS PERFECTLY:
WHY THEN DOES GOD WANT THEM
PREACHED SO POINTEDLY?**

A.

First, so that the longer we live
the more we may come to know our sinfulness
and the more eagerly look to Christ
for forgiveness of sins and righteousness.¹

Second, so that,
while praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit,
we may never stop striving
to be renewed more and more after God's image,
until after this life we reach our goal:
perfection.²

¹ Ps. 32:5; Rom. 3:19-26; 7:7, 24-25; 1 John 1:9

² 1 Cor. 9:24; Phil. 3:12-14; 1 John 3:1-3

PRAYER

LORD'S DAY 45

116 Q. WHY DO CHRISTIANS NEED TO PRAY?

A.

Because prayer is the most important part
of the thankfulness God requires of us.¹
And also because God gives his grace and Holy Spirit
only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly,
asking God for these gifts
and thanking him for them.²

¹ Ps. 50:14-15; 116:12-19; 1 Thess. 5:16-18

² Matt. 7:7-8; Luke 11:9-13

**117 Q. HOW DOES GOD WANT US TO PRAY
SO THAT HE WILL LISTEN TO US?**

A.

First, we must pray from the heart
to no other than the one true God,
who has revealed himself in his Word,
asking for everything he has commanded us to ask for.¹

Second, we must acknowledge our need and misery,
hiding nothing,
and humble ourselves in his majestic presence.²

Third, we must rest on this unshakable foundation:
even though we do not deserve it,
God will surely listen to our prayer
because of Christ our Lord.
That is what he promised us in his Word.³

¹ Ps. 145:18-20; John 4:22-24; Rom. 8:26-27; James 1:5; 1 John 5:14-15

² 2 Chron. 7:14; Ps. 2:11; 34:18; 62:8; Isa. 66:2; Rev. 4

³ Dan. 9:17-19; Matt. 7:8; John 14:13-14; 16:23; Rom. 10:13; James 1:6

118 Q. WHAT DID GOD COMMAND US TO PRAY FOR?

A.

Everything we need, spiritually and physically,¹
as embraced in the prayer
Christ our Lord himself taught us.

¹ James 1:17; Matt. 6:33

119 Q. WHAT IS THIS PRAYER?

A.

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts,
As we also have forgiven our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.^{1*}

¹ Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

*Earlier and better manuscripts of Matt. 6 omit the words, "For thine is . . . Amen."

LORD'S DAY 46

**120 Q. WHY DID CHRIST COMMAND US
TO CALL GOD "OUR FATHER"?**

A.

At the very beginning of our prayer
Christ wants to kindle in us
what is basic to our prayer—
the childlike awe and trust
that God through Christ has become
our Father.

Our fathers do not refuse us
the things of this life;
God our Father will even less refuse to give us
what we ask in faith.¹

¹ Matt. 7:9-11; Luke 11:11-13

**121 Q. WHY THE WORDS,
"WHO ART IN HEAVEN"?**

A.

These words teach us
not to think of God's heavenly majesty
as something earthly,¹
and to expect everything
for body and soul
from his almighty power.²

¹ Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 17:24-25

² Matt. 6:25-34; Rom. 8:31-32