



A shining prayer of unity

For the lesson titled "God the Only Cause and Creator" from May 30–June 5, 2011

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Like a golden thread in a beautiful tapestry, the Lord's Prayer is woven through this week's Bible Lesson, titled "God the Only Cause and Creator." The prayer's eight lines of inspiration, coupled with Mary Baker Eddy's spiritual interpretation, are shown to bring healing comfort that "covers all human needs" ([*Science and Health*, p. 16](#), citation 4). The Lord's Prayer teaches that God alone is the Creator and Cause of all. Jesus prefaced the Lord's Prayer with the words "After this manner," making it clear that this was a model for prayer ([Matt. 6:9–13](#), Responsive Reading). It calls for a spirit of unity and fellowship. We are to pray for all the dear children of God. It's unselfed—using the terms "our" and "us," not "me" and "mine"—and it's universal in its affirmations and petitions.

The four affirmations include one Father-Mother as the Creator of all, the divine nature of God, the kingdom of God, and the all-encompassing divine will or cause. Then follow the petitions for bread, forgiveness, guidance, and deliverance, with a final summarizing affirmation. One might say that the Lord's Prayer illustrates the

coincidence of the divine and the human, the action of God embracing us as a tender Father-Mother starting right from the Golden Text, which invites us to acknowledge God as the origin of us all.

In Section III, we see that the Father-Mother, Mind, is not the creator of matter (see [*Science and Health*, p. 257](#), cit. 12). In Section IV, the nourishing and preserving aspect of Father-Mother is taken further (see [p. 530](#), cit. 17). And in Section V, the Father-Mother embraces all creation in a universal family (see [p. 469](#), cit. 23).

The fulfillment of God's will, pointing out the divine cause, is seen in Section III. In Job there is reference to the stars and constellations, along with the question "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?" ([Job 38:31](#), cit. 10). Pleiades is a star rising in the pleasantness and sweet joys of spring, even the efficacious grace that awakens newness of life for each of us. Orion, in contrast, appears in the winter. The "bands of Orion" may indicate that the cold, stormy conditions of winter restrict the hands of those who work the soil and bring a peaceful change from work. Pondering such questions enables us to see that from every view, the all-encompassing action of God's law causes His will to be universally done.

Daily bread and grace are connected in Section IV. Bread may be thought of as more than just a loaf, but all the nourishment needed to sustain us. Grace is defined by the electronic Bible resource e-Sword as "the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life, including gratitude." Indeed, the divine influence, that love of Love, feeds our heart and affections. We then graciously reflect the fullness of Love, which provides everything needed for our well-being "in every hour," for eternity (see [*Science and Health*](#), cits. 14–17).

An example of Love’s provision is found in Jesus’ feeding of the five thousand, after which there “remained twelve baskets full” ([Matt. 14:14–21](#), cit. 15). According to e-Sword, the original meaning of the word *remained* is “to cause to super-abound”—which fits this Lesson’s concern to show how God sustains all of His children and makes sure they “superabound” with goodness.

Section V focuses on Jesus’ parable of forgiveness (see [Matt. 18](#), cit. 16). It’s interesting to note the contrast between the king’s forgiveness of his servant’s debt of over two billion in today’s dollars, and that servant’s lack of forgiveness to a fellow servant of about \$1.60! One message from this is that because God forgives us immeasurably—even forever—we should be ready to emulate Him. God forgives because He forever sees us as His likeness. So when we forgive, we have an opportunity to give up and put aside everything in thought about our fellow men and women that doesn’t identify them as children of God.

In the segment from the Lord’s Prayer that opens the readings from *Science and Health* in Section VI, we find a petition for deliverance from evil. The Hebrew for *evil* can be rendered “to be unjust, to defraud,” which means to deprive of a just outcome by withholding what is true (see p. 17, cit. 24). God’s law of justice frees us from all evil, including sin, sickness, and death, which are not caused by God. So it is that the golden thread of the Lord’s Prayer weaves its way through this Bible Lesson with the luminous truth that God, good, alone is the forever Cause and Creator of all!

About the author

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