Dear Open Door Family,

Do you ever wonder about the motivation of prayer? How we are supposed to pray? How to keep prayer from becoming merely a list of demands or things we expect? I love prayer - and I long to continue to grow in my love for it as well as my ability to pray. I have always loved the Lord's Prayer and I have at times prayed it as my own prayer. But there are times that the wording makes me wonder exactly what it means. Let's look at it together today.

Matthew 6:9-13 *(NIV)"This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, [10] your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. [11] Give us today our daily bread. [12] Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. [13] And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'*

I was challenged by John Piper's commentary on the Lord's Prayer in his book *What Jesus Demands of the World*:

> "We pray for ourselves and for other followers of Jesus and for the world 1- that we would reverence and cherish the name of God above things. This is the first function of prayer - to pray that people would pursue the glory of God. 2- We pray that God's saving, purifying, Jesus-exalting rule would hold sway in our lives and would finally come in universal manifestation and extent. 3- We pray that we would do the will of God the way the angels do it in heaven - **namely without hesitation and full of zeal and thoroughness**. 4- We pray for the practical provision of the body and mind that make an earthly life of obedience possible. 5- We pray forgiveness for our daily failures to honor God as we ought. That is we ask God to apply to us each day the perfect redemption that Jesus obtained once for all when he died on the cross. 6- We pray that God would protect us from the evil one and form the temptations that would bring us to ruin and waken our witness for him." (pg. 111-112)

PRAYER: Lord, help me to seek Your will with a passion; may I obey without any wavering. Please Lord, help me to be more interested in Your honor and glory than in any personal needs that I may have. May that flow out of a burning desire to exalt you in everything.

Pastor Mark Kieft
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>