

**THE PROMISE OF JESUS**  
***A Study of Matthew 6:9***  
**#3 of 8 in the Series: “The Prayer of Jesus”**  
(A Preaching series by Dr. Stan Reeder)

The Lord’s Prayer is at the core of the Sermon on the Mount. It is important to understand this model prayer and know how to apply it in order to pray effectively and expect answers. This is the goal of our sermon series.

Today we are going to study the phrase in the Lord’s Prayer: “Hallowed be thy name.” I like the story of one little boy who knelt down to pray. He kept referring to God as Art. O, Art, please bless my mommy and daddy. . . . and so on all through his prayer. After his prayer his mother asked him why he kept praying to Art. “O, because the Lord’s Prayer says: ‘Our Father ART in heaven.’”

Another little boy thought God’s name was Harold. When he was asked why he called God Harold, he also quoted the Lord’s prayer: “Our Father who art in heaven, Harold be thy name.”

As adults we may not be much further ahead in understanding this phrase in the Prayer of Jesus: “Hallowed be thy name.”

I can tell you that I prayed that phrase hundreds of times before I really stopped to think about the meaning of the words. “Hallowed be thy name.” To begin with, “hallowed” is not a part of our culture’s vernacular. We need to start by . . .

### Understanding “hallowed”

The word “hallow” means “to sanctify, or to set apart; to praise.” The phrase could read: “May your name be set apart and praised.” When we pray this, we are submitting to God.

We are to honor the Name of God! The essence of God’s nature is on display in how we act, talk, and respond.

***Lev 22:32-33 - Do not profane my holy name. I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites. I am the LORD, who makes you holy and who brought you out of Egypt to be your God. I am the LORD."***

Next, let’s understand a little more about God’s name. What is God’s name?

God’s name:

**I AM WHO I AM (Exodus 3:14)**

To know someone’s name is to understand something about their character. (Ancient secret names of gods – But NOT our God – He revealed His Name to His people).

We are first introduced to God's name in Exodus 3:14 when Moses inquires for us. God proclaimed to Moses that his name is "I AM WHO I AM." The foundational meaning of Yahweh reminds us of God's promise that "HE IS" with us. He will be our God. He will not change. ***Because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13:5-6). He is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).***

E. Stanley Jones' favorite verse in the entire Bible was: ***Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe (Hebrews 12:28).***

Our God cannot be shaken. He is the great I AM. He will not change. He is the great Yahweh. "Hallowed be thy name." Hallelujah!! Praise your name – you are set apart from the changing tides of this world.

The Hebrew word from which we translate I AM WHO I AM is made up of 4 consonants or a ***tetragrammaton***: **YHWH**.

**I AM WHO I AM (Exodus 3:14) = YHWH**

We believe that the pronunciation of YHWH is Yahweh, although some still adhere to the pronunciation as "Jehovah". This name was considered by the people of Israel to be so sacred that it should not be written or spoken aloud, so they substituted another name to represent the name Yahweh: LORD.

**I AM WHO I AM (Exodus 3:14) = YHWH = LORD**

Every time you see the word LORD in small capitals in your Bible, that is actually just a substitute for God's name of I AM or Yahweh. God is referred to as LORD 6,551 times in the Old Testament.

The fact that the name – I AM or Yahweh was thought to be so sacred that it could not be pronounced makes it all the more amazing that Jesus applied the very name of God to himself.

**I AM WHO I AM (Exodus 3:14) = YHWH = LORD = Jesus (John 8:24; 58-59; 18:2-6)**

In applying the unspeakable name of I AM to himself, Jesus seemed to be committing total and complete blasphemy. Look at two passages in the Gospel of John where Jesus refers to himself as I AM; you will see that this caused quite a stir.

The first passage is found in John 8:24. You can only imagine how angry the Pharisees became when Jesus, teaching in their temple, said: <sup>8:23</sup>***You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. . .***<sup>24b</sup>***if you do not believe that I AM, you will indeed die in your sins.*** Well his hearers were seething inside. Jesus continued on by bantering back and forth with them.

Finally at the end of the chapter in verse 58 he says: <sup>58</sup>***“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I AM!” At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.***

You see, Jesus did not claim to be a good teacher, or just a good man, or a moral man. With sayings like these, He did not intend to leave these options open to us:

*I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.” That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.*

- C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, 52-53

One more bit of evidence that truly Jesus is God: turn to John 18. We pick up the story with Judas, the betrayer, leading a detachment of soldiers to arrest Jesus just before his crucifixion. Jesus asked in verse 4: ***“Whom seek ye?” They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus saith unto them, “I AM”*** [“he” is added by English translations in order to make proper grammatical sense, but in adding the “he” the translations take away from what Jesus was really saying . . . he was applying the name of God to himself and saying that name aloud . . . and his captors experienced the powerful name of God . . . ***as soon as he had said unto them, “I AM”, they went backward, and fell to the ground.***

We have here just a little picture of what will happen at the end of time. Those even hostile to Jesus will, by the power of God’s name, fall in worship at his feet.

***Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place  
And gave him the name that is above every name,  
That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
In heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord  
To the glory of God the Father.***

- ***Philippians 2:9-11***

Hallowed be thy name. Hallelujah. Praise Yahweh. Praise God. Praise Jesus.

When you come to this phrase “hallowed be thy name” you can pray with absolute confidence, knowing that he will work His steadfast, unchanging, faithful, goodness in your life. You have His name on it.

## I. HALLOWED BE THY NAME IN MY LIFE:

Think a little further on the name of God. Many people don't realize that God identified his nature by giving not only the "I AM" name but linking that name with other names that further describe his nature. He has a series of composite names.

### God's Composite names:

Hold on now, isn't this getting a little complicated?

It's like the pastor who was trying to explain the trinity to a Sunday School class of 3 year-olds. He had his flipchart with a triangle on it. "God" was written in the center of the triangle and then "Father", "Son", and "Holy Spirit" were written on each of the three points of the triangle. At the end of his lesson, after explaining the "three-in-one" he said: "But remember, dear children, that God is ONE." A little boy held up his hand and responded: "And I'm THREE!"

There are eight composite or 'middle' names that God gives us to further reveal His nature and special provisions for people. It is interesting to note that Jesus fulfilled every one of these composite names as well. I have provided the scripture references in your notes so that you can make a personal study of Jesus' fulfillment of the composite names of God.

*The divine names of God reveal the divine nature and care of God*

1. *Yahweh tsidkenu* (sid-kay'-noo): The Lord Is Our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

Jesus' fulfillment (John 10:9; 14:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

By faith in your great name, I accept the promise of your righteousness, your goodness in my life.

2. *Yahweh m'kaddesh* (ma-kah'-desh): The Lord Who Sanctifies (Leviticus 20:8).

Jesus' fulfillment (John 8:11-12; 14:6; 17:17; Romans 8:1-17).

By faith in your great name, I accept the promise of your purity and power over sin, today, in my life.

3. *Yahweh shalom* (sha-lom'): The Lord Is Peace (Judges 6:24).

Jesus' fulfillment (John 14:20, 27-28).

By faith in your great name, I accept the promise of your peace - even in the midst of the storms of this day - in my life.

4. *Yahweh shammah* (sham'-mah): The Lord Is There (Ezekiel 4:35).

Jesus' fulfillment (Matthew 28:20).

By faith in your great name, I accept the promise of your presence throughout this day in my life. Jesus linked the “I AM” with his promised presence: ***And surely, I AM with you always, to the very end of the age.***”

5. ***Yahweh jireh*** (yeer’a): The Lord Will Provide  
(Genesis 22:14).  
Jesus’ fulfillment (John 6:48-51).

By faith in your great name, I accept the promise of your provision today in my life. The notes should say chapter 6, not 5 of John, where Jesus said: ***I AM the bread of life***. In John 15:5: ***I am the vine, you are the branches***. You can count on the promise of the vine’s provision. The branches don’t worry and fret and wonder . . . is the vine going to provide for me today. No, there is a natural provision as the branches are connected with the vine.

6. ***Yahweh roph*** (ro’-phay): The Lord Heals  
(Exodus 15:26).  
Jesus’ fulfillment (John 11:25, 43-44).

By faith in your great name, I accept the promise of your healing today in my life. But pastor, not every believer is healed. Yes they are! Jesus promised: ***I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies (John 11:25)***. Yahweh roph is the ultimate healer and when he heals, he heals for all eternity. He gives a body that is impermeable, imperishable, immortal (1 Cor 15:51-53). In that final healing people will cry out: ***Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? . . . But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)***.

7. ***Yahweh rohi*** (ro’-ee): The Lord Is My Shepherd  
(Psalm 23:1).  
Jesus’ fulfillment (John 10:11).

By faith in your great name, I accept the promise of your guiding work in my life. May your hand, as the good shepherd, guide me today. Jesus said: ***I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep***. Listen, children of God: ***He who did not spare His own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things (Romans 8:32)***.

8. ***Yahweh nissi*** (nis’-see): The Lord Is My Banner - **Belonging to the Lord**.  
(Exodus 17:15).  
Jesus’ fulfillment (John 9:5; Mark 14:62).

By faith in your great name, I accept your leadership in my life today. Hallow your name in my life today, Oh Lord!

Not only can we pray that God’s nature be revealed in my life. . .that I would experience his goodness, purity and power, his presence, peace, provision, healing, guidance and leadership. We can also pray “hallowed be thy name THROUGH my life.

## II. HALLOWED BE THY NAME THROUGH MY LIFE:

We can take on the very essence of the divine nature so we begin to reveal Him.

A woman told this story ...

Trying to control my dry hair, I treated my scalp with olive oil before washing it. Worried that the oil might leave an odor, I washed my hair several times. That night when I went to bed, I leaned over to my husband and asked, "Do I smell like olive oil?"

"No," he said, sniffing me. "Do I smell like Popeye?"

Remember . . .

*The divine name of God reveals the divine nature of God*

Pray that God would hallow his name and nature through your life. Here is the exciting news:

*His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him . . . so that . . . you may participate in the divine nature.*

*- 2 Peter 1:3, 4*

Your life can be used by God to reveal Him to this world. In fact, that is exactly God's plan. Not only that you would experience the wonderful touch of God in your life but that you would be the wonderful touch of God to others today.

*"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

*- John 20:21b- 22*

When you receive the Spirit of Jesus, you become a partaker of the divine nature and receive the power to be a witness of what God is like to this world.

### APPLICATION:

*God's name is hallowed among us when both our doctrines and our living are Christian.*

*- Martin Luther*

Let me ask you these questions. Every day, as you live your life out before other students, friends, family members, co-workers, neighbors, . . .

Does your life . . .

Hallow or hinder God's name?

Praise or profane God's name?

Magnify or minify God's name?

Take the name of God in victory or in vain?

The secret of hallowing God's name, praising God's name, magnifying God's name, taking his name in victory is the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth.***

**- Acts 1:8**

By taking this seriously, we are brought into conflict with the standards of our culture. We are servants of the Living God – Yahweh – not of our culture and their worldly ideas.

Jesus is God. Jesus made all the provisions so that we could experience and make hallowed the name of God: he gave us His Spirit to fill the believer and. . . he taught us to practice secret prayer in faith, each day: “Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name in my life and through my life, this day.”