

C. Regarding the "Lord's Prayer" itself, we may note the following:

1. It is a representative prayer...not a form to simply be recited. The church early fell into this temptation and by the time of the Didache (early second century Christian literature) was in the practice of reciting it three times daily. We do not think this will hurt anyone but it is hardly the intent or function of the prayer.

2. It does summarize neatly the relationship of the believer with God, the Father. It notes the role he carries in our lives and also shows a bit of what we mean to him. In some ways it is a summary statement of the believer's spiritual existence.

3. Consequently we concentrate on four areas of meaning in the prayer:

- a. Our relationship to God.
- b. Commitment to His will.
- c. Yieldedness to his care.
- d. Dependence on his leading.

We all know, if we think about it for a few moments, that our lives would be empty without the joy of knowing the Lord but when we see it articulated in this prayer we have a fuller realization of how great that emptiness would be. Without him we would have neither direction nor provision, assurance nor intelligence. We would be lost in a total sense, utterly lame in the world about us.

II. The MESSAGES

A. Our Relationship with God

Matthew 6:9 et al

1. Introductory note:

The words "our Father" are perhaps among the most beautiful in the Bible. They relate