JM Jason Mayfield

SERMON OUTLINE FOR PASTORS

PRAYING THE TRINITY

Three Names of God to Call On When You Pray

> "Hallowed be thy name" is the cue to honor who God is before asking Him for anything: God the Father is exalted, God the Son is empathetic, and God the Holy Spirit is empowering.

MAIN TEXT
Matthew 6:9-13

SERIES
The Name, Week 1 of 3

FIRST PREACHED
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BY
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AT A GLANCE

THE MESSAGE

1. "Hallowed be thy name" is the cue in the Lord's Prayer to honor who God is before asking for anything. The series gives ten names of God, arranged to be remembered, and this week takes three through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. God the Father is exalted. He is El Shaddai, God Almighty, and El Elyon, God Most High, holy and above us. Grace lets you come boldly before the throne, but it serves you well to remember who you're talking to, so stop calling Him "the man upstairs" or "the big guy" and call Him the Lord.
3. God the Son is empathetic. He is a high priest who sympathizes with our weakness, Immanuel, God with us, holy but not disconnected. When the holiness of the Father confronts your actual condition, you have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
4. God the Holy Spirit is empowering. If you are born again He lives in you and gives power to overcome, to live right, to sense, see and speak, and to sit still, show up and stay away, because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.
5. How to pray it: confess your righteousness at "Our Father," then at "hallowed be thy name" honor God as the holy Father, the empathetic Son and the empowering Spirit. Power comes in prayer: sow a seed of prayer and you reap a harvest of power.



WATCH IT PREACHED

youtu.be/y8Rwe0Sh-fo



READ THE ARTICLE

jasonmayfield.com/messages/praying-the-trinity

PREACHING NOTES

Before You Preach

This message opens a three-week series on the "hallowed be thy name" line of the Lord's Prayer. Across the series the congregation receives ten names of God, chosen and arranged to be remembered and prayed without a book or a handout. This week covers three of them through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It is not a doctrine message on the Trinity, so say that up front. The Trinity is used here because it is good theology, good orthodoxy and, for this purpose, good for the memory. If your congregation needs the doctrine itself, teach it in its own message.

The series follows Our Father, which taught believers to confess their righteousness in Christ at the start of prayer. This message turns from who you are to who God is. The last movement is a live demonstration of prayer. Pray it out loud, in your own words, and let it be a little uncomfortable.

Introduction

Open by praying the Lord's Prayer together. The congregation prays the traditional wording.

> **MATTHEW 6:9-13 ESV**
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> [9] Pray then like this: "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 this day our daily bread, [12] and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. [13] And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

The last series, Our Father, was about grace: your status of righteousness in the finished work of Jesus Christ at Calvary. We talked about Jesus, but we were talking about you, how what Jesus did makes you the righteousness of God in Christ.

This series turns to "hallowed be thy name": the name of the Lord, and God's character revealed by His name. We talked about who you are. Now we talk about who God is.

The last series filled you up on the Word before giving you something to take into prayer at the end. This one is different. There will be implementation throughout: in each message you will receive names of God you can call on when you pray.

There are many names for God in Scripture. Most are "God" with a descriptor, and many describe His character. Over the next three weeks we will look at ten, chosen and arranged in a way that gets into your memory, so you can walk away and recall the names of the Lord when you pray, without running for a book or a handout.

TODAY: THREE NAMES

Today we look at three names by looking at the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is good theology and good orthodoxy, but for our purposes today, it is good for the memory.

Illustration: the sign of the cross. Our Catholic friends have helped us with this. The sign of the cross is Father, Son, Holy Spirit. If you ever forget the Trinity, call a Catholic friend and ask, "What's that thing y'all do?"

This is not a theological, doctrinal message on the Trinity. Today we pray the Trinity.

1. God the Father Is Exalted

If you want to go deeper into the names of God, two names belong here:

- **El Shaddai**, God Almighty: "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless" (Genesis 17:1).
- **El Elyon**, God Most High: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth" (Genesis 14:19).

God is holy. God is above us.

> **LEVITICUS 11:44 ESV**
>
> 44 For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground.

> **EXODUS 3:5 ESV**
>
> 5 Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

When God shows up, it is holy ground. Why? Because He is holy. He is set apart. He is different. He ranks higher. Everything comes into submission under His authority and under His name. You may think Jesus is your homeboy, but God is holy.

REMEMBER WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO

The last series was about your righteousness, because Hebrews tells us to come boldly before the throne of grace: "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). Because of the grace of Jesus Christ, you have a righteous status. You get to come before the Father and present your request and your need.

But even when you come boldly before the throne by way of the finished work of Christ, it serves you well to remember who you're talking to. For some people, God is a superstitious figure we project our thoughts and feelings onto. No. God is God. If He's God, He's got to be God, and if He's going to be your God, He's got to be your God. It might help sometimes if we treated God like God. Your Bible starts with this phrase: "In the beginning, God" (Genesis 1:1).

Illustration: kneeling in prayer. When I have my secret place figured out, I get down on my knees and put my face in the chair I meet with the Lord in. I do it for no other reason than to remember who I'm talking to.

There is a relational dynamic with the Lord. If you become a person who prays and seeks the face of God, there will be mornings you come in wrong and act like a snotty brat. We are all dirt creatures that the breath of God brought to life (Genesis 2:7), and there is grace for that: "he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103:14). But at some point you have to jerk yourself back into reality and remember: this is the Lord.

WHY I'M SENSITIVE ABOUT THIS

Illustration: out of the pit. God rescued me. Like the psalmist, He "drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock" (Psalm 40:2). "He brought me out into a broad place" (Psalm 18:19). The fact that I'm a preacher and not an out-of-work addict only happened supernaturally. In my family we called it alcoholism, because nobody wanted to admit there were drug addicts in the family. So I don't mess around with the Lord. (This is personal testimony. Another preacher should use his own.)

Illustration: God jokes. When my daughter was younger, she would make little, harmless God jokes, and she would see me wince. One morning on the way to school she hit me with one, and I pulled into the Publix parking lot and told her: He's separate. He's holy. He's not a joke. He's serious. God is the real deal. I'm not a perfect dad, but I'm going to honor the Lord.

KNOCK THAT OFF

This is not a condemnation church: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). But let this hit you between the eyes. Especially in the South, we try to normalize God to the point that we call Him "the man upstairs" or "the big guy." Here is a life hack for learning to worship, a cheat code: knock that off. He's not the man upstairs. He's not the big guy, the big fella or the big cheese. He is God Most High. He is God Almighty. He is the Father, the Lord of all. If you don't know what to call Him, call Him the Lord.

Maybe your flesh is resisting coming under the authority of the Lord. But calling Him Lord does not make me feel like a little peon. The Lord is very interested in me. He likes me, He wants me around, and He likes it when I show up. When I say "the Lord," it makes me feel warm. I heard John Kilpatrick say about 30 years ago that when he says "the Lord," there's something comforting about it.

So when you come into prayer: He is God the Father. He is God Almighty. He is the Lord Most High. He is El Shaddai. He is El Elyon. He is the Lord.

2. God the Son Is Empathetic

> **HEBREWS 4:15** ESV
>
> [15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

We rightly emphasize that Jesus is perfect. He is. But remember this: He is not unaware, He is not removed, and He is not aloof to the human condition. He came down here and was among His people. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). He has been through it. He was without sin, and yet He sympathizes with your weakness. Jesus sees the mess and the nonsense we make. He may not be cool with it, but He knows.

Illustration: the barber. My barber asked me how the church was going, and within two minutes he was telling me about all the alcohol he planned to drink and dropping F-bombs. I let it go, partly because he was cutting my hair, but mostly because I sympathize. I'm a little dirt creature who, by the grace of God, got set up on a high place. I mess up sometimes too. I'm not going to act above what's going on with him. Well, the Lord sympathizes.

Isaiah calls Him Immanuel, God with us (Isaiah 7:14). He's holy, but He's not disconnected. That means:

- When you go to prayer, there's nothing you have done that His blood will not cleanse: "the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).
- There's nothing you will pray that is so offensive to Him that He will remove His favor from you.

Because of the blood of Jesus Christ, you are everything you need to be in this moment to have the full acceptance of the Lord in His presence, for your righteousness and for your redemption.

AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER

When you walk into prayer confessing your righteousness, and then you come to "hallowed be thy name" and are confronted by the holiness of God the Father, that is jarring. All of a sudden God is holy and you're a little dirt creature. (I credit "dirt creature" to R.C. Sproul.) You think, "I'm the righteousness of God, but He's holy and I'm separate."

But we are immediately reminded that it is by God the Son that our righteousness is bought, supplied and guaranteed. He brings you right back in and gives you a place.

> **1 JOHN 2:1** ESV
>
> [1] My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

The ideal is that you get it right and don't sin. But if you do, and the holiness of the Father confronts your actual condition, don't get discouraged. You have an advocate. Someone will speak up on your behalf.

When you feel like you don't belong before the throne of grace, God the Son speaks up and says, "He's here with me."

[Praise break]

God the Son is near; He's not far off. "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). And aren't we all brokenhearted to some degree?

3. God the Holy Spirit Is Empowering

If you're born again, you've got the Holy Spirit of God living on the inside of you. If you've given your life to Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost is in you. And the Holy Spirit gives you power:

- Power to overcome, advance and achieve.
- Power to live right, talk right, do right.
- Power to sense, see and speak: to get a word from God, to sense or see something supernaturally, and to speak it out.
- Power to sit still, show up and stay away.

I'm talking about power!

> **1 JOHN 4:4** ESV
>
> [4] Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Illustration: the pastor who said it every week. The pastor I came up under after I got saved at 12 stayed in a small zone. Sometimes he preached the same message for 18 months. But when he got to feeling good, he would say, "Greater is he that's in me than he that's in the world," and it got in us.

You need that in your spirit. We get stuck: on principalities and the government, on a boss and coworkers, on sin. The One who is in you is greater than whatever is going on in the government, at work, in your family, or warring inside of you.

You've been sealed by the Spirit (Ephesians 1:13), sanctified by the Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:13) and made strong by the Spirit of God (Ephesians 3:16). If you've got the Holy Spirit, you've got all of Him, and yet you can have more of Him. He knows all things, searches all things and teaches all things (1 John 2:20; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; John 14:26).

The Holy Spirit is not a badge that identifies certain churches. Every church has the Holy Ghost, and every church has the exact amount of the Holy Ghost it wants. You ask, you receive: "how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him" (Luke 11:13).

Illustration: the believers in Ephesus. Paul asked a handful of believers in Ephesus, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit" (Acts 19:2). These people were saved, and they didn't even know who the Holy Spirit was. Nobody goes

to heaven on perfect theology; His ways and thoughts are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9). Get the cross, the resurrection and the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ right. Paul told them, and they received (Acts 19:6). It's that simple. You want it, you've got it.

THE HOLY GHOST SAYS YES

If you're praying for something and you wonder, "Can I be confident that God will do something about this?", the Holy Ghost says yes, because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world, and "all the promises of God find their Yes in him" (2 Corinthians 1:20). The Holy Ghost can bring about an answer to anything you take before the Lord. The Lord spoke to me years ago: before it manifests in the flesh, it must manifest in the Spirit.

You may say, "Where do you get all that?" Read the list:

Ezekiel 36:26-27, John 3:5-8, John 14:16-17, Romans 8:9-11, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Galatians 4:6, Ephesians 1:13-14, Ephesians 4:30, Titus 3:5-6, 1 John 3:24, 1 John 4:13, Micah 3:8, Zechariah 4:6-7, Isaiah 11:2, Luke 4:14, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8, Acts 10:38, Romans 15:13, Romans 15:16, Romans 15:18-19, 1 Corinthians 2:4-5, Ephesians 3:16.

That is not even half the list. The Bible says this. If you've got the Holy Ghost, you've got something significant.

OPTIONAL: THE REST OF THE LIST

These references are in the original notes but were not read on October 18, 2026.

Ephesians 3:20, 1 Thessalonians 1:5, 2 Timothy 1:7, Romans 8:37, 1 John 5:4, Acts 4:31, Acts 9:31, Acts 13:2-4, Romans 8:2-4, Romans 8:13-14, Galatians 5:16-17, Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 4:29, Ephesians 5:18-20, Philippians 2:13, Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:17-18, Acts 4:8, Acts 4:13, Acts 16:6-7, Matthew 10:19-20, Luke 12:11-12, John 16:13, 1 Corinthians 2:9-14, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Ephesians 1:17-18, 1 Corinthians 6:11, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 1 Peter 1:2, Romans 8:26-27, Isaiah 40:29-31, John 7:37-39, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 1 John 2:27, Romans 8:15-16, Ephesians 6:18, Jude 20, 1 John 5:14-15, Hebrews 4:16.

How to Pray the Names of God

Start with a simple model: thank God for one thing, then ask Him for three to five things. Then grow into praying through the Lord's Prayer:

- At "Our Father," confess your righteousness: I'm the righteousness of God in Christ. He has made me new. He has made me clean. I'm sealed by the Holy Spirit. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- At "hallowed be thy name," start talking to God about who He is: God the Father, He's holy. God the Son, He's empathetic. God the Holy Spirit, He's empowering.

Then demonstrate it. Many people grew up around people who talked about prayer but never saw anyone pray. Jesus "withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed" (Luke 22:41). Let the congregation hear it from a stone's throw away. This is how I prayed it:

> Our Father, I thank You that I'm the righteousness of God in Christ. Thank You that You've assured my salvation, that I have an advocate in Jesus Christ the righteous, and that the blood of Christ at the cross speaks a better word than the blood of Abel, and a better word than anything I'm going to do today, good, bad or indifferent.
>
> I thank You that You've perfected those who are being sanctified, and that while I'm in process I have full status before You. I have no fear, because perfect love casts out fear. In this is love: not that I have loved You, but that You have loved me and gave Your Son as the propitiation for my sin. Thank You that You're satisfied when You look at me.
>
> Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Lord, I honor You today. My situation might have me under stress, and that might come out while we talk, but I want You to know that I honor and respect You. You are God Most High. You are God Almighty. You are above all things and before all things. You are God the Father. You are holy. You are set apart. I recognize the disparity between You and me, and I thank You that You draw near to the lowly and the contrite and the brokenhearted.
>
> You are God the Son. Not only are You holy, You are empathetic toward me. You made a way for me. You're not a far-off God; You're aware of my condition. Thank You for the cross, that it saves me, that it makes me the righteousness of God in Christ, and that it makes me known by You.
>
> And You are God the Holy Spirit. Thank You that the Spirit in me is greater than anything in the world. There's nothing I can't do today by the power of the Holy Ghost. Everything I ask for today, I believe is possible by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Then continue on through the prayer. The demonstration draws on Hebrews 12:24, Hebrews 10:14, 1 John 4:18, 1 John 4:10 and Isaiah 57:15.

Conclusion

A seed and a harvest. Years ago, face down in my prayer chair, the Lord spoke to me:

- If you sow a seed of Bible reading, you'll reap a harvest of revelation.
- If you sow a seed of worship, you'll reap a harvest of success (the word He first gave me was exposure), because if you make much of God, He'll make much of you.
- If you sow a seed of prayer, you'll reap a harvest of power.

There is something that happens in the secret place that doesn't come through Bible reading and doesn't come through worship. Worship is the place you give, not the place you get. Power comes in prayer: opening your mouth in the presence of the Lord, talking to God, letting "your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). God answers prayer, and the answer is great, but a power comes on you in prayer whatever the answer. You come out differently than you went in. Prayer is one of the only things that seems to work at almost a one-to-one ratio: the more time you put in, the more power you walk in.

Illustration: miracles follow prayer. I started noticing pastors whose theology bothered me, who quoted Scripture out of context, and still had miracles follow them. What they had in common was prayer. That's why we're going to be a praying church. "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Close by having the room lift their hands. Pray against everything that has kept people out of prayer: the discomfort, the condemnation, or not knowing what to say. Ask the Lord to keep revealing His grace so condemnation doesn't keep anyone out, and to give them comfort when they step into His presence.

As you walk through the Lord's Prayer, when you come to "hallowed be thy name," that's your cue to start bringing these names out.



ABOUT

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Pastor Jason Mayfield is the Senior Pastor of Citylight Church in Saraland, Alabama, an author, and the creator of POWER 27. He has given more than 20 years to the local church and helps pastors and ministry leaders lead BIG.

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