

A person wearing a colorful, patterned headscarf and a purple garment is blowing a large, curved horn. The background features a bright sun setting over a range of mountains, with a warm orange and yellow sky. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft lighting.

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME: THE PRIORITY OF WORSHIP

The Lord's Prayer (2)

Jesus is teaching us about prayer.

- ▶ Prayer is not rushing past God to get to requests.
- ▶ Prayer is entering His presence & allowing who He is to shape how we respond.

What we come to God for:

- ▶ Prayer begins with relationship. We come to God intimately, personally & yet exalting Him.
- ▶ Jesus shows us to bring our needs to the Father, but He teaches us to not to begin there.
- ▶ Jesus teaches us what to ask for, He teaches us how to see God.
- ▶ Jesus shows us that our prayer begins, not with our agenda, but with God's honour.
- ▶ God is a God of order, we reorient ourselves to His order, in His way . . .
then we will see Kingdom answers begin to occur.

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.

Matthew 6:9 -13

1. What Does Hallowed Mean?

- To treat as holy.
- To regard as sacred.
- To recognise as set apart, weighty & supremely valuable.
- To demonstrate His holiness in our lives.

This is not just a word about language or titles, it is a word about our posture & our perception. It is about how we see God, how we respond to God & ultimately how we live before God.

God Is Already Holy - We Are Learning To Recognise It.

Jesus is not saying God's name needs to become holy, it already is. Isaiah hears heaven declare: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts." John sees heaven still declaring: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty."

God's holiness is not dependent on human recognition, it is an eternal reality, regardless of our thoughts. So to hallow God's name is not to make Him holy, it is to align ourselves with what is already true.

Holiness Means God Is Not Like Us.

In Scripture, holiness is not only about moral purity. It is about otherness. God is not simply better than us, He is altogether unlike us. In 1 Samuel 2:2 Hannah says:

“There is none holy like the Lord.”

He is uncreated, unchanging, perfectly pure, perfectly faithful & perfectly trustworthy. **He invites us to draw near.**

The Gospel - Why We Can Pray This At All.

Because of Jesus, we are welcomed into the presence of the God whose Name is Holy.

Hebrews 4:16: 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.

God's Name - His Character Revealed:

In Scripture, God's name represents His character, His revealed nature, reputation, and authority. So when Moses asks God's name, God reveals His nature in Exodus 34:5-7: Merciful; Gracious; Slow to Anger; Faithful; Just.

For us to pray "hallowed be Your name" we are saying:
"Father, let who You are: be honoured; be treasured; be trusted; be obeyed."

7. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
8. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
bring an offering, and come into His courts!
9. Worship the LORD in the splendour of holiness;
tremble before Him, all the earth!

Psalm 96:7-9

This Matters For The Heart:

- ▶ If God is small in our worship, everything else becomes large in our lives.
- ▶ When God is seen rightly, our fears begins to shrink, anxiety loosens its grip on our hearts, obedience is highly desirable & trust in our Heavenly Father becomes natural. Holiness means God cannot fail, God cannot lie & God won't compromise His character.
- ▶ Holiness, to those in the Kingdom, is no longer threatening, it is in fact stabilising.
- ▶ To hallow God's name lets Him truly reshape how we think, trust, pray & live.

2. Why worship must come first:

- Worship must come first in our approach to prayer because what we honour shapes what we trust.
- Scripture consistently shows that what we worship shapes us. Psalm 115 effectively says: Those who make idols become like them. Those who trust in them become like them. Dead idols produce dead hearts. Powerless idols produce anxious lives.
- Before God changes our circumstances, He first changes us.

Isaiah 6 - The pattern of transformation:

Isaiah experiences this when he sees the Lord: High, lifted up, Holy beyond comparison. He hears the angels cry: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts." Isaiah's response is not one of confidence, it's absolute humility.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

Romans 11:33

Worship is really the only reasonable response to seeing God clearly.

- **Worship does not change God's position, it changes our perspective.**
- **We do not worship because God needs our honour, we worship because we need reality.**
- **When God is central, everything else finds its proper size, its proper place & proper priority.**

3. A Corrective to Casualness

We can emphasise closeness at the expense of awe. When awe is lost, something essential is lost in how we see God.

Charles Stanley: "God is now our friend, but He is not our equal. He is not our peer."

Malachi - The Father Who Deserves Honour:

Malachi 1:6: A son honours his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a Father, where is My honour? And if I am a Master, where is My fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise My name. But you say, 'How have we despised Your name?'

Scripture Holds Awe & Access Together:

Hebrews 12:28-29: Let us worship with reverence and awe - For our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 10:22: Let us draw near with confidence.

The Cross does not make God casual - it makes access possible.

Reverence Does Not Mean Distance - It Means Weight:

- ▶ To hallow God's name means we refuse to treat Him lightly.
- ▶ Reverence does not mean distance, it means weight.

The Fear Of The Lord - Not Terror, But Right Seeing:

- ▶ Scripture often speaks of "the fear of the Lord" but for those in Christ this is not fear of rejection, or fear of punishment, but awe & right recognition.

Biblical Closeness Always Deepens Awe:

- ▶ When people in Scripture encounter God closely, they do not become casual.
- ▶ The closer we see God clearly, the deeper the reverence we have.
- ▶ True intimacy never produces flippancy, it produces true humility.

Practical Everyday Reverence:

- ▶ We honour God when we obey even when it costs us, when we speak truthfully about Him, when we prioritise Him over our comfort & when we live with awareness that He is present.
- ▶ Closeness to God should never reduce our reverence for and fear of God, it should deepen it.

4. **Hallowing God's name with our lives:**

- ▶ Hallowing God's name moves from our lips to our life.
- ▶ Holiness begins in the heart.

1 Peter 3:15: but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

2. You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all.
3. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:2-3

Transformation Is Gradual - But Real:

- ▶ Hallowing God's name in our lives doesn't grant instant perfection but it is a catalyst for this ongoing process called sanctification: the transformation from one degree of glory to another.
- ▶ Hallowing God's name is not only something we pray, but is something we live in our everyday obedience.

5. How worship reshaped our prayers:

- ▶ Worship reorders our inner world.
- ▶ Anxiety often grows when our vision of God shrinks.
- ▶ When God is central, the problems are still real, but they no longer dominate.
- ▶ The future may still be uncertain, but God certainly is not.
- ▶ Biblical pattern - worship, peace, prayer:

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord. Present your requests.
Peace guards your heart.

Worship makes prayer less about control:

- ▶ Jesus - worshipful dependence on the Father.
- ▶ Jesus knows He must live in a constant relational connection and alignment with His Father.
- ▶ Prayer is not crisis management, it's simply relational re-alignment.
- ▶ Worship deepens trust.

Romans 8:32: He who did not spare his own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

Worship slows the soul:

- ▶ It quietens the noise and reorders our desires to His desires.
- ▶ Prayer becomes participation, not persuasion.
- ▶ We are learning to trust the One who holds and determines all outcomes.
- ▶ Transformation begins to happen over time.
- ▶ Worship restores our perspective. Prayer is not getting God back into our world because He never left, but it is recognising that God has always been at the centre of it.

6. Learning to hallow God's name:

2 Corinthians 3:17–18:

17. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
18. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Hallowing begins with vision:

- ▶ Where we look is where we go, what we behold is what we become.
- ▶ Freedom is not independence - it's full dependence.
- ▶ Hallowing is the ongoing positioning & repositioning of the heart.

The Holy Spirit transforming Christ in us:

Galatians 4:19 Until Christ is formed in you.

Romans 12:2 Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Prayer is the process for this transformation.

7. Restoring God to the centre:

The Gospel holds all this together. We do not come to God trying to earn access, we come through Christ, because Jesus lived in perfect holiness. Jesus died in our place. Jesus rose in victory. And now we are welcomed into the presence of the God whose name is holy, not casually, but confidently. Not lightly, but joyfully.

The end goal - a reordered life - a transformed life:

When God is rightly placed: Prayer steadies. Fear loosens. Trust grows. Obedience becomes possible. Peace becomes deeper than circumstance. Because reality is restored to what it truly is: God is God - and we are safe in His hands.



- ▶ Let prayer begin, not with what we need, but with Who He is.
- ▶ Let our prayer begin, not with urgency, but with awe.
- ▶ Let our prayer begin, not with fear, but with worship.
- ▶ Let His holiness reshape & transform our prayers, our thinking, our decisions, our fears, our hopes, our lives.
- ▶ When God is seen rightly - everything else seems to find its place.