

THE LORD'S PRAYER: WEEK THREE

NOT GOD'S NAME...Jesus, continuing from his great opening line, adds an additional line that is linked to the previous one, "Hallowed be they name". He wasn't GIVING GOD A NAME as much reminding us of HOW TO APPROACH GOD.

Hallowed, his name is to be revered, his presence honored. The Word "hallow" means to "set aside as holy, reverent, unique", it carries the sense of conveying worth and honor.

Holiness has negative baggage. We equate it with the self-righteous, irritating, and holier-than-thou people who empty a room. Being holy was sign of being in relationship with a holy God. The only thing that Israel holy was its covenant relationship with God, not its religious rituals and laws, certainly not its track record of fidelity to God.

HOLY THE THIRD POWER...in the Old Testament, God is called "holy, holy, holy", holy to the 3rd power. In Hebrew, emphasis is done by repetition. There is only place to find holiness: WITH GOD! It is his core attribute. Awe/humility are appropriate when we come before God. Like Moses, we approach God reverently; we take off our shoes because we walk on holy ground. Only as we revere God do our souls thrive. Only a God we fear, yet have no need to fear, is holy enough to demand our trust and awesome enough to hear our prayers.

LIVING AWE-DEPRIVED...being sleep deprived is a serious issue but living "awe-deprived" is even worse. Our souls need AWE/REVERENCE as much as our LUNGS NEED AIR. Yet we live oblivious to God.

When did awe last fill your soul: that knee-buckling fear! Not fear as in DREAD or running away from God but FEAR as in RESECT, or running toward God! Is there any mystery left in your life? Anything holy, mystical, or awe-inspiring to happen?

THE FIRST PETITION...Hallowed by the name is a PETITION-the first in a set of 6 petitions, each ruled by a VERB that is a call to action. In other words, it is a request, not an ANNOUNCEMENT. What we are asking is...

CAUSE YOUR NAME TO BE HALLOWED, YOUR PRESENCE TO BE REVERED, DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BE HOLY IN MY LIFE, AND IN ALL LIFE. EXALT YOURSELF. GLORIFY YOURSELF. YOU BE LORD AND I'LL BE QUIET.

God is HOLY/AWESOME, totally beyond description and surely beyond manipulation. Let GOD BE GOD. Cover your mouth and open your heart. Be still and know that God is God.