

Prayer - Part Two
Hallowed be Your Name

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Matthew 6:9–13 (NKJV)

⁹In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

¹³And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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- *Jesus gave us a pattern in Matthew, Chapter 6, of what prayer looks like and how it functions.*
- *What many call “The Lord’s Prayer” is not simply something one repeats, even though one could repeat it, but it provides us with the seven essential qualities of prayer.*

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- *Last time we looked at the first aspect of prayer, “Our Father in heaven” and this deals with the most foundational aspect of prayer because above all else prayer is based on our relationship with God.*
- *Prayer focuses our relationship with God solidly on the fact that God is our Father.*

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- *The second aspect of prayer, which we are going to look at today is, “Hallowed be Your name.”*

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- *“Hallowed be Your name” is not a statement of fact, but a request that this should be accomplished.*

- *The verb “hallowed” in the Greek is not in the indicative mood, which would express a simple statement of fact, but it is in the imperative mood, expressing the desire that something should be done or accomplished.*

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- *“Hallowed be Your name” does not mean “Your name is holy,” but it is a prayer request that God’s name would be treated or kept as holy.*

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- *“May your name be kept holy” (New Living Translation)*
- *“May thy name be held holy” (The Twentieth Century New Testament))*
- *“Thy name be revered” (Moffat)*
- *“May Your name be honoured” (Philips)*
- *“Let Your name be kept holy”*
- *“Let Your name be treated with reverence”*
- *“Demonstrate Your name as holy”*

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- *“Hallowed be Your name” sets the theme for prayer and everything that is to follow in prayer will be aligned with this theme.*
- *“Hallowed be Your name” makes sure the focus is on God and not ourselves and from this vantage point we will be able to effectively pray for God’s will to be done in our lives and those around us.*

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- *Prayer not only causes God to move in others, the very act of prayer works in our own hearts allowing God to change us.*
- *When we pray “demonstrate Your name is holy” we are reminding ourselves that this is the most important single purpose God has given for us to do on this earth.*

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- *Prayer not only moves God into action, prayer moves us into action.*
- *Some people see prayer as inaction, but for believers, prayer is the beginning of all action.*

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- *When Jesus pointed out to the disciples that the harvest of souls was ready, the first thing He told them to do was to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest. (Matthew 9:38)*
- *The result of the disciples' prayer for the Lord to send labourers into the harvest field was that they were sent out and became the foundation of the Church, the first step toward worldwide evangelism.*

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- *When we pray "hallowed be Your name," the first thing God begins to do is bring our lives into line with His will so our lives will reflect His holiness.*
- *When we pray "hallowed be Your name" it also stirs our heart for the entire Body of Christ to come into line with God's holiness.*

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- *"Hallowed be Your name" puts everything in this life into the proper and balanced perspective.*

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Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- *"whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" - Our goal in this life above all else is to glorify the name of Jesus Christ.*

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Colossians 3:17 (NLT)

¹⁷And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

- *To do something in the “name of the Lord Jesus” is to “do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus.” Our actions as Christians will either demonstrate that God is truly holy or it will bring shame to His name in the eyes of the world.*

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Romans 2:19–24 (NKJV)

¹⁹and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

²⁰an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law.

²¹You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?

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²²You who say, “Do not commit adultery,” do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

²³You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?

²⁴For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” as it is written.

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- *Are you “confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness” – In other words we as believers who are to be a light to this world and guide to those that are lost, are we really being that salt and light that God has called us to?*
- *“You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?” – Are we really living out the message of the Bible or are we hypocrites?*

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- *“You who say, “Do not commit adultery,” do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?” – Are we as believers really living pure and*

holy lives for God's glory or does sexual immorality, lying, uncleanness, and other works of the flesh taint our lives.

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- **“do you dishonor God through breaking the law?” – *Do we bring shame to God because of our ungodly actions?***
- **“For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” as it is written.” – *Through the unrighteous acts of Christians the name of God is blasphemed among unbelievers.***

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- ***When Christians display carnal, selfish and immoral behaviour is it no wonder the Gospel is maligned and ridiculed by unbelievers.***
- ***It is evident that when Jesus taught us to pray the first request in prayer is “Hallowed be Your name.”***
- ***Our primary concern is that we will not bring shame to the precious name of Jesus Christ, but that our lives and actions will bring Him glory.***

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- ***One of the biggest hindrances to the Gospel is Christians who act and speak in ungodly ways.***

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1 Peter 3:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

¹⁷For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

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- **“having a good conscience” – *The starting point to demonstrate God's holiness is having our conscience right in the sight of God and that nothing we are doing, saying, or even meditating upon is shameful or ungodly.***

- **“when they defame you as evildoers” – *Living a godly life with a good conscience before God does not preclude one from being slandered or persecuted by unbelievers.***

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- **“those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed” – *When we are reviled for our good conduct in Christ it will result in our persecutors being ashamed. That is why when Christians suffer because of their love for Jesus many of those who persecute them become followers of Jesus themselves.***

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1 Peter 2:23–24 (NKJV)

²³who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

²⁴who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

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- **“when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously” – *Christ is our example of how to suffer for righteousness’ sake and keep His name holy.***
- ***Jesus did not revile nor threaten those who betrayed Him, plotted against Him or crucified Him. Instead, He demonstrated God’s love and righteousness by forgiving them, praying for them, and dying for them.***

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- ***Many times Christians miss key opportunities to demonstrate the holiness of God’s name by reacting in fleshly and selfish ways when we are mistreated or wronged. We end up acting as badly as those who have wronged us.***
- ***Through our fleshly response the world sees no difference between Christians and unbelievers.***

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- *However, in those places where Christians are persecuted for the sake of Jesus Christ and they respond as Jesus did, the Gospel is unstoppable and many former enemies of Christ become devoted followers of Christ.*

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Exodus 20:7 (NKJV)

⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

- *To take something in vain means to misuse something or to make something worthless or to make something devoid of purpose.*

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- *“You shall not take the name of the Lord Your God in vain” – God gave the descendants of Jacob the name “Israel” which can mean in the Hebrew “God will rule; ruling with God; God prevails.”*
- *God gave Israel His name, but instead of walking in holiness and the power of God, they walked in sin, rebellion, and unbelief and brought shame to God’s name.*

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- *As believers in Jesus Christ, we are called “Christians,” and thus we are called by His name. He wants us to live through us His righteous and victorious life.*
- *However, when we as believers choose to walk in unbelief or rebellion, we take His name in vain and bring shame to His name.*

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- *The Bible teaches us that a name is more than just a way of identifying someone but it reflects the essence of the person.*
- *The very attributes of God are found in the many names that He has given Himself.*

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Proverbs 18:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

- *God's name is a strong tower. When we call on His name He is there to help us and rescue us.*

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- *The psalms are filled with numerous examples where they asked God to demonstrate His power and holiness, and bring glory to His name.*

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2 Timothy 2:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

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- *"Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." – We who call upon the name of Christ are to separate ourselves from all uncleanness and ungodliness and to live lives that are worthy of the name by which we have been called—Christians.*

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1 Corinthians 1:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

- *Paul pleaded with the believers not to allow divisions and disputes to bring shame to the name of Christ, but to be perfectly joined together so Jesus' name will be glorified.*

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Philippians 2:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

- *God the Father has given His Son, Jesus Christ a name that is above all other names, and we have been given the privilege and responsibility to carry that name to the entire world.*

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- *Below are but a few of the many examples of how wonderful the name of Jesus Christ truly is:*

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Matthew 12:21 (NKJV)

²¹And in His name Gentiles will trust.”

- *Jesus’ name is a trusted name for all nations to call upon.*

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John 16:23 (NKJV)

²³“And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

- *Jesus’ name is a name that we can call out to God in full confidence that He hears and answers us.*

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Acts 2:21 (NKJV)

²¹And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.’

- *Jesus’ name is the name of salvation for all who call upon Him.*

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Acts 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, “By what power or by what name have you done this?”

- *The power of God was evident on Peter when he preached and five thousand came to faith in one day. The religious leaders had one question, “by what name have you done this?” The name of Jesus is the power of salvation!*

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Acts 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

- *Peter clearly points to the source of these glorious events and miraculous signs by naming the name of Jesus Christ who was crucified and is resurrected.*

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Acts 4:12 (NKJV)

¹²Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

- *Salvation is found only in Jesus Christ contrary to what many in this world would say.*

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Acts 5:28 (NKJV)

²⁸saying, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!”

- *The power and glory of Jesus’ name is seen in the threats by the religious leaders in their attempt to silence the apostles, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name?” In reality, it was the religious leaders who were threatened by the name of the only Begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ.*

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Romans 15:9 (NKJV)

⁹and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: “For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.”

- **“For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.” – *What a joyful way to make His name holy—by rejoicing and singing to the name of the One who died for our sin and is raised from the dead!***

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- ***The story of king Hezekiah gives us an example how we can hinder God’s name from being glorified.***

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2 Kings 20:1–18 (NKJV)

¹In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.’ ”

²Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, saying,

³“Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

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⁴And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

⁵“Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD.

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⁶And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David.” ’ ”

⁷Then Isaiah said, “Take a lump of figs.” So they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.

⁸And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “What is the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the LORD the third day?”

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⁹Then Isaiah said, “This is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing which He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?”

¹⁰And Hezekiah answered, “It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees.”

¹¹So Isaiah the prophet cried out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz.

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¹²At that time Berodach-Baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

¹³And Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures—the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory—all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

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¹⁴Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah, and said to him, “What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?” So Hezekiah said, “They came from a far country, from Babylon.”

¹⁵And he said, “What have they seen in your house?” So Hezekiah answered, “They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them.”

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¹⁶Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD:

¹⁷Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,’ says the LORD.

18^cAnd they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’ ”

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- *King Hezekiah was suffering from a serious affliction and received a word from the Lord that caused him great distress, ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.’*
- *Hezekiah’s response to this word was to humble himself in his sick bed, turn his face to the wall, and pray and weep bitterly.*

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- *Hezekiah realized his life was coming to an end, but he had neglected to accomplish certain things in his life.*
- *God’s response was immediate. In His mercy and grace He sent the prophet Isaiah back to the king and said that God was going to extend his life for fifteen years. God would also deliver Jerusalem from the king of Assyria.*

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- *Then Isaiah said that God was going to give the king a sign to reassure him that this was truly a word from the Lord. God would either move the sun ten degrees forward or backward. Hezekiah, with great boldness and faith, said let it move backward, since that would be much more difficult.*

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- *God gave Hezekiah the sign and he recovered from his sickness.*
- *However something happened that changed the course of the events in a very tragic way.*
- *The king of Babylon heard about King Hezekiah’s illness and his recovery and sent envoys with a present to Hezekiah to celebrate his recovery.*

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- *Hezekiah warmly received these envoys from the King of Babylon and showed them all the treasures and riches he had accumulated.*
- *Isaiah, upon hearing Hezekiah's reception of the envoys from the King of Babylon, asked him one simple question, "What did you show them?" and his response was, "Everything, all my treasures and riches."*

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- *Isaiah's prophetic response was that since he showed all of his riches to the envoys of the King of Babylon, all his riches and his offspring would be carried away into captivity in Babylon.*

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- *The question that arises is, why did Hezekiah's generous reception of the envoys result in such a severe judgment?*
- *The answer is found in 2 Chronicles, Chapter 32, where the story is retold but with one additional point.*

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2 Chronicles 32:24–26 (NKJV)

²⁴In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death, and he prayed to the LORD; and He spoke to him and gave him a sign.

²⁵But Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up; therefore wrath was looming over him and over Judah and Jerusalem.

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²⁶Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

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- ***"But Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up" – Hezekiah became proud and did not "repay according to the favour shown him."***

- *Hezekiah became proud and when the king of Babylon sent his envoys to congratulate him on his recovery, instead of Hezekiah giving all the glory to God he tried to show himself regal and displayed all his riches and splendor.*

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- *Instead of Hezekiah telling everyone about how when he was dying he turned to the Lord in his weakness and fear and he wept bitterly before God and prayed and how God extended mercy upon him and healed him, Hezekiah turned his attention to himself.*

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- *Hezekiah failed to demonstrate the holiness and power of God and bring glory to His name. Instead, in his pride he exalted himself and made himself appear as if he was really the strong and mighty one, when in fact he was the one who in weakness and trembling had received mercy from God.*

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2 Samuel 6:20–22 (NKJV)

²⁰Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, “How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!”

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²¹So David said to Michal, “It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD.

²²And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor.”

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- **“And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight.” – *This is one of the qualities that made David a man after God’s own heart.***
- ***David was willing to display his own frailty and humanity by glorifying God not by acting as a king above the people, but by humbling himself before God as a simple shepherd boy whom God had exalted.***

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Ephesians 5:20 (NKJV)

²⁰giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

- ***We are to give thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who delivered us from our sins, saved us, and has given us eternal life.***

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- ***Our hearts should be always filled with thanksgiving and joy in the name of Jesus Christ for all the innumerable blessings He has poured out upon us through Jesus Christ. There should be so much rejoicing there should be no room for complaining or murmuring.***

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2 Thessalonians 1:12 (NKJV)

¹²that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- ***“Hallowed be Your name” – Let the name of the Lord Jesus Christ be glorified in us with every fiber of our being, spirit, soul, and body. Amen!!!!***