**The Lord’s Prayer, Petition 1: “Hallowed be Thy Name”**

*“Holy and awesome is his name.”* Psalm 111:9b

*“May the prophet’s utterance be fulfilled which says: ‘According to your fame, O Lord, your praise is made known through all the earth’ (Ps. 48:10). So if he punishes let him be seen as righteous; if he pardons, as merciful; if he is true to his word, as faithful. In short, let there be nothing in which his glory does not brightly shine, and thus let his praises be engraved on every heart and on every tongue. Lastly, let all ungodliness which defiles and dishonors this holy name, which obscures or degrades this hallowing, perish and pass away; and with its passing may ever greater radiance surround his majesty”* (Calvin, Institutes, 546).

**Augustine at prayer:[[1]](#footnote-1)** “You are great, Lord, and highly to be praised; great is your power and your wisdom is immeasurable. Man, a little piece of your creation, desires to praise you, a human being bearing his mortality with him, carrying with him the witness of his sin and the witness that you resist the proud. Nevertheless, to praise you is the desire of man, a little piece of your creation. You stir man to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

**Intro:[[2]](#footnote-2)**

Packer: “Were we left to ourselves, any praying we did would both start and end with ourselves, for our natural self-centeredness knows no bounds. Indeed much pagan praying goes on among supposedly Christian people. But Jesus' pattern prayer, which is both crutch, road, and walking lesson for the spiritually lame like ourselves, tells us to start with God: for lesson one is to grasp that God matters infinitely more than we do."

1. **What does “hallowed be thy name” mean?**
	1. Hallowed, means holy, or set apart - “sanctified”.
	2. What's in a name? Why is it his name that is to be hallowed?
	3. The petition: sanctify your name:

**The greatest of all requests:** “Hallowed be they name is the first and greatest petition; it contains the most weighty thing in [Christianity], which is God’s glory. When some of the other petitions shall be useless and out of date, as we shall not need to pray in heaven, ‘give us our daily bread,’ because there shall be no hunger; nor, ‘forgive us our trespasses,’ because there shall be no sin; nor, ‘lead us not into temptation,’ because the old serpent is not there to tempt: yet the hallowing of God’s name will be of great use and request in heaven; we shall ever be singing hallelujahs, which is nothing else but the hallowing of God’s name.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

1. **How do we hallow? What exactly are we praying; in what are we participating?**[[4]](#footnote-4)
2. He who prays this prayer must embrace this petition in all of life.
3. We hallow God’s name when we have a high esteem of Him.

**Watson:** “[We hallow his name] when we conceive of God in our minds as the most superexcellent and infinite good; we see in him a constellation of beauties and delights; we adore him in his glorious attributes, which are the several beams by which his divine nature shines forth; we adore him in his works, which are bound up in three great volumes – creation, redemption, and providence. We hallow and sanctify his name when we lift him highest in our souls; we esteem him a supereminent and incomprehensible God.”

1. We hallow God’s name when we love his name.
	1. Psalm 5:11
2. We hallow God’s name when we ascribe it the honor due it.
	1. Psalm 96:8
	2. 1 Corinthians 15:10
3. We hallow God’s name by praising Him.
	1. Revelation 5:8-10, 13-14
	2. Job 1:21
4. We hallow God’s name by standing up for his truths.
5. We hallow God’s name when we treasure it more than worldly profit, and even our own life.
1. Augustine, *Confessions*, 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Much of the following is owed to: Packer, *Praying the Lord’s Prayer*; Watson, *Lord’s Prayer*; Ryken, *When You Pray*; Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Watson, *Lord’s Prayer*, 38. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Following: Watson, *Lord’s Prayer*. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)