

# THE GOOD LIFE

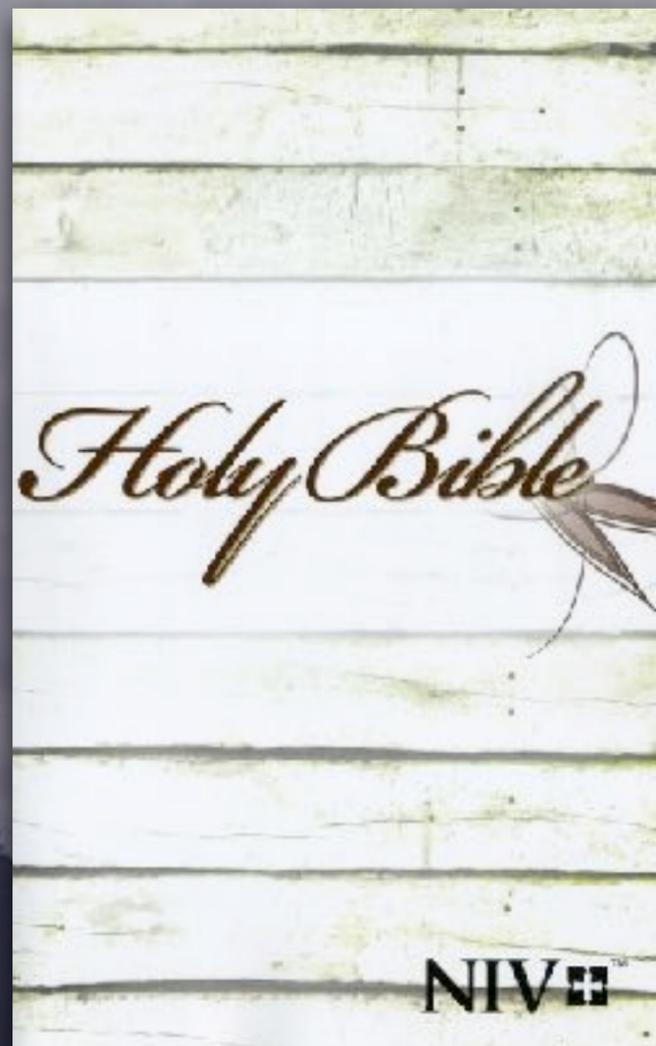
- PRAY YOUR WAY TO THE GOOD LIFE -

*“The only way that people change is  
through suffering or prayer”*

- RICHARD ROHR



*Can we pray our way to the good life?*



# Matthew 6:9-13

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“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup>your kingdom come,  
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup>Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

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but deliver us from the evil one.’

**Matthew 6:9-13**



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# I. God Only Makes His Children Perfect

A. Do we think we're children, but we actually have a business relationship with God?

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<sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

***John 1:12-13***



See what great love the Father has lavished on us,  
that we should be called children of God!

***1 John 3:1a***



# I. God Only Makes His Children Perfect

- A. Do we think we're children, but we actually have a business relationship with God?
- B. God makes us perfect through loving us.

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

***Matthew 19:14***

“Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

***Mark 10:15***

“Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

***Luke 18:17***



**Hallow** ('halō - past tense: hallowed; past participle: hallowed)

1. honor as holy
2. make holy; consecrate; sanctify
3. greatly revered or respected



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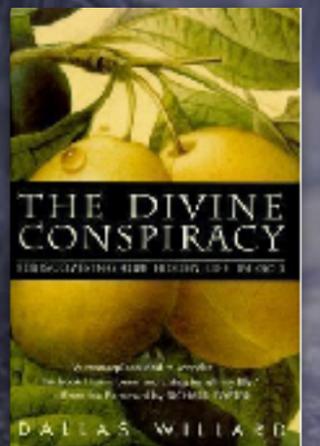
## II. The Good Life Is Centered On God

- A. What do we actually hallow?
- B. We're designed to hallow God.



This request is based upon the deepest need of the human world. Human life is not about human life. Nothing will go right in it until the greatness and goodness of its source and governor is adequately grasped. His very name is then held in the highest possible regard. Until that is so, the human compass will always be pointing in the wrong direction, and individual lives as well as history as a whole will suffer from constant and fluctuating disorientation. Candidly, that is exactly the condition we find ourselves in.

***Dallas Willard, The Divine Conspiracy***



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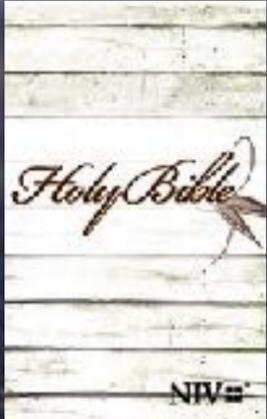
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Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.



*Philippians 4:6*



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## II. The Good Life Is Centered On God

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- C. We need God to put himself at the center of our lives.



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- A. What do we actually hallow?
- B. We're designed to hallow God.
- C. We need God to put himself at the center of our lives. (***Isaiah 63:12-14, Ezekiel 36:22-23, John 17***)



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<sup>22</sup>Then say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son, <sup>23</sup>and I told you, “Let my son go, so he may worship me.” But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.’ ”

***Exodus 4:22–23***



"When Jesus tells his disciples to call God 'Father', then, those with ears to hear will understand. He wants us to get ready for the new Exodus. We are going to be free at last. This is ... the hope of the coming of the Kingdom of God. ...  
The very first word of the Lord's Prayer, therefore (in Greek or Aramaic, 'Father' would come first), contains within it not just intimacy, but revolution. Not just familiarity; hope. ...  
That's why calling God 'Father' is the great act of faith, of holy boldness, of risk. Saying 'our father' isn't just the boldness, the sheer cheek, of walking into the presence of the living and almighty God and saying 'Hi, Dad.' It is the boldness, the sheer total risk, of saying quietly 'Please may I, too, be considered an apprentice son [or daughter].' It means signing on for the Kingdom of God."

***N.T. Wright***



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A person is seen from behind, standing in a narrow alleyway between tall brick buildings. The person is looking down the length of the alley, which leads to a bright, open area at the far end. The buildings are multi-story and made of brick, with some windows visible. The overall atmosphere is one of a quiet, urban setting.

### III. God's Will Is What Happens When We Have The Good Life

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