



“The Language of the Soul”

The ultimate purpose of Jesus' living and dying as one of us was to provide the full and final revelation of the love and goodness of God to all people in all ages. And when asked by his disciples to teach them to pray, Jesus speaks of His Father, in what we have come to know as the Lord's Prayer. He speaks in simple terms, in plain language about the Father whose Being He shares so intimately and whose Love He wants so much to share.

In all of this, we need always to go beyond the literal meaning of the words to the substance of what God wants us to believe and live by. The confusion is compounded even more when we reduce our prayer to a debate over the words or

phrases - or even the specific language - we use.

This is especially important for us to remember as we prepare for new translations promulgated by the Vatican and the "restoration" of the Tridentine Liturgy.

Words and Language are important only insofar as they lead us to understand the Reality. Jesus' answer to His followers about prayer is very simple: He has told us about His Father. We praise His name, we ask, we seek, and we knock at the door, in full confidence - knowing He will answer our needs. And we love one another and forgive one another as He has already loved and forgiven us.

The Lord's Prayer sums up the teaching of Jesus. It is also a prayer that offers us a glimpse of his understanding of the

Father: his awe and reverence for God, his childlike, simple-yet strong faith in his Father, and his strength to go bravely through life no matter what comes.

Ultimately, our prayer should not become a debate of semantics, labouring over specific words or phrases. It should, as Jesus taught us, rise from within, speaking the language of the soul



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