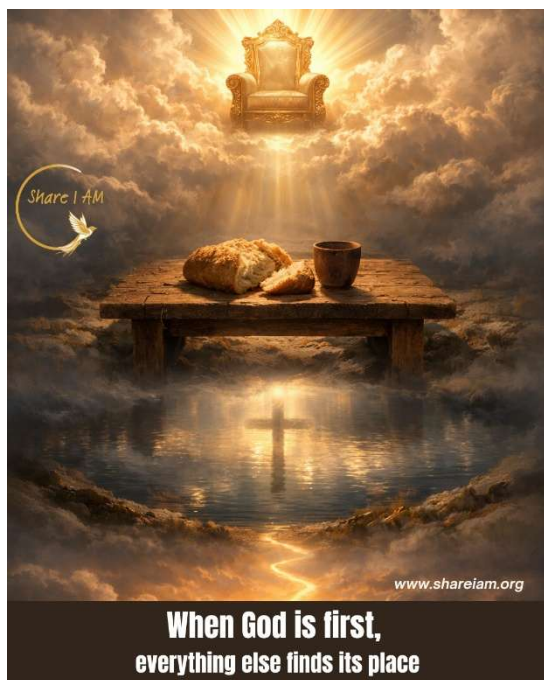




WHEN GOD TAKES HIS RIGHTFUL

📖 *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done... Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts... And do not lead us into temptation...” (Matthew 6:9-13)*

There is a divine order in the Lord’s Prayer that we often overlook in our hurry to be heard. Before a single request for bread is uttered, before forgiveness is sought, before protection is pleaded for, God is placed where He belongs: **first**.

“Hallowed be Your Name.”

“Your Kingdom come.”

“Your will be done.”

The prayer begins not with our hunger, **but with His holiness**. Not with our needs, but with **His glory**.

It is as though Jesus gently instructs us: **Set the throne before you speak of your troubles**. For when God is given His rightful place, all other things quietly fall into theirs. Prayer, then, is not an attempt to bend heaven toward our will. It is the surrender of our will into heaven’s.

Only after God is enthroned do we turn to ourselves. And even here, the order is not accidental.

We ask for **bread**, the maintenance of life. This is the **present**. *“Give us this day our daily bread.”* It directs our thoughts to **God the Father**, the Sustainer of life (James 1:17). He who feeds the sparrows is not ignorant of our need. The **present** moment rests in His **provision**.

We ask for **forgiveness**, and suddenly the **past** is brought into the light. *“Forgive us our debts...”* This directs us to **God the Son, Jesus Christ**, our Redeemer (Ephesians 1:7). The Cross reaches **backward** into yesterday and cleanses what we could never repair. Our history is laid at His feet, and mercy rewrites it.

Then we ask for help in **temptation**, and the **future** is entrusted to God. *“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”* Here we are drawn toward **God the Holy Spirit**, our Comforter and Guide (John 16:13). He is the Guardian of our path, the quiet strength that meets **tomorrow** before we do.

Thus, in one prayer, the whole of life, **past, present, and future**, is placed before the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). And in the same prayer, the whole of God, Father, Son, and Spirit, is brought into the whole of our lives.

What a marvel.

The **present** is sustained by the **Father**.

The **past** is redeemed by the **Son**.
The **future** is guarded by the **Spirit**.

Prayer is therefore not a shopping list, nor a spiritual negotiation. It is alignment. It is the soul stepping into proper orbit around its Creator. When God is first, everything else is held, not perfectly, but securely.

And perhaps that is the secret: We do not begin with ourselves because we were never meant to be the center.

Reflection

... Have I truly given God His supreme place before bringing Him my needs?

... Is my prayer an attempt to persuade Him, or a surrender that entrusts my past, present, and future into His hands?