

The Lord's Prayer

The *spoken* language of Israel in Jesus' day was Aramaic. The people of Aram, a region extending from the northeast of Palestine to the Euphrates River, gave us the language. Those people are currently the Syrian people. The language was nothing really special; it was just their common language.

The official *written* language of Jesus day was Greek. Like the common Aramaic language, the written language was just the common Greek language. It was not Classical Greek or Modern Greek, both of which bear little resemblance to the "Koine" (common) Greek with which all of our New Testament Scriptures were written. God had His Son speaking the common language of the day, and the Son's apostles writing in the common language of the day. I believe you'll find that it's really humans that like to make things complex. God likes things simple.

A good example of this is "The Lord's Prayer". When asked by one of His disciples "Lord, teach us to pray as John the Baptist taught his disciples" (Lu11:1), Jesus could have - if anyone could have - gone on for hours! Yet he spoke just a few short sentences which we still use today!

We sometimes have the misguided notion that God will only accept great swelling words, spoken with marvelous, oratorical skills, by those with great theological training and understanding... nothing could be further from the truth. I once "re-wrote" the "Our Father" in my own words, and taught it to a Sunday School class as something simple for them to pray.

"Dear God in Heaven; I respect you. What you want, I want. Please give me what I need today, forgive me and help me to be forgiving. By the way, help me not to sin, and please protect me. Amen."

God is waiting to hear your voice, not measure your skills. Try this short prayer with regularity, and see if it's OK with God.

Pastor