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Apotropaic Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

An Apotropaic Prayer is one that is made with the intent of asking God for protection from evil spirits. These were widely popular in Ancient Israel. There were two apotropaic prayers that were popular back then, and these are the prayer of Noah and the prayer of Abraham. Its known that towards the end of Noah's life, evil spirits began to rule over his family and they were destroying his grandchildren. Noah's sons approached Noah with pleading attitudes, shedding light over the malicious spirits and their poorly behaved attitudes and the effects these had on the grandchildren. As a result of this, Noah implores God to protect his grandchildren and to keep away the evil spirits from them. To be more exact, Noah prays to God that He keeps these demons imprisoned in a place of judgment. Noah asks God to maintain his sons and grandchildren away from these spirits, so that the spirits cannot harm them but they also can't influence them into bad decisions. To this, of course, God responds positively and He does send His angels, commanding them to keep the evil spirits binded. This shows how Noah's prayer was truly successful in influencing God's actions towards his family.

Similarly in Matthew 6:7, Jesus encourages us to shy away from the religiosity and relative formalities of prayers. He asks us to quit the blabbering. This I found to be so refreshing, because I even find myself praying with excessive words because I feel that the more words I give God, the more he will hear me. Jesus shows us that if we simply come with our hearts open, the Lord will know what we need before we even say a word. He also gives us a structure, and a

word-for-word guide on how to come to The Father. I personally really like this passage because in the end it talks about the importance of forgiveness. Because once we learn to have grace for other people, it's easier for us to see the grace that God has for us individually as well.