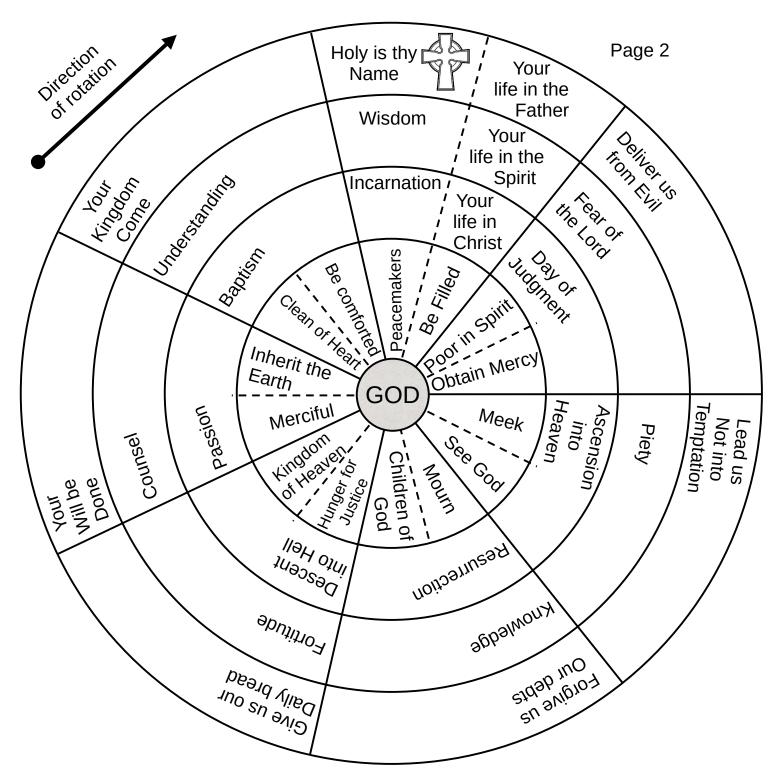


Prayer Wheel (Round-about): an Ancient Aid to a fuller Prayer Life

- First (outer) ring: The Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6) our prayer life in the Father
- Second ring: The gifts of the Spirit (Isaiah 11) our prayer life in the Spirit
- · Third ring: The Life of Christ ("Apostles Creed") our prayer life in Christ
- Fourth ring: The Beatitudes (Matt. 5) our prayer life in daily living

The Prayer Wheel was an aid to daily prayer by the faithful during the middle ages, but after the reformation its use waned and was nearly forgotten. In 2015, a copy of the prayer wheel was discovered in an ancient manuscript from a medieval monastery. Subsequent research revealed the fascinating development and use of the prayer wheel.



Background and History of the Prayer Wheel (continued):

The origins of the prayer wheel date back to the fourth century when St. Augustine aligned the seven primary phrases of the Lord's prayer in a grid with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in Isaiah 11 along with the Beatitudes from Matt. 5. Augustine encouraged believers to pray as Jesus taught, invite the gifts of the Spirit into their hearts, and live out the radical virtues of the Beatitudes in order to experience the kingdom of God in their lives. In the ninth century an abbot added the seven primary events in the life of Christ, and in the eleventh century someone was inspired to fold the grid into a circle and add God to the center, the focus and objective of all prayer.