

This morning I will be summarizing the sermon series “Lord, teach us to pray,” where we looked at the Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6:5-13, and then I will be opening it up for testimonies. Let’s read the passage one more time:

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

<sup>9</sup> “This, then, is how you should pray:

“ ‘Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup>     your kingdom come,  
your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup>     Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup>     Forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup>     And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.’

Let me share two main takeaways I had from this series:

### 1) The Lord’s prayer is a great model for prayer

*<sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.*

Prayer is not about finding the magic formula that will unlock the storehouse of heaven, hacking the game so that you always win what you want from God. And even this prayer was not meant to be recited over and over in ritualistic fashion as if the power is in these precise words. No, I believe that Jesus gives us the Lord’s prayer as a model, as a template, for how to talk to God.

To briefly recap what this model looks like:

Approach God with intimacy and reverence

Praise Him for who He is, what He has done, and what He has promised  
Orient yourself to His kingdom and will  
Ask boldly but humbly and with holiness  
Short accounts – confess sins and forgive others  
The enemy is real, so be alert, resisting the devil and submitting to God

I have been using this as a model for my praying since January. It keeps me from just launching into requests, and helps me know what to pray and how to properly orient myself to God. I would encourage you to do the same if you don't know how to pray.

## 2) I need a great awareness of my great God

J.I. Packer, in his book *Praying the Lord's Prayer*, writes this: "The vitality of prayer lies largely in the vision of God that prompts it. Drab thoughts of God make prayer dull... A book was once published with the title *Great Prayers of the Bible*: the mark of great prayers, in the Bible or elsewhere, is that they express a **great awareness of a great God**."

It's really hard to be aware of God when we are constantly distracted, especially by our phones. Who knows what God is trying to communicate when we are staring at screens or listening to whatever music, video, or podcast we have on in our earbuds.

God has challenged me this year to reduce the noise and distraction and to increase the quiet, the listening, the thinking, and the praying. Give God the opportunity to communicate with me. Think of Jacob in Genesis 28:16-17:

**Genesis 28:16-17** - *When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." <sup>17</sup> He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."*

Surely the Lord was in this place and I was not aware of it. If I am to sincerely pray "your kingdom come, your will be done," then I need to actually want to know and submit to His will, and I can't do that with earbuds in my ear and my face in a screen. I need to be quiet, I need to be listening, I need to live with a great awareness of a great God.