



## Learning to Pray Matthew 6:5-8

### Matthew 6:5-8 (HCSB)

“Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. I assure you: They’ve got their reward! But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. When you pray, don’t babble like the idolaters, since they imagine they’ll be heard for their many words. Don’t be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask Him.

### I. Practices to Avoid

Verse 5 - “Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. I assure you: They’ve got their reward!”

- Improper Recipients
- Ineffective Content

Verse 7 – “When you pray, don’t babble like the idolaters, since they imagine they’ll be heard for their many words.”

### II. Principles to Apply

Verse 6 – “When you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

- Regularly
- Privately
- Purposefully



- Relationally

*“Don’t bother giving God instructions, just report for duty.”*

- Confidently

Ephesians 3:12 (NIV)

“In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”

- Expectantly

Psalms 3:4 (NIV)

“To the Lord I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. “

- Unashamedly

Verse 8 – “Don’t be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask Him.”

- Earnestly

*“Don’t ever expect a one-thousand-dollar answer to a ten-cent prayer.”*

- Specifically

1 Thessalonians 3:9-10 (NIV)

“For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?”

- Simply

“Your Christian life will either flourish or decay according to how much or how little you pray,” - Andrew Murray

“Never emphasize what it costs you to pray – it cost God everything to make it possible for you to pray!”- Oswald Chambers