

# Reedy Fork Baptist Church

**Wednesday, July 30, 2025**

## BIBLE STUDY

**Theme: “Take Time To Listen When You Pray”**

### **SCRIPTURE Matthew 6: 5-13 (NIV)**

**5 “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 others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.**

**6 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.**

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

**8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.**

**9 “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**11 Give us today our daily bread.**

**12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

**13 And lead us not into temptation,<sup>[a]</sup> but deliver us from the evil one.<sup>[b]</sup>**

## **I. Key Words:**

- Listen
- Pray
- Communication
- Wait

## **II. People, Places, & Time:**

- Jesus
- Disciples

## **III. Background:**

Matthew 6 focuses on the importance of sincerity and proper motivation in religious practices. Jesus addresses giving to the needy, prayer, and fasting, emphasizing that these should be done with genuine devotion to God, not for public display or personal gain. The chapter also highlights the dangers of worrying about material possessions and encourages prioritizing God's kingdom.

Prayer (Matthew 6:5-15): Jesus criticizes the practice of praying publicly to be seen by others, suggesting that true prayer is a private and sincere conversation with God. He then provides the Lord's Prayer as a model for prayer, emphasizing its focus on God's holiness, will, provision, forgiveness, and protection. The passage also stresses the importance of forgiving others as a prerequisite for receiving God's forgiveness.

## **IV. In Depth:**

### **1. Lesson Emphasis #1: Jesus assumed that his disciples would pray (Matt. 6:6).**

A. Jesus assumed that we would hunger for fellowship with our heavenly Father.

This hunger leads us to engage in both private and public prayer.

B. Jesus assumed that we would hunger for fellowship with the family of God in dialogue with the Father God.

C. Probably Jesus assumed that we would pray because of an overwhelming sense of helplessness and need.

D. The great need of humans in their struggle with evil causes us to want to pray.

1. There is evil within us.

2. There is evil about us.

3. The evil one walks about seeking whom he may devour.

It has been said that Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his or her knees.

James said, "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you" (4:8 RSV).

## **2. Lesson Emphasis #2: Some misconceptions regarding prayer may lead to disappointment and skepticism.**

A. We should not think of prayer as some kind of supernatural "grab bag" into which one reaches at "God's State Fair" in order to obtain some prize.

1. Prayer is not a substitute for hard thinking and hard work by which we solve many of our problems.
2. Prayer was never meant to be a magic shortcut to success.
3. Prayer is not an arrangement of beautiful religious words used to gain God's attention.

B. Prayer is a personal experience of dialogue with God.

1. It is God who invites us and moves us to come into his presence.
2. We come into his presence with mingled emotions of fear, joy, and expectancy.
3. As communication takes place in prayer through words and acts, we experience new clarity of vision, new understanding of reality, new strength for action, and new courage for living.
4. Prayer is pouring one heart out to God!

## **3. Lesson Emphasis #3: Prayer is communication between the Father God and His children.**

A. "But you, when you pray, go into your room, close the door...":

This part of the verse directs believers to find a private space, free from distractions, where they can focus solely on their relationship with God. It's not necessarily a physical room, but rather a mindset of seeking solitude for prayer.

1. We are to enter the closet, the private place, and shut the door.
2. It is significant that we are instructed to shut the door.

B. We are to shut the door so that God can get our attention.

1. We have a problem with being distracted and preoccupied and not listening when we pray.

2. The psalmist says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10).
3. Habakkuk declares, "The Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him" (2:20).

C. We are to shut the door so that we can hear God's voice.

1. The heavenly Father does not shout or scream when he speaks to us.
2. The writer of Hebrews encourages us to listen: "Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, 'Today, when you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion' " (3:7–8 RSV).

D. We are to shut the door so that we can speak freely to the Father God.

1. We need to take time to adore him, to praise him, and to thank him when we pray.
2. With the door closed we can take time to confess our sin and to promise God that we will forgive those who have sinned against us (Matt. 6:14–15).
3. With the door closed we can voice our petitions for others in prayer.

All of the pronouns in the Lord's Prayer are plural.

The God to whom we pray is "our Father."

When we pray for bread, we are to pray that the Father will "give us our daily bread."

## **V. Make It Happen**

- What is Prayer?
- Why should we pray?
- What instructions does scripture give us when we pray?
- Why are we instructed to shut the door?
- What should we do when we pray?

## **VI. Follow the Spirit:**

What will you do as a result of this lesson?

---

---

---

---

---