

Jesus' Pattern for Prayer **Matthew 6:5-13**

Prayer that is pleasing and acceptable to God will include:

I. Seriousness of Prayer, v. 5-8.

- priority of prayer – when you pray. Jesus taught us by His prayer life the necessity of prayer.
- privacy of prayer – not for show. Even when you pray in public, prayer is private, only between you and God.
- place of prayer – enter your closet. You can pray anywhere and at any time but there needs to be set times of prayer alone with God.
- preparation for prayer – shut your door. We are to remove any and all distractions.
- point of prayer – talking to God. Two way communication between the Father and His child.
- product of prayer – the reward God gives as He answers our prayers.
- process of prayer – pointed and precise, never just vain repetitions or empty, meaningless words that are just for show. God, through His indwelling Holy Spirit already knows what we need.

II. Surrender in Prayer, v. 9-10

- begins with worship as we acknowledge who God is and where God is.
- continues in praise. We are to acknowledge God as holy, set apart, separate, worthy to be praised.
- includes surrender to the work of God. The kingdom of God is the work of God. Whatever your secular job or position is, your work is the kingdom of God.
- and surrender to the will of God. In our lives, there is to be total surrender and faithful obedience to the good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Rom. 12:1-2).

III. Supplication in Prayer, v. 11-13a

We petition God for our:

- physical needs – God's provision
- spiritual needs – God's cleansing
- moral needs – God's protection

IV. Doxology, v. 13b.