



**Great Prayers of the Bible: You
Matthew 6:5-13 (The Lord's Prayer)**

The Lord's Prayer in the context of Matthew 6 is during Jesus' Sermon on the Mount where he spoke to the people about righteousness in the kingdom of God. Jesus taught how a person who is in right relationship with God should live his life. In these verses, we learn how to pray.

Authentic Prayer – Don't Show off For People

Jesus condemned the Pharisees prayers because they were hypocritical. They said prayers in public which indicated that they had a close relationship with God. Yet it was all a show. They were praying to show off before other people. That's why Jesus said to pray in secret. Jesus' teaching doesn't forbid public prayer (He prayed publicly himself – 14:19; 15:36). It forbids praying in public if you are praying for the sake of people and pretending to have a close relationship with God.

Authentic Prayer – Don't Show off For God

Jesus condemned the Gentiles prayers because they believed many words made a prayer persuasive. For example, the multitude in the theater at Ephesus shouted for two hours "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians" (Acts 19:34). We don't need to use a lot of words and try to show off to God. He knows us fully and he knows what we need before we ask. We only need to talk to God honestly.

Model Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

There are several things we learn about prayer from Jesus' model prayer.

Our Father – The Hebrew term is *abba* which was the word used by children for their earthly fathers. When we have a right relationship with God, we have a close relationship with Him and can call Him Daddy. He's close to us, but He is also *in heaven*. He is sovereign.

God Comes First – The first request is for God (the name signifies the person) to be revered. For people to treat Him as holy and that He should not be despised (See Mal 1:6). The next request is for His rule to extend now as people submit to Him and ultimately when His final rule comes. Also, we pray that God's will be done on the earth as in heaven. In other words, fully and willingly.

We Come Next – The next three requests are for ourselves. We pray for our daily (literally, "sufficient for today") bread (physical needs). We also pray for our spiritual needs – the forgiveness of our sins assuming we have forgiven other's sins. Finally, we recognize our spiritual weakness and pray for deliverance from temptation and evil.