

Prayer

10/18/2026

Matthew 6:1, 6-15

A CHALLENGE TO US

The early church saw prayer as much more _____ to their Christian life than we do, and prayed much more _____ than we do.

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU PRAY

- A Christian's identity is _____, not _____.
- Obedience in public doesn't guarantee a reward from God, because _____ is more important than simple _____.
- Even though God already _____, we should not hesitate to ____.
- Prayer is as much about changing ____ – even while we seek God's _____.

WHEN YOU PRAY

1. _____
2. _____ (*Romans 8:28)*
3. _____
    - Prayer is not just _____, it must also be _____.
4. _____ against the _____ status quo.

PRINCIPLES IN PRAYER

1. _____: *Praising his Glory*.
2. _____: *Finding his Grace*.
    - We must not lose our grip on either the _____ or the _____ of God's forgiveness.
3. _____: *Asking his Help*. *(Psalm 61:1-2, James 4:2-3)*

BEGIN, AGAIN

The requirement for praying the way Jesus envisions is a _____-based, _____ relationship with God as father.

Acts 2:42-47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to
fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled
with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the
apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in
common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who
had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple
courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and
sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the
people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being
saved.

Matthew 6:1, 6-15

1 "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others
to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father
in heaven…

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, but deliver us from the evil
one.'

14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive
others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Taking Steps in Prayer

- **ELEVATE** the importance of prayer in your life.
- Get prayer into the **RHYTHM** of your life.
- **INCREASE** the number of places you pray.

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