

Jesus Said That, Pt. 5
“When You Pray”
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Only 44% of professing Christians have a daily prayer life.

Matthew 6:6 (NASB) *“But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”*

Jesus describes the practice of prayer as an expected normal part of a believer’s life.

1. The Power of Prayer

A. Prayer Releases God’s Intention

Matthew 6:10 (NIV) *“Your Kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.”*

The purpose of Prayer is fellowship with God, alignment with His heart, and partnership with His plans.

God has chosen prayer as an instrument through which His purposes are accomplished on earth.

B. Prayer Cultivates Relationship with God

The Greatest aspect of prayer isn’t what God does, but knowing the God you are praying to.

Jesus isn’t merely teaching a spiritual technique; He is affirming relationship.

Prayer isn’t something you do when you need something from God. Prayer is when you learn to know God.

C. Prayer Changes Us

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NASB) *“But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”*

D. Prayer Gives Us Direction

James 1:5 (NIV) *“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”*

E. Prayer Gives Strength

Psalms 138:3 (NLT) "As soon as I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me strength."

2. The Danger of a Weak Prayer Life

A. A Weak Prayer Life Produces Self-Reliance

B. A Weak Prayer Life Leaves Us Vulnerable to the Enemy's Attacks

Matthew 26:41 (NIV) "Watch and Pray SO THAT you will not fall into temptation. The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT) "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."

C. A Weak Prayer Life Makes Us Spiritually Dull

Galatians 5:16-17 (NLT) "So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions."

Without fellowship, conviction is dulled, the Holy Spirit's voice is quieted, fleshly desires get louder, and it becomes easier to do what you want, rather than what God wants for you.

3. How Do We Pray

A. Prayer is Communion and Communication

Prayer isn't about saying the right words; it is about positioning your heart before your Father who loves you.

B. Pray According to God's Will

1 John 5:14-15 (NASB) "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."

C. Make Room for Praise and Worship

D. In the Spirit

Ephesians 6:18a (NIV) *“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”*

E. Pray with Thanksgiving and Expectation

If we pray according to God’s will, we know two things:

- He hears us
- We have what we ask

Six Minute Prayer

- 1) Praise and worship
- 2) Surrender
- 3) Ask
- 4) Forgive
- 5) Pray for Strength and Protection
- 6) Listen - Take a moment