

# Pray

with purpose

June 23

## A Personal Encounter

*“Knowing God is more than knowing about him; it is a matter of dealing with him as he opens up to you, and being dealt with by him...”*

*Friends ...open their hearts to each other by what they say and do...*

*We must not lose sight of the fact that knowing God is an emotional relationship...”*

~J.I. Packer

*He (Jesus) came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also **members of his household**, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. **Ephesians 2:17-20***

## Prayer is more than just communication!

### Reasons for Peace **Luke 4:5-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*“Although posture is not important, I find that I am able to express my dependence better on my knees, a sign of our helplessness apart from the divine enablement.”*  
~Erwin W. Lutzer

### Prayer Don'ts

**Matthew 6:5-8**

“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. 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.

And when you pray, **do not keep on babbling like pagans**, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

**Prayer is real communication, not ritualistic ramblings.**

### Jesus' Prayer Formula

**Matthew 6:9-13**

“This, then, is how you should pray:

‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

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

Give us today our daily bread.

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

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”