

SUNDAY MESSAGE

THE POWER OF

Simple Prayers

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THE LIFT CHURCH

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Matthew 6:5–8

"But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you... for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

MATTHEW 6:6, 8 (ESV)

Last week we talked about this truth: "On the other hand — we pray." Peter was in prison facing execution, but the church prayed earnestly, and God sent an angel to set him free.

But stories like that can make us think powerful prayer must be complicated — longer, louder, more polished. Jesus says otherwise. **God is not looking for prayer performers; He is looking for praying people.**

SIMPLE PRAYER IS

Sincere

Jesus doesn't condemn public prayer — He prayed publicly, and so did the early church. The problem was never where the hypocrites prayed, but why. They prayed to be seen, wanting admiration and a reputation for being religious. "They have received their reward" — if applause was the goal, applause is all they get.

Ask yourself: Am I praying to be heard by God, or noticed by people? Do I still pray when there's no microphone, platform, or crowd?

You do not need a religious voice to pray. You do not need polished phrases. You simply need to come. Real prayer begins when we stop trying to sound spiritual and start becoming honest before God.

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*It's amazing how many more prayers
were answered **before we learned how to
pray.***

BRO. HALL

Consistent

Jesus didn't say, "If you pray." He said, "When you pray." Prayer isn't an occasional emergency response — it's a regular relationship, cultivated in a secret place removed from the crowd and the noise.

"Your Father who sees in secret will reward you." Not merely hears — sees. He sees the one who prays before work, the mother praying quietly over her children, the student whispering a prayer before a test. Before God responds to eloquence, He honors relationship.

The Basketball Player

Even a player talented enough to carry an entire team can't play a regulation game alone — he still needs someone else in the gym. You may not feel like the star, but your presence in prayer matters. Choose to become famous for faithfulness.

Unadorned & Confident

Elijah's 63 Words

On Mount Carmel, the prophets of Baal shouted, danced, and cut themselves for hours — no answer came. Elijah's prayer was about 63 words in English, 34 in Hebrew: direct, focused on God's glory. Then the fire fell. **The power was never in the word count. It was in the God he prayed to.**

Ask, Seek, Knock

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7). Ask when you have a need. Seek when you need direction. Knock when you need a door opened. Simple movements of persistence, dependence, and confidence in the Father's goodness.

CLOSING REFLECTION

Just Come In

- 1 **Am I praying to be heard by God,** or noticed by people?
- 2 **Have I made prayer a regular relationship,** or only an emergency response?
- 3 **Am I waiting to feel impressive enough to pray,** or will I simply come as I am?

Closing charge: "Come into the room. Shut the door. Talk to your Father. Tell Him what you need. You do not have to be impressive. You simply need to be present."