

# New Prayer Resolution

*December 29, 2019*

## I. INTRODUCTION: NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

- *Let us make a resolution to talk with God more in 2020.*

## II. THREE REASONS WE DO NOT PRAY MORE

### *1. We do not pray because we forget who we are praying to.*

**Matthew 6:9** “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,

*A. We must set aside a flawed view of an earthly father when we pray.*

*B. We focus on God, our Heavenly Father, when we pray.*

- Because God is our Father, we can pray with intimacy.

**Matthew 7:7-11** “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!

- Because God is our Father, we can pray with confidence.

**Matthew 6:8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

**Matthew 6:26** Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

*C. Prayer is a corporate experience.*

**1 Timothy 2:8** Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing.

- Prayer is both a personal and a public experience.

### *2. We do not pray because we are not convinced prayer matters.*

**Matthew 6:9** “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,

*A. God is greater than we are.*

**Psalms 33:13-15** From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; from His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth— He who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

*B. God is greater than our strength.*

**Psalms 33:16-17** No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save.

*C. God is greater than our challenges.*

**Psalms 33:18-22** But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

### *3. We do not pray because we do not take prayer seriously.*

**Matthew 6:9-10** “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.

**Exodus 20:3-7** “You shall have no other gods before Me. “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments. “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.

*A. Effective prayer glorifies God’s name over our needs.*

**Matthew 6:33** But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*B. Effective prayer seeks God’s will over our own.*

**Psalms 37:3-6** Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.