

YES&NO

1. Everyone in this room is a hypocrite.
2. The problem with hypocrisy in the church has diminished in recent years.
3. It is better to be an outspoken atheist than a hypocrite. (George Harrison)
4. Even though God knows what I need, He requires me to ask Him before He gives it.
5. Some of my sins have not been forgiven, because I refuse to forgive other people.

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DIG DEEP

READ: Matthew 6:5-8 (NIV)

5 “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. 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.

∞ How do hypocrites pray, and how can I avoid that kind of prayers?

- What hypocrite [ὑποκριταί] meant in Jesus' day:

∞ What Jesus meant by “babbling like pagans”...

» If God says he doesn't want us to have repetitious prayers like the pagans, which become meaningless babble, how do we recite his next words, *The Lord's Prayer*, without it becoming empty words?

» And if “your Father knows what you need before you ask him,” why do you need to pray about that?

READ: Matthew 6:9-15 (NIV)

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.

∞ How does this structure of prayer directly address how we can pray differently than the hypocrites?

NOTES

