

GOD SPEAKS
The Discipline of Prayer
Matthew 6:5-8
Week 3 July 28, 2024
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To pray is to change.
How does prayer work?
Prayer quite simply is having a conversation with God.

Key Question this week is: How do I grow by communicating with God?

Key Idea: I pray to God to know Him, to find direction for my life and to lay my requests before Him.

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;¹⁹ but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.²⁰ Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!
Psalm 66:18-20 NIV

We acknowledge our sin and God forgives us and cleans us up and we are back in good conversation with God.

I. BEGIN WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

When you pray... Matthew 6:5

Be Real

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 men. I tell you the truth, 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.
Matthew 6:5-6 NIV

Be Revealing

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.
Matthew 6:7-8 NIV

II. USE THE MODEL THAT JESUS GAVE TO US

This is how you should pray... Matthew 6:9

The Six Parts of Prayer

1. **PRAISE:** I Begin By Declaring The Holiness Of God
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...
Matthew 6:9 NIV
2. **PURPOSE:** I Commit Myself to God's Purpose And Will For My Life
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...
Matthew 6:10 NIV
3. **PROVISION:** I Ask God To Provide For My Needs
Give us this day our daily bread...
Matthew 6:11 NAS
4. **PARDON:** I Ask God To Forgive My Sins
Forgive us our sins...
Matthew 6:12a NLT

Four Steps To Forgiveness:

Ask the Holy Spirit To Reveal Every Sin
Confess Each Sin Specifically
Make Restitution to Others When Necessary
By Faith Accept God's Forgiveness

5. **PEOPLE:** I Pray For Other People
As we also have forgiven our debtors...
Matthew 6:12b NIV
6. **PROTECTION:** I Ask for Spiritual Protection From God
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one...
Matthew 6:13 NIV

Questions to consider about your prayer life:

1. What part of this guide for prayer do I find myself fighting?
2. What am I most worried about and what part of this prayer addresses that worry?
3. How does giving God control of my life help us love people into Heaven?