

Normal & Necessary

The Prayer Series | Message #2

October 3, 2021 ✨ Wonderful Mercy Church



Keep it

simple.

real.

up.

Matthew 6:5-8 NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

“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.”

Matthew 6:5 THE MESSAGE

“And when you come before God, don’t turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for fifteen minutes of fame! Do you think God sits in a box seat?”

Prayer Has Its Rewards

1 John 5:14-15 [New International Version]

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

John 14:14 [New Living Translation]

“Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!”



“I don’t know how prayer works. All I know is, when I pray, coincidences happen. When I don’t pray, they don’t happen.”

—Andrew Dempsey

11:11 Prayer Initiative Outcomes

- Through August we had a year-to-date financial deficit of \$24,000
- Through September, preliminary figures now show a \$24,000 surplus
- For the month of August we averaged 65 people for in-person worship
- In September we averaged 71 people for in-person worship

Matthew 6:7-8a NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

“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...”

Matthew 6:7-9a THE MESSAGE

“The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They’re full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don’t fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply.”

Why Pray? Because Jesus Did, and He's Our Model

1 Corinthians 11:1 [New International Version]

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Ephesians 5:1-2a [New Living Translation]

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. ² Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ.

John 13:15 [New Living Translation]

“I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.”

If God Already Knows What We Need, Why Pray?

- Because Jesus did, and he's our model in all things
- Because Jesus told us to: *“This, then, is how you should pray...”* (Mat. 6:9a)
- Because God rewards prayer
- Because it's about our love relationship and friendship with God



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