



# WORD

*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. 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.*

## *Matthew 6:5-15*

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Jesus is contrasting the behavior and practices of the Saducees and Pharisees with true righteousness. He warns His disciples from being pious in a hypocritical manner just to impress people.

With the Lord's Prayer, Jesus Christ gave us a pattern or model for prayer. He was teaching His disciples how to pray. There's nothing magical about the words. The prayer is not a formula. We don't have to pray the lines verbatim. Rather, we can use this prayer to inform us, teaching us how to approach God in prayer.

How do you pray to God? How will you know if you are praying correctly or not?

# 1. WHAT CONSTITUTES A WRONG PRAYER?

*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.*

*Matthew 6:5-8*

## A. WRONG MOTIVE

The first thing Jesus encourages His disciples to do before they pray is to know what to do when they pray, rather than to know what to say when they pray. He encourages them not to be like the Saducees and the Pharisees.

The reason why the saducees pray in public is for them to be recognized, because they want to show to other people that they are more religious than others.

Jesus is trying to emphasize here is that prayer must be done for God's glory and never for self-glory. We should never make prayer a platform to show off in order to place ourselves up in front of others. Instead, our hearts must be seasoned with humility when we come to God in prayer.

## B. WRONG MANNER

God doesn't require you to use long and extravagant words to make your prayers somehow more 'pleasing' to Him or to cycle your prayers on repeat. This shouldn't mean we should never be thoughtful or should never try emphasizing particular aspects in our prayers that we feel strongly convicted about.

The reason why God answers our prayers is not because of our words, The reason why God answers our prayers is because our God is faithful. God knows the longings of our hearts before we even communicate them.

Do you practice proper prayer?

## 2. WHAT CONSTITUTES A RIGHT PRAYER?

*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.*

*Matthew 6:9-10*

### A. RELATIONSHIP

In prayer, Jesus tells us to address God, Our Father to display true relationship with Him and that He is personal and also rules with divine authority. When we come in prayer calling on the Father's name, our prayers to Him can only be heard on the basis of that intimacy that is shared between a loving father and his child.

The basis of our prayer life is not just because we are driven by our needs but we are driven because we have a relationship with him. The reason why He is faithful because He can be a father to us.

So everytime we approach God in praying, we should shift from transactional to relational prayer.

### B. REVERENCE

Names are highly significant in Scriptures and the "name of God" brings with it unlimited power and purity. Proclaiming to God that His name is holy is to acknowledge His absolute greatness.

If there is no reverence there is a tendency for us to magnify our problems. So we should always have a posture that everytime we pray to God there is reverence. Prayer also reminds us that we are weak and God is greater.

### C. REALIGNMENT

In verse 10, Jesus now models the importance of submission to God's will, and speaking to Him in a way which acknowledges it. Praying for what God wants to happen is to accept that His plan is right and good for everyone.

Do you trust God's plan for your life? Are your prayers align to His will?

# APPLICATION

- Are you having difficulty praying just now? Why or Why not?
- If the Father knows what we need before we ask Him for it, why do you think He wants us to ask?
- Have you used this model (Lord's Prayer) for your own prayers? If so, what are some ways that you have kept it meaningful?

# PRAYER

- Thank your Heavenly Father for always being there with and for you.
- Pray that you will trust God's will more despite of the circumstances we are facing.
- Pray that God will always give you fresh revelations everytime you meditate His word and when you communicate with Him.



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