



How Do We Pray / What Do We Say?

Matthew 6:5-13

The Outside

—>Not like this...(v. 5)

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

- When the posture of your life and appearance conflict with the posture of your heart and spirit, that's called a counterfeit.

—>Like this...(v. 6)

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

- Prayer is not about you getting your prayers answered (because that's subjective). Prayer is all about the reward. And, the reward is in the relationship. Not the answer or outcome to the list of things brought before Him. He spoke to you!

The Inside

—>Not like this...(v. 7-8)

And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

- Babbling with no real depth, content or expectations. Sometimes we feel like we'll be heard just because we say the magic words.

—>Like this...(v. 9-13)

[X] Align Yourself With Who He Is & What He's About (v. 9-10)

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

- You must first recognize who He is and never reduce Him to an earthly entity or concept.
- This aligns you with the reality that He is a good Father- one in which all provisions come. We're His kids!
- Acknowledge & Align yourself to this foundational truth. This effects everything else from here. This is most often where the disconnect starts.
- "Himself as revealed and manifested." Commentary
- Your name is Holy, and He is to be adored, worshipped and loved as such. This changes everything about your approach, your petitions, and your expectations. You come with less demands and more open hands.
- Salvation was coming- Jesus was coming- the Kingdom came down in the flesh.
- Let the glory of Heaven reign down (bringing salvation, freedom and life in Christ)
- His will in Heaven is the same will for us here.

[X] Ask & Receive Only From Him (v. 11)

Give us this day our daily bread

- Recognize real needs and the source of all provisions for life.
- Identify & Determine your needs will be met only by One.
- It gives us proper perspective and drive for the need of the moment.

[X] Receive & Release Forgiveness (v. 12)

And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors

- We owe Him a debt unthinkable and impossible to pay.

- If we don't forgive, we quench the Holy Spirit from releasing to us the benefits of forgiveness.

[X] Follow The Leader (v. 13)

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

- It's still back to the truth the old hymn reflects- "Wherever He leads I'll go."
This has two verbs present.
 - lead (this one guides)
 - deliver (this one protects)
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Closing:

[] "Give us" is present. "Forgive us" is past. "Lead us & deliver us" is future. He has us all the way around when we seek Him and His presence in prayer.

[] Psalm 16:11 (In His presence there is fullness of joy) has to happen so Nehemiah 8:10 (the Joy of the Lord is our strength) can happen.

[] Don't miss the repeated emphasis on "us, we, our, etc." We are a family! So this is not to be taken lightly. It effects all of us.

How do we come to Him?

Humbly

2 Chronicles 7:14 - If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Boldly

Hebrews 4:14-16 - Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- What happens when God does not answer our prayers the way we asked, or in a way we can understand?
- boldly also means bold faith in Him regardless of perceived outcome
- Fasting and Praying: “There is nothing pleasing to God in our giving up in a purely pharisaic and legal way things that are pleasant, but there is power in that downright earnestness and determination to obtain in prayer things of which we sorely feel our need, that leads us to put away everything, even things in themselves most right and necessary, that we may set our faces to find God and obtain blessings from Him.” -R.A. Torrey (How To Pray)

Unrelentingly

Psalm 88:1 - O Lord, God of my salvation; I cry out day and night before you.

Psalm 40:1 - I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my cry.

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