



## **Teach us to Pray -- The Do's and Don'ts Concerning Prayer Pt. 2**

**Sunday Sermon – 1/12/2025**

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**Luke 11:1-4** Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." 2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say: **Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 3 Give us day by day our daily bread. 4 And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."**

The greater grace we need to desire and walk in this year is the level of grace that empowers us to ascend and to maintain at the next level.

Increasing our level of prayer, I believe, is one of the necessary components for us to operate in Greater Grace for the Next Level.

*The greatest book ever written on prayer is the Bible, with Jesus Christ as its most significant contributor.*

Jesus showed us how to pray publicly (**John 17 most notably**) and taught us how to pray privately (**Matthew 6 and Luke 11**).

We must recognize that Jesus serves as our primary authority on the subject of prayer, as he engaged in prayer as a human being addressing Father God. In his prayers, he approached God from the perspective of the Son of Man, emphasizing His humanity rather than His divine nature as God. This distinction provides us with a profound example of how to connect with God through prayer.

Jesus showed us that it's okay to talk to God about our worries and feelings, especially when it comes to tasks, we feel He wants us to do, even if those tasks seem difficult or unpleasant. A strong example of this is seen in the Garden of Gethsemane in **Matthew 26**. *There, Jesus struggled with His thoughts and emotions before facing a huge challenge going through the crucifixion experience.*

When we examine passages like Matthew 26 and John 17, we see that these prayers are not the context for the model prayer that Jesus provided. The pattern or outline found in Luke 11 and Matthew 6 was intended for us to use during our personal time of solitude with the Lord. It is this structure, protocol, and priority that Jesus communicated to believers regarding how they should approach God the Father.

There are certain aspects of the model prayer that I believe should be used most of the time when we pray to God, such as praying to the Father, thanksgiving and praise, and coming to him in Jesus' Name.

Concerning our private time prayer, how many Christians approach Father God in these times differs significantly from the way Jesus taught us to pray. We will find that asking for what we need is only a small part of how we should engage with God during these moments.



We see from **James chapter 5** that every born-again believer has the potential to pray prayers that get extraordinary results.

**James 5:16-18** The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. **17** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. **18** And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

This verse says that Elijah was like one of us, but because he knew how to pray effectively, he could operate at a Level higher than those in the world. He operated as a chosen one.

We need to come to the reality of truth that we are chosen ones as well.

In order to operate in Greater Grace continually we must be astute in our prayer life!

Please don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that God hasn't been hearing you pray up until now. But what I am saying is that according to Jesus, there is a better way to approach God, dialogue, and commune with him in our private time.

What we call the Lord's prayer is actually a prayer Jesus outlined/patterned for Believers to follow concerning Prayer. (**Matthew 6, Luke 11**)

**Luke 11:1** Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

The pattern/outline prayer that Jesus is teaching is to be primarily used for Private time prayer. **Matthew 6:6** But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray.

Jesus' disciples came to him, asking him specifically to teach them how to pray.

Some of Jesus' disciples recognized that He had taught people how to pray in the past (Matthew 6).

This account in Luke 11 is about 2 ½ years after He had taught prayer on the sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapter 6.

They observed that John the Baptist had also taught his followers to pray. This indicates that prayer is a learned discipline.

Prayer is a learned Discipline that must be desired. The Bible says in **James 1:5** If any of you lacks wisdom, (meaning wisdom in any area) **let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally.**

A "learned discipline" refers to a specific area of knowledge or study that is acquired through dedicated learning and practice, typically within an academic setting, like history, biology, mathematics, or law; essentially, a subject where you actively develop expertise through study and training, rather than an attribute you are born with.

***Three essentials we must do to learn to pray as Jesus taught.***

1. Seek God's guidance to instill in you a desire to learn the art of prayer.



2. Request His guidance to discipline you in following His prayer pattern, respecting the right priorities and protocols. We should practice the mechanics of prayer while ensuring that prayer doesn't become mechanical.
3. Most importantly, pray for the longing that makes prayer a cherished practice rather than a mere obligation.

Through this intimate dialogue, we explore God's desires for our lives so that He can; answer our needs, manifest His will, and establish His Kingdom.

**...your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 3 Give us day by day our daily bread.**

God has designed prayer so He can manifest His will through His body. Jesus is the head, and the church is the body.

**Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.**

It is through prayer that His secrets are revealed.

*Let's look at some of the do's and don'ts of Prayer listed in Matthew chapter 6.*

*The first "Do" concerning prayer*

**Matthew 6:5 "And when you pray",**

This statement denotes that we are commanded to pray. Notice it says, **"when you pray."** *Not if you pray!*

**Luke 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,**

*To lose heart means that we give up on our faith in God that He will answer!*

*How often and when should we pray? This verse says always!*

*From the first four words of Matthew 6:5, we understand that we are commanded to pray frequently.*

**Daniel 6:10: "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home and in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days".**

*Let's look at the first thing we "should not do" when we pray.*

**You shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.**

This verse teaches us that our location or intensity of prayer is irrelevant if our motives are misguided; the only reward we will receive praying like this is what this world can offer.

Prayer should never be a performance. *Many people who pray formally have been subconsciously pressured to pray in a way that impresses others more than to have their words reach the throne room of heaven.*



*The second thing we need to “do” when we pray*

**6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**

*The people probably were familiar with how Daniel has a special place to pray, for it says in **Daniel 6:10: ...he went home and in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days**”.*

We must recognize that our Heavenly Father yearns to share cherished, quiet moments with us, developing a deep and intimate connection.

But even in these sacred times of communion, it's important to remember that there are principles and protocols we should respect; if there weren't, Jesus wouldn't have taught them.

If you haven't already, prepare a secret place for you to spend with God alone. If you do so, this verse says that God will intentionally meet you there.

When you prepare the special place for prayer, God promises to manifest in a special way and reward us openly, which means that He will reward us in a way that people will have to take notice of.

When we follow the proper pattern, order, protocol, and pray according to His will, we are all assured of getting a response from God.

**The second thing we “should not do” when we pray-**

**7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do.** So, many people miss what this verse is saying. It is not saying you can't repeat yourself when you pray.

We see repetition in **Psalms 136 ...”His love endures forever”**, is repeated over 25 times.

*A lot of the Psalms are prayers put to music.*

We see repetition at the throne of Father God in **Revelation 4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"**

Vain Repetitions- Much talk without content, repeating the same thing over and over again (**Matthew 6:7**), Speaking without a clear purpose is not useful. In contrast, clear and knowledgeable speech is valuable. This kind of unclear speaking can lead to foolish words or careless promises in prayer.

Vain words are those that emerge from a place of misguided intentions. Rather than being aimed at fostering understanding or meaningful communication, they are crafted to impress or showcase one's own eloquence. These words often lack honesty and can be deliberately misleading, as they are spoken for selfish gain rather than to serve a greater purpose.

As we learn the proper motive and pattern of prayer, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, praying at length will be no problem at all.

**For they think that they will be heard for their many words.**



Prayer is the thoughtful way we connect our minds/souls with God. When we pray, we should not think we are impressing God in any way or telling Him what to do.

Saying many unnecessary words and emotions doesn't make God move any faster. The louder you cry doesn't really make a difference because He knows the heart.

Unfortunately, despite Jesus' instruction against meaningless repetition in prayer, many individuals still recite the "Lord's Prayer" as if the words hold magical significance without genuine engagement.

### **The third thing we “should do” when we pray**

Pray with confidence. **8 ... For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.**

God already knows everything we need and desire before we come to Him, and the answer to the request has been taken care of with our best in mind.

It's important that we reassure ourselves from time to time before we pray by meditating on this passage of scripture.

**Matthew 6:25-34 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"**

What Jesus is saying here, life is more than about material things, so when you approach God in prayer, our prayer should be more than about material things. We must trust God that He knows!!!

**26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?**

We must know our value to God. The value that we have in the eye sight of God as His children is so greater than we can ever have for our children. **Matthew 7:11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!**

Collectively and individually, we are an intricate part of God's overall plan for the seen and unseen worlds.

**... 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek.**

Constantly asking God repeatedly for the same thing is not a sign of faith but a sign of worry, doubt, and unbelief.

Constantly asking God repeatedly for the same thing puts you in the same category as the world.

**For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

Instead of constantly asking God, thank Him in advance for the answer even though you don't see the manifestation.

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Put God in remembrance of His promises in prayer; I'm one of your, righteous. your word says, "I've never seen the righteous forsaken neither His seed begging bread." God, you have already blessed me with everything I need in a heavenly place, so as I meditate on your promises, increase my faith so that I won't worry, have doubt, or unbelief. I trust you, God, for you are faithful to your promises, and all your promises are yes and amen.

With this in mind, when we pray, the pressure is off. You are coming to God knowing that He knows your need and He has already taken care of it.

When we approach God with this type of confidence, it makes focusing on Jesus' proper pattern, order, and protocol of prayer a lot easier.

**1 John 5:14-15 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, (part of the will of God is that we meet him and the secret place of prayer) He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**