



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

**Sunday Sermon – 1/5/2025**

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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."**

*Ask most Christians if they know how to pray, and they will say yes. Something like this: I know I can ask God for what I need, isn't that prayer?*

*What many Christians refer to as prayer differs significantly from the way Jesus taught us to pray, especially during our most important times of prayer in the morning and evening when we spend time alone with God.*

*We will find that asking for what we need is only a small part of how we should engage with God during these moments. Throughout this series, we will explore the idea that prayer is much deeper and more meaningful than merely presenting our requests.*

Knowing how to pray effectively is a major key to operating in Greater Grace at the Next Level!

**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, and unlike most Christians, he knew how to pray effectively, and he was able to operate at Another Level*

What we call the Lord's prayer is actually a prayer Jesus outlined for Believers to follow concerning Prayer.

The Old Testament Rabbis used to teach by giving topics of truth and then breaking down those topics by defining them for more understanding.

**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."

Notice in our text scriptures Jesus' disciples came to him, asking him specifically to teach them how to pray after they saw Him praying. Even though Jesus understood how to pray and recognized that His disciples did not know how to pray in the same manner He did to get great results, He did not offer to teach them again. If they hadn't asked, it was likely that they would not have learned how to pray the way He prayed.

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.**



Notice they didn't ask him how to preach, how to teach, how to work miracles, but they did come to Him asking Him to teach them to pray. Prayer is a learned discipline. It is not merely a collection of words we recite when we are in need, but prayer is a thoughtful approach to engaging in dialogue with God about His will.

Jesus's disciples noted that they had seen John the Baptist teaching his followers to pray. This showed Prayer is a learned discipline. That there is a specific way to approach and commune with God for extraordinary results.

We need this type of dialogue so God 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.**

The disciples witness all three of these taking place continually in the life of Jesus, who was God's kingdom representative on earth at that time. Now that Jesus has gone back to Heaven seated at the throne of majesty on high, we are God's legal representatives for this time, and if Jesus prayed continually, then we should as well.

God has designed prayer to be so essential that He does nothing on earth without the cooperation of His chosen ones.

**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.

*All of God's chosen believers have a level of prophetic anointing in their lives.*

The outline of prayer we will be going over in this series of teachings is the outline of prayer primarily for the private time that we should spend communing with the Lord each and every day!

I believe that as we immerse ourselves in these disciplines of prayer, we will gain a deeper understanding of the framework of prayer. This understanding will empower us to walk in greater authority and power daily, in alignment with what God intends for us.

***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!*

It displeases God when we don't spend personal time communing with Him. Prayerlessness is disobedience!

**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!

*Here is another scripture that backs that up. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"*

We see here that it is the will of God that we pray continually.

*One reason why God wants us to be in continual prayer is only those who remain aware of what is happening on Earth and are in a continual state of prayer will be able to escape all the judgments to come upon the world.*



**Luke 21:36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."**

**Ephesians 6:18-19 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints —**

Once we understand that we are commanded not only to pray concerning ourselves but others as well and the other things that God has prophesied for the future, continuing in the mode of prayer will be a lot more enjoyable!

This scripture describes that continual mode of prayer. **Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him (make it known to God, or to get the proper understanding from Him), And He shall direct your paths.**

Continual prayer provides constant Godly direction.

It is essential for us to be in a constant state of prayer, as this is the will of God. From the first four words of **Matthew 6:5**, we understand that we are commanded to pray frequently.

*Let's look at the first, don't.*

**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 the earth offers.

Prayer should never be a performance.

*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.**

We must recognize that our Heavenly Father yearns to share cherished, quiet moments with us, fostering 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.

Adhering to these guidelines, we will teach in this series will not only allow us to honor His divine nature but also help us fully appreciate and connect with Him, for He is the sovereign God of the universe, deserving of our utmost reverence and devotion.

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 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, and protocol and pray according to His will, we are all assured of getting a response from God.