

**The Gospel of Matthew #51**

**Sermon on the Mount: chapter 6: LIVING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

**HOW TO PRAY**

**Matthew 6:9-13**

Introduction to chapter 6

He is teaching us to live *consistently* with what we say we believe:

- An unseen eternal Kingdom of God our Home
  - A heavenly Father Who the center of our affections & Help
- “Father” appears 3x in 48vss of ch 5 (1 in 15 vss)  
“ ” “ ” 12x in 34 vss of ch6 (1 in 3 vss)

But we live as practical atheists in 2 basic ways:

1. Whose FAVOR we seek: v1-18

Egs: A. Giving (v2-4) B. **Praying (v5-15)** C. Fasting (v16-18)

I. How NOT to pray ONE: Ostentatious prayer

Prayer is about **my image**

II. How TO pray ONE: Privately

III. How NOT to pray TWO: Superstitious prayer

Prayer is about **my technique**

IV. How TO pray TWO: Here is a model: v9-13

Heart of prayer is remembering that God is your Father: v6, 8, 9

**GRASPING THIS PRAYER AS A WHOLE:**

6 Petitions:

3 regarding God: His Name – His Kingdom – His will

3 regarding us: Our provision – our sins – our struggles

Note the petitions for our needs cover physical, spiritual, relational: all of life

My food – my family & friends – my failings

Address: Begins with WHO I come to: a \_\_\_\_\_ Who cares & is capable. Worthy of my trust and worship

Pet #1: My chief concern: His \_\_\_\_\_ to be revered in this world

Pet #2: Outworking of that: his \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ advanced in this world

Pet #3: Outworking of that: His revealed \_\_\_\_\_ to be done perfectly:  
a) in my life  
b) in my world

These purposes shape my overriding concerns in life.

Then come the personal needs I keenly feel as creature and sinner (tho note they are stated in plural—in community):

Pet #4: Material \_\_\_\_\_ for me, my family, our community

Pet #5: \_\_\_\_\_ AS I forgive others in my community  
The one petition He further develops in v14-15  
Forgiveness is at the heart of our relationships and the Gospel

Pet #6: \_\_\_\_\_ from temptation and the tempter  
Strength because I am so weak

(Early church added the traditional doxology: “for Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”  
Jewish prayers always ended with a doxology.  
It reflects I Chron 29:11 and is appropriate.)

#### Final observations

1. See here the priority of prayer. Thru it we bring every area and concern to Him because that is how life is to be lived.
2. It also teaches the importance of praying *together*. It is all in the plural.  
CPC needs to grow in this.  
Our weekly congregational prayer time  
Our Sunday Service Prayer Teams
3. It reflects the Gospel: we come to God as Father because we are forgiven, based on Jesus’ death and resurrection.  
It is all based on grace for our needs.  
If you see your needs, and God as Father, you *will* pray.
4. Use these 6 petitions as a model for your praying this week