

## Prayer, Part 4

### How to Pray

Prayer is the greatest work of the Christian. The purpose is to find out God's will for our lives. Remember, there are two people involved in prayer: you ad the Lord. Prayer is the breath of the soul.

#### Matthew 6:5-13

- 5 ¶ And when ye pray, ye shall not be as the hypocrites: for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have received their reward. *Matthew calls the religious people of his day Hypocrites. Religion is against God; Christianity is for God. Matthew is talking about people who go out in public and wear prayer shawls and act like they are super religious so others would see them and think they are so great. These type of prayers mean nothing.*
- 6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thine inner chamber, and having shut thy door, pray to thy Father who is in secret, and thy Father who seeth in secret shall recompense thee. *When you pray to make a show in front of others, it means nothing. It is like an actor on a stage, acting the part and getting applause for a reward. Real Christians close their eyes and just talk to God. Prayer is between you and Him, and no one else. The greatest majority of your prayers should be done in private, in secret.*
- 7 And in praying use not vain repetitions, as the Gentiles do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. *Don't use repetitious words in your prayers, chanting is not the way to do it. God just wants us to talk to Him like normal. He can hear you just fine. Heathens chant and say the same thing over and over.*
- 8 Be not therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. *Christians are not to be like pagans, chanting and repeating themselves. This is not to say you can't ask God twice or more times for something that is on your heart. This repetition referred to here is like chanting. God already knows what you need before you ask Him, He is after all, your Father. But He still wants you to ask for stuff and talk to Him, just like your human dad.*
- 9 ¶ After this manner therefore pray ye. Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. *First, look up to God (uplook). Honor God's name first of all in your prayers. Call Him Father.*
- 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth. *Lord, I want your kingdom to come down here. This is referring to the literal kingdom that Jesus Christ will set up on this earth and Jerusalem, Israel will be the leading nation of the world for 1000 years, with Jesus Christ King and Ruler. This will be set up after the Tribulation period.*
- 11 Give us this day our daily bread. *(Inward look) We don't need to ask for tomorrow's bread. He will provide for us one day at a time. If you take two day's worth, it will get worms. What you've stored up will go bad, so don't worry about tomorrow. This is talking about not worrying about tomorrow; it will take care of itself. Take it one day at a time.*
- 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. *(outward look) This word debt in the Greek means anything you owe anybody. This could be tools you borrowed – give them back. Money you borrowed, pay it back. An argument you've had, settle it. All these are debts of things, money, apology. Whatever it is, you give your part back.*
- 13 And bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. *This verse throws a lot of people. Since when does God lead people into temptation? James 13 says God does not lead people to evil. He tests you, but not with evil. Satan leads people to evil. What is being said here is asking God not to let us as we are lead through our lives that when we are tested we are not left there long enough to sin. Deliver from the hands of Satan. For thine is the power and the glory forever, AMEN.*