

# "Prayer"

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## Overview



Conversation. It is the way in which we connect with one another. It's not the only way - but it is fundamental to relationship. Without the ability to converse we would struggle (even more than we do) to battle isolation and self-focus.

We need to communicate with one another - but communication is not always easy. Wrong assumptions, misunderstood meanings, background emotions, shared history and so much more can make communication exceedingly difficult.

Now what if (in addition to all that) you cannot actually see the person you are talking to? Prayer can at times seem impossible - and yet what could be more amazing than the opportunity to speak (and relate) any time we wish to the Divine Creator?

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## Getting Started



1. Do you have a preferred place to meet for coffee and conversation? Where is it and why is it your favorite?
  2. What questions do you like to ask to learn about a person? What questions do you hate to be asked?
  3. Prayer is often divided into Adoration, Confession, Supplication and Thanksgiving. Which of these do you spend the most time doing? Which do you wish you did more?
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## The Text



<sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup>And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. <sup>9</sup>“This, then, is how you should pray:

“ ‘Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
<sup>10</sup>your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.  
<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.'

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:5-15 (NIV)

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***The Audio (optional)***



"Prayer" - by Kyle Corbin, Oct. 20/19

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***Understanding***



1. Prayer is (at its most basic level) about having a conversation with God. What is it not about (vs. 5-7)?
2. According to verse 8, God knows what we need before we ask. So why then should we bother to pray (consider also Exod. 32:11-14, Luke 22:39-42, 1 Cor. 3:9)?
3. Jesus tells His followers that the model prayer in verses 9-13 is how they should pray. Go through the prayer and list the various themes that you feel Jesus would want to see regularly in our prayers.
4. How does Jesus address God in this prayer (vs. 9)? How does the way we address God impact our prayers (and our relationship with Him) (see John 1:12; Rom. 8:14–17; 2 Cor. 6:18; 1 John 3:1, 2, 10)?

5. What is the overall result that our prayers should ask for when we pray (vs. 10)? In what different ways is this accomplished on earth (i.e. how could we pray for this result more specifically)?
6. Review vs. 11-15 and identify the various needs that God supplies (and the kinds of things we should seek from Him in prayer). What must be true of us if we are to see God answer our prayers (check out John 15:7, Heb. 11:6, James 4:3)?

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### **Applying**



1. Do you think you spend enough time in prayer? How much more do you feel you need to pray? How do you understand (and how would you follow) the instruction found in 1 Thess. 5:17?
2. Review the various requests found in the prayer of Matt. 6:9-15. Which of these requests do you think people tend to include in their prayers? Which do they tend to leave out? When people do not seek things from God, where else might people go to find their needs met?
3. How have you seen God provide the kinds of things asked for in these verses? How has God's response to these needs impacted your relationship with God?
4. What types of prayer (or prayer themes) do you feel you need to include more in your prayer life (see also James 5:13-18)?
5. Do you enjoy praying out loud in a group? If so, why? If not, why not?

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### **Memory Verse(s)**



<sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:7-8 (NIV)

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## Extra Resources



- ❖ *"Prayer"* by Pastor Kyle Corbin ("Immanuel Church" website, Oct. 20, 2019). In this sermon Pastor Kyle reviews the practice of prayer and the focus we must bring to it (which includes building a relationship with God).
- ❖ *"Prayer"* by Richard J. Foster (HarperSanFrancisco, 1992). In this book Foster describes 21 different types of prayer. A great resource for expanding one's prayer life.
- ❖ *"For Every Prayer That Goes Unanswered"* by Greg Morse ("Desiring God" website, Oct. 25, 2018). This brief article provides wise counsel for the days when it feels like God has not heard our prayers.