

Our Father...

#1 Learning to Pray from the Master

HOW NOT TO PRAY

Praying to Impress People

Matthew 6:5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Praying to Impress God

Matthew 6:7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

HOW TO PRAY

After this manner therefore pray ye:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

THIS PRAYER...

- It was meant to serve as a pattern or guide for praying, not a scripted prayer to be mindlessly recited (“after this manner”)
- Not only does the prayer’s content provide insight into prayer, but its order and structure do as well
- It begins and ends with God
- It uses the language of family

- There is a notable shift in the middle that was meant to teach us something very important about prayer
- It presents several PICTURES OF PRAYER that Jesus wants to embed in our minds to help us know how to approach God!

PRAYER PICTURE #1:

CHILDREN COMING TO THEIR FATHER

“Our Father Who is in heaven...”

- FAMILY — Prayer is a Family Conversation.
- DEPENDENCE – In prayer we humbly express our need for His provision.

Godly Fathers...
 - Provide for their children *Matthew 7:11*
 - Train and develop each of their children *Ephesians 6:4*
 - Have compassion on their children *Psalms 103:13*
 - Challenge their children to grow in maturity *1 Thessalonians. 2:12*
 - Discipline their children when they need it *Hebrews 12:5*
 - Refrain from exasperating their children *Ephesians 6:4*
- TRUST — Coming to God as our Father implies that we trust His heart towards us.
- PERSPECTIVE — In prayer we come to a Father Who sees everything clearly from above!