

The One Prayer You Simply Must Know, pt. 1

Matthew 6:5-13

Main Idea: When Jesus begins the “Lord’s Prayer” with, “*Pray, then, in this way,*” he indicates that this is a model prayer, a springboard prayer, designed to help us live in daily communion with God. It’s the basic prayer essential to life in Christ...

1. *A WARNING – Don’t let your prayer be influenced by the prayer methods world. Matthew 6:5, 7*

- A. The world (and the evil one) would love to mess up your prayer life. *Jesus identifies 2 problems...*
- B. There is the problem of showcase prayers.
- C. There is the problem of non-Christian (even anti-Christian) methods.

2. *1ST PRIORITY – Come to God in a personal way. Matthew 6:8, 9b*

- A. Come to God as your Father. 6:9b
 - 1. Coming to God as Father would have been surprising to Jesus’ audience.
 - 2. Coming to God as Father would have been helpful to his audience.
 - 3. Coming to God as Father is a challenge for some.
- B. Come to God in community. 6:9b
 - 1. The words *our* Father imply that we should pray in community.
 - 2. Corporate prayer makes us feel God’s love more deeply. Matt. 18:20
 - 3. Corporate prayer trains us for private prayer.
- C. Come to God individually. 6:6
 - 1. Why you do this is important.
 - 2. Where you do this is important.

3. *2ND PRIORITY – Come to God with a hunger for his glory, before you make your requests. Matthew 6:9c-10a*

- A. Notice the three “you” petitions.
 - 1. We’re to pray for God’s glory, specifically, “his name, his kingdom, and his will”.
 - 2. I believe it’s important, first, to link God’s name and his kingdom.
- B. When we pray for his name and his kingdom, we pray that his influence would spread.
 - 1. This looks to the far future, to his coming kingdom: He will rule. His name will be great.
 - 2. We do this by praying for Christ’s return. 1 Cor. 16:22; 2 Pet. 3:12; Rev. 22:20
 - 3. We do this by praying for local evangelism and world missions.
 - 4. We pray that we might be a living expression of God’s name and his kingdom.
- C. When we pray that his will be done, we pray his values might be expressed in this fallen world.
 - 1. Far future – When God’s kingdom comes, evil will cease...righteousness will reign.
 - 2. Near future – Pray this would begin now. It includes things like social justice, etc.