

THE PATTERN FOR PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

THE BIG IDEA: In response to a request from His disciples about prayer, Jesus gave to them and to us the “model prayer” or the Pattern for Prayer to guide us in our prayer efforts (Matthew 6:9-13).

WHEN PRAYING WE SHOULD:

HONOR OUR HEAVENLY FATHER’S HOLINESS

- Jesus – “Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy.” (Matthew 6:9)
- **As Christians we have the privilege of addressing God as our “Father.”**
- **The greatness of our Heavenly Father sets Him apart from all creation and warrants our ultimate reverence.**
- “The Lord is great and is highly praised; His greatness is unsearchable.” (Psalm 145:3)

WHEN PRAYING WE SHOULD:

SEEK THE LORD’S KINGDOM AND SURRENDER TO THE LORD’S WILL

- Jesus - “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)
- Jesus – “I came down from Heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent me.” (John 6:38)
- **Living in the Lord’s will is the best thing that can happen to us and others.**
- Jesus – “My nourishment comes from doing the will of God who sent Me, and from finishing His work.” (John 4:34 NLT)
- **We primarily discover God’s will through studying His Word, being mentored by mature Christians, and through praying and hearing from the Lord.**

WHEN PRAYING WE SHOULD:

ASK FOR OUR NEEDS TO BE MET

- Jesus – “Give us today our daily bread.” (Matthew 6:11)
- **Some people never have their needs met because they don’t ask God for help.**
- “You have not because you ask not.” (James 4:2)
- **Our Heavenly Father delights in meeting the needs of His children.**

- Jesus - “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him.” (Matthew 7:11)
- **Prayer is the “key” that unlocks God’s provision for our lives.**

WHEN PRAYING WE SHOULD:

SEEK FORGIVENESS FROM GOD AND EXTEND FORGIVENESS TO OTHERS

- Jesus - “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12)
- **Forgiveness of sin is the greatest need of the human heart.**
- “He who covers his sin shall not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes his sin shall have mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)
- **We cannot pray and live effectively with dirty hands, defiled hearts, and double minds (James 4:8, Psalm 66:18).**
- “If we confess our sins to Him, God is faithful & just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)
- **Our relationship with the Lord cannot be right until our relationship with others is made right (Matthew 5:23-24, 6:14-15).**

WHEN PRAYING WE SHOULD:

SEEK THE LORD’S TRUMPH OVER TEMPTATION AND DELIVERANCE FROM EVIL

- Jesus – “And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Matthew 6:13)
- **One of the biggest mistakes we can make as Christians is to ignore the reality of temptation and the tactics of Satan.**
- “So, whoever thinks he stands must be careful not to fall. 13 No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to bear it.” (1 Corinthians 10:12-13)
- **When we are faithful and fervent in praying we will experience victory in our lives, and we will see our prayers answered by the Lord.**
- “The power of prayer can never be overrated. Those who cannot serve God by preaching need not regret. If a man can but pray, he can do anything. He who knows how to overcome with God in prayer has heaven and earth at his disposal.”
-Spurgeon