

When You Pray...

Matthew 6:5-8

INTRODUCTION:

Francis Fenelon

Time spent in prayer is never wasted

George Herbert

Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night.

Let's begin with some questions regarding prayer:

1. Do you pray?
2. Do you find it difficult to pray?
3. Do the words not come when you desire to pray?
4. Do you fear you're not doing it right when you pray or get embarrassed about someone hearing you pray?
5. Do you compare your prayers with others?
6. Do you forget to pray?
7. Do you wonder why we are called to pray?
8. Do you ever sense God's presence when you pray?
9. Do you ever feel God is silent to your prayers?
10. Why do we pray in Jesus name?

Matthew 6:5-8

“Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. I assure you: They've got their reward! But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. When you pray, don't babble like the idolaters, since they imagine they'll be heard for their many words. Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask Him.

I. Pray without Pride or Parade

Notes: _____

James 4:1-3

What is the source of wars and fights among you? Don't they come from the cravings that are at war within you? You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your evil desires.

Charles Spurgeon

Prayer is not a hard requirement – it is the natural duty of a creature to its creator, the simplest homage that human need can pay to Divine liberality.

II. Prayer is of a Private Nature

Notes: _____

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my concerns.
See if there is any offensive way in me;
lead me in the everlasting way

Andrew Murray

O, let the place of secret prayer become to me the most beloved spot on earth.

III. Prayer is not a Performance

Notes: _____

Wesley Duewel

God waits for you to communicate with Him. You have instant, direct access to God. God loves mankind so much, and in a very special sense His children, that He has made Himself available to you at all times.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (Concerning Paul's preaching)

When I came to you, brothers, announcing the testimony of God to you, I did not come with brilliance of speech or wisdom. For I didn't think it was a good idea to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I came to you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a powerful demonstration by the Spirit, so that your faith might not be based on men's wisdom but on God's power.

CONCLUSION:

The fact that God calls us to pray and allows us to pray to Him should be recognized as such a privilege for us. Prayer is our escape from the world and our escarpment in which we climb into the very Presence of the One in Heaven.

William Law

Prayer is the nearest approach to God and the highest enjoyment of Him that we are capable of in this life