Teach Me To Pray

Ken Chapman · Matthew 6:5–13

INTRODUCTION

- Most Christians that I come across would admit, if taking a survey, that I need to be better at praying. And I can think of no better instructor than our Lord.
- Prayer is at its simplest form and definition is simply a one-sided communication with God.
- I need to pray to that all knowing and all seeing God because He told me to.

1 Why We Pray Matters

Matthew 6:5–6

- Jesus tells them and us that why we pray matters.
- Jesus says the best way to solve any kind of hypocritical motivation to pray is just to eliminate that as a possibility by doing this where nobody can see or hear.
- Go to your room, some translation says into your closet, where it's just you and God.
- Am I doing this to be seen of men? To be heard for my eloquence, or am I simply trying to help my brothers and sisters talk to God?

2 How We Pray Matters

Matthew 6:7–8

- But when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.
- Your God is not a lifeless, dumb idol. He doesn't need that. He just needs you to communicate.
- I don't think there's anything wrong with borrowing, at least portions maybe, of this prayer and saying that, as long as you are praying from your heart.
- Both in a public and a private prayer, is that we give thought and we mean what we say.
- No human being wants communication that is merely some kind of form letter. We want meaningful, intelligent communication. That's what our Father desires.

3 Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed Be Your Name

Matthew 6:9

- This prayer not only teaches us how to pray, I believe it teaches us so much about our relationship with God.
- We also recognize him as our loving, sustaining, blessing Father.
- Hallowed just simply means to be held in reverence, to be treated as holy.
- I cannot allow that personal, close, intimate relationship to cross over and to be demonstrated through trivial, frivolous language or a frivolous attitude.

- The flippant and frivolous use of, oh my God, or its abbreviation, OMG, should have no place in the vocabulary of a child of God who holds his Father's name as hallowed.

4 Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done

Matthew 6:10

- We still pray that God and Jesus rule not only in our lives, but in the lives of everyone with whom we have to do.
- We're wanting to affect the will of God in some sense, but yet in its absolute sense, as demonstrated by this Son by His prayer in the garden, we accept ultimately and finally that the will of God be done.

5 Daily Bread and Debts: A Request Mingled With Recognition

Matthew 6:11–12

- It is a request, give us bread. Give us our necessities.
- Every time I make this request or I make any request of God, I am also recognizing that He is the source of all of those blessings.
- It is a debt that will cost both our physical and our spiritual lives. It is a debt which we cannot diminish.
- There's also the recognition of our obligation that if God is to give us these blessings, there's something that we must do in turn to be a blessing to others.

6 Do Not Lead Us Into Temptation, Deliver Us

Matthew 6:13

- There is the request for spiritual help and guidance. Do not lead us into temptation. But deliver us from the evil one.
- I recognize that God not only has the power to do that physical and spiritual thing in my life, but that he has the willingness to do it.
- Though I may not always see his hand at work. I know it's at work.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **You want to be better at this? Look at this prayer. Don't just recite it mindlessly through some vain repetition, but look at it. What is Jesus telling me?**

MY NOTES