

JESUS TEACHES HOW TO PRAY

TEXT: (Matthew 6:5-13, KJV)

⁵ And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶ But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION:

1. "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him" (Mark 11:23, NIV).

I. PRAYER IS MORE THAN A DUTY

A. Prayer Is Essential

1. "As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you" (I Samuel 12:23, NIV).
2. "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (I Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV).

B. Prayer Is the Believer's Lifeline

1. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" (Mark 1:35, NIV).

C. Prayer Requires Persistence

1. "I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness (persistence) he will get up and give him as much as he needs" (Luke 11:8, NIV).
2. "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1, NIV).

II. PRAYER IS REFRESHING

1. "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand" (Psalm 16:11, NIV).

A. Prayer Gives Perspective

1. "When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. 'Oh, my lord, what shall we do?' the servant asked.
'Don't be afraid,' the prophet answered. 'Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'
And Elisha prayed, 'O Lord, open his eyes so he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (II Kings 6:15-17, NIV).

2. "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God'" (Mark 1:27, NIV).

B. Prayer Brings Healing

1. "He said, 'If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you'" (Exodus 15:26, NIV).
2. "When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me" (Psalm 56:3-4, NIV)?

C. Prayer Meets the Needs of the Spirit of Man

1. "The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7, NIV).

III. A MODEL FOR PRAYER

A. Exaltation

1. "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" (Matthew 6:9, NIV).
2. "I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together" (Psalm 34:1-3, NIV).
3. "Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy" (Psalm 99:5, NIV).

B. Kingdommindness

1. "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10, NIV).
2. "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42, NIV).
3. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10, NIV).

C. For Our Physical Needs

1. "Give us today our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11, NIV).
2. "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed" (Psalm 37:25-26, NIV).

D. A State of Repentance

1. "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" (Matthew 6:12-13, NIV).
2. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24, NIV).
3. "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins" (Matthew 6:14-15, NIV).

CONCLUSION:

1. "O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you" (Psalm 63:1, NIV).