

April 18, 2018
“Making a Difference through Prayer”
Matt. 6:5-14
David Self

I. Prayer is between Him and Us

“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! ⁶ 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.” (5-6)

A. Public Prayer:

B. Private Prayer:

II. Prayer Requires Honest Communication

“When you pray, don’t babble like the idolaters, since they imagine they’ll be heard for their many words. ⁸ Don’t be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask Him.” (7-8)

A. Forthright “babble”

B. Foreknowledge “your Father knows the things you need before you ask Him.” (8)

Many have wondered why God wants us to ask if He already knows.

1. By asking, **we acknowledge God as our source** (James 1:17)
2. By asking, **we become conformed to His will** for us.
3. By asking, **we may join in with a community of believers** who pray with us and for us.

III. Prayer Involves Respectful Requests

“Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.¹³ And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (9-15)

A. Petitions concerning the glory of God

1. The hallowing of His name (9)
2. The consummation of His kingly reign (10)
3. The fulfillment of God's will on earth as in heaven

B. Petitions concerning the personal needs of the disciples

1. Provision (11)
2. Pardon (12)
3. Protection (13)

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5/23, 5/30; 6/13, 6/20, 6/27

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Doug Bischoff – 5/16
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Holiday:

7/4