

PURSUING PRAYER

**Prayer
and Priorities**



Matthew 6:5-13

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others.

Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do

for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

And when you pray, you must not be like the **hypocrites**. For they love to **stand and pray** in the synagogues and at the **street corners**, that they may be **seen by others**.

Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when **you** pray, go into **your room** and **shut the door** and pray to **your Father** who is in **secret**. And your **Father who sees in secret** will reward you.

The Lord Jesus is not saying to His disciples, “never pray in public!” He is not saying, “never ever pray over your meal when you are in a public place.” He is not saying, “never have a prayer in your worship services. That is not His point. His point is that all prayer ought to be with a view to God as its audience, not as man. And we ought to look for God’s answer and His approval, not the approval of men.

– J. Ligon Duncan



And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them

for your **Father knows what you need** before you ask him.

Effective prayer is the fruit of a relationship with God, not a technique for acquiring blessings.

– D. A. Carson



Mark 10:35-37

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." Jesus said to them, "**You do not know what you are asking.**"

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For **we do not know what to pray for as we ought,** but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, **hallowed be your name.**”

Ezekiel 36:16-21

The word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds. Their ways before me were like the uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual impurity. So I poured out my wrath upon them for the blood that they had shed in the land, for the idols with which they had defiled it. I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries.

In accordance with their ways and their deeds I judged them. But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, **they profaned my holy name**, in that people said of them, 'These are the people of the LORD, and yet they had to go out of his land.' But I had **concern for my holy name**, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations to which they came.

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and **give glory to your Father** who is in heaven.

John 12:27-28

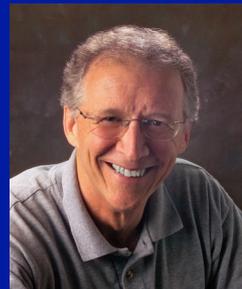
“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. **Father, glorify your name.**”

1 Peter 4:11

whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything **God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

This is a missionary prayer. Its aim is to engage the passion of God for his name among those who forget or revile the name of God. To hallow God's name means to put it in a class by itself and to cherish and honor it above every claim to our allegiance or affection. Jesus' primary concern is that more and more peoples, come to hallow God's name. This is the reason the universe exists. Missions exists because the hallowing doesn't.

– John Piper



Your **kingdom come**

Daniel 7:13-14

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Isaiah 2:2-3

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

Acts 28:30-31

He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the **kingdom of God** and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

Your **will be done** on earth as it is in
heaven

John 6:40

For this is the **will of my Father**, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3

For this is **the will of God**, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality

Psalms 40:8

I delight to do **your will**, O my God; your law is within my heart.”

Give us this day our **daily bread**, and
forgive us our debts, as we also
have forgiven our debtors.

Father, I ask You to
give us our daily bread.

...in such a way that Your Name is
hallowed through how You
provide.

...so that Your Kingdom rule may be
exhibited in our lives and impact
many.

...to enable us to do Your
will where You have placed
us.

And lead us **not into temptation**, but deliver us from evil.

Literary term- 'litotes' a figure of speech used to express a positive principle by negating the contrary.

Isaiah 55:11 "...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; **it shall not return to me empty.**"

i.e. "it will return to me after it has fulfilled its purpose."

1 Peter 4:14-16

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

There is a general kind of praying which fails for lack of precision. It is as if a regiment of soldiers should all fire off their guns anywhere.

Possibly somebody would be killed, but the majority of the enemy would be missed.

– Charles Spurgeon

