

The Priority of Prayer

Matthew 6:5-15

1. We must avoid calculated manipulation when we pray.

A. Resist the temptation to try and impress man with our prayers.

Matthew 6:5 | ⁵ “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.

B. Resist the temptation to try and impress God with our prayers.

Matthew 6:7 | ⁷ “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.

2. We must assess our motives when we pray.

Matthew 6:6 | ⁶ 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.

Matthew 6:8 | ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

3. We must apply Jesus’ model for how to pray.

Matthew 6:9 | ⁹ Pray then like this:

A. Adoration.

Matthew 6:9b | “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

B. Submission.

Matthew 6:10 | Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

C. Supplication.

Matthew 6:11 | ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,

D. Confession.

Matthew 6:12 | ¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:14-15 | ¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

E. Protection.

Matthew 6:13 | ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.