

Learning to Pray (Matthew 6:1-18)

Prayer & Listening – Part 3
Life Church St. Louis – April 2, 2017
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

James 5:16b (NIV) *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

Luke 11:1 (NIV) *One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIV) *pray continually,*

1. Pray with proper heart _____

Matthew 6:1 (NIV) *“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.*

1A. Pray for God _____

Matthew 6:5-6 (NIV) *“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

1B. Pray with proper _____

Matthew 6:7-8 (NIV) *And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

2. Pray with proper _____

2A. _____ the Lord

Matthew 6:9 (NIV) *“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,*

2B. _____ with God’s will

Matthew 6:10 (NIV) *your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

2C. _____ God to meet needs

Matthew 6:11 (NIV) *Give us today our daily bread.*

2D. _____ your sins

Matthew 6:12 (NIV) *And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV) *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

2E. _____ to God’s protection

Matthew 6:13 (NIV) *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’*

3. _____ with proper motives

3A. Don’t fast for _____ attention

Matthew 6:16 (NIV) *“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.*

3B. Fast for God’s _____

Matthew 6:17-18 (NIV) *But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

Action Plan for This Week

- Have a daily quiet time of Bible reading, prayer & writing.
 - Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

- How will I obey God’s Word this week? _____

Learning to Pray (Matthew 6:1-18) Study Guide

Prayer & Listening – Part 3
Life Church St. Louis – April 2, 2017
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Intro. What principles of praying powerful prayers can you learn from James 5:15-18?

What do you think prompted Jesus' disciples to ask Him to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1)?

How does the command in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 relate to learning to pray?

1A. What does it mean to "practice your righteousness" to be seen (Matthew 6:1)?

1B. Why should most of our prayer be done in secret (Matthew 6:5-6)?

1C. What is the difference between a pagan's and a believer's prayer, according to Jesus (Matthew 6:7-8)?

1D. How do we know that Jesus was not forbidding public prayer in these verses?

1E. What is the reward(s) for prayer that Jesus promises?

2A. In what ways are our prayers often out of balance in their content?

2B. What is the reason for beginning prayer with worship (Matthew 6:9)?

2C. How does God's kingdom come through our prayers (Matthew 6:10)?

2D. What is significant about praying concerning God's kingdom and will prior to asking for our needs (Matthew 6:11)?

2E. Why does Jesus say that our forgiveness is conditional on forgiving others (Matthew 6:12, 14-15)?

2F. How is praying "lead us not into temptation" in Matthew 6:13 claiming the promise of 1 Corinthians 10:13?

3A. Why would a hypocrite want others to know they are fasting (Matthew 6:16)?

3B. What indication is there in Matthew 6:17-18 that fasting is a command for all believers with a promise?

3C. How does fasting make prayer more effective and powerful?