



## **DISCIPLES OF JESUS** **“How Disciples Pray” Matthew 6:5-15**

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Stuart Briscoe

As the disciples became more familiar with Jesus they could not help noticing how important prayer was in His life. So it is no surprise that they eventually asked him to teach them to pray. We all need to learn how to pray because it does not come naturally.

### **I. Disciples Pray in Such a Way that It Does Not Become a Performance. Matthew 6:5-8**

- A. Pharisaic prayer professed to draw near to God but draws attention to itself.
  1. Intended as an act of deep piety it became a demonstration of pride.
  2. Seeking attention it received it – that was all! (*Gk. Theathenai* Matthew 6:1)
- B. Pagan prayer addressed the god with fervent unintelligible verbosity.
  1. Demonstrating no knowledge of the one to whom they prayed.
  2. And less experience of a vital relationship with the god.
- C. Disciples on the other hand exercise discipline and care in their prayer.
  1. They withdraw intentionally from distraction into God’s presence.
  2. Their desire is communion with God in the “secret place.” They get it!

### **II. Disciples Pray in Such a Way that Their Focus Is Unmistakable. Matthew 6:9-10**

- A. Disciples pray to the “Father” who knows, cares and provides.
  1. They approach with confidence knowing they are welcome.
  2. He is not ignorant needing information or reluctant needing persuasion.
- B. Disciples do not forget He is the Father in “the heavens.”
  1. They approach with reverence.
  2. They understand the privilege of audience, the solemnity of occasion.
- C. Disciples demonstrate a desire for God’s priorities to be theirs.
  1. That God’s name (person, character) should be acknowledged.
  2. That God’s universal eternal Kingdom will progressively, finally arrive.
  3. That God’s will (purposes) will be embraced on earth as in heaven.

### **III. Disciples Pray So that the Whole of Life Is Related to the Lord. Matthew 6:11-15**

- A. Disciples pray about physical aspects of life – “Give us this day...”
  1. They know God’s provision is a gift – even though they work for it.
  2. They are willing to be satisfied with enough. “Daily” = “for the day.”
- B. Disciples pray about relational aspects of life – “Forgive us ....”
  1. Sins in one sense are “debts” (obligations) to God we have not met.
  2. God is willing and able to forgive (cancel) the debt.
  3. Only the truly repentant qualify – e.g. they forgive. See Matthew 18:21ff
  4. Compared to what they are forgiven that which they forgive is trivial!
- C. Disciples pray about the spiritual aspects of life – “Deliver us from the evil.”
  1. Disciples are keenly aware of cosmic conflict between God and Satan.
  2. Disciples know that God does not seduce people to evil – James 1:13.
  3. Disciples know they are vulnerable and dependent.

Points to ponder: Prayer is a privilege, an obligation, a resource and a necessity.