

To Be With Our Father, Exalted, Honored, Receiving Matt 6:5-13

Prayer in Secret

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

Q: We pray out loud all the time. What value is there in saying a prayer out loud?

Jesus did it. The disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray. Is that what public prayer is for? The reality is you have the opportunity to pray, so you do. It doesn't matter, just like all our other "secret" things, if people happen to see you. It's you and God and the motives of your own heart. The why is more important than the where.

Q: So why the where?

It is just you and God. Intimacy is one on one. Moses spoke with the Lord face to face, alone. Ex 33:11. It's practical for eliminating distraction but it's more about intimacy than that.

Q: Why ask when He already knows?

Time spent. Requests. Listening! We don't listen. We just ask and leave.

Q: Too many words, is that possible?

Ecc 5:2 - words for words sake are poor. Again it is about speaking what your spirit cries out within you, not just what you think you should say.

Q: Our Father. Why "our?" What does that tell us?

Corporate prayer is something intended.

Q: Father, why the Father?

Jesus shows us that the Father is our direction, not saints, nor himself or the Spirit. Can we pray to Jesus? (Rom 8:26-34, Heb 7:25)

Q: Father. Who spoke this and what does that say to us?

Jesus spoke it, we share in common with Christ something hard to comprehend a family bond (Rom 8:15-17).

Q: Why in heaven?

He is not like us. He is beyond us. We can be heard by a God who is beyond us.

Q: Hallowed, what does that mean and what are we doing when we speak that?

It is the same word often translated as sanctified (set apart). It is lifting Him up in praise. Putting Him above all things. Hebrews 12:28-29 He is first and to be adored. This is the primary purpose of prayer.

Q: Why His name?

God was always jealous for His name. His name represents His character. Ezekiel 36:22-23, Mal 1:11, Rom 2:24 (Prov 22:1)

Q: Thy Kingdom come, what does this mean?

The kingdom of heaven is at hand, already there (Mk 1:15, Lk 11:20, Lk 17:21). It also means that it will come in its fullness. Jesus seated at the right hand of God. All things completed 1 Cor 15:20-28

Q: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven?

Can we pray this if we aren't wanting to do it ourselves? We assign obedience to ourselves here by praying this. His will is accomplished everywhere. We ask for all things to be perfected to His will.

Q: Give us this day our daily bread? What are we asking for here, bread?

Jesus never speaks about literal bread. Give us what we need for the day, no extra. Eph 3:20

Q: Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors?

Repentance is part of the Christian life. Ask forgiveness first with a promise to forgive (1 John 4:20)

Q: Lead us not into temptation?

Can God lead us into temptation? James 1:13-14

Q: Deliver us from the evil one?