

When You Pray
Matthew 5:5-8
September 24, 2017
By: Shaun Brown

I. _____ is _____ ?

A. We are _____ to pray.

B. _____.

C. _____ with God.

1. Focus is not so much on prayer but on _____.

2. Ways to pray:

a. _____.

b. _____.

c. _____.

d. _____.

e. _____.

II. The _____ of prayer.

A. Hypocrite: _____.

B. Jesus is addressing the _____ of the _____.

III. The _____ of prayer.

A. Audience of prayer is God: _____ of _____.

B. _____ the _____.

IV. The _____ of prayer.

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Small Group Questions

*You do NOT have to answer or discuss every question. Feel free to just pick a few. These are meant to guide you in truth. If you are having trouble answering a question, ask your small group leader to help you. They are committed to helping you develop as an authentic follower of Christ.

The COMMUNITY:

1. What are some of the things you find difficult about prayer? Do you struggle at all with the fact that you are told to pray but God is sovereign and already has it figured out anyway?

Into the WORD/APPLICATION:

Here are some suggested sites in order to dive deeper into God's Word: blueletterbible.org, desiringgod.org/articles/all, biblos.com, ccel.org, logos.com, connect.ligonier.org, thegospelcoalition.org/channel/bible-and-theology.

1. Read Matthew 6:5-8. How is prayer indicative of the relationship we have with God? Why is the term "Father" important as Jesus teaches on the nature of prayer? Does the phrase "when you pray" mean anything special in this context? Why?

2. The sermon described prayer as "communion with God." How does that broaden our understanding of what can be included in the term "prayer?"
3. When Jesus talks about the attitude of prayer in 6:5-6, he rebukes those who pray with a view to being seen by others. Why is this dangerous and what does it look like today? He then challenges us to "go into our room and shut our door." Does this negate all public prayer or is there another point?
4. If we truly believe that God is our "audience" in prayer as Pastor Shaun described, how would it change our prayer life?
5. Jesus said we should not use vain repetition in our prayers but focus on communion because God already knows what we need. Does this eliminate praying things like the Lord's prayer or is there something else in view?