

The Heart of Prayer
Matthew 6:5-15 – Part 2 - NCBC,
October 27, 2019

<<Show Us Christ>>

Main Point: When God is your Father, you pray differently.

Review:

- Not for man's approval (5-6)
- Not for God's acceptance (7-8)

- **For your Father's glory on earth** (9-10)
 - "Hallowed be your name"
 - "Your kingdom come"
 - "Your will be done"

- **For your Father's glory in us** (11-15)
 - "Give us this day our daily bread"
 - "Forgive us our debts"
 - "Lead us not into temptation"

Application: So when you pray, commune with God! (6,8)

- Render all glory and praise to God!
- Rely on God's faithful provision
- Root out all bitterness and forgive others
- Relish your relationship with your Heavenly Father

Opening Announcements:

- **Halloween** is the one night each year when children knock on your door and ask for a Gospel tract! Help yourself to the Christ-centered giveaway resources today, combine it with some amazing generous candies, and pray that God will help you give away more than sweets this year!
- **All are invited to honor Pastor Denny Schlappi in his retirement** at an Open House Next Sunday – November 3, 2019 from 2-4pm.



What a joy to sing our prayer that every mouth would confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! This is how Jesus taught us to pray. So I invite you to open your Bible to **Matthew chapter 6, verses 5-15**, as we prepare for the public reading of Scripture today.



If you do not have a Bible with you, simply raise your hand so we can give you a Bible.

Today we continue last week's sermon on *The Heart of Prayer*. We are in the middle of Jesus' sermon on the

mount. It's approximately one year into Jesus' public ministry, when Jesus here announces that His kingdom is made up of a kind of righteousness that far exceeds the righteousness of the most religious Jews of the day!¹

To participate in Jesus' kingdom you must receive a new heart. You must be born again in fulfillment of the New Covenant!²

Christian discipleship is never about external religious practices. That's the point of the first 18 verses of **chapter 6**. *Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.*

Once you have been born again by the spirit of Christ, you give, pray, and fast differently from everyone else. The kingdom righteousness of Jesus makes His disciples unique from all other religious people. For their prayers flow out of a heart of worship and assured relationship with God Himself.

¹ Matthew 5:20

² Ezekiel 36:22-32; Jeremiah 31:33-34



Please stand in honor of the reading of God's Word.
From the English Standard Translation, I'll begin reading
in **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. ⁶But 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.

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. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

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

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,

¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven
our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil.

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

This is God's Word. Please be seated.

Let's Pray.

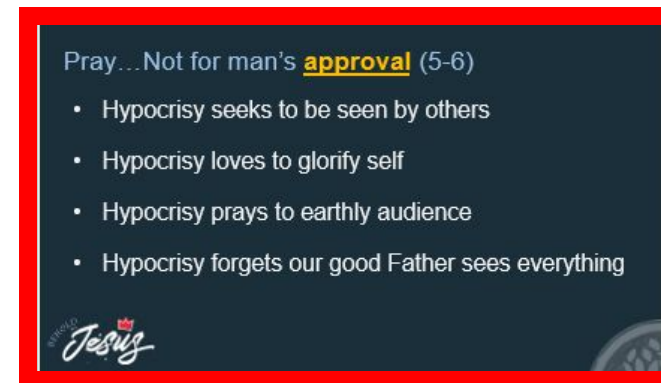
What do you pray for, when you pray?

Who do you pray to, when you pray?

Why do you pray, when you pray?

This familiar and well-loved prayer in **Matthew 6** urges us
to humbly consider how we pray, when we pray.

Last week, **from verses 5-6**,

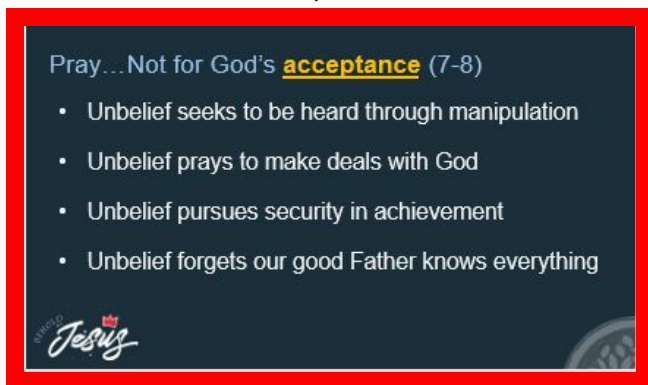


we learned that Christ's disciples do not pray for man's approval. For that's how religious hypocrites pray.

Hypocrisy seeks to be seen, since hypocrisy loves to
glorify self. When hypocrites pray, they pray to whoever

is watching, forgetting that our Heavenly Father sees everything – even the inmost motives of our hearts.

Then from **verses 7-8**,



we learned that Christ's disciples do not pray to earn God's acceptance. That's the reason unbelievers pray, when they pray.

Unbelief seeks to be heard through manipulation, and prays to make deals with God. Such praying pursues security in our own achievement, and forgets that our good Heavenly Father knows everything – even the secret motives of our hearts.

Ten times in these 18 verses, Jesus refers to God as "**Father.**" His point can't be missed. You are only righteous if God is your Father, and you've received your Father's own nature through the miraculous rebirth of conversion. Every person is a born sinner³ as a child of Satan. **John 8:44** teaches that even religious unbelievers have Satan as their father. Although religious unbelievers claim to have God as their father,

³ Romans 5:12
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Jesus teaches clearly in **John 8:42** that *If God were your Father, you would love me.* In other words, only those whose hearts genuinely and sincerely love God truly have God as their Father.



And when God is your Father, you pray differently.

Only when you enter God's kingdom through humility of spirit,⁴ and repentance over your own sin,⁵ and submission to God,⁶ believing only that Christ can make everything right again,⁷ then you will be adopted,⁸ and experience God as your Father.⁹

And once God becomes your Father through salvation by faith alone in Christ alone, you will pray less like the hypocrites and the unbelievers in **verses 5-8**, and you will pray more like Jesus' prays starting in **verse 9**.

⁴ Matthew 5:3
⁵ Matthew 5:4
⁶ Matthew 5:5
⁷ Matthew 5:6
⁸ Matthew 5:7
⁹ Matthew 5:8-9

Verses 9-13 are often referred to as “the Lord’s prayer.” Jesus teaches a very similar pattern of prayer for his disciples on a different occasion in **Luke 11**.¹⁰

However, the best example of the Lord’s prayer is found in **John 17**. The prayer found here could be better titled “the Disciples’ Prayer,” for Jesus is teaching His disciples how to pray, and certainly our sinless Savior had no sins requiring the forgiveness of **verse 12**.

Although this prayer is very familiar, I pray that God’s Spirit will awaken our hearts to fresh insights this morning as we carefully consider each of its petitions.

Now the first difference we discover in the Disciples’ Prayer is that this prayer is neither trying to seek man’s approval nor God’s acceptance. Rather, Jesus teaches His disciples to pray,



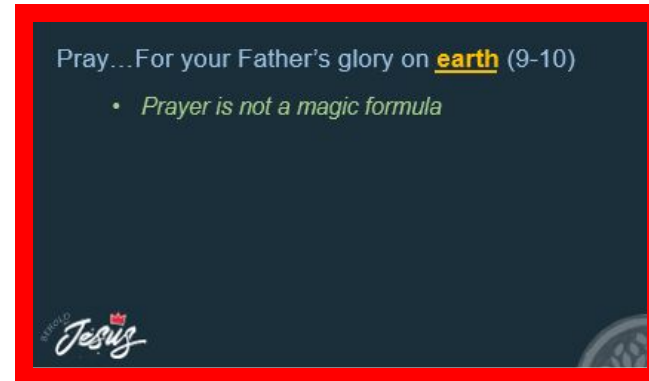
For your Father’s glory on earth (9-10)

In **verse 9** Jesus says,

¹⁰ Luke 11:1-4
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Pray then like this:

Notice He didn’t say, *Pray these exact words, but pray like this*. Underline the word “like.”



This **prayer is not a magic formula**.

It’s never wrong to pray this exact prayer from a sincere heart of worship. In fact it is good to pray Scripture back to God – there’s no greater confidence you are praying according to His will.¹¹ But prayer is not a magic formula that can simply be repeated without thought.

¹¹ John 14:13-14; 1 John 5:14



After all, Prayer is speaking with your Heavenly Father.

In **verse 9** this prayer is clearly addressed to, *Our Father in heaven*.

This is surprisingly intimate! Prayer assumes an assured relationship with God *as our Father*. By virtue of Christ's finished sacrifice on the cross.¹² By virtue of the empty tomb. By virtue of Christ's ascension which seats Him on the right hand of our Father's throne...

Therefore prayer like this is only for Christians! Only those who are born again can address God as Father.¹³

For our Father is *in heaven* – meaning He is the all-powerful Sovereign. He is intimate enough to be called *Daddy*, and yet He is majestic and powerful enough to rule over all heavenly realms. Do you know the humble confidence of prayer available by faith alone in Jesus?

¹² Hebrews 10:19, 22

¹³ 1 John 3:1

And notice, we are taught to pray with plural pronouns! *Our Father* in heaven. There are no singular pronouns throughout this entire prayer. We are meant to pray not only in private, but also in community. Our speaking with our Father ought to reflect our desire to see His family strengthened, and His eternal purposes advanced.



In other words, **this prayer connects all of life to God's glory**. **Verses 9-10** put the Father's glory first, and our own needs second. If you're like me, a lot of prayers tend to start right in **verse 11** ... *Give, Give...!*

But Jesus teaches that those who have God as their Father overcome self-love by first seeking *Your Name, Your Kingdom, Your Will*, and only then asking God to *Give us, Forgive us, and Lead us*.

So let's now consider the first petition, which serves as a categorical summary of the following 5 requests,



“Hallowed be your name”

Please understand this is not a blessing or an expression of praise. This is not a statement of fact. This is,



Pleading for God to act.

All three of the petitions found in **verse 9-10** are asking God to do something. The verbs’ subject is not man, but God!

The leading cry from the heart of faith is pleading for God to hallow His own Name!

Now “hallow” is Old-English. It translates the Greek word for “sanctify,” or “make holy.” It’s a very common word in the New Testament, normally translated as sanctify, or make holy. But because of tradition, Bible translators preserved the word “Hallow” when translating the Disciples’ Prayer.¹⁴

So think carefully for a moment. What does this petition actually mean? Father – cause Your name to be sanctified! Cause Your name to be honored, or valued, or treasured more than all else!



To pray this is to ask God to **cause His Name to be loved above all!**

God’s *Name* is more than just a personal designation. Name represents all that God is – His person, His attributes, His character. His utter perfection and qualities.

¹⁴ Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:2

So Heavenly Father – bring all people into a proper attitude of worship towards You! May we have no other gods before you!¹⁵ May You cause sinful hearts to truly treasure the radiant display of your attributes above all!

In other words, *Hallowed be Your Name*,



Prays for the ultimate fulfillment of God’s kingdom program. Heavenly Father, please cause everyone to bow in worship of You. Fulfill the kingdom promises when all people will truly honor and sanctify God with renewed hearts.

Scripture is clear: God’s Name will be honored when His kingdom comes.¹⁶ In fact, the rest of the Disciple’s Prayer simply expands how we desire for God to glorify Himself. The reason we pray for God’s kingdom to come, and His will to be done, and for daily provision, and forgiveness, and protection from evil is all found in this ultimate cry of the redeemed – *Cause Your Name to be loved and treasured above all!*

¹⁵ Exodus 20:3

¹⁶ Isaiah 5:16; 29:23; Ezekiel 39:7, 27; c.f. Ezekiel 36:16-32

Is there any prayer more satisfying when we recognize this world is not yet as it should be? *Hallowed be Your Name!*

The next phrase builds on this petition praying,



“Your kingdom come”

Now again I emphasize that this prayer asks God to act – not for us to bring the kingdom. This asks God to establish His kingdom for us, not the other way around.



This prayer is **pleading for God to fulfill His covenant promises.**

Remember, the kingdom of God is the major theme of Matthew's gospel. So when you pray for God's kingdom to come, you are praying for God to,



Establish the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth, in fulfillment of all of His covenant promises.¹⁷

This is how the crowd around the Sea of Galilee would have understood this petition.

Cause all nations to glorify your Name as you fulfill your promises to David and grant Your people a house, a kingdom, and an eternal throne in David's line!¹⁸ Fulfill Daniel's prophecies from **Daniel 7** where the Ancient of Days gives a kingdom of people from all nations to One who is like the Son of Man!¹⁹ Bring to fulfillment Isaiah's

¹⁷ Revelation 20

¹⁸ 2 Samuel 7:12-16

¹⁹ Daniel 7:10, 13-14, 27

kingdom prophecies by filling the earth with the knowledge of the Lord!²⁰

Heavenly Father – we long everything to be set right – no more crime, discrimination, sickness, or grief! Establish your kingdom on earth in your final glorious triumph – so that *the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.*²¹

This is what it means to pray, *Your kingdom come!* And of course we never pray without desiring to be part of God's answer to our prayers.



So by implication, **we are praying for God to reign more in us now.** Father, help us carry your cross since the coming of Your kingdom requires the increase of global wickedness and persecution as the fullness of the Gentiles are gathered in. We know the establishment of Your earthly kingdom serves your glory on earth – so,

²⁰ Isaiah 2:1-2; 4:2-6; 11:5-10; 24:21-23

²¹ Revelation 11:15

please Father, fulfill your promises and cause your kingdom to be established on this earth.



All so that, **“Your will be done,”** on earth as it is already done in heaven. This is the result of God’s kingdom coming to earth. This prayer,



Pleads for God to cause all people to obey Him. Just as there is complete obedience of God in heaven, may You cause everyone to love Your Name on earth as well.



“Bring about total obedience on earth.”

Sin and rebellion are absent in heaven. So Heavenly Father, please act and do a work that causes sinners to repent and submit to your moral will.

Now again, this prayer implies that we are,



Praying for God to help us surrender more to the will of King Jesus now. It is impossible to sincerely pray, *Cause Your will to be done*, while we pursue something that God forbids in His Word.

You see, we know God's will through His Word. So this kind of praying requires meekness. We don't pray to bring God into line with our desires. We pray to align our will to our Father's Word!

By the way – this is what it means to pray “in Jesus' name.” It means to pray in dependence upon Christ's advocacy, and according to His will.²² So you don't have to say the words, “In Jesus' Name” in order to pray in alignment with God's will.

Therefore, don't misunderstand this third petition. Sometimes we add a tag line, “if it is your will” to our prayers simply as an excuse for our lack of faith. Because we don't really believe that God will answer our prayer. But this is not what this petition means!

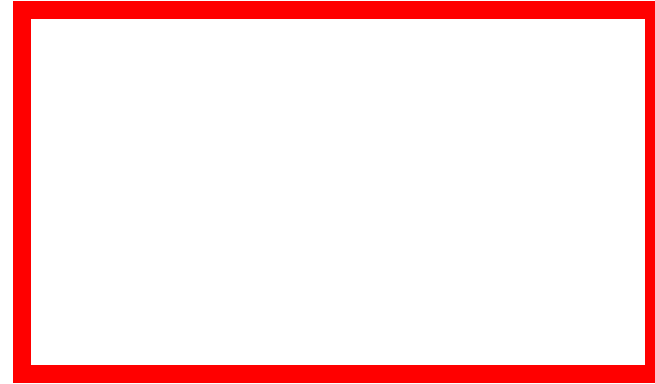
Your will be done is a prayer for God to cause our hearts to obey His Word, by the power of His Spirit.

So what do you pray for, when you pray? When Jesus prayed this way in Gethsemane,²³ it required the cross. Are you scared to pray that God would cause your heart to more fully obey His Word and submit to His rule in your life?

When God is your Father, you trust His character. In Christ, you know you are welcomed and secure in His eternal relationship with you. And so, as a child of God, you pray for your Father's glory – for you possess a humble confidence that whatever causes others to love God most is ultimately most satisfying to you as well.

²² <https://www.gotquestions.org/pray-Jesus-name.html>

²³ Matthew 26:36-42



Now in **verses 11-13**, the prayer turns towards our own needs, praying **for our Father's glory in us (11-15)**

Our entire life is found in these three petitions – our present need for physical sustenance. Our past need for forgiveness. And our future need to be delivered from evil.

Don't miss that Jesus teaches us to pray for physical needs. No need is too small to bring to your Father in prayer. But God's provision for our physical needs will not make sense until we have sincerely prayed for God's glory in our spiritual needs – for in fact prayer connects all of life to the glory of God.

In **verse 11** the fourth petition prays:



“Give us this day our daily bread”

Dependent children know God is the source of everything we need. Even our basic food is not the result of our own unaided work – it also is the gift of God!

So just like God’s people in the Exodus who constantly lived 1 day away from starvation for 40 years,²⁴ we too should pray,



Trusting God for our physical needs. Bread represents all that is necessary to sustain physical life.

²⁴ Exodus 16
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And notice, this is a prayer for,



Trusting God together, since the pronouns are plural. We pray for God to provide *our* needs, not just *my* needs. We don’t pray for our greed, but for our needs.²⁵ Cooperatively seeking God’s provision for all my brothers and sisters in Christ.

After all, this is a prayer of faith. A prayer that trusts the character of God enough to not be anxious for tomorrow,²⁶ but instead,

²⁵ James 4:3
²⁶ Matthew 6:25ff



Trusts God for today.

Isn't it interesting that Jesus doesn't teach us to pray for our "annual" bread? You might underline – "this day," and "daily." Both emphasize how prayer expresses our constant and recurring dependence on God.

And then for the ultimate purpose of causing others to glorify God, disciples pray,



"Forgive us our debts"

Debts refer to sin. Since we all owe Him obedience, when we sin or withhold our obedience, we become debtors to God.²⁷

And once God is your Father you understand that,



Our sins are always first against God Himself.

Like David said in **Psalm 51:4**, *Against you, and you only have I sinned...* It doesn't matter if we have sinned by omission or by commission – our sin indebts us to God, and only He can pardon us and release us from having to pay Him back.

But pay special attention now to the last half of **verse 12**. For Christ's disciples ask God to forgive us our debts as *we also have forgiven our debtors*. Jesus amplifies this in **verses 14-15**,

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive

²⁷ Colossians 2:13-14

others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

What's Jesus point here? It's obviously important. This is the only petition of this prayer expanded by Jesus.

When God is your father, you don't ask God to do something that you're unwilling to do. We don't expect to receive from our Father what we refuse to give others.²⁸



No! In fact, **our forgiveness of others is the greatest evidence of our Father's nature in us.** We are never more like God than when we forgive others who have sinned against us.

Of course no one ever deserves forgiveness. And our forgiveness of others doesn't earn God's forgiveness of us. But it does prove that our heart has been changed!

Church – praying or communing with our heavenly Father is a family affair – and if the brothers and sisters aren't

²⁸ Matthew 18:23-35
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getting along, how can they claim to have a right relationship with the Father?²⁹

So before you pray now, who do you need to forgive? Not because they deserve it. But because you're,



Praying for God's love to shine in and through us!

Our relational sins distract from the radiant display of God's attributes and His glory on the earth! So Christ's disciples pray for their Father's glory in us, that we might be forgiven of anything that separates us from fellowship with Him, and that for His glory He would,

²⁹ 1 John 4



“Lead us not into temptation” but deliver us from evil.

Since there is no “and” between the two clauses of **verse 13**, I take them to be a negative and positive restatement of the same petition:



Confessing our vulnerability and dependence on God for all tests and temptations.

The Greek word for temptation in **verse 13** can refer to a temptation to do evil, or a trial or testing.

All experiences are both TESTS and TEMPTATIONS	
Tests from GOD	Temptations from SATAN
James 1:2-4	James 1:13-15
Pleasant experiences:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will we thank God? • Will we consider God better? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will we idolize the gift? • Will we not thank God?
Painful experiences:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will we trust God? • Will our faith grow stronger? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will we curse God? • Will our faith grow weaker?

But in fact, when we pause long enough to consider it, we must admit that **all experiences in life are both tests from God and temptations from Satan.**

For example, if we experience something pleasant, it is a test to see if we will thank God, and still love God better than the gift. And also in the pleasant, there are Satanic temptations to idolize the gift or become ungrateful.

But likewise, whenever we experience something painful, it is also a test from God to see if we will continue to trust God so that our faith grows stronger. And pain also brings a Satanic temptation to curse God and allow our faith to be weakened.

God’s children pray differently than all other religious people, for they confess their vulnerability to sin:

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil asks God to,



Help us overcome our tendency to sin!

Whenever God tests our hearts in order to grow our faith.
³⁰ Or whenever Satan tempts us...³¹

Father, help us all stand firm in You. Don't permit your children to fall into sin but,



³⁰ Genesis 22:1; Deuteronomy 13:3; Matthew 4:1; 1 Corinthians 10:13

³¹ Matthew 4:1-3ff. C.f. God never tempts us to sin – James 1:13. 1 Corinthians 10:13 promises that God will never allow His children to be put into a situation where they have to sin. Rather He promises to supply what grace is needed for their endurance through the trial.

Protect us from Satan's future attacks.

Deliver us from evil. Evil includes not only Satan but any failure to love God perfectly.

So do you pray for your Heavenly Father's protection from spiritual danger? We know Satan's strategies – he most often seeks to get us proud, or get us discouraged.

Pray therefore with humble confidence in Your heavenly Father's Word and Spirit which enables us to stand firm against the fiery darts of our enemy.

Now just a very brief explanation why some of our Bibles have an extra phrase at the end of **verse 13**. Some of our Bibles include a footnoted doxology, *For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen*. While it's certainly not wrong to pray this,³² the earliest copies of the Greek manuscripts do not contain this, so we assume it was not part of Jesus' original teaching.

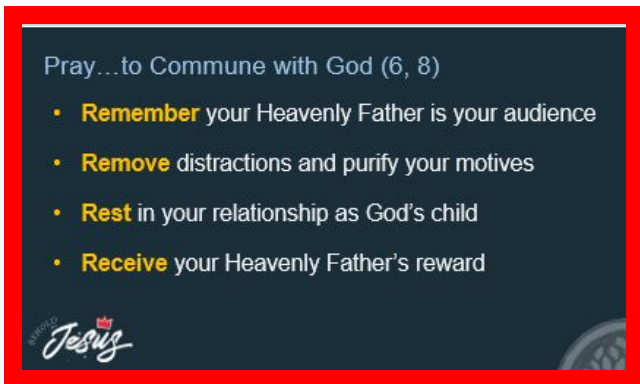
It's always more important to know what was truly inspired in God's Word, rather than to cling to some added tradition merely because it has become precious to us.

Pray then like this, Jesus teaches.

³² It mirrors closely the prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:11



So when you pray, commune with God as your Heavenly Father.



Remember your Heavenly Father is your audience. So remove all distractions and purify your motives. Rest in your relationship as God's child, knowing that you will receive your heavenly Father's reward in eternity!

That summarized our application from **verses 5-8** last week. Now from **verses 9-15** today,



Be encouraged to **Render all glory and praise to God** when you pray. Your participation in Jesus' kingdom changes how you pray, when you pray. Our prayers should be centered around God bringing Himself glory. That's why we **Rely on God's faithful provision** every day. Rich, independent people don't pray. Only dependent children pray, for they know they can rely on God's faithful provision.

As a partaker of God's forgiveness,³³ **Root out all bitterness and joyfully forgive others.** Pray for the sake of your Father's glory – pray that God would cause His character to be put on full display through the triumphant realization of His kingdom program. Therefore, most of all, when you pray, pray in order to **Relish your relationship with your Heavenly Father!** Don't pray for those things that only threaten to take us away from our Father. Remember, the purpose of prayer is that God would cause us to love Him more... that we would rejoice in personally knowing God as our Father!

³³ 2 Peter 1:4



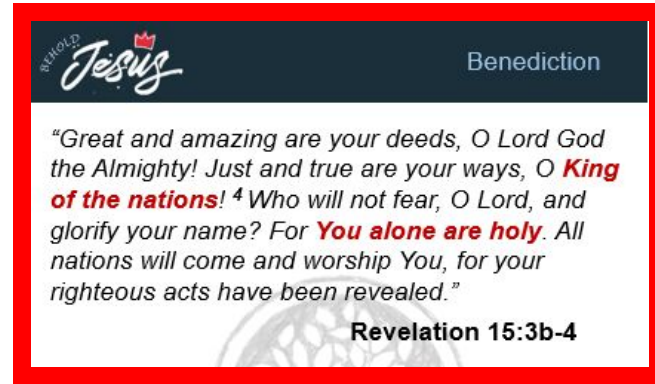
For When God is your Father, you pray differently.

Will you pray with me now?



<<All to Us>>

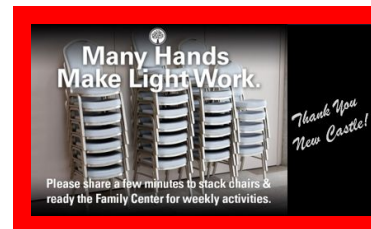
Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.



Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.
Revelation 15:3b-4



End of 1st Service Only



End of 2nd Service Only

Recommended Resources on The Heart of Prayer:

- Psalm 38:15; 66:18
- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Matthew 6:5-18; 18:19-20
- Mark 11:24-25
- Luke 5:16; 6:12; 11:1-13
- John 14:13-14; 15:7; 16:23-24
- Acts 6:4
- Romans 8:26-27
- Ephesians 6:18
- Philippians 4:6
- Colossians 4:2
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18
- 1 Timothy 2:5
- Hebrews 4:15-16; 10:19-23
- James 1:5-8; 4:3; 5:13-16
- 1 Peter 3:7, 12; 5:7
- 1 John 3:21-22; 5:14-15
- Jude 20

- *Prayer & Fasting* sermon preached at NCBC on 1-14-18
- *Why Pray?* sermon preached at NCBC on 2-5-17

- <https://www.desiringgod.org/series/the-lords-prayer/labs>
- <https://www.9marks.org/series/9marks-at-southeastern-2019/>

- *A Praying Life*, Paul Miller
- *Old Paths New Power*, Daniel Henderson
- *Prayer*, Timothy Keller
- *Let Us Pray*, ed. Kistler

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Matthew 6:6 and Colossians 4:2. How can we guard against complacency, routine, or distraction in our worship of prayer?
2. Compare Luke 11:13 and James 4:3. What do you pray for when you pray? How does God want your beliefs/actions to change in this area of your worship? How can you accomplish this change? What is the first step toward bringing about this change?
3. Have you ever prayed Scripture back to God? Discuss how you seek to pray Scripture-led prayers to assure that you are praying “in Jesus Name,” or according to His will. (1 Jn. 5:14-15)
4. There are at least four primary obstructions to prayer: the personal sin in our hearts (Ps. 66:18; 1 Pet. 3:7); the ignorance of our minds (Jer. 17:9-10; 1 Cor. 2:14); the infirmities of our bodies (Matt. 26:41); and the opposition of Satan (Eph. 6:12). In light of Romans 8:26-27, how can we achieve mastery over these oppositions to our worship as prayer?
5. Note the repeated phrase in Matthew 6:4, 6, and 18. What is the reward that the Heavenly Father gives? (c.f. Matthew 6:19, 33; 5:3-12; 7:11; Luke 11:13) How does this understanding affect the motivation of your praying?