

The Sincerity of Our Faith
Part II – Our Prayer Lives (An Exhortation)

Intro.: Intro.: Who is the object of our prayer and why are they?

Text: 6:5-8

I.) An Admonition concerning Prayer – Matt. 6:5

- A.) Prayer is not Performance
 - 1.) Posture = Standing to be seen
 - 2.) Placement = Street Corners (being seen on all sides)
- B.) Purpose for Performing. - Why do people pray that way?
 - 1.) Man's Attn.
 - 2.) God's Attn. (vs. 6 – “Father seeith”)
- C.) Performer's Payment - They have theirs now!
 - 1.) Full & immediate = “full reward”
 - 2.) Cf. More & Eternal = “recompense, repay, restore” (vs. 6)

II.) Some Instruction concerning Prayer – Matt. 6:6-8

- A.) The Place of Prayer
 - 1.) “Closet” = chamber, room, storehouse”
 - 2.) So where? NT reveals = Wilderness, Garden, Mountain
- B.) The Person Prayed to – vs. 6, 9 “our Father...”
 - 1.) Very few post-resurrection prayers to Jesus
 - 2.) The Father is the object of our prayer – Jn. 16:23
- C.) The Practice of Prayer -
 - 1.) Avoid Vain Repetition
 - 2.) Proper Repetition – emotional effect – Matt. 26:33-46
 - Jesus left the Apostles to be in secret;
 - Jesus repeated Himself x3 = Matt. 26:39, 42, 44
 - But none was in vain.
 - 3.) Avoid Un-necessary Quantity
 - 4.) “Heathen” – I Kings 18:26; Acts **19:34**
 - 5.) Access not conditioned by Quantity, but Quality

III.) The Purpose of Prayer

- A.) We are not Informing God
 - 1.) Our Father Knows – He is Omniscient
 - 2.) Our Father Cares – Matt. 10:29-30;
- B.) We are Beseeching/Asking/ Seeking God - Matt. 6:31, 32
 - 1.) Prayer is the exercise of faith's dependence upon God.

Conclusive Observations:

- Prayer is simply talking to God
- God expects our prayer to be genuine and non-pretentious.
- God honors and rewards sincere, earnest, Him-focused prayer
- Prayer is to be made to Him through Jesus: