

The Lord's prayer

Matthew 6:5-15

More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of
Alfred Lord Tennyson, *Morte d'Arthur*

Prayer is a Good Thing?
But *why*?



The Spirit of Wisdom

Are we over familiar with the Lord's Prayer?
It comes in the Sermon on the Mount
Wisdom rather than prophecy

See, my servant will act wisely (Is. 52:13a)

I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray
with my mind (1 Cor. 14:15)



The Spirit of Wisdom

Are we over familiar with the Lord's Prayer?

ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) does not really fit!

What Jesus is doing here is not so much giving us a pattern prayer as clearing up common misconceptions about prayer



Some key issues

1. The purpose of prayer is not to change God's mind (vv7,8)
2. Location matters, but not perhaps in the way you thought
3. The quantity of words doesn't matter (v5), but focus and persistence does



1. The purpose of prayer is not to change God's mind (vv7,8)

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (NIV Jas 5:16b)

But God is not a vending machine. The purpose of prayer is not so much to change God's mind as to change ours! As we pray, we become aligned with, and involved in, God's programme



2. Location matters, but not perhaps in the way you thought

The proper location for praying is where the real action takes place (v6)

Who are you praying to?

Where is the recipient of the prayer to be found?

What action are you expecting?



2. Location matters, but not perhaps in the way you thought

Heaven and earth: the Kingdom dynamic
(9,10)

Matthew 6:31-34



3. The quantity of words doesn't matter (v7),
but focus and persistence does

Luke 18:1-8

When the Son of Man comes, will he find
faith on the earth?" (NIV Lk 18:8b)



Evaluation questions. Tick all that apply

Time: What is my involvement in the week of prayer?

I'm not involved, it's a waste of time

I will try to get involved, but I'm very busy

I want to participate as much as I can



Evaluation questions. Tick all that apply

Motivation: Why am I getting involved?

Phil and Daniel told us all to

I would look bad if I didn't

The church needs my support

I want to be about Kingdom business

As a disciple, I must follow Jesus



Evaluation questions. Tick all that apply

Expectation: As a church, what do we want to get out of it?

Nothing, it won't make any difference

A better perspective on where we are

A new vision for the future

A renewed spiritual focus

Answers from the Father



A time of change

The old order changeth, yielding place to new,
And God fulfils Himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world.
Comfort thyself: what comfort is in me?
I have lived my life, and that which I have done
May He within Himself make pure! but thou,
If thou shouldst never see my face again,
Pray for my soul. More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of.

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