

Relational Prayer

Matthew 6:1-8

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.

Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

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.

But 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.

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. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Ask – given
Seek – find
Knock – door opened

Practicing your righteousness.
Giving to the needy.
Prayer.

1 John 2:29

If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him

Lord teach us to pray

“Prayer is not as complicated as we make it...just talk to Him...love on Him...and listen to Him...tell Him everything that’s on your mind...believe everything He promises...and enjoy Him...it’s not that complicated.”

“Abba” in Aramaic

Prayer's real purpose is to put God at the center of our attention, forgetting ourselves and the impression we are making on Him or others.

Relational (private/secret) or conversational (corporate/group) prayer.

God never changes.

What He wants today is what He's always wanted ... to have an intimate, personal relationship with each one of His children.

The glory of the finished work of Christ comes shining through to set us free from sin and death!

God hasn't changed His mind about what is most important to Him!

Do you let your sin and disobedience keep you from fellowship with God and His children, His church?

Do you pray like you're talking to a stranger or to an alien being?

Do you pray as if God doesn't know what's going on?

Do you hesitate to pray your truest feelings, thoughts, concerns ... for fear that He wouldn't like what He hears?

Do you have a 'praying' voice? Language?

Suggestion: Listen to yourself pray

Do you pray like God is a vending machine?

Do you repeat yourself with the same phrases over and over again?

Matthew 6:7

...heap up empty phrases ... they think they will be heard for their many words...

Don't make it complicated!

prayer, giving, practicing righteousness, from God's perspective, is something He rewards!

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Jeremiah 33:3

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Matthew 6:8:

... your Father knows what you need before you ask him.