

**Text:** Matthew 6:5-15

**Meaning:** Jesus taught the disciples how to pray

**Big Idea:** Jesus taught us how to pray

**Objective:** I want the hearers to pray

**Theme:** Do's and Don'ts of Prayer

**Today's message is on PRAYER**

### **CHRYSTAL AND THE KIDS BLOWOUT ON THE INTERSTATE**

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?”

— Corrie Ten Boom

For most people prayer is their spare tire. They only turn to prayer when they have a blowout in life. A spare tire is also something you only travel a short distance on – and that speaks to many people's prayer lives also – they only use it at meals time, bed time, and at church on Sunday. Today, God is inviting us to make prayer our steering wheel not our spare tire. He is inviting us to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit daily instead of driving life in our own power or wisdom.

**PROPOSITIONAL STATEMENT** – TODAY WE ARE LOOKING AT THE LORD'S PRAYER IN MATTHEW 6 AND I BELIEVE ONE BIG IDEA WE LEARN FROM THIS PASSAGE IS THE **KINDS OF PRAYERS GOD ANSWERS.**

**INVITATION PROMO** – At the conclusion of the message today I'm going to invite you to a deeper prayer life.

**PRIVATE ROOM** – not minimizing corporate prayer here, he is simply emphasizing PRIVATE PRAYER. Powerful praying starts in your private time with the Lord.

The idea here is that some of the religious leaders LOVED THE STANDING MORE THAN THE PRAYING.

**Private Room** – Powerful Spirit filled prayer is developed in the secret place with God.

Some have taken this literally. They set aside a room or a quiet corner in their homes, furnish it with a comfortable chair, table, Bible, and maybe a notebook, and use that corner for a regular prayer time. That's certainly appropriate, but the fact that the room Jesus referred to most likely meant a pantry gives us a little more flexibility. A “prayer closet” might be a daily commute, a bench in the back yard, or the kitchen table. John Wesley's mother is said to have sat in a chair and thrown her apron over her head as a sign to her kids to leave her alone. Jesus usually went to a secluded hillside. The point is that the “closet” is free from interruption, distraction, and listening ears.

### **INNER ROOM - What should prayer be to the Child of God?**

#### **VAULT – place of treasured possessions**

The inner room is the place where you keep your most treasured possessions, out from view of the rest of the home where you would host guests or have meals. My relationship with the Father is the most treasured possession in my life.

#### **MARRIAGE SUITE – place of intimacy**

Scripture says that we are the bride of Christ and He loves us with an unfathomable and unending love. Prayer is that intimate place with the Lord which is pure, and holy, and builds us spiritually and emotionally in Christ.

#### **WARDROBE – place of transformation**

The inner room, or the closet, can also be the place where you change clothing. Scripture tells us to put on Christ, put on the new self, put on the armor of God. Daily, just as we shower and put on

our clothes for the day, so too we must go to our prayer closet and put on the characteristics of Christ by the filling of the Holy Spirit.

### **PANTRY – place of provision**

Jesus taught us to pray “Give us today our DAILY BREAD.”

The prayer closet is the pantry of grace. It’s the place where we get the spiritual food we need to sustain our faith throughout the day. Jesus said His food was to do the will of the Father. Even more than we need physical food we need the daily bread of God!

### **SHELTER – place of refuge**

The storms of life may rage at times – sickness, relational conflict, financial struggles, direct attack from the enemy – Jesus is our shelter from the storm. He is our refuge and our strength, an ever present help in trouble.

### **REWARD – replace with the word “ANSWER”**

The language used here is PRESENT TENSE LANGUAGE.

## **WHAT KINDS OF PRAYER DOES GOD ANSWER? (ALL 3 POINTS ON ONE SLIDE)**

### **1. HUMBLE PRAYERS**

When you study the words of the Lord’s Prayer you will find that they are very similar to a standing prayer the Hebrew people would pray daily in the synagogues called the Amidah prayer. This was not a new set of words or framework from Jesus. So, what He is saying here is “you know what to pray, so just pray, but do it with a genuine heart.”

Simple humble prayers are the prayers God answers. He is not impressed by big words or grandiose actions in prayer. God hears and answers the simplest prayers.

### **ONE SIMPLE PRAYER FROM A HEART SURRENDERED TO JESUS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!**

## **JOHN KNOX – SCOTTISH REFORMATION**

16<sup>TH</sup> Century Scotland was under the leadership of Roman Catholicism and was steeped in doctrinal and ecclesiastical compromise – God birthed an unwavering passion in the heart of Knox to see Scotland won to Christ and the church to be revived. Knox is known for his famous prayer, “**God, give me Scotland or I die.**” Although Knox was imprisoned and enslaved, and though he was often under threat of persecution, he consistently lived out a bold courageous faith. He once said in the midst of such tribulation “**one man with God is always in the majority.**” As such, the prayers of one man heard at the throne of God were a threat to the throne of Scotland. During the time of the sixteenth-century Scottish Reformation, Knox’s ministry of preaching and prayer were so well known that the Roman Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots, is reputed to have said, “**I fear the prayers of John Knox more than all the assembled armies of Europe.**” John Knox preached and prayed to the end that God would rescue Scotland precisely because he was clinging to Jesus’ promise and prayer to save His people from every tribe, tongue, and nation.

### **2. FAITH FILLED PRAYERS**

Jesus called out the hypocrisy of the performance based praying of the Jewish religious crowd, but then he also calls us the foolish praying of the pagan crowd.

He says, “don’t babble like the Gentiles do, for they think they will be heard for their many words.”

The Gentiles would go through all manner of incantations and ecstatic actions in hopes they would rouse their god to respond. They prayed and performed in hopes of earning the favor of their supposed god so he or she would bless them with earthly things such as health, wealth, or fertility.

They had more faith IN THEIR PRAYING than they did in the one they were PRAYING TO.

Some Christians think that prayer is a performance to God, that if I can just pray hard enough or find the right words to say I will get from God what I desire.

**PRAYER IS MUCH MORE ABOUT GOD'S DESIRES GETTING INTO ME THAN MY DESIRES BEING MET BY GOD!**

Hence – Jesus says don't babble, because the Father knows what you need before you ever ask. Faith filled prayer humbly acknowledges the *NEED FOR GOD* before bringing *NEEDS TO GOD*.

**Adrian Rogers**

Prayer is not calling on God's reluctance, it is laying hold of His willingness

**In prayer I must trust that GOD KNOWS THE ANSWER, WILL GIVE AN ANSWER, AND THAT HE IS THE ANSWER!**

**3. INTENTIONAL PRAYERS**

**Matt 6** – Most Famous Scriptural Prayer

We see intentionality here

**Daniel Henderson – Fresh Encounters**

**(ALL 4 ON ONE SLIDE TOGETHER)**

**UPWARD** – Praise, Thanksgiving, Recognition of God's Character

**DOWNWARD** – Yielding to the will of God, Confession of sin

**INWARD** – Daily Bread, Provision, Peace, Strength – Profess Scripture

**OUTWARD** – Reconciliation, Intercession

**THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS** – this is the one idea added from Jesus to the typical Jewish Amidah prayer.