

How to Approach God

Matthew 6:5-13

He answered prayer—not in the way I sought
Nor in the way that I had thought He ought;
But in His own good way; and I could see
He answered in the fashion best for me

I. Pray to be **heard** by God.

Matthew 6:5-6 – ⁵“Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (CSB)

A. Be **honest** with God.

B. Be **relaxed** before God.

C. Be **revealing** before God.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 – Do not be hasty to speak, and do not be impulsive to make a speech before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. (CSB)

II. Pray with the right **motive**.

Matthew 6:7-8 – ⁷When you pray, don't babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they'll be heard for their many words. ⁸Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him. (CSB)

A. Pray with **meaning**.

B. Pray with **focus**.

C. Pray with **trust**.

II. Pray with **purpose**.

Jesus' model prayer to the disciples:

Matthew 6:9-13 – ⁹“Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done ¹¹on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. (CSB)

A. Praise – I show my love to God.

⁹*Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy.*

B. Purpose – I give my life to God.

¹⁰*Your kingdom come. Your will be done ¹¹on earth as it is in heaven.*

C. Provision – I give God my needs.

Give us today our daily bread.

D. Pardon – I give God my **guilt**.

¹²*And forgive us our debts*

E. People – I give God my conflict.

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

F. Protection – I give God my fears and temptations.

¹³*And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

III. Pray **together**.

Matthew 18:19-20 – ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you on earth agree about any matter that you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them. (CSB)

Thought for the Week:

Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are

restless until they find their **rest** in Thee. — Augustine

Todd Hitchcock - Bethel Baptist Church August 27, 2017 Message Notes