

**Matthew 6:5-15 How You Can Pray With Greater Effectiveness Dec 5 2010**

**Intro:**

**Luke 11:1 (NASB)** <sup>1</sup> It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."

**I. Seven Mistakes That Will Minimize Your Effectiveness In Prayer:**

**1. The Mistake of the Wrong Audience.**

**Matthew 6:5-6 (NASB)** <sup>5</sup> "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

<sup>6</sup> "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

**2. The Mistake of Repetition Without Thought.**

**Matthew 6:7-8 (NASB)** <sup>7</sup> "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.

<sup>8</sup> "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

**3. The Mistake of Refusing To Forgive.**

**Matthew 6:14-15 (NASB)** <sup>14</sup> "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

<sup>15</sup> "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

**4. The Mistake of Regarding Sin In Your Heart.**

**Psalm 66:18-20 (NASB)** <sup>18</sup> If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;

<sup>19</sup> But certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.

<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer Nor His lovingkindness from me.

**5. The Mistake Of Not Remaining In Christ And In His Word.**

**John 15:7 (NASB)** <sup>7</sup> "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

**6. The Mistake Of Not Requesting God's Help.**

**James 4:2 (NASB)** <sup>2</sup> You lust and do not have; *so* you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; *so* you fight and quarrel. **You do not have because you do not ask.**

**7. The Mistake Of Wrong Motives.**

**James 4:3 (NASB)** <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

**II. The Model That Will Maximize Your Effectiveness In Prayer.**

**1. Pray To Praise Your Perfect Father.**

**Matthew 6:9 (NASB)** <sup>9</sup> "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

**Romans 8:15 (NASB)** <sup>15</sup> For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

**2. Pray For God's Providential Rule In The Present And The Future.**

**Matthew 6:10 (NASB)** <sup>10</sup> 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

**Daniel 7:27 (NASB)** <sup>27</sup> 'Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

**Revelation 11:15 (NASB)** <sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

### 3. Pray For God's Provision For Your Practical Needs.

**Matthew 6:11 (NASB)** <sup>11</sup> 'Give us this day our daily bread.

**Psalms 34:10 (NASB)** <sup>10</sup> The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.

**Proverbs 30:8 (NASB)** <sup>8</sup> Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion,

**1 Timothy 6:8 (NASB)** <sup>8</sup> If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

### 4. Pray Understanding God's Prerequisite For Forgiveness.

**Matthew 6:12 (NASB)** <sup>12</sup> 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

**Matthew 18:21-22 (NASB)** <sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"  
<sup>22</sup> Jesus said\* to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

**Matthew 18:34-35 (NASB)** <sup>34</sup> "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.  
<sup>35</sup> "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

### 5. Pray For Protection From Temptation.

**Matthew 6:13 (NASB)** <sup>13</sup> 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]'

**2 Timothy 4:18 (NASB)** <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**John 17:15-17 (NASB)** <sup>15</sup> "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*.

<sup>16</sup> "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

<sup>17</sup> "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

**1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)** <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

**Invitation:** The Sinner's Prayer that God loves to answer.