

First Words

Someone has said that these 66 words are “An ocean of truth in a drop of speech.”

“Man is his greatest and highest when upon his knees he comes face to face with God” - Martin Lloyd Jones

A. The _____ of our prayers – “*And when you pray, do not...*”

Matthew 6:7-8 - “*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. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*”

“Now while praying” – It is assumed we will pray. This picks up the idea of not praying as the hypocrites in public but rather go into a prayer closet and pray. Prayer should be as natural to a Christian as breathing

1. We should not pray in _____
2. We should pray _____

Why is it that we don't feel comfortable in prayer?

- Bad _____ – We don't think rightly about God
Bad _____ - We are at odds with someone
Bad _____ – We aren't living right and we know it

I should know I have a Father, a knowledge Father, an approachable Father, and a sympathetic Father.

B. The _____ of our prayers – **Matthew 6:9-13** “*Pray then like this:*”

- Therefore/then - In light of the fact our Father knows etc.
- You yourselves – Taking individual responsibility
- Pray – general term for prayer, in this manner – a command

1. We are taught to ask for God's _____ to be _____
Matthew 6:9b - “*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...*”

2. We are taught to ask for God's _____ to be _____
Matthew 6:10 – “*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*”

“The loyal believer will cherish a deep desire for the achieving the purposes of God. He doesn't regard prayer merely as a means of getting his own will done but is a means of ensuring that God's will is done in his own life and in that of others”. - J. Oswald Sanders

3. We are taught to ask for God's _____ to be _____
Matthew 6:11 – “*Give us this day our daily bread..*”

The three needs of mankind, spiritual, intellectual and physical, are addressed in this prayer

4. We are taught to ask for God's _____ to be _____
Matthew 6:12 – “*And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*”

5. We are taught to ask for God's _____ to be _____
Matthew 6:13 – “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Doxology – **Matthew 6:13** - *For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

C. The _____ of our prayers
Matthew 6:14-15 - *For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

1. The _____ truth
2. The _____ truth

So...What's it to me?

I cannot say:

- “our” if I live for myself
- “Father” if I am not acting like His child
- “who art in heaven” if I am not laying up treasure there
- “Hallowed be Thy name” if I am not striving for holiness
- “Thy kingdom come” if I am not doing all I can to hasten it
- “Thy will be done” if I am disobedient to His Word
- “In earth as in heaven” if I am not serving Him now
- “give us this day our daily bread” if I am seeking it dishonestly
- “forgive our debts” if I am harboring grudges
- “lead us not into temptation” if I am placing myself in its path
- “deliver us from evil” if I am not putting on God's whole armor
- “Thine is the kingdom” if I don't give my loyalty to Him
- “and the power” if I fear what men can do me
- “and the glory” if seeking my own glory
- “forever” if my horizon of life is bound by time

Amen

