

I. What is the motive behind your prayer life? (Verse 5-8)

- **Do not pray to be recognized by men (Verse 5)**
 - At this point Christ is not concerned with a command “to pray” but rather “how” a person prays
 - Jesus says do not pray as the hypocrites.
 - They love to pray in the synagogues and the street corners
 - In other words they simply love to pray out loud in public places for one reason.
 - To be heard and then be praised by men!
 - A great example of this happens in the Luke 18:9-14 (who went home Justified?)
 - In short this type of attitude of prayer only results in the praise of men and nothing more!
- **Pray when there is no chance of the praise of men! (verse 6)**
 - The simple truth of the verse of scripture is that we pray for one reason only. To be heard by God!
 - This type of prayer life will demonstrate 3 things in the life of the believer
 - A willingness to take time to pray. The scripture says “when” you pray not “if”
 - The believer is deliberately choosing a quiet intimate place to spend time with the Father
 - It demonstrates a personal and intimate relationship between the Father and a child of God.
 - The reward of a genuine prayer warrior is open reward from the Father.
- **The effectual, fervent prayers of a righteous man avails much (James 5:16)**
 - Verse 7-8 could be summed up the following way
 - Do not use empty repetition, do not speak to much, and trust God

II. The Lord’s Prayer (Verse 9-13)

- The Lord’s Prayer is a model prayer to be prayed through not just recited.
- The Lord’s Prayer covers 6 basic areas that are important to the prayer life of every believer
 - **God is our heavenly Father (Verse 9)**
 - The first requirement for all mankind is to recognize the God of the bible as their heavenly Father
 - Jesus when speaking to God in the Garden of Gethsemane prayed “Abba Father”
 - It is an acknowledgement of the Holiness and Righteousness of God. It is God in His right place!
 - **The Kingdom of God (Verse 10)**
 - The Kingdom of God is to be the focus of every believer
 - "Father, let your kingdom come right here on this earth. Let Christ rule and reign in the hearts and the lives of all. Send Him, His kingdom, His sovereignty right now. God, I pray, even so come Lord Jesus, come...."
 - Help me to be a Kingdom minded citizen living this life with an eternal perspective
 - The request is literally asking for the rule and reign of Christ now which is only possible by His second coming!
 - **The Will of God (Verse 10)**
 - Notice that as we pray in this manner we are literally asking that God’s will be done right now on earth.
 - This is simply another way of saying Lord use me to fulfill your great plan on earth now. Matthew 28:18-20
 - **Give us our daily bread (Verse 11)**
 - Give us- Notice the word “us” helps take away the selfish desires of only thinking about ourselves
 - This Day- Helps the believer to only consider what is needed for today and trust the Lord for what will be needed for tomorrow
 - Our daily- Each believer does have a portion to receive from the Lord daily
 - Bread- Is just the simple basic necessities of Life!
 - **Forgiveness (Verse 12)**
 - Forgiveness is the simple message of the entirety of scripture.
 - The bible is literally the redemptive account of sinful man being reconciled to a holy, righteous, and just God.
 - **Temptation (Verse 13)**
 - As we discussed Wednesday night God does not tempt any man. James 1:13
 - Our prayer should center that God through the Holy Spirit will deliver us from the temptation we face.
 - I Corinthians 10:12-13 teaches that we are not tempted beyond what is common to man and that God always provides a way of escape.
 - We should also have the mindset to ask God to deliver us from the “evil one” which is Satan.

III. Forgiveness (Verse 14-15)

- I have always found it so interesting that Jesus’ first words after saying amen have to deal with the topic of forgiveness.
- Where does your life line up in the topic of forgiveness
 - I have often found this fact to be true in my own life as well as in the life of those I have counseled.
 - When we go through periods in our lives where we are unwilling to forgive someone I can almost always say there is a barrier between that person and the Lord.
 - It feels many times as if God goes silent and our prayers do not get past the ceiling.

