

pray

#1 "HOW TO PRAY JESUS' WAY!"

Luke 11:1-2; Matthew 6:5-9

Luke 11:1-2 (NLT) Once when Jesus had been out praying, one of His disciples came to Him as He finished and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said, "This is how you should pray..."

Matthew 6:5-9 (NLT) And now about prayer. When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I assure you, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father secretly. Then your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you. When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered only by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, because your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask Him! Pray like this...

1. Make prayer a personal practice.

- **Romans 12:12**
- **Mark 1:35**
- **1 Samuel 3:10**
- **Psalms 5:3**
- **Matthew 6:6**
- **Nehemiah 2:4**

To become a person of prayer you must:

- ▶ Make the big decision.
- ▶ Supply the commitment.
- ▶ Resist discouragement.
- ▶ Expect answers.

2. Adjust your attitudes about prayer.

- ▶ Check your prayer motives.
 - **Matthew 6:5**
 - **James 4:1-3**
- ▶ Be real with God.
 - **Matthew 6:7-8**
 - **Matthew 15:8**
- ▶ Pray with certainty and confidence.
 - **Matthew 6:6**
 - **John 14:13-14**
 - **1 John 5:14-15**
 - **Psalms 37:4**

3. Focus on building a prayer relationship, not just voicing your prayer requests.

Isaiah 65:24 (NLT) I will answer them before they even call to Me. While they are still talking to Me about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers!

The purpose of prayer is:

- ▶ To nurture and build your relationship with the Heavenly Father.
- ▶ To synchronize your heart with God's heart.
- ▶ To make requests of God.
- ▶ To experience the confirmation of the love of the Heavenly Father through His responses to your requests.
- ▶ To rest and refresh your heart in the presence of the One we trust to care for us.