

# THE BLESSED LIFE

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## Part 9 - Pray Like Jesus

### Get Real with God - Matthew 6:5-8

The first of Jesus' teachings could be summarised this way, "When you pray, pray authentically. Pray sincerely. Bring the real you before the real God because God knows the real you anyhow." God doesn't want forced compliance in prayer, He's looking for relationship.

The goal of prayer is to live all our life and speak all our words in the joyful awareness of the presence of God. This is what Jesus did. He lived His whole life in the conscious awareness of His Father and the Father's will.

### Praying in Private

When you pray privately, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father who is unseen. It's great to pray with people, gathered in unified prayer. However, when you're praying and there are other people listening, sometimes because we are aware they are listening, it changes how we pray, and it's good to just go pray alone with the Father.

*Where is your place where you find alone time with God?*

### ASK

Write in a sentence or a phrase or even a word, what is it that you need God to know about? What is it that is deepest on your heart?

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Prayer is the means by which Kingdom people lay hold of Kingdom power. If we are strangers to prayer, we are strangers to God's power to live as disciples!

## Praying Like Jesus - Matthew 6:9-13

We know we are supposed to pray, but sometimes we are not sure how! The Lord's Prayer model provides the clearest instruction on how we bring the reality of His world into this one. Jesus' model reveals two real priorities of prayer:

**1. Intimacy with God** - *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name."* When we begin our prayer, "Our Father," we begin to pray based on an intimate relationship with God – that of a father and child.

When we pray "hallowed be Your name," we climb to a new level of respect for God and reverence for His person. We are ascending to the very heart of God to recognise who He is and what He has done for us.

Passionate love for Jesus is the key for a disciple to live out the life of Christ.

**2. Bring Your Kingdom** - *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

When the believer prays according to the revealed will of God, faith is specific and focused. Every revelation that God gives us of heaven is to equip us with a prayer focus for His will on earth.

- + *"Give us this day our daily bread."* This request is a practical application of how His dominion should be seen here on earth. To allow God's abundant supply to flow to bring about His will without restraint due to lack.
- + *"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."* Heaven provides the model for our relationships here on earth (Ephesians 4:32-5:1).
- + *"And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."* Keeping separate from evil is practical evidence of our coming under our King's rule. It helps us to align our heart with heaven—one of absolute dependency on God.

Understanding how Jesus taught us to pray helps us to realise the intended goal of all prayer—that the Lordship of Jesus would be seen in all circumstances of life.

## Ambassadors for Christ

We have the privilege of representing heaven in this world, so that we might bring a manifestation of heaven to this world. This truth could intimidate us with the responsibility it implies or even condemn us because of our lack of prayer. But it could also excite us to the challenge and privilege of prayer.

## June Prayer Month

*Throughout the month:*

- + One main gathering each week (four in total - see below)
- + Devotion sent on Monday morning to set prayer focus for the week.
- + Prayer Room open Sunday through Friday, 6am-11pm to come and pray and engage the various prayer stations.
- + Pre-service prayer is open to everyone at Back of House from 8:30-8:55am and 4:30-4:55pm.
- + Join our regular fortnightly Intercession + Prayer nights at Riverlife 7pm, Monday 10 and 24 June.
- + Join our regular Wednesday Prayer + Communion gatherings, 11:30am - 12:30pm weekly.

*Prayer Gatherings:*

### **Week 1**

*QB Prayer Night* - Tuesday 4 June, 7pm in the Chapel joining in unity with Baptist churches across our state for a drawing of God's spirit to reach those that don't yet know His love and grace.

### **Week 2**

*BATTLECRY 2024*, RNA Showgrounds - Wednesday 12 June, 6pm. We need 50 volunteers...can you help? <https://riverlifechurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/754344>

### **Week 3**

*Prophetic Night* (with Next Gen focus) - Tuesday 18 June, 7pm

### **Week 4**

Night of Prayer and Worship with Bethel Church - Thursday 27 June, 7pm

## Discussion Questions

1. In Matthew 6:5-8 Jesus makes several comments about how the hypocrites pray. How should our attitude to prayer keep us from praying like either the pagans or hypocrites?
2. Comment on the phrase, "The goal of prayer is to live all our life and speak all our words in the joyful awareness of the presence of God." How was this reflected in Jesus' life and why was it so important to Him? What steps could you take to make this a reality for you?
3. Do you regularly find yourself one on one with Father God in secret bringing your whole heart to Him? Explain what difference this makes to you. If not, what is stopping you from doing this?
4. Discuss the focus for each division of the Lord's Prayer. What are you pleased or encouraged about regarding your prayer life? What area(s) of prayer do you struggle with?
5. Take a few moments now to come into a quiet place with Father God. Slowly read through the Lord's Prayer. Now read it through again stopping at the end of each sentence and allow your heart to expand on what you are praying about (eg *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. God you are so completely and wonderfully holy. You are the creator and sustainer of all things. It blows my mind that I can come before you in prayer, my great and mighty King"*.)
6. Take some time to pray with and for one another.