

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT PRAYER, PART 1

Matthew 6

The Lord's Prayer is the most well-known prayer anywhere. But it's not just a prayer to pray, it's also a template for all prayer. It was given in response to the request of the disciples when they said, "Lord teach us to pray." Through prayer we listen and communicate with God. We remind ourselves that God is in control no matter what. We need to pray. Why?

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **We should pray because Jesus told us to.** In Luke 18:1, Jesus told His disciples, "They should always pray and never give up" (NIV). Jesus instructs us to pray and at the same time, He gives us an example. Jesus, who was fully God yet fully man, took time to pray often.
2. **We should pray because prayer is God's appointed way of obtaining things.** There is nothing wrong with bringing your needs and requests before God. There may be things in your life that you don't have because you simply have not asked your Father. The Bible says, "You have not because you ask not."
3. **Prayer is the way by which we overcome our anxiety and worry.** Life is full of troubles. Our country is facing trouble. You have your own troubles. Paul says in Philippians 4:6, "Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything" (NLT). Turn your worries into prayers.
4. **Prayer is one of the ways we make ourselves ready for the return of Christ.** Jesus said in Mark 13, "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. Take heed, watch and pray; for you don't know when the time is" (NASB).

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- When we pray, sometimes God says "no," sometimes God says "slow," sometimes God says "grow," and sometimes God says "go!"
- When you pray, you are talking to the great God in heaven. Do not take Him for granted. Recognize God as your Father in heaven. He is awesome, all powerful, and holy.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

When we pray, our objective is not to pull God our way. It is to pull us His way. Prayer is not getting my will in heaven. It is getting God's will on earth. If you want to know the secret to answered prayer, it is this: your objective is to align your will with the will of God. When you do that, you will see your prayers answered in the affirmative.