



- Lord Send Us
A Revival Part
4: A Revival
Of Prayer

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Recap

- There are three primary relationships which we must seek to revive:
- Our relationship with ourself: learn to see yourself as God sees you—and don't focus on shortcomings—focus on the image of God in which you have been created.
- Our relationship with others: don't be judgmental, don't focus on someone else's faults without addressing your own; and treat others as you want to be treated.
- Our relationship with God: Love God above else with heart, soul, and mind—always put God first!

What Is A Revival?

- Revival: an improvement in the condition or strength of something; an instance of something becoming popular, active, or important again
- With this definition in mind, as we ask the Lord to send a revival—we are acknowledging that we need some things in our life to become important again
- Primarily due to the pandemic, we are need of a revival—and we are asking the Lord to send our revival!

Areas Of Revival

- Over the course of the following weeks we will be focusing our study of revival in the following areas:
- Revival Of Community
- Revival Of Relationships
- Revival Of Prayer
- Revival Of Faith
- Revival Of Commitment

Understanding Prayer

- Prayer is our sincere request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God.
- Prayer is our communication with God—our talking to God—and our putting our trust in God.
- Prayer is not the belief that we will get whatever we ask for—prayer is understanding that God always gives us our needs—according to the Will of God.
- And, the key to our prayer is the understanding that we trust that God will provide for us—and our communicating with God regarding our needs.

A Revival of Prayer

- Our prayer is our communication with God, thanking God and asking God to continue to meet our needs.
- Like the other areas we discussed, I believe that we need a revival of prayer.
- And, our revival of prayer consists of our continued commitment to communicate with God in prayer, the faith to believe that God will always answer our prayers, and the understanding of how to pray.
- Tonight, we will primarily look at Matthew 6:5-15, as we understand our revival of prayer.

Matthew 6:5: “ And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

Don't Pray Like A Hypocrite

- In the text, Jesus says not to pray like the hypocrites—but what does praying like a hypocrite look like?
- Jesus says that the hypocrite loves to stand in the synagogues and pray on the street corners—so that they may be seen by others.—and in doing this, they have already received their reward.
- Our prayer is our communication to God, with God, and about what we need from God—it is not so we can look holy and pious in front of others.
- Therefore, our prayers must be sincere—and not about being seen by others.
- Prayer can be done in public—and is often done in public—but it is not to impress others so we might receive accolades.
- And, if we treat prayer like this—like Jesus says—we have already received our reward—which is praise from people—which will not help us.

Matthew 6:6: But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father (God) who is in secret; and your Father (God) who sees in secret will reward you.

How Do I Pray?

- After Jesus tells us not to pray like a hypocrite, Jesus then tells us how to pray.
- Jesus says that we must go into our room—and shut the door.
- Now, since we are constantly praying to God—it is not always possible to physically go into a room and shut the door and pray—but we can shut the world out as we pray.
- Shutting the world out as we pray is simply being present in our conversation with God as we pray to God.
- It is giving our full attention to God—and not just doing all the talking—but also listening to what God tells us.
- Thus, we can shut our mental door—shut out the world—and be fully present with God as we talk to God.

How Do I Pray (2)

- Pray to God in secret—and God—who sees in secret—will reward you.
- What does it mean to pray in secret--I believe that means that our prayers to God are not anybody else's business but our own.
- If we choose to share that is up to us—but primarily our prayer is just between us and God—it is not up for anyone else's opinion, observation, or opportunity for criticism—it is between us and God.
- And, Jesus states that God—who sees in secret—will reward us.
- Because God sees in secret—God sees our hearts, minds, and souls—and knows the part of us that no one else can see.
- And, as God sees these most sincere and secret parts of us—God rewards us according to what only God can see.
- And God will reward us—but God's reward is often not in secret—God will reward us so that whole world can see—and give God the glory!

Matthew 6:7-8: When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father (God) knows what you need before you ask.

How Do I Pray (3)

- Again, Jesus reminds us not to pray like the hypocrites—heaping up empty phrases with many words.
- Our prayers are not about impressing people—or impressing God—because impressing people does not matter—and impressing God is impossible to do.
- So when we pray—pray with the belief—or the revival—in the understanding that God already knows what we are asking even before we ask.
- Pray knowing that God will answer our prayer and reward us in accordance with God's Will.
- Remember, our prayer is not about a bunch of flowery and flowing words—be specific with God, be real with God, and be present with God—there is not need to try and impress the Creator of everything.

Matthew 6:9-15: Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name. 10: Your kingdom come. Your Will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11: Give us this day our daily bread. 12: And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13: And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. 14: For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; 15: but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Prayer Specifics

- Jesus tells us to pray like this:
- Acknowledge who God is (9-10)
- God is the giver of everything (11)
- God forgives us and inspires us to forgive others (12)
- God does not create our messes—but God gets us through our messes—while constantly protecting us (13)
- As we forgive others—God forgives us—and because God forgives us—we must forgive others (14)
- If we don't forgive others—why do we expect God to forgive us (15)

Recap

- Don't be hypocritical in prayer
- Our prayers are for God's ears only—not for public consumption
- Don't try to impress God with big words—it's not possible
- In your prayers:
 - Acknowledge that God is in charge of everything;
 - Know that God is the giver of everything
 - God forgives us and inspires us to forgive others
 - God does not create our problems—but God will see us through
 - God forgives us—we must forgive others—it is unfair to expect forgiveness from God—if we cannot forgive others