

## **‘The Lord’s Prayer’      Matthew 6:5-15**

Series title: What does it mean to live a good life?

### **I. How not to pray 6:5-8**

A. When we study how the Pharisees prayed, we’ll see that a number of faults had crept in. These same items can creep in today as well if we’re not careful. Can you identify with any of these?

1. Prayer had become a ritual. Ritual prayers can be done in one of three ways, only one way is good. First, they can be prayed with sincerity. Second, they can be said with indifference. Third, they can be said in pride, like the Pharisees did. God wants a relationship, not a ritual.
2. Praying prescribed prayers for every occasion. *‘Say this prayer twice and call me in the morning.’*
3. Limiting prayer to set times of the day.
4. A fourth fault was thinking that \_\_\_\_\_ prayers were better than short ones.
5. A fifth fault was using meaningless repetitions, vs. 7. Persistence in prayer is good, but meaningless repetitions are not.
6. A sixth fault was that of wanting to be seen and heard by others.

B. But prayer is having a two-way conversation with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which is the most important love relationship you can have. Praying can be done out loud or silently. God knows your heart. Jesus said: *‘be it done to you according to your faith.’* Mt. 9:29

### **II. God’s pattern for prayer. 6:9**

A. God’s ultimate purpose for prayer is to glorify Himself. Jn. 14:13

B. Often we don’t know what is best to pray for. Rom. 8:26. Then we pray what we think would be best and we leave the results with Him knowing He loves us and will do and give the best thing.

C. In these few verses from 9-13, Jesus gives us a brief but amazingly comprehensive outline of what true prayer should be. It has two sections, the first section deals with God’s glory, the second with man’s need. Each section has \_\_\_\_\_ petitions. The first deals with God’s name, His kingdom and His will. The second set of 3 requests deal with our daily bread, forgiveness and protection.

### **III. The Lord’s prayer.**

A. God’s paternity. Pater is the Greek word for father. God is the Father of those who come to His family through faith in His Son. Jn. 1:12

B. God’s priority – *Hallowed be Your name* God’s name stands for His character and all that He is. To hallow His name is to revere, honor and glorify Him. It means to respect, honor, treasure, esteem, magnify His name. To hallow His name is especially done when we \_\_\_\_\_ Him and live according to His ways and not the world’s ways.

C. God wants us to pray. It is not only a command but an incredible privilege. We can cast all our cares upon Him knowing He cares for us. We’re to pray about everything and when we do God promised His peace can flood our hearts. We’re to pray continually, it’s a way of life. We’re to pray to God, not to an angel or some deceased saint.

We’re to pray in faith. We are to pray with thanksgiving. We’re to pray specifically.

Let us not forget that the greatest thing you can do for people or God is to pray. We can accomplish far more by our prayers than our work. As it’s been said: *“prayer is omnipotent, it can do anything God can do.”* When we pray, God works. There is much we can do after we pray, but prayer comes first.

*Lord, teach us to pray.*