

PRAY IT FORWARD PART 3
“THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER”
SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 6:5-13
SPEAKER: SATURDAY DR. DAN STEWART
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INTRODUCTION

- Week 1 was on Praying it Forward.
- Week 2 we talked about the Posture of Prayer.
- This week following Jesus is built on a habit of prayer.
- Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV), “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today our daily bread. ¹²Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

I. WHY DON'T WE PRAY?

- Because we Fear Being Naïve.
 - We can't master it, so we often avoid it!
- Because we Fear Silence.
 - Prayer means facing silence.
- Because we Fear Doing it Wrong.
 - We think that God prefers our performance over our honesty.

II. WORSHIP AND DESIRES

- Instructions on prayer - Matthew 6:5-8
 - Jesus is teaching His followers that prayer is relational not ritual.
 - It is not a duty but a privilege.

- Worship - Matthew 6:9
 - Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.
 - Worship should always reorient our focus from us to Him.
- Desires - Matthew 6:10
 - ¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
 - This is a prayer of surrender.
 - It declares that everyday our will needs to be realigned with His.

III. DEPENDENCE, FORGIVENESS, AND PROTECTION

- Dependence - Matthew 6:11
 - ¹¹ Give us today the food we need,
 - Jesus is instructing us to declare our dependence on God for everything.
- Forgiveness - Matthew 6:12
 - ¹² And forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.
 - Prayer should connect us to God but also provide a path toward healing with others.
- Protection/Deliverance - Matthew 6:13
 - ¹³ And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.
 - Every single day I need to be protected from some broken parts of myself!

CLOSE

- Following Jesus is built on the habit of prayer.
- But prayer is more about us connecting with Our Father than it is with us fulfilling a duty.