



## Pray the Grace Way: Part 1

Everyone prays.

Some pray to sooth themselves. Others pray to try to reach a higher level of consciousness. The religious recites creeds and benedictions. The fundamentalist offers prayer 3 times a day to their deity for a show of loyalty. And the cultist invokes the universe's energy.

It pays respect to the hurting. It transmits empathy to the unfortunate. It is a show of piousness to the zealous. It is a discipline for personal growth.

These are all tolerant and respectable practices to those that have these beliefs. However, when it comes to prayer towards the Lord, Jesus thought otherwise.

I will show you two strong points on prayer that Jesus taught which I believe will give you shock therapy to help you reset. This will get you on your way towards praying a more effective way in the grace of Christ. You will find God start to chip away at your beliefs about your prayer life like a coal until the diamond remains.

### **Matthew 6:7**

When you pray, don't babble on and on like the people who don't know God.

According to God, the prayer practices mentioned above are all just wasted breath – babbling. Jesus is saying don't be like them. By this, Jesus is redefining prayer and preserving its purpose. Prayer is much more special than you thought.

### **Matthew 6:5**

When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray...

God then firmly addresses those religious folks who are turning prayer into religious promiscuity. Jesus is saying that hypocrites love to pray. In other words, He is saying that just because you are praying doesn't mean you are accomplishing anything.

Many believers in Christ use prayer to sooth their guilty-conscience. To them, prayer is a religious duty on the top of the To-Do List. They extend bedtime prayer just to calm and appease God. They feel God is demanding something, so prayer is a good currency.

A great man of God described it in this manner:

- “True prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.” – **Charles Spurgeon**

Then we have those that use prayer to try to sway God's heart. They walk the fine line then make sure all their unconfessed sins have been taken care of so they can beg, plead, and supplicate so God can make a move. With eloquent words and humbleness in the posture and the proper prayer formula, they pray like prey, beg like slaves, plead like orphans, and supplicate like religionists. These remain roped in certain patterns of prayer and wonder why prayers don't go beyond their ceilings. At the end of the day it only seems like prayer went unheard and it's because God doesn't answer prayer based on performance.

Another great man of God said it like this:

- “It is not the body's posture, but the heart's attitude that counts when we pray.” – **Billy Graham**

In essence, by trying to move God with pious actions, begs, pleads, and supplications, these are really saying that the finished work of Christ was not enough to release the fullness of the blessing towards them, so they see themselves as the mediator. In other words, they are trying to be Moses all over again instead of resting in the true Mediator – Jesus Christ.

This mode of prayer was appropriate under the Old Covenant of Law because Jesus had not been crucified and resurrected. But today, this type of prayer goes against the finished work of Christ. This is the reason why your prayer life is in frustration.

I understand that most of what believers in Christ call prayer have been snatched away up until this point and are left with an empty glass wondering what the whole purpose of prayer is.

For those that have been enjoying the Gospel of Grace for some time now, you should understand that through the finished work of Christ you are forgiven, healed, favored, and blessed. Simply put, you have been made the righteousness of God in Christ. You come to realize that some of things you used to pray for have already been given to you in Christ. This is why it causes a vacuum in your prayer life.

- “*So why pray?*”

Prayer is very important.

In fact, it is an essential part of being a believer in Christ. After Jesus taught His disciples how not to pray, He then proceeded to teach them to pray in a new way according to the covenant or dispensation they were in; likewise is the goal of this teaching.

### **Matthew 6:9**

Pray, then, in this way...

Under the New Covenant of Grace, there is a new and a more effective way to pray. You will enjoy it so much that it will become a free flowing part of you without putting it in a constraint. In the following 2 parts of this teaching, I will be teaching you how to pray more effectively in accordance to the grace and the Word of God.

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