



Confessions of a Minister

Sometimes I don't want to pray

Matthew 6:5-13

When it comes to prayer:

1. Don't Pose for People – Talk with God. *Matthew 6:5-7*
2. Don't Call on an Unfeeling Force – Talk to Your Loving Father. *Matthew 6:8-9*
Galatians 4:6
3. Pray with respect. *Matthew 6:9-10*
4. Don't ask for Stuff – Focus on Real Needs. *Matthew 6:11*
Matthew 6:31-33, John 6:51
5. Pray for Forgiveness: needed and given. *Matthew 6:11-12*
6. Pray for Strength and Protection. *Matthew 6:13, John 17:15*

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Matthew 6:5-13

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Matthew 6:5-7 NLT “When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. ⁶ But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. ⁷ “When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again.

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When it comes to prayer:

1. Don't Pose for People – Talk with God.

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Who is the audience?

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Matthew 6:8-9 NLT Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!⁹ Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.

When it comes to prayer:

2. Don't Call on an Unfeeling Force – Talk to Your Loving Father.

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Galatians 4:6 NLT And because we are His children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father."

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Matthew 6:9-10 NLT Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

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When it comes to prayer:

3. Pray with respect.

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Matthew 6:11 NLT Give us today the food we need,

When it comes to prayer:

4. Don't ask for Stuff – Focus on Real Needs.

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Matthew 6:31-33 NLT "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?'³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.

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John 6:51 NLT I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh."

Matthew 6:11-12 NLT Give us today the food we need,¹² and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

When it comes to our prayer life:

5. Pray for Forgiveness: needed and given.

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Matthew 6:13 NLT And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

When it comes to prayer:

6. Pray for Strength and Protection.

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John 17:15 NLT I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.

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Dad,

You are so perfect and pure, bring Your ways to this world. Give me, today, what I need to live. Forgive me when I hurt You as I will forgive others who hurt me. Help me to do what You want and not to get away from Your ways. Protect me from all spiritual harm.

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