

Intro: We are turning the last corner in the race toward finishing our study on the Lord's Prayer this morning. Today we are going to look at what I am calling some of the "Do's" The positive direction and/or actions Next week we will finish up by doing the opposite...Examining things Jesus says, "Don't Do That!" Today let's look at what Jesus Says we SHOULD DO When we pray
Matthew 6:9-13 Pg 685

1. First, When Should We Pray?

This is where we should start when we are thinking about prayer:
For many, prayer is reserved for when there is a REAL need! Don't want to BOTHER God with details of life!
Mt 6:25-34 God Cares for every detail of our life, There we should Pray....

Now, the easy answer is: All the time...But, I think the bible gives us a little more specific insight on prayer that will help us

- All the time!
Psalm 55:17 Morning, Noon, Evening
1Thess 5:17 Without Ceasing Lit= Uninterruptedly; without stopping; continuously

The more specific answer is that we follow the pattern and lifestyle of Jesus; When you do that you see a couple of things

- Like Jesus: Pattern of Jesus
>Morning Mark 1:35
Why? Sets Expectation for the Day! Psalm 5:3 (lean forward, look ahead)
>When He was in need of:
Direction: Disciples Luke 6:12-13 Spent all night in prayer
Personal strength Garden of Gethsemane Mt 26:36 3x went aside to pray
Spiritual Battle: Demonic Mark 9:29 comes out Only by prayer

2. How Should We Pray?

While there is no "wrong" way to pray, there are some things the bible talks about as it relates to prayer. ANY prayer is a good prayer! Sometimes the most effective prayers are those that are short and sincere! The Bible has a LOT to say about prayer...But what I want to focus on this am is what JESUS said about prayer There are some VERY specific principles that He spoke to that provide the framework for an effective prayer life

- Pray Privately Private; Inward; Secret Mt 6:6 In Closet (Find a place to be alone)
- Pray Forgivingly Have a releasing heart! Mark 11:25 Stand praying...Forgive...Release Lay down, let go, yield up
- Pray in Faith! (Believing) Mark 11:24 Put your trust in God
- Pray Persistently (don't give up!) Luke 18:1-7 Not lose heart, give up, surrender to fear
- Pray in Humility (not proudly) Luke 18:10 To bring self low, not lift self up
God listens to the humble 1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble, Cast cares on him
- Pray Intelligently Mt 26:41 be vigilant, alert, awake, on guard
- Pray "In him" (relationship/connection) John 15:7 remain in me (abide)

Those are the specific principles that JESUS told us to include in our prayers. They are really the FOUNDATION of Praying the way that Jesus prayed.

If we get the foundation right...then everything else will start to fall in place.

3. What Should We Pray For?

This is the area where we could simply say...Everything...and leave it at that... And while there is more than an element of truth to that, there are some specific things Jesus directs us to pray for. Here is my thought. While we are to pray about all the things that concern and affect us, I believe God knows there are some areas that either need special attention...or which we would leave out!

Illus: Like taking the kids to the grocery store!

- God's Will Your kingdom come your will be done Mt 6:10 God's Purpose, desire, pleasure
- God's Work That God send workers into harvest Mt 9:28 Church, SS, Reaching, Teaching
- God's Wisdom Asking, Seeking, Knocking Mt 7:7 God's insight
- God's Blessing What you need...desire...as His child Mt 7:7 Bread/stone

CONCL:

This Week:

When are you going to pray? Try it with Him...Alone in the morning
This week...How are you Going to pray? Look at those principles...pick a couple that really speak to you
Forgiveness? Early and Alone? Persistently? Look Around (Intelligently)
What are you going to pray for?
His Will His Work His Wisdom His Blessing