

THRIVING



IN THE WORD . IN PRAYER . IN FELLOWSHIP

This Thriving series will focus on the topic of prayer. The Bible is full of prayers offered to God in various circumstances. Each week we will spend time reading and reflecting on a different prayer from the Bible to see what instruction and inspiration we can glean from the attitudes and approaches reflected in the words.

“This week we launch our new series looking at Jesus’ modeled prayer in Matthew 6. In this passage, we see Jesus direct us to come to the Lord humbly and with anticipation that our Father hears and responds to His children.” — Pastor Pete

“As you develop a relationship with your heavenly Father, you’ll change. You’ll discover nests of cynicism, pride, and self-will in your heart. You will be unmasked. None of us likes being exposed. We have an allergic reaction to dependency, but this is the state of the heart most necessary for a praying life. A needy heart is a praying heart. Dependency is the heartbeat of prayer. So when it starts getting uncomfortable, don’t pull back from God. He is just starting to work. Be patient.” Paul E. Miller from “*A Praying Life*”

Matthew 6:5-13

How to Pray

⁵“Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷When you pray, don’t babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they’ll be heard for their many words. ⁸Don’t be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him.

The Lord’s Prayer

⁹“Therefore, you should pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,
your name be honored as holy.

¹⁰Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And do not bring us into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.

1. What stands out to you in this passage?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

3. What does this passage teach us about Man?

4. What attitude or approach from this prayer could you
add to your prayer life?