

Personal & Corporate Prayer

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Matthew 6:5-13

⁵ “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.



Matthew 6:5-13

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your 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 lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.’”

Personal Prayer

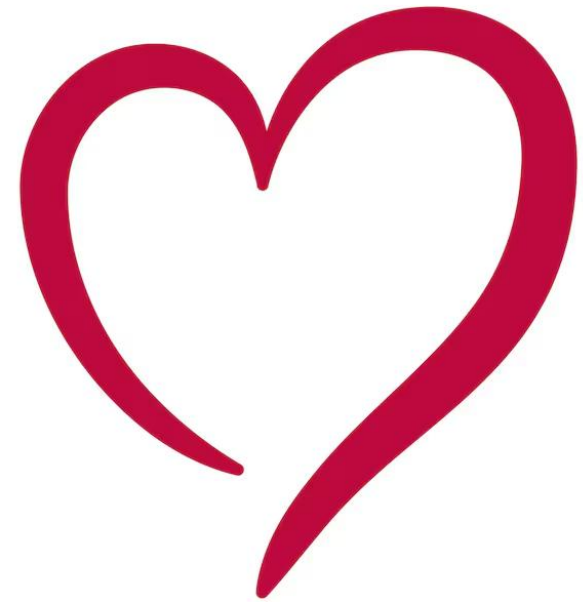
Matthew 6:6 *“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen... and this is how I want you to pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...”*





Why is personal prayer important?

- Our personal prayer times are where our relationship with God the Father develops and grows.
- They are places of intimacy, vulnerability, honesty, sharing, rejoicing... Getting to know one another, away from distractions allowing love to grow.
- Even Jesus needed time away from the crowds to be alone with his Father. How much more do we need this.





Praying on our own can be difficult

- Find a regular time to pray – morning, evening, lunchtime... It doesn't matter when but try and get into a rhythm.
- Listen to worship songs as a way of preparing your heart and mind.
- If your house is busy, go for a walk and listen to scripture through your phone.
- If you find it hard simply praying without some guidance, then use devotional tools such as UCB or Lectio 365...



Corporate Prayer

Matthew 18:19-20 *“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.”²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”*





Why is corporate prayer important?

- In unity and oneness we pray for:
 - The Kingdom of God to powerfully advance
 - Strongholds to be broken
 - Broken hearted to healed
 - Souls to the saved
 - Prophetic direction through the Holy Spirit





The early church prayed corporately

- Waiting in the upper room for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14)
- During times of persecution (Acts 4:24-31)
- When Peter was imprisoned (Acts:12:1-2)
- When Paul and Barnabas were sent out into mission (Acts 13:1-14)
- When Paul and Silas needed to be broken out of prison (Acts 16:23-26).









We need to prayer together

- Matthew 18:19-20 - ¹⁹ *'Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.'*
- Do we carry a burden for the lost that causes us to want to pray?



Personal and Corporate Prayer

Focus only on personal prayer and you will be in danger of it becoming solely me and God and missing out on what God is saying and doing more broadly.

Focus only on corporate prayer we can be in danger of becoming more religious than relational, never really allowing God into the inner most parts of our lives.

We need both personal and corporate prayer to become all that God wants us to be.

We need to ask God to give us a burden for praying for the lost.

