

Title: **PRAY LIKE JESUS: The Lord's Prayer**
Text: **Matthew 6:5-14**
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Introduction

1. Do people actually pray these days?
2. Of the people that do pray, does it actually make a difference in their lives? Does prayer actually make a difference in our world?
3. Isn't the outward reality of our actions in the world much more important than the inward reality of things like prayer and contemplation?
4. And the great debate...
 - God will do whatever He wishes, whether we pray or not and prayer basically just orients us to God's will. So why waste our time?
 - God's actions towards us are determined by our praying. And there's evidence of both of these positions within the Bible.

In its' broadest definition prayer is communicating with God.

"Prayer is beyond any question the highest activity of the human soul. Man is at his greatest and highest when, upon his knees, he comes face to face with God" (D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

We will now examine how the Lord's Prayer moves from a focus on God to our needs and includes six types of prayer in this one prayer.

The Focus on God

1. Adoration

Our Father in heaven . . . (v. 9; also see Luke 11:1–4, where the prayer simply begins with "Father")

Jesus addressed God simply as "Father" (11:25; Mark 14:36; Luke 23:46; John 17:1), and taught His followers to do the same.

2. Worship

" . . . hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven".

The kingdoms of light and darkness are at war in this world and one day God's kingdom will completely crush and replace the kingdom of Satan. Until that day, we are to pray for God's kingdom to show up on the earth.

The Focus on Our Needs

3. Provision

"Give us this day our daily bread . . ."

It is important that we bring to God our needs and not our greed. In prayer we bring to God our needs in faith that He cares and will provide.

It acknowledges that everything we have is a gift from God and that it is not inherently ours but we are just caretakers and stewards of this Earth. 2. As caretakers and stewards, this prayer must move us to action.

4. Confession

".. . and forgive us our debts . . ."

Confession is one prayer that Jesus never prayed because He never sinned. But He reminds us that sin (both omission and commission) accrues a debt to God.

5. Intercession

".. . as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Because Jesus paid our debt to God and opened a way for us to be forgiven, we extend that gospel grace to others by praying for those who have sinned against us and by forgiving them.

6. Protection

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

God never tempts us to sin (James 1:13–14), but in this prayer Jesus is saying that we should agree with God's desire that we not follow temptation into evil.

Conclusion

- Prayer allows us to be part of God's plan for his will to be done on earth.
- Prayer is about being like God and with God at work in the lives of others for His glory and our joy.