



Why Is Praying So Hard?

Matthew 6:1-8

Pastor Kevin Hurt

8/23/2020

INTRODUCTION – The Struggle with Prayer

- The Battle – You are not alone
- The Basics – Understanding the topic of prayer in the N.T.

The Epistles/Letters (Romans to Jude) command and exhort us _____ pray.

Jesus, in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), teach us _____ to pray.

LESSON – Why Is Praying So Hard? (Matthew 6:1-8)

I. THE TEXT – Putting Jesus' Words About Prayer in Context vs. 1-5

A. Jesus on Prayer – This Is Part of a Sermon (Chapters 5-7)

B. Jesus On Prayer – This Shows Us the Problem We Face in Prayer (vs. 1-5)

- The Warning — Pay Attention to This Exhortation

*“**Beware** of practicing your righteousness **before men** to be **noticed** by them; ...” 6:1*

- The Witnesses — Learn from These Examples

*“When you pray, you are **not to be like the hypocrites**; for they love to stand and pray in the **synagogues** and on the **street corners** ...” 6:5*

II. THE TEACHING — Applying Jesus’ Words About Prayer to Our Lives vs. 6-8

- A. Principle #1 — Remind Yourself of Your _____ (v. 6)

*“But you, when you pray, **go into your inner room**, close your door and **pray to Your Father** who is in secret, ...”*

3 practical recommendations

1. Find your _____ place with God.
2. Don’t say a _____ until you are aware that you are speaking to God.
3. Stop assessing _____ people’s prayers.

- B. Principle #2 — Remind Yourself of His _____. (vs. 7-8)

*“And when you are praying, **do not use meaningless repetition** as the **Gentiles** do, for they **suppose** that they will be heard **for their many words**. So do not be like them; **for your Father knows what you need** before you ask Him.”*

2 practical recommendations

1. Focus on the Father’s _____ attention and _____ care for you in Christ.
2. Use words that express _____ thoughts.