

Guidelines for Prayer Matthew 6:5-8

Don't let prayer become a public spectacle. It should be a personal communication with God.
Don't use meaningless, repetitious phrases. Speak to your Father honestly, from your heart.

The Outline of Prayer Matthew 6:9-13*Our Father must be Praised* (vs 9)

For His Awesome Creative Powers; His Holiness; And His Grace.
For His Faithfulness; His Goodness; His Love; And His Mercy;
For His Perfection; His Longsuffering; His Wisdom; And His Salvation

His Kingdom must be Remembered (vs 10)

Since His Kingdom has already come (Col 1:13; Rev 1:6,9), we can pray for specific people who are laboring in it and for specific works being attempted.

We can pray that Kingdom citizens will be obedient & work together in peace.

We can also pray for all people, including authority figures (I Tim 2:1-4).

However – we must not ask our Father to save an unrepentant person (I Jn 5:16)

Our Needs must be Requested (vs 11)

In Matthew 7:7-11, Jesus encouraged us to make our requests known to the Father, who is willing to give good gifts to those who ask Him.

But remember – the Father doesn't always say "Yes" (II Cor 12:7-10; Mt 26:39).

Our supplications must be "According to His Will" (I Jn 5:14-15; Jn 15:7).

Don't forget to say "Thank You" along with all your requests (Phil 4:6)

Our Sins must be Acknowledged (vs 12)

John explained that forgiveness from the Father will only follow sincere Confession of our sins (I John 1:8-10)

Our Souls must be Protected (vs 13)

Paul assured us that God will not allow His children to be tempted beyond what we are able to endure; and that He will always provide a way of escape from every temptation (I Corinthians 10:13). We should pray for vision to see it.

The Recipient of Prayer Matthew 6:9

1. Jesus said to address "Our Father who art in Heaven" when we pray.
2. This should be our normal course of action . . .
 - . . . especially when using this specific outline given by Jesus.
 - . . . especially in formal, public prayer, that there be no cause for offense.
3. However – Stephen, as he was being executed, did address Jesus directly (Acts 7:59).

The Avenue of Prayer John 15:16

1. Prayer should always be offered in the name of Jesus (Jn 16:24; Col 3:17).
 - a. That is . . . by the authority of Jesus.
 - b. We can approach the throne of God because of our relationship with Jesus.
2. He is our mediator (I Tim 2:5) and our intercessor (Heb 7:25) before the Father.

Steadfastness in Prayer

Pray with confidence (Heb 4:14-16)

Pray for wisdom (James 1:5-8)

Don't ever abandon the practice of daily prayer (I Thes 5:17)