



Part One: Not Like That // Andy Stanley // July 4, 2021

At one time or another, we've all been told we should pray. Maybe you've prayed for your entire life, or maybe the idea of prayer is still new to you. But how should we pray? Jesus' disciples had the exact same question and actually asked it of Jesus. His instructions on how to pray may surprise you, or even trouble you.

Scripture: [Matthew 6:5-13 NIV](#)

Bottom Line: The purpose of prayer is to surrender our will, not impose it.

Getting Started:

1. How did you learn to pray? Was it modeled for you? Were you taught specific prayers as a child?
2. Have you ever considered the idea of learning how to pray "the right way"?
3. Have you ever heard of "The Lord's Prayer" before?

Jumping In:

4. Have you ever attempted to pray your way out of a situation you behaved your way into? Have you ever attempted to bargain with God?
5. Do you ever find yourself praying the same prayers over and over again? Why do you think we do that?

Discuss:

6. Read [Matthew 6:5](#).
 - a. What surprised you as you read this passage?
 - b. Have you ever experienced someone like the hypocrites? How did that make you feel?
7. Read [Matthew 6:6-8](#).
 - a. Have you ever thought about the importance of where you pray?
 - b. What does Jesus say about how to pray in this passage? Does that surprise you? Why or why not?

- c. What would you pray if you were absolutely confident that God sees you when you pray and hears your prayers?
8. Read [Matthew 6:9-13](#).
 - a. What stands out to you?
 - b. Andy shared that, "Jesus is inviting us into something relational, personal, non-formulated." How does this change your perspective of prayer?
 - c. How does your earthly relationship with your father affect the idea of praying to God as your Heavenly Father?
9. Do you have any reservations about "your kingdom come, your will be done"? Why do you think that is?

Moving Forward:

This week, try praying this prayer the Jesus way: alone, undistracted, informal, and even short.

"Heavenly Father, thank you for who you are. Your goodness extends far beyond what I can ever comprehend, and yet you extend all of that to me. Thank you. I pray that your kingdom--a kingdom where what's best for people is what's best because they are your image-bearers as well--your kingdom come. God, may your will, not mine, be done in my life. Show me the ways I can point others to see your kingdom here on this earth. I am happy to participate. Reveal to me how I am possibly getting in the way of your will being done in my life. Thank you for knowing and seeing me. Amen."