



**Matthew 6:5-13**—*When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.*

*But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! Pray like this:*

*Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.*

*May your Kingdom come soon.*

*May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*

*Give us today the food we need,*

*and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.*

*And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.*

## MAIN POINT

**A lack of prayer is  
a lack of faith in a good God.**

> Jesus assumes we pray.

**Matthew 6:5-13**—*When you pray... But when you pray... pray to your Father... When you pray... your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! Pray like this...*

**1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)**—*Pray without ceasing.*

> Jesus knows we will get it wrong.

**Matthew 6:5-13**—*When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites... But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private... When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do... Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!*

# HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

## 1. Pray like He is your good Father.

**Matthew 6:5-13**—...*Pray like this: Our Father...*

## 2. Pray like He will transform the World.

**Matthew 6:5-13**—...*Pray like this... May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven...*

**1 Timothy 2:1-4**—*I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.*

## 3. Pray like He will transform you.

**Matthew 6:5-13**—...*Pray like this... forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us...*

> God forgiving you will transform your eternity.

**1 John 1:9**—*But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*

> Forgiving others will transform both you and them.

**Ephesians 4:31-32**—*Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*

## 4. Pray like He will protect you.

**Matthew 6:5-13**—...*Pray like this... And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.*

**Romans 8:31**—*What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?*

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*All verses quoted in New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.*

Rewatch today's message and more on our website at [bcchurch.com/messages](http://bcchurch.com/messages).

# STUDY GUIDE: 1/5/25

Begin your group with prayer. Have one or two people share a testimony from their week. Keep it positive and reflect on the good things God has done.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. As we begin a new year, how does focusing on prayer help us align our goals and priorities with God's will?
2. The main point of the message was: "A lack of prayer is a lack of faith in a good God." How does that hit you? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
3. The prayers in the Bible often show intimacy and honesty with God. How would you describe your prayer life right now? What steps can you take to cultivate this type of real conversation in your own prayers?
4. In Matthew 6:6, Jesus emphasizes praying in private. Why do you think this is important, and how can you create a more personal space for prayer in your life?
5. What does "praying without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) look like in your daily life? How can you make prayer a more natural and consistent part of your routine?
6. The Lord's Prayer emphasizes forgiveness. Why is forgiving others essential to experiencing God's forgiveness?
7. How have you seen God transform your life or the lives of others through prayer? Share a personal testimony or example.
8. The message encouraged us to "pray like He will transform the world." Do you trust God to answer your prayers in His timing and way? Why or why not?