

THE SECRET LIFE OF PRAYER

September 21, 2014 Matthew 6:5-8 by Bob Branch
The Truly Liberated Life, Part 15

MAIN IDEA: Cultivating a secret life with God is all about building a deepening, personal relationship with Him. Prayer is the conversation of that relationship.

To grow in your life with Jesus, a deepening, personal PRAYER LIFE must be cultivated.

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. **Matthew 6:5**

1. Prayer is **NOT FOR SHOW**. (Luke 18:11)

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. **Matthew 6:6**

2. Keep it **QUIET**.

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” **Mark 1:35**

“Where’s Your Chair?”

3. Keep it **GOD-FOCUSED**. God-centric. Not necessarily our needs. Or others attention. Or ourselves.

“Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom, your will...” **Matthew 6:9-10**

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

Matthew 6:7

4. Keep it **REAL**, **Unrehearsed and Simple**. (Lk. 11:9-13)

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **Matthew 6:8**

5. Take prayer **BEYOND ASKING**.

How is prayer more-than-asking?

- Prayer is **ALIGNING** ourselves with God, his truth and his purposes. (Ps. 119:11-12)
- Prayer is **LISTENING**. (Jn. 10:3-5; Rev. 3:20; Heb. 3:7-8)
- Prayer is part of our **APPRENTICESHIP** with Jesus. (Mt. 4:19; 10:38; Mk. 4:41; Acts 9:5)
- Prayer is **PARTICIPATION** with God in His work. (John 5:17-20; 14:12)
- Prayer is **RELATIONSHIP** in conversation. (Juan Carlos Ortiz; don’t hang up the phone) (John 17:3; Jer. 24:7; 31:33-34)