

A RICH INNER LIFE WITH GOD

April 3, 2016 Matthew 6:5-13 by Bob Branch
Changing The World Through Prayer, Part 1 of 4

BIG IDEA: The riches, power & nourishment of God flow thru a private, personal friendship with him that must be cultivated daily.

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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 6:5-6**

WHEN & WHERE TO PRAY?

Define Prayer: Talk with God.

WHEN: (3x)... time set aside.

WHERE: a private place.

Where's Your Chair—Bill Hybels

God is ready to meet us in a rewarding way when we seek him alone.

⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **Matthew 6:7-8**

HOW TO PRAY?

Talk WITH God. Praying vs. Saying a Prayer.

Must move beyond asking.

WHAT TO PRAY? Conversation Starters...

⁹ "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name

Connection & Worship

INTIMACY with God. *"I am your child. One in whom Christ dwells! Me! Oh, Father, thank you."*

WORSHIP. *"Father, I lift your name up. Oh Jesus! I want your name to be cherished here, with me there way it is in heaven!"*

¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Motivation & Vision

REALIGNMENT... *"Today, I want what you want. I'm seeking first you, your kingdom, and you setting things right!"*

SURRENDER... *"I surrender my life, my will. I come under your authority. Die to myself to live to you."*

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. **(Provision)**

DEPENDENCE on Him! *"I reaffirm that you are the one who takes care of me and your kingdom is never in trouble. I depend on you. Not my strength or my abilities. You."*

TRUST and thanks *"I trust you today for everything I need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Thank you for taking care of me, us! I'm so grateful!"*

¹² And **forgive** us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Forgiveness

Forgive **MY SINS...** *"Father, I call _____ sin before you. I confess my sin to you and turn from it to you! Oh, Lord. Please forgive me and cleanse me."*

HELP ME FORGIVE Others... *"And, help me to forgive others are completely as you forgive me. Help me to be a forgiving person. I'm struggling with _____ toward _____. I lift them up to you and ask you to forgive them. And, I chose to forgive them for _____. Help me to walk in your forgiveness."*

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

Protection

PROTECT me from me. *"It's a battle out there, and in me! Help me to not give way to my flesh, temptation, hate, hurt...."*

PROTECT me from the evil one. *"I also need discernment and protection against the evil one and his schemes. Open my eyes. Head temptation off at the pass. Give me the courage to flee when I need to and stand when that's what is needed."*

CHALLENGE: 15-20 minutes each day. (5-days) Anytime. Start the conversation with God. Feed your inner life. Build the habit.