

Matthew 6:5-15

How Not To Pray

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Pray then like this:
 "Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come, your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread,
 and forgive us our debts,
 as we also have forgiven our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

(Matthew 6:5-15)

How Not To Pray

1. Don't pray in such a way that other people will notice (vv.5-6)

With me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

1 Corinthians 4:3-5

How Not To Pray

1. Don't pray in such a way that other people will notice (vv.5-6)
 - Are your public prayers simply an overflow of your private prayer life? Or do your public prayers portray you as someone whom you really aren't in private?
 - Do most of your praying where no one but God can see you, and He will reward you. (v.6)

How Not To Pray

2. Don't try to manipulate God with your prayers (vv.7-8)
 - Trust that God loves you like his own child and is happy to meet your needs.

How Not To Pray

3. Don't hold grudges (vv.14-15)
 - Forgive as you have been forgiven.