



TALK IT OVER

Getting It Right

BOTTOM LINE

The purpose of prayer is to align our will with God's will.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What is a personal goal you have for this year?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/daily
- Musical version of [The Lord's Prayer](#) by Matt Maher

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

"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. 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. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Matthew 6:5-8 NIV

"Jesus' 1st-century followers grew up praying, but after watching Jesus they realized there was something vastly different about His prayers. It was like there was something going on between Him and God to which they weren't accustomed. It wasn't simply different, it was more intimate, it was less scripted, there was more passion and intensity, it was compelling, and it made them discontented with their own prayers. They finally said, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'" - Dwight Mason

TALK IT OVER

Jesus says effective prayer comes from a right attitude and is authentic. How and why do your prayers fail in this area sometimes? Why is it important that you "disconnect" to pray? How do you do that? What makes the reward of prayer different when you focus and disconnect from all else? How might your prayers change if you sensed God was truly seeing and hearing you at that moment when you pray? What makes vulnerability elusive in prayer for you? Do you "babble" much? 😊 How is verbalizing our prayers more effective since God already knows? Discuss praying to God the Father, Jesus the Savior, the Holy Spirit our Guide. How do you differentiate this? How significant do you believe it is? When we pause to reflect on who God is, we gain a better understanding of who we are and why we're here ... if we hurry past this, we will rest in what comes next: surrender of our wills. Discuss.

ACTION STEP

The year 2024 will be the year of a deep relationship with God through prayer. I will disconnect daily and converse with my Father.