

***The Heaping Up of Words***

Matthew 6:5-9a

Pastor John Sloan

Introduction: Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith, and yet it may be the hardest one to actually practice. And it's become harder now to pray than at any time in history because we have more distractions now than ever. With our smart phones and tablets at our sides, we never stop producing. The question is not, "Has God made himself available?" It's, "Who has the time to meet with Him?"

A New Way to Pray (A Series of Contrasts)**01.****02.****03.**

Lord, Teach
Us to Pray



1. When Jesus begins his instructions on prayer, he presupposes two things. What are they (see Mt. 6:5)?
2. In what ways do those "in the synagogues and at the street corners" (v. 5) pray that we are to avoid?
3. What are the benefits of praying in secret (see v. 6)?
4. How desperate are your prayers? What are some practical ways that you will commit to improve your prayer life over the next four weeks?
5. Nineteenth century Scottish preacher Robert Murray M'Cheyne said, "What a man is alone on his knees before God, that he is, and no more." What do you think he meant? Do you agree?
6. Based solely on the work of Jesus, the last Adam, God's people can come into an intimate relationship with the all-powerful Creator. How does that comfort you?

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A New Way to Pray (A Series of Contrasts)



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Primitive Prayer



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Ritual Prayer

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Mystical Prayer

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Prophetic/Biblical Prayer



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Biblical prayer is a renunciation of human confidence and a corresponding appeal to God based on need illuminated by Scripture and subordinated to the will of God.



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01. Biblical prayer is motivated by sincere desperation not the approval of men.



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“What a man is alone on his knees before
God, that he is, and no more.”

Robert Murray M'Cheyne



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01. Biblical prayer is motivated by sincere desperation not the approval of men.



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02. Biblical prayer is characterized by trust and avoids any attempt to manipulate God.



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**“God is our Father in heaven . . .
because he has come near to his
children by his grace, establishing a
covenant relationship of intimacy and
community. Yet God is at the same**



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time “our Father in *heaven*”; he remains distant from his children because of his glory, which leads us to approach him with awe.” *David Turner*



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03. Biblical prayer is rooted in relationship not an appeal to an impersonal divine force.



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“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God . . . let us then with confidence draw near to

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the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” *Hebrews 4:14-16*



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