



MATTHEW



Do you want to come
home?

Prayer is an invitation to
life

Prayer is everywhere







Alcoholics
Anonymous

Prayer is human

Prayer is Biblical

HOW do I pray?

Prayer is simply the medium through which we experience and connect to God.

Paul Miller, *A Praying Life*

Context

Example SOTM Pieces

1. Traditional Righteousness
2. Vicious Cycle
3. Transforming Initiative

Traditional Righteousness:
“When you pray”

Vicious Cycle: Performative & Anxious Praying

“Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward.” - Matt. 6v5

"Prayer is not prayer if it is addressed to anyone else but God"

Karl Barth

"When you pray, don't babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they'll be heard for their many words." - Matt. 6v7

- Experiencing prayer more as something you do than as a relationship of which you're a part
- Feeling that your prayers aren't worth it to God unless they're fully justified and explained to him
- Prayer feels like a burden

"But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret...your Father knows the things you need before you ask him." - Matt. 6v6 & v8

Transforming Initiative: How To Pray

The Lord's Prayer

"the generative nucleus of the SOTM" - what animates and enlivens
our apprenticeship to Jesus

The Lord's Prayer

1. Remembering Our Identity
2. Kingdom Participation
3. Simple & Persistent Honesty

Remembering Our Identity

“Our Father in heaven...”

Remembering Our Identity

1. Who God Is
2. Who We Are
3. Who We Are (to each other)

“Your name be honored as
holy...”

Kingdom Participation

"Your Kingdom come, Your
will be done, on earth as it is
in heaven"

Prayer releases power

Luke 11v9 - “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you.

Mark 11v24 - Therefore I tell you, everything you pray and ask for—believe that you have received it and it will be yours.

John 14v13-14 - Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Intercessory Prayer & The Middle Voice

Prayer and spirituality feature participation, the complex participation of God and the human, his will and our wills. We do not abandon ourselves to the stream of grace and drown in the ocean of love, losing identity. We do not pull strings that activate God's operations in our lives, subjecting God to our assertive identity. We neither manipulate God (active voice) nor are manipulated by God (passive voice). We are involved in the action and participate in its results but do not control or define it (middle voice). Prayer takes place in the **middle voice.**

Eugene Peterson

Kingdom Participation

On unanswered prayer

1. **God hasn't forgotten.** God collects our prayers and our tears (Revelation, Ps 56)
2. **God empathizes.** Jesus, our Great Intercessor, has suffered the weight of unanswered prayer
3. **God is present** in our suffering and is **STILL** making all things new, still bringing His Kingdom

Simple & Persistent Honesty

"Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Matt. 6v11

Simply asking for:

1. **Bread**
2. **Forgiveness**
3. **Deliverance**

Confession & Forgiveness

Moravian Revival

Invitation: Fidelity

"We may be doing social work in the eyes of people, but we're really just contemplatives in the heart of the world"

Mother Theresa

John 15v4 - Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

Pray The Lord's Prayer