

WHY?: “Why Pray?”

Message Map
September 22, 2019

Scripture Text: Matthew 6:5-8

STARTING POINT: When was the last time you prayed? Why?

1) Prayer needs to be **A**_____.

“And **when you pray** don’t be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues, and on the street corners to be seen by other people. Truly I tell you they have received their reward in full.”

Matthew 6:5

2) Prayer **E**_____ us to have a deep and intimate relationship with God.

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you dear God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?”

Psalms 42:1-2

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which can’t be filled by any created thing, but only by God the creator, made known through His Son Jesus Christ.” Blaise Pascal, 17th C. French physicist

Praying in a “safe place.”

“But when you pray, go in to 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 6:6

An Observation:

Is Jesus making the point that many of us are so busy that we don’t really get **F**_____ on our prayer relationship with God until we are in a formal public place like Sunday morning worship where prayer is expected?

3) Prayer must also be **S**_____, or from our heart.
“May I wholeheartedly follow your decrees, that I may not be put to shame.”

Psalms 119:80

4) Prayer is **T**_____ Communication.

“And when you pray don’t keep on babbling like the pagans for they think they are going to be heard, because of their many words. Don’t be like them. For your Father knows what you need, before you ask him.”

Matthew 6:7-8

5) Prayer is **I**_____.

“Pray continually, giving thanks in all circumstances for it is God’s will in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

DESTINATION: When and where was the last time you prayed? Why?