



Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas | 1.30.2022

Praying Like a Hypocrite

Lesson 2 • Matthew 6:5-6

The LORD'S PRAYER Is the FAMILY PRAYER! Pray to the Father Like the Son by the Spirit with His Family in the Now-Not Yet. Matthew 6:5-15					
6:5 The <u>WRONG</u> Way to Pray 6:8			6:9	The <u>RIGHT</u> Way to Pray	6:15
Motives and Relationship				Manner and Requests	
How We Pray				What We Pray	
Like a Hypocrite (5-6)	Like an Orphan (7-8)		Like God's Holy Child (9-15)		
Our Heart Cry Is for His Holiness. So the Family Name Spreads, the Family Business Succeeds, and the Family Likeness Shines!					

1. Who Are the Hypocrites?

- Anyone who is a <u>PLAY ACTOR</u> like the Pharisees. Matthew 6:5; Matthew 23
- Anyone who is a **PRAYER** Actor.

Prayer is a **PERFORMANCE** for others to hear and applaud.

2. How Do the Hypocrites Pray?

- With a pious **PASSION**. "For they love to pray" (v. 5)
- With a pious **POSTURE.** "standing" (v. 5)
- With a pious **PLACEMENT.** *"in the synagogues and on the corner of the streets" (v. 5)*

3. Why Do the Hypocrites Pray?

"For they love to stand and pray...that they may be seen by men." (v. 5) It is not "the being seen of men that is wrong but doing these things for the purpose of being seen of men." – Augustine (354-430)

- > To be SEEN by people rather than heard by God. Luke 18:9-14
- > To IMPRESS people rather than be impacted by God.

What appears to be a "heart cry for holiness" is really the heartache of **PHONINESS**.

4. How Do I Know If I Am a "Prayer Actor"?



Is Your Prayer Life More Like an Iceberg or the Titanic?

5. Why Should I Stop Being a "Pray Actor"?

The Only Reward a "Prayer Actor" Receives Is What They Desired and Deserve. The **<u>APPLAUSE</u>** of People and the **<u>ABSENCE</u>** of Answers from God.

6. How Do I Become a "Prayer Learner"?

- > Pray to be **HEARD** by God more than seen by people.
 - Get <u>ALONE</u> with your Father without an audience.
 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room," (v. 6)

Solitude vs. Multitudes

Pray without performing for anyone but the audience of One.

Get a <u>HOLD</u> of your Father without distractions.
 "close your door" (v. 6)

Silence vs. Interference

Pray without pretending to be something you're not! Cry out to your Heavenly Father.

Get <u>REAL</u> with your Father without hesitation.
 "and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret" (v. 6)

Secrecy vs. Fakery

Pray without the phoniness of play acting.

"To express it in a few words, whether a man prays alone, or in the presence of others, he ought to have the same feelings, as if he were shut up in his closet, and had no other witnesses but God." – John Calvin

Pray in <u>PUBLIC</u> like you do in private.

The more you pray in private, the more you ought to pray in public. Because you have the **integrity** of a Prayer Learner instead of the **hypocrisy** of a Prayer Actor. Plus you give others the **opportunity** to hear your heart cry for holiness.

7. What Is the Ultimate Reward of a Prayer Learner?

- APPROVAL of God: Is your "Amen" the end or the beginning of your reward?
- ANSWERS to Prayer: Do people just see and applaud or does God hear and answer?
- ADDITIONAL Grace: Prayer is its own greatest reward time spent with the Father like a son or daughter!

How Is Your Heart Cry for His Holiness?

I'm a Prayer Actor: I know the heartache of phoniness and I repent of it!
 I'm a Prayer Learner: I long for the heart cry of holiness and I recommit to it!
 I'm a Prayer Warrior: I know the heart cry of holiness and I rejoice in the reward of it!
 We Are All "Recovering" Prayer Actors: We are still learning to pray to the Father like the Son!





See the handout for how to apply this lesson in "secret" during the week.



My Heart Cry to Not Pray Like a Hypocrite!

"When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men.

Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you." *Matthew* 6:5-6

How Is My Heart Cry for His Holiness?

- □ **Prayer Actor:** *I know the heartache of phoniness and I repent of it!*
- □ Prayer Learner: I long for the heart cry of holiness and I recommit to it!
- **Prayer Warrior:** *I know the heart cry of holiness and I rejoice in the reward of it!*

We're all "Recovering" Prayer Actors: Still learning to pray to the Father like the Son!

In the space below write your own personal heart cry to the Father in response to what you have learned about praying like the Hypocrites do.

Praise the Father for being your Heavenly Father by the blood of Jesus and His indwelling Spirit. Thank Him for always hearing you when you pray to Him in secret as His son or daughter. Rejoice in His amazing grace that makes prayer possible and answers a reality through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise Him for WHO He is WHAT HE does.

Repent of praying like a hypocrite to be seen by people more than to be heard by Him. Confess if your prayer life is more like the Titanic (proud, on the surface, and visible to others) versus like an iceberg (humbly praying unseen, more in private than just in public).

Ask the Father to help you become more aware of the Him as your Audience of One when your pray. Ask Him to grow you as a Prayer Learner. Ask Him to help us as a church family to pray together like His holy children and less like hypocrites.

Yield your heart and prayer life to the Father in the name of His Son. Surrender your struggles with prayer to Him, knowing His Spirit dwells within you to help you pray according to the Father's will. Commit to memorizing and using the Lord's Prayer.

Take what you wrote and pray thru it using the Lord's Prayer to structure your prayer time. Or use the P.R.A.Y. pattern on the back of this page.

Listen, Stream, Download New Life Class Lessons + Study Notes for the Lord's Prayer.

