



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 **PLAY ACTOR** 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 **APPLAUSE** of People and the **ABSENCE** of Answers from God.*

6. How Do I Become a “Prayer Learner”?

- Pray to be **HEARD** by God more than seen by people.

- 1) Get **ALONE** 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.

- 2) Get a **HOLD** 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.

- 3) Get **REAL** 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 **PUBLIC** 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.



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