



Praying Like an Orphan

Lesson 3 • Matthew 6:7-8

1. How to Pray Like a PAGAN ORPHAN. *Matthew 6:7*

- Sound like an UNBELIEVER.

"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do," (v. 7)

"Gentiles" = "the idolators" HCSB

What Are Meaningless Repetitions and What Do They Sound Like?

Common Misconceptions: Focus on REPETITION instead of meaningless.

MANY words or MEANINGLESS words or both!

NAS95 "do not use *meaningless thoughtless repetition*" NAS20 "*thoughtless repetition*"

NIV "do not *keep on babbling like pagans*"

CSB "don't *babble like the Gentiles*" HCSB "don't *babble like the idolators*"

ESV/RSV "do not *heap up empty phrases*"

NET "do not *babble repetitiously like the Gentiles,*"

We Sound Like Pagans When We Pray...

- 1) WORDY prayers
- 2) LENGTHY prayers
- 3) EMPTY prayers

Many Applications: Many KINDS of meaningless and mindless repetition.

According to Jesus...

- 1) Such praying is of no use: *It gets no ANSWERS.*
- 2) Such praying is of no worth: *It has no CONTENT.*
- 3) Such praying is of no value: *It has no HEART.*

"In prayer, it is better to have a heart without words, than words without heart!"
– John Bunyan

- Think like an ORPHAN.

"for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words."

How Do Orphans Think About Prayer?

- 1) I need to BUG God to get His *attention*.
- 2) I must BEG God for an *answer*.

We Sound Like Pagans When We Pray

1. "**Lucky Charm**" prayers that are magical, mystical, or mysterious.
2. "**Twist God's Arm**" prayers that mandate what God must do.
3. "**Engage Mouth Not Mind**" prayers that are mechanical.
4. "**Cover All Your Bases**" prayers that are misguided.
5. "**Politically Correct**" prayers that are marketable.
6. "**Let's Make a Deal**" prayers that are manipulative.
7. "**Tower of Babel**" prayers that are meaningless.
8. "**Navel Gazing**" prayers that are mindless mantras.
9. "**Aerobic Workout**" prayers that mislead.
10. "**Scriptural**" prayers that are misused and misunderstood.

Why Do Pagans Think like Orphans?

Because they are! 1 Kings 18:25-29

2. Pray Like God's HOLY CHILD. *Matthew 6:8*

- Don't follow a *pagan* **MODEL** of prayer.
"So do not be like them"

We Are Not Orphans!

We have the **BIRTH** rights of a *child* by *regeneration* and the **LEGAL** rights of a *son* by *adoption*.
John 1:12-13; 14:6-7a; Galatians 3:28; 4:6-7; Romans 8:15

"The followers of Jesus Christ have only to say 'Our Father' to be heard." – Ceslas Spica

Follow the K.I.S.S. Model of Prayer!

- 1) Keep It **SIMPLE**, Son.
- 2) Keep It **SHORT**, Son.
- 3) Keep It **SINCERE**, Son. *1 Kings 18:36-38*

- Don't fall into an *orphan* **MENTALITY** in prayer.
"for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."

Why Do So Many of God's Children Still Think Like Orphans?

- 1) **BAD** relationship with their earthly fathers.
- 2) **BROKEN** fellowship with their heavenly Father.
- 3) **LACKING** discipleship with their spiritual family.

Renew Your Mind with These Truths:

- 1) Your Father in heaven **KNOWS** about your needs. *"for your Father knows"*
- 2) Your Father in heaven **CARES** about meeting your needs. *"what you have need of"*
- 3) Your Father in heaven **ANSWERS** before you even ask. *"before you ask Him"*

Remember this as you enter prayer. **Request** like this as you pray. **Reflect** on this as you end in prayer.

- Don't forsake the *Father's* **MANDATE** to pray!

Why Should We Bother to Ask When the Father Already Knows?

It **PLEASES** the Father to respond to our asking and it **PREPARES** the child to receive His answer.

What Does Your Heart Cry for His Holiness Sound Like?

- ☐ More like a *pagan babbling* to be heard than a *believer praying*.

Father, help me forsake the "Pagan Model" and learn to keep it short like the Son!

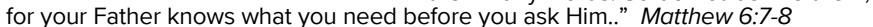
- ☐ More like an *orphan begging* for answers than a *child asking*.

Father, help me change my "Orphan Mentality" and learn to keep it simple like the Son!

We All Tend to Be "Prayer Manipulators"!

We need to obey our "Father's Mandate" to pray but learn to keep it sincere like the Son!





Lesson 3

“And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; before you ask Him..” *Matthew 6:7-8*

- ☐ More like a **pagan babbling to be heard** than a **believer praying**.
Father, help me to forsake my "Pagan Model" and learn to keep it short like the Son!
- ☐ More like an **orphan begging for answers** than a **child asking**.
Faither, help me change my "Orphan Mentality" and learn to keep it simple like the Son!

We All Tend to Be “Prayer Manipulators”!

We need to obey our “Father’s Mandate” to pray but learn to keep it sincere 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 a Pagan Orphan.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery designed for writing.

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

Praise the Father for being His child by the blood of Jesus and the heart changing power of His Holy 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 made it possible for you to be born again with the *birthright of a child (regeneration)* and the *legal rights of a son (adoption)*. Praise Him for WHO He is (His marvelous attributes) WHAT He does (His mighty acts).

Repent of praying with a *pagan model* that repeats many words to be heard. Or praying with an *orphan mentality* that keeps on begging to get answers. Confess that it is easy to pray in a mechanical manner, using the same words every time you pray. Admit there are times when you pray in a mindless manner that's not focused on the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Ask the Father to help you come before Him with the heart of a child who doesn't need to *bug Him to get His attention* or *beg Him for what you need*. Ask Him to grow you as a Prayer Learner. Ask Him to help our church family to pray together like His holy children and less like pagans and orphans.

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.

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

