

*"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into 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. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 6:5-8 (NIV)*

## **Shut The Door**

**Why is that important?** Why is what important? **Why is it important that you go into your room, shut the door, and pray to me?** That sounds like withdrawing from the noise and busyness of the world. That looks like setting a very specific time and place to meet with you. That no doubt has a very clear purpose and agenda in mind of meeting with you. That involves developing an intimate relationship with you. That requires a clear priority and definite commitment from me. **You are correct in your thinking. All your thoughts are right on target.**

**Will you set aside a daily time to go into your room, shut the door, and pray to me? How is that for a very clear and specific question for you to answer?** Yes, I will meet with you in prayer. I will withdraw from the noise and busyness of the world so that I can hear from you. I will develop an intimate relationship with you. I will seek you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. I will make my wants and needs know to you. I will tell you what is on my heart and in my mind. I will listen attentively to all that you have to say to me. To meet with you, in this way, is not burdensome to me. I want to love and follow and serve you with all that is within me. There is no place I would rather be than in your presence. There nothing I would rather do than live a life of intimacy with you. I want to know you. I want you to know me. **Then we both want the same thing.**

**What will happen to you when you make it your daily practice to meet with me in prayer?** I will more passionately come to know and love and follow and serve you. I will begin to pray prayers that you can hear and answer. I will more powerfully live the life that you have called me to live. This life will be rewarding both now and favor. You will do in and through me what only you can do. You will make me able to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. You will help me to store up treasure in heaven with you. **Yes, all these things will be true as you live an intimate life of prayer with me.** Thank you, Heavenly Father.

*Heavenly Father, I will go into my room, shut the door, and meet with you in secret times of prayer. I will make my needs know to you. I will humbly get to the point. I will not use an abundance of words. Teach me how to pray as I meet with you. Amen*

**The Prayer Filled Life***When You Pray*

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into 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. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

NIV

Matthew 6:5-8

**The Prayer Filled Life***When You Pray*

"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. "When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

NLT

Matthew 6:5-8

**The Prayer Filled Life***Whenever You Pray*

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

NRSV

Matthew 6:5-8

**The Prayer Filled Life***When You Pray*

Also when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward in full already. But when you pray, go into your [most] private room, and, closing the door, pray to your Father, Who is in secret; and your Father, Who sees in secret, will reward you in the open. And when you pray, do not heap up phrases (multiply words, repeating the same ones over and over) as the Gentiles do, for they think they will be heard for their much speaking. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

AMP

Matthew 6:5-8

**The Prayer Filled Life***When You Pray*

"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. "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; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

NASB

Matthew 6:5-8

**The Prayer Filled Life***When You Pray*

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

ESV

Matthew 6:5-8

**The Prayer Filled Life***When You Pray*

"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

NKJV

Matthew 6:5-8

**The Prayer Filled Life***When You Come Before God*

"And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat? "Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace. "The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need.

MSG

Matthew 6:5-8

**The Prayer Filled Life***And Now About Prayer*

"And now about prayer. When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who pretend piety by praying publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. Truly, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, all alone, and shut the door behind you and pray to your Father secretly, and your Father, who knows your secrets, will reward you. "Don't recite the same prayer over and over as the heathen do, who think prayers are answered only by repeating them again and again. "Remember, your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

TLB

Matthew 6:5-8

**The Prayer Filled Life***When You Pray*

"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites. They love to stand in the synagogues and on the street corners and pray so people will see them. I tell you the truth, they already have their full reward. "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites. They love to stand in the synagogues and on the street corners and pray so people will see them. I tell you the truth, they already have their full reward. When you pray, you should go into your room and close the door and pray to your Father who cannot be seen. Your Father can see what is done in secret, and he will reward you. "And when you pray, don't be like those people who don't know God. They continue saying things that mean nothing, thinking that God will hear them because of their many words. Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him.

NCV

Matthew 6:5-8

# When You Pray

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**The Prayer Filled Life** – Matthew 6:5-8

**In Context:** *Read Matthew 6*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into 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. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 6:5-8 (NIV)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"And when you pray, | do not be like the hypocrites, | for they love to pray | standing in the synagogues | and on the street corners | to be seen by men. | I tell you the truth, | they have received their reward in full. | But when you pray, | go into 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. | And when you pray, | do not keep on babbling | like pagans, | for they think | they will be heard | because of their | many words. | Do not be like them, | for your Father knows | what you need | before you ask him. Matthew 6:5-8 (NIV)

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**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Heavenly Father, I will go into my room, shut the door, and meet with you in secret times of prayer. I will make my needs know to you. I will humbly get to the point. I will not use an abundance of words. Teach me how to pray as I meet with you. Amen

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**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why is it a mistake to make a big show of your prayers before others?

**When are you going into your room, shutting your door, and praying to your Heavenly Father?**

Why do your prayers not need to be overflowing with an abundance of words?

What will your Heavenly Father do for you when you make it your practice to privately pray to Him?

**What are some very specific requests that you are praying right now to your Heavenly Father?**

How comforting is it that your Heavenly Father knows what you need even before you ask Him?

**How rewarding has it been to meet in secret, private prayer, with your Heavenly Father?**

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**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make it your daily private practice to meet in secret, private prayer, with your Heavenly Father.

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**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that you will be rewarded for meeting in secret, private prayer with your Heavenly Father.

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**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how your private prayer time with your Heavenly Father is developing.

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**Close With Prayer:**

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you go into your room, shut the door, and pray to your Heavenly Father.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Heavenly Father, I will go into my room, shut the door, and pray to you.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Heavenly Father, what prayers should I bring before you now?*

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