

From the West Meadow  
Pastor Wes Higgins

Almost everyone prays. It is coded by our Creator into our very being. Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us that “He (our creator) has put eternity in (our) hearts.”

God created in mankind a need—a longing—for something beyond what physical life can provide. And ever since Adam and Eve chose the wrong tree, mankind has been searching in all the wrong places. That need can only be truly fulfilled by a relationship with the One who put it there: the Creator, the Eternal Father of mankind.

What we know, understand and believe about God must come from the word of God, the Holy Bible (2 Timothy 3:15-16). There is no other source of revelation. Jesus said that even the Holy Spirit will not disagree with the word of God(cf. John 14:26; John 16:13-14).

It is through the Bible that we learn how to pray. Examples of two basic types of prayer, formal and informal, can be found throughout both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

We pray informally all the time, and it’s very easy—it can be as little as one word: Help! Formal prayer, though, takes time and calculation on our part. It also takes a humble and contrite spirit and a reverence for God’s word (Isaiah 66:2). Jesus gave us a very good outline for formal prayer in Matthew chapter 6. Verse 5 starts by talking about our attitude and how this type of prayer should be a very private and meaningful communion with God. In this manner, Jesus says, we should pray...

Our Father: This gives a whole new meaning to our relationship with God. We are not praying to some object or thing in the depths of space, we are praying to the One who begot us—one of our closest relatives, our Father.

Hallowed be your Name: This is a great time to meditate on God’s majesty and power, on His creation, His work in the world, and in our lives.

Our daily bread: Formal prayer should include our needs and the needs of others, both physical and spiritual. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

Forgive us as we forgive: One of the greatest needs is forgiveness flowing from one to another. (Matthew 6:14-15)

Lead us not into temptation: A reminder to us of God’s love and mercy. God doesn’t tempt us (James 1:13), and He is faithful to not allow anyone to tempt us beyond what we are able to bear (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Deliver us from the evil one: Again we are reminded that the kingdoms of this world are ruled by the evil one—but we are not of Satan’s kingdom, but of the Kingdom of God. And to God is the power and glory for ever and ever.

This leads us to the final point of our prayer relationship with our Father: expectation. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Not tribulation, or distress, persecution or famine, nakedness or peril or sword...not even death or the evil one. (Romans 8:31-39) For yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory...Forever.

So be it.

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