

“Effective Prayer”
Matthew 6:5-8

Question: How important is prayer to you?

Question: What is prayer?

- 1). A solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God or an object of worship.
- 2). Prayer is spiritual communication between man and God, a two-way relationship in which man should not only talk to God but also listen to Him.
- 3). God has established prayer as how we receive his supernatural help. And without supernatural help, we cannot live a life worthy of the gospel.

God simply commands us to obey the principles of prayer that His Word gives us.

[1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#)

Prayer that focuses on self is always hypocritical, because, by definition, the focus should always be on God. [Matthew 5:20](#), [John 14:13](#)

It is in those most private and holy places of communion with God that Satan presents his strongest temptations. [Matthew 4:1-3, 8-11](#), [Matthew 26:36](#)

Why should we pray? [Mark 1:35](#), [Matthew 18:19](#), [James 5:16](#)

Let us observe [verse 6](#)

The ideal here is that each of us should have a private available place where we can go to communicate with our God. Although Jesus does not condemn public prayer. [1 Timothy 2:1-4](#)

The primary point Jesus makes really has nothing to do with location but has a lot to do with attitude.

“**Shut the door**” should of course do whatever we have to do to get our attention away from ourselves and others and concentrate on Him and Him alone. [Luke 4:42](#), [Luke 5:15-16](#), [Luke 6:12](#)

“**Our Father who see in secret**” will never betray our confidence.

The most important secret God see is not the words we say in the privacies of our room, but the thoughts in the privacy of our heart. [1 Corinthians 4:3-5](#)

Those **secret** sometimes are hidden from us because it is so easy to be deceived about our own motives. [Romans 8:26](#)

What happens when we pray? [Psalm 50:15](#) [Jeremiah 33:3](#), [John 14:13-14](#)