

# The Enemies of Prayer - Part 1

Why do we acknowledge the power of prayer and yet pray so little?

Enemy 1 - Praying with wrong motives.

Matthew 6:5 Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. I assure you: They've got their reward!

The Pharisees loved to impress  
others.

In truth, we like to impress others  
too!

Enemy 2 - Praying in Public.

Matthew 6:6 But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Praying in private affords us the  
opportunity of transparency.

Matthew 26:36-39 - Jesus prayer in  
the Garden

# Psalm 51 - David's prayer of confession

# Enemy 3 - Creating False Assumptions about Prayer

“God is more pleased with long,  
lengthy prayers.”

Matthew 6:7 When you pray, don't babble like the idolaters, since they imagine they'll be heard for their many words.

Matthew 6:8 Don't be like them,  
because your Father knows the  
things you need before you ask Him.

Ecclesiastes 5:1,2 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Better to draw near in obedience than to offer the sacrifice as fools do, for they ignorantly do wrong. Do not be hasty to speak, and do not be impulsive to make a speech before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.

The Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6 is  
only 69 words in length.

Jesus' Intercessory Prayer in John 17 is the longest prayer we hear Jesus pray. It is about 4 minutes long.

“Prayer gets us what  
we want.”

Prayer is not about getting us what we want! It's about:

A. Praise, acknowledging His existence and greatness.

B. Petition, relying and depending on God.

C. Thanksgiving, expressing our gratitude.

D. Transparency, confessing our sins.

E. Surrender, bending our will to His.

Matthew 6:9-13 Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy.  
10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
11 Give us today our daily bread.  
12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
13 And do not bring us into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. Amen.

Hebrews 11:6 Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him (prays) must believe that He exists (that He is real) and rewards those who seek Him (the evidence that prayer works).