**Lord Teach Us to Pray – Matt. 6:9**

**Focal Truth: When you pray – pray to your heavenly Father**

How do I begin to pray?

What is the way to start my prayer?

What should I say as I begin to pray?

**Today the Lord teaches us how to begin to pray**

**Observations**

1. **When you begin to pray – pray to Your heavenly Father**

*Pray then in this way, Our Father who is in heaven…*

1. Believers approach God in prayer as their heavenly Father

We approach Him and say: *Our Father who is in heaven – heavenly Father*

1. God is the Father of all believers in Jesus Christ

He is - *Our Father*

**Father – lit. the originator, generator**

Father of the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God

Father of the believers in Christ – *Blessed be the God & Father of the Lord Jesus Christ who has caused us to be born again…*1 Pet. 1:3

1. God our Father is in the heavens in eternal glory & majesty

Enthroned in Majesty & glory & unapproachable light

Reigning eternally

Ruling over all things & nations

Sovereignly accomplishing His purposes in the world

Surrounded with worshipping angels & saints

United to Jesus Christ the Son & high priest of believers

**Heaven the place of eternal peace, joy, love in the presence of God!**

**In prayer - we speak with God our heavenly Father**

1. **As you begin to pray your heavenly Father is meeting you – Matt. 6:6**

*Pray to Your Father who is in secret…*

1. God the Father meets you in prayer with **unconditional love**

Eph. 1: 4 – 6 – *He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we wold be holy and blameless before Him. In He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself according to the kind intention of His will to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved*

1. God the Father meets you in prayer **listening to your desires & wishes**

*Maat. 6:6 - Your Father who sees in secret..*

1. God the Father meets you in prayer **accepting you in Jesus Christ**

John 14:6 – *I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me*

1. God the Father meets you in prayer with **compassionate mercy**

Heb. 4 – **at the throne of grace we find mercy to help in time of need**

1. God the Father meets you in prayer in **the comfort of the Holy Spirit**

Rom. 5 – **Holy Spirit pours out the Love of God in our hearts**

**Consider:**

1. What an amazing thing! The God of heaven personally meets with the praying child of God!
2. How sweet the peace of mind that comes in the presence of the Father
3. The joyfulness that comes in the Father’s presence
4. The hopeful assurance that comes from the Father’s presence
5. **As you begin to pray you are meeting with your heavenly Father – Matt. 6:6**

*Your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you*

1. The believer **comes boldly by faith** to God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ in prayer

Heb. 4 *– come boldly to the throne of grace* – **secret prayer takes us to the throne of grace!**

1. The believer comes **accepting by faith** God the Father’s love for you & their love for Him in return in prayer

1 John 4: 16 – 19 – *we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment…*

**Communion with God is giving & receiving. Until the love of Father is received, we have no communion with the Father in love – Owen**

1. The believer comes with **praise & thanksgiving worshipping** God the Father as you pray

*Hallowed is Your name*

1. The believer comes **desiring to obey** God the Father as you pray

*Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*

1. The believer comes **enjoying** God the Father in prayer

Ps. 16:11 – *in Your presence is fullness of joy, in your right hand there are pleasures forever*

Ps. 21:6 – *you make him joyful with gladness in Your presence*

1. The believer comes **submitting** to God the Father in prayer

*Give us, forgive us, lead us, deliver us…*

1. The believer comes **asking** of God the Father in prayer in the name of Jesus Christ

John 14:13 -14 – *whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it*

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. A life of prayer is a lifetime of fellowship with God the Father
2. Rejoice in everything! Your heavenly Father knows what you need before you ask!
3. Loving God starts as we pray to God our heavenly Father
4. Prayer is intimacy with God, it satisfies our yearnings & makes us equal to the angels!

Gregory of Nyssa

**Pray then in this way, Our Father who is in heaven…**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**