

# And When You Pray ...

Matthew 6:5-8

*“The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.”*

F. B. Meyer

We all agree that prayer is important, but most of us feel we don't pray enough. We struggle just to understand the principles of prayer, let alone put them into practice. During this sermon series, we will discuss the principles that should shape our prayers. We will study the prayers of several people—Abraham, Jacob, Daniel, Jesus, and Paul—to discover how & what to pray for. We will ask the question, “What does it mean when God is silent?” We will wrap up the series with the question, “What does it mean to pray in the name of Jesus?”

**When you pray, you need ...** (Matthew 6:5-8)

**A motive (5)**

Prayer is a conversation with God, not a chance to impress people.

**A time (6a)**

Make prayer a priority and build it into your daily schedule.

**A place (6b)**

Find a place where you can close off the distractions and focus on God.

**An expectation (6c)**

Believe not only that God hears our prayers, but that he answers our prayers.

**A method (7)**

Avoid ruts, routines, and rituals. Pray intelligently.

**A perspective (8)**

Know that God cares for and knows your needs.

An example (9-15) *next week*

*“In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.”* John Bunyan

*“Prayer is not learned in a classroom but in the closet.”* E. M. Bounds

*“When we work, we work. When we pray, God works.”* James Hudson Taylor

## Prayer – Moving Heaven for Earth

August	27	Matthew 6:5-8	Principles of prayer	
September	3	Matthew 6:9-15	Jesus' model prayer	
	10	Genesis 18:16-33	Abraham	
	17	Genesis 32:22-31	Jacob	
	24	Daniel 9:1-19	Daniel	
October	1	Habakkuk	Habakkuk	
	8			<i>Seth Johnson preaching</i>
	15			<i>Ben Rivera preaching</i>
	22	Colossians 1:9-14	Paul	
	29	James 5:13-20	James	
November	5	When God is Silent, 1		
	12	When God is Silent, 2		
	19	In the name of Jesus		
	26	Psalms 138	David	