

## Upside Down Living

### Authentic Prayer: Seeking God, Not Applause

Matthew 6:5-8



November 24, 2024

## Questions To Think About

Don't use \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Pray to \_\_\_\_\_ God

Should I always \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_?

Those who pray from \_\_\_\_\_ will be  
\_\_\_\_\_ by God.

Pray with \_\_\_\_\_

God \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_

1. How do you feel about praying out loud in front of others?
2. Read Matthew 6:5-8. In verse 5, Jesus warns against praying like the hypocrites. What do you think made their prayers hypocritical?
3. What were they seeking through their showy prayers?
4. In verse 6, Jesus encourages private prayer. Why do you think praying in secret is significant? How does it affect your relationship with God?
5. Jesus says, "Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." What do you think this reward might be? How have you seen your prayers rewarded?
6. Verse 7 mentions "babbling like pagans." What are some examples of ways prayer can become empty or repetitive, and how can we make sure our prayers remain meaningful?
7. How does verse 8 ("your Father knows what you need before you ask him") affect your understanding of prayer?
8. If God already knows what we need, why do you think Jesus still instructs us to pray?
9. Reflect on the balance between private prayer (as Jesus teaches here) and communal prayer in church or small groups. Why are both important?
10. How can you apply the principles in these verses to strengthen your prayer life?