



Introduction: There is power in prayer! We are commanded to pray but also have a responsibility to take it seriously. The Bible contains 377 references to praise and 375 references to prayer. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus deals with the abuse of praying (**Matthew 6:5-15**). Clearly prayer had become a spectacle in the streets and was abused by the religious leaders. The Jews, whom he called hypocrites/actors, used prayer for “shows” as a proof of superior piety. They wanted to give the appearance that their righteousness exceeded the quiet and reserved followers of God. Jesus censures these demonstrations in the streets. He talks about the power of prayer. It wasn't the only time He talked about prayer, but let's begin there and then consider some other things about prayer from the Bible. Let's study together....

Discussion:

### *1) The Importance of Prayer*

- The Power of Prayer (**Matthew 6:5-8**)
- The Passion of Prayer (**Matthew 6:9**)
- The Person of Prayer (**Matthew 6:9**)
- The Purpose of Prayer (**Matthew 6:10**)
- The Provision of Prayer (**Matthew 6:11**)
- The Pardon of Prayer (**Matthew 6:12**)
- The Protection of Prayer (**Matthew 6:13**)
- The Praise of Prayer (**Matthew 6:13**)

### *2) The Individual in Prayer*

- The Abuse of Prayer (**Matthew 6:5**)
- The Attitude of Prayer (**Matthew 6:6-8**)
- The Acceptance of Prayer (**Matthew 6:9**)
- The Action of Prayer (**Matthew 6:9-13**)
- The Application of Prayer (**Matthew 6:14-15**)

### *3) The Interferences With Prayer*

- Lack of Faith (**Matthew 6:8, James 5:16**)
- Indifference (**I Samuel 12:23, I Thessalonians 5:17**)
- Priorities (**Matthew 6:33, Matthew 7:7**)
- Time Management (**Nehemiah 2:4, Matthew 28:45**)
- Distractions (**Matthew 6:19, John 17**)
- Selfishness (**Matthew 6:5, Matthew 6:7**)
- Difficulty (**Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 18:1-8**)

#### 4) *The Intimacy of Prayer*

- God is an Honorable God (**Exodus 20:7**)
- God is a Loving God (**Deuteronomy 7:9**)
- God is a Powerful God (**Psalms 126:1-3**)
- God is a Personal God (**Hosea 6:6**)
- God is a Working God (**Matthew 28:18-20**)
- God is an Approachable God (**Romans 8:14-16**)
- God is a Knowable God (**II Corinthians 12:1-4**)
- God is a Purposeful God (**James 4:13-15**)

#### 5) *The Insurance of Prayer*

- Provision For His People in the Old Testament (**Genesis 1-2, 22, Exodus 16, Jonah 1-4**)
- Provision For His People in the New Testament (**Luke 1, John 18-20, Acts 2, 9**)
- Provision For His People Today (**Matthew 6:25-32, 6:33-34, 7:7-8, John 14:13-14**)
- Provision For His People Every Day (**Deuteronomy 6:11, 11:13-15, James 5:16-17**)
- Provision For His People With Real Blessings (**Matthew 6:25-32, I Timothy 6:17**)

#### 6) *The Intimidation of Prayer*

- Satan is Cruel (**Matthew 25:41, II Peter 2:4, Revelation 9:1-11, I Corinthians 10:1-6**)
- Satan is Quick (**Matthew 6:13, I Peter 5:8-9, I John 2:16, II Corinthians 11:14**)
- Satan is Serious (**James 1:13-14, Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:23, I John 4:4**)
- Satan is Vulnerable (**I Corinthians 10:13, Matthew 4:1-11, I Thessalonians 5:17**)
- Satan is Beaten (**John 17:15, James 1:2-12, Psalm 20:1, 22:1ff, 59:1**)
- Satan is Weaker (**I Timothy 4:7, James 5:11, Philippians 4:13, Isaiah 40:31**)
- Satan is Defeated (**I Corinthians 15, II Corinthians 1:10, Galatians 1:4, II Peter 3:9**)

#### 7) *The Inspiration of Prayer*

- We Should Pray More Reverently (**Matthew 6:5-9**)
- We Should Pray More Specifically (**Matthew 6:10-13**)
- We Should Pray More Persistently (**Luke 11:1-4**)
- We Should Pray More Compassionately (**Luke 23:34**)
- We Should Pray More Faithfully (**James 1:5-8**)
- We Should Pray More Selflessly (**James 4:1-5**)
- We Should Pray More Humbly (**James 4:6**)
- We Should Pray More Fervently (**James 5:13-18**)
- We Should Pray More Personally (**I Peter 3:1-9**)
- We Should Pray More Frequently (**I Thessalonians 5:17**)

Conclusion: There is no doubt that prayer matters. However, we also need to combine action with our prayers. Augustine said, "Pray as though everything depends on God. Work as if everything depended on you." Are you a child of God? How is your prayer life? How is your relationship with God? Now is a great opportunity to get a fresh new start. Let's spend more time in communication with God. Let's fulfill the will of God and continue to pray for those who need it. We must not forget, or take for granted, the power of prayer!