



## What is Prayer?

1<sup>st</sup> in the Draw Near Series

Matthew 6:5-13

October 19, 2025

Pastor Mickey Klink

**Introduction:** In this message, we spend time defining prayer according to Scripture.

### 1) A definition of prayer.

*“Prayer is the act of asking God to do what he has already promised to do.”*

-J. Gary Millar

Matthew 6:5-13: <sup>5</sup> *“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

<sup>9</sup> *“This, then, is how you should pray: “‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,*

<sup>10</sup> *your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

<sup>11</sup> *Give us today our daily bread.*

<sup>12</sup> *And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

<sup>13</sup> *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’*

### 2) This definition of prayer is important and helpful for five reasons.

(1) Because it is rooted in the examples of prayer in the Bible.

Gen 4:25-26: <sup>25</sup> *Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, “God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.” <sup>26</sup> Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the Lord.*

(2) Because it is defined by our covenant relationship with God.

(3) Because it is in alignment with the gospel.

(4) Because it directs our prayers according to God’s person and promises.

(5) Because it teaches us that prayer is intended for a fallen world and will one day come to an end.

Revelation 22:3-4: <sup>3</sup> *No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

## Response

What is Prayer? *Prayer is the purest expression of God’s work in us and our life in God!*

## Sunday Text Questions

Matthew 6:5-13

October 19, 2025

Pastor Mickey Klink

Read the text aloud and discuss any significant observations or issues needing clarification.

- 1) How have you understood the act of prayer in your Christian experience, and where did such a definition come from?
- 2) What are your thoughts on this definition of prayer: “Prayer is the act of asking God to do what he has promised?”
- 3) How does that definition of prayer make God and his purposes the foundation of prayer rather than us and our purposes, and why is that important?
- 4) How does that definition give you *permissions* to claim things in prayer, but also give you *restrictions* to withhold things in prayer?
- 5) Text Case: Your close family member is diagnosed with a serious illness. How does this definition of prayer give you the parameters and perspectives from which to pray for them?
- 6) Exercise #1: Spend a few minutes praying that the Lord would make known to you and our church the meaning and importance of prayer.
- 7) Exercise #2: Spend a few minutes praying for one another according to our definition of prayer – “asking God to do what he has already promised to do.”

**Further study this week:** Passages related to the message of this week’s text: Matthew 7:7-8 (Mon); Philippians 4:6-7 (Tues); James 5:16 (Wed); 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (Thurs); 2 Chronicles 7:14 (Fri).