

Prayer's Simplicity and Mystery

Prayer's Simplicity (Matthew 6:5-13)

1. Prayer is a core competency of the Christian life
2. God is watching and rewarding those who pray (Matthew 6:6)
3. Don't make prayer hard. Just do it. Simply, personally, regularly, talk to God
4. Prayer is mysterious and inexplicable; it is transrational
5. Do our prayers really make a difference?
6. The real issue in prayer is not my power to make a difference, but my loving availability and obedience to God
7. In prayer, our stance before God should be that of dependence, humility, and childlikeness (Matthew 6:9)
8. Prayer is essentially a matter of relationship, not technique
9. Maturity in prayer is the readiness to fulfill the will of God (Matthew 6:10)
10. The best technique of prayer is to be "poor in spirit" and "pure in heart"
11. Matthew 7:7-12 *"GOD HONORS PRAYER BECAUSE PRAYER HONORS GOD."*

Prayer's Mystery (Isiah 55:8-9)

1. God always has the right answer to our prayers.

2. Imagine a world where God always and immediately answers "Yes" to every request that is made by a world of self-centered, sinful, short-sighted, and earthbound people.

3. Unanswered prayer can be a place of agony, trial, and mystery.

4. Four key issues must be faced when dealing with unanswered prayer:
 - a. "No" -- if the **request** is wrong
 - b. "Slow" -- if the **timing** is wrong
 - c. "Grow" -- if **you** are wrong
 - d. "Let's go" -- if the request is right, the timing is right, and you are right chances are God will grant the request

5. If the request is wrong, God will say, "No."

6. If the timing is wrong, God will say "Slow."

7. If you are wrong, God will say "Grow."

8. When the timing is right, God will say, "Let's go!"