

## **How to Pray—2 Prayer Isn't About You**

**When Christianity is cultural, the King becomes common, and your approach becomes casual.**

*... “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.” For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen Matthew 6:9-13 NIV*

**Prayer is talking with God.**

**Prayer is submitting to a holy King.**

*“... your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10 NIV*

**God's kingdom is greater than my needs or my desires.**

*“Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup>But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:31-33 ESV*

## Kingdom Over Control

**Serve others instead of ruling over them. (Matthew 20:25-28)**

**Being humble gets you lifted up; being proud gets you knocked down. (Matthew 23:11-12)**

**God blesses the poor and weak, not just the rich and powerful. (Matthew 5:3)**

**Love your enemies instead of hating them. (Matthew 5:44)**

**Use spiritual power, not weapons and force. (John 18:36)**

**Lead by setting a good example, not by pushing people around. (1 Peter 5:2-3)**

**Store up treasure in heaven, not on earth. (Matthew 6:19-20)**

**His plan is better than my brand.**

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup>“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV

*... “Come, let us build ourselves a city ... so that we may make a name for ourselves ...”* Genesis 11:4 NIV

*“... let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”* Genesis 11:7 NIV

*So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth ...*

Genesis 11:8 NIV

*Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. Acts 2:5 NIV*

*... each one heard their own language being spoken. “... each of us hears them in our native language ...” Acts 2:6,8 NIV*

*“... we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Acts 2:11 NIV*

**Our approach to prayer is kingdom-focused, seeking His will above our own.**

## **TALK IT OVER**

Read **Matthew 6:9-13**. How does this Scripture influence the way you view God?

Share about a time when you experienced the goodness of God’s plan, even when it was different than what you wanted. What did you learn about God through that?

In what area of your life have you been putting your will or desires above God’s? How could you prioritize and trust His plan over your needs?

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