

Genuine Prayer
September 21, 2025

Verse: Matthew 6:9-13

Homework: John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:1-16; Acts 4:32-36

Problems in Prayer

- Wrong Motive: Showboating Matthew 6:5-6
 - Problem: Praying for the benefit of an audience
 - Result: No one is listening
 - Alternative: Praying in private
 - Result: God will reward you!
- Wrong Method: Verbal Vomit Matthew 6:7
 - Problem: Wearing God out with our words
 - Result: Prayer doesn't work due to the volume of words.
 - Alternative: Just don't.
 - Result: Your Father knows before you speak...
- Wrong Attitude: Retribution Matthew 6:14-15
 - Problem: No mercy.
 - Result: No mercy.
 - Alternative: Forgiveness.
 - Result: Forgiveness.
- Wrong Purpose: All about me. Luke 11:9-13
 - Purpose: Not about me!
 - Goal: According to His Will!
- Wrong Desires: Genie-in-a-bottle John 14:13-14
 - Problem: Selfish desires (Compare with James 4:3)
 - Solution: What does God desire? See 2 Peter 3:9/ John 12:32
- Wrong Spiritual Condition: Bloody hands Isaiah 1:15-18
 - Problem: Covered in sin.
 - Result: No answered prayers.
 - Alternative: Start acting right!

Genuine Prayer

John 17

- Jesus prays for Himself 1-5
- Jesus prays for the disciples 6-19
- Jesus prays for us 20-26

Key: Genuine Prayer – As followers of Jesus Christ, we are committed to calling on the name of the Lord in sincerity and to approaching the throne of grace with confidence, knowing that God hears and answers our prayers.

Note: "A lack of prayer is a declaration of independence from God." – Dr. Daniel Henderson

Application: Pray!