

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Matthew 6:7–10: True Prayer

Preaching Date: August 30, 2026

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Understanding the Text

1. According to Matt. 6:7, what is the fundamental error in how the Gentiles pray, and how do the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18 illustrate this pagan reasoning?
2. Jesus tells His disciples, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him" (Matt. 6:8). If God already knows our needs, what are the reasons the sermon gives for why we are still commanded to pray?
3. The sermon states that a guilty sinner cannot simply call God "Father" by nature. According to Gal. 4:4–5 and Rom. 8:15, what is the required ground of access that allows us to cry "Abba! Father!"?
4. What does it mean to pray, "Hallowed be Your name," and how does this petition connect to the way we live our lives as those who bear Christ's name?
5. When we pray "Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven," the sermon distinguishes between God's sovereign decree and His revealed commands. What is the primary petition, and what is the pattern of angelic obedience we are to emulate?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. Monty used the illustration of repeatedly pulling the cord of a broken generator to describe how we substitute "religious exertion" for actual dependence upon God. In what ways are you tempted to think that more spiritual "effort" or longer prayers will earn God's attention?
2. We learned that a Christian cannot sincerely pray, "Hallowed be Your name," while deliberately protecting sin. What does your private life, your speech, or your conduct at work currently say about the God whose name you bear?
3. Praying "Your kingdom come" means submitting every area of our lives to Christ the King. Where in your life are you currently resisting the King by defending what He commands you to surrender, or excusing what He calls sin?
4. Biblical submission to God's providence (praying "Your will be done") does not mean pretending suffering is pleasant, but trusting God when His answer differs from our desires. How does Christ's prayer in Gethsemane help you trust the Father when a hard providence crosses your desires?
5. The sermon asks a central question: "What are you seeking when you pray? Do you want God Himself, or only relief from the thing that troubles you?" How can you practically shift your prayer life to prioritize God's name, kingdom, and will before your own needs?