**Authentic Prayer**

Matthew 6:5-8

***Prayer moves Almighty God!***

**Matthew 6:5 (ESV)**And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

**Matthew 6:6 (ESV)**But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

**Matthew 6:7 (ESV)**“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.

**Matthew 6:8 (ESV)**Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

1. **Authentic prayer is not designed to impress others.**

**Matthew 6:5 (ESV)**And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

**Matthew 6:16 (ESV)**And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

**Matthew 6:17 (ESV)**But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

**Matthew 6:18 (ESV)**that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

1. **Authentic prayer seeks intimacy with the Father.**

**Matthew 6:6 (ESV)**But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

**Psalm 27:7 (ESV)**Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

**Psalm 27:8 (ESV)**You have said, “Seek My face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, Lord, do I seek.”

1. **Authentic prayer is not based on formulas and demands**

**Matthew 6:7 (ESV)**And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.

1. **Authentic prayer depends on the Father’s care and provision.**

**Matthew 6:8 (ESV)**Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

**1 John 3:22 (ESV)**And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him.

**1 John 5:14 (ESV)**And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.

**1 John 5:15 (ESV)**And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.

**2 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)**So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

**2 Corinthians 12:8 (ESV)**Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

**2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)**But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

**Matthew 7:7 (ESV)**Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

**Matthew 7:8 (ESV)**For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

**Ephesians 3:20 (ESV)**Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

**God’s answers are always better than our prayers!**