

Can you navigate the difficulties of life?

❖ We need a great teacher

❖ We need a great Savior!

❖ *Jesus is that one and only person who
will accomplish both needs!*

The Sermon on the Mount, or,
Navigating Life

- ❖ Learning the Christian 'walk'
- ❖ Growing in our faith
- ❖ Getting closer to Jesus

SOTM Lesson 8: *PRAY!*

Matthew 6.1-18, NIV

- “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.
- ² “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

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- ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

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- ⁵ “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.

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- Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

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- ⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:
 - “Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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- ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.
¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'

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- ¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

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- ¹⁶ “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

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- ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Christians and prayer . . .

- that 37 percent of Christians don't think *prayer is essential*.
- Only 54 percent of people who pray daily attend church every week.
- 46 percent of those who pray daily don't attend church weekly.

• Phil, Cooke. The Way Back: How Christians Blew Our Credibility and How We Get It Back (p. 31). Worthy Publishing. Kindle Edition.

How, what, when and where to pray . .

- Notice the 'why' is missing – you add that part!
- The Lord's Prayer is a 'map' for prayer
- Giving and fasting are also important parts of prayer!

Part 1: Worship

- “*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,*
- Hallowed: HOLY – totally other
- God is the one and only:
- Creator
- Sustainer
- Savior

John Piper:

- "Hallowed be thy name" is a request, not a declaration. We are not saying, "Lord, your name *is* hallowed!" We are saying, "Lord, cause your name to be hallowed!" That is, cause your word to be *believed*, cause your displeasure to be *feared*, cause your commandments to be *obeyed*, and cause yourself to be *glorified*. You hallow the name of God when you trust him, revere him, obey him, and glorify him.

- <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/hallowed-be-thy-name-in-all-the-earth>

Part 2: God's Sovereignty

- ¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
- “I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me...I say: 'My purpose will stand, and *I will do* all that I please'” Isa 46.9-10

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- **Because God is sovereign and He loves you, nothing will ever come into your life that He does not either decree or allow. Consequently, no matter what you face in life, you can take comfort in the fact that God is sovereign.**

- <https://www.christianity.com/theology/what-does-the-phrase-god-is-sovereign-really-mean-11555729.html>

Part 3: Provision

- ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.
- 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4

Part 4: Forgiveness

- ¹² *And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

Part 5: Protection

- ¹³ *And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'*

Extra credit:

- 4b Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
- 6b Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
- 18b and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.