

# CONFIDENT PRAYER

A Conversation  
with God



## PRECEPT

### MATTHEW 6:9-13

<sup>9</sup> “This, then, is how you should pray: “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 6:5, 16

<sup>5</sup> “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.

<sup>16</sup> “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.

## PROMISE

Prayer isn't supposed to be difficult. It's not about praying the perfect prayer, perfect time, or perfect place to pray, rather it's about talking to our Father in Heaven who is personal and desires to have a conversation with us. Many people do not come to Him in confidence because they think God is just a distant cosmic boss who does not really care about our needs. Some people think it is a legalistic religious ritual with the need to recite meaningless repetitive prayers. Some of us may think also that prayer is a religious obligation; thinking of it more of a duty rather than a way to develop intimacy with Him. There are also those that just do not know how to pray, hence the reason why they don't come to Him in confidence. Thankfully, Jesus taught us to pray in the Scripture. When His disciples noticed that His way of life is prayer and communing with His Father, they asked Him how to pray and Jesus instructs us how in Matthew 6:9-13.

**PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS (V.9).** Declare the Lord's sovereignty and power by praising Him for who He is and what He has done in our lives. Knowing and declaring the truth about who He is gives us the confidence to come to the all-knowing and all-powerful Creator of the world.

**PROFESS SUBMISSION TO HIS WILL (V.10).** Humble before Him and proclaim that it's His will and His ways that we desire for our lives. This is a way to submit ourselves to Him and align our hearts to His'. When we do this, we surrender the desires of our hearts and lay it to His hands.

**PROVISION FOR OUR NEEDS (V.11).** During the time of Jesus, the people's wages are on a daily basis. During the time of Moses, God provided them with their daily needs (Exodus 16:4). This means that God wants us to pray for our simple, day to day need for provision. This is also a reminder of our daily dependence to Him.

**PARDON FOR OUR SINS (V.12).** As we ask for the Lord's forgiveness, He expects us to clear our hearts of unforgiveness, bitterness, and resentment. Verses 14-15 tells us this, “Your heavenly Father will forgive you if you forgive those who sin against you; but if you refuse to forgive them, He will not forgive you.” We are forgiven so we ought to forgive others as Christ has forgiven us. Unforgiveness is the number one hindrance to our prayers not being answered.

**PROTECTION FROM EVIL (V.13).** There are three sources of temptation: Satan, flesh, and the world. God is not the source of temptation, but He permits testing (Job 16-22, James 1) and He is faithful to provide a way out of them. Our prayer must be for strength and guidance for Him to steer us away from situations where we can be vulnerable and have the opportunity to sin.

## PRACTICE

**1. Conversation with God.** How is your prayer life? What are your practical ways in conversing with Him on a daily basis?

**2. Prayer Items.** Share your prayer items to the group. Pray for each other and commit to intercede for one another during your personal time with the Lord.

## PRAYER

### I. Family

- Pray for families to be grounded in God's love, always loving and serving one another.

### II. Church

- Pray for our members to use their influence in taking the Gospel to places it's never been.

### III. Life Groups

- Pray for our life groups to continue to flourish. May it help us to know and love God more.

### IV. Leaders

- Pray for the pastors and leaders to be faithful in using the Scripture to lead and influence us.

### V. Giving

- Pray that giving would be faithful, as well as joyful, consistent, and sacrificial.

### VI. Discipleship

- Pray that we will have a culture of discipling our family, friends, and love ones.

### VII. Relationships

- Pray for transparent and meaningful relationships among our brethren.