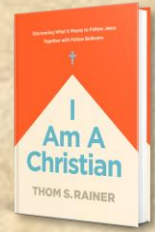


Sermon Notes: **I Am A Prayer Warrior** (Matthew 6:9-15)

Big Picture: *Pray eternal prayers every day.*

Series Title: **I Am A Christian**



Introduction

- **Opening:** Recite the Lord's Prayer.
 - This is the most recognized prayer in the world.
 - My guess is that you've heard it before.
 - Maybe slightly different or with the doxology at the end, but you've probably heard it.
 - I've heard a lot of different prayers over the years:
 - I've heard a prayer for a lawn mower.
 - I've heard a prayer for chicken nuggets.
 - I've heard a prayer from a pastor who prayed at a NASCAR race for car engines, car tires, and his smokin' hot wife.
 - I'm not making this one up. Google it—after the service!
 - I've prayed a lot of different prayers myself.
 - For example, I've prayed for a meal and for the hands that prepared it.
 - As one pastor asked, "Why do we just pray for their hands? Shouldn't we be praying for all of them?" Next time you pray at a meal, I'll let you pray for their elbows. You can tell me how that goes.
- **Tension:** The Lord's Prayer is the most recognized prayer in the world, which should make it the most understood prayer in the world.
 - But my guess is that most people who know this prayer don't know what it's about.
 - In this passage, Jesus gives us a how-to on prayer.
 - But he also tells us what to pray for.
 - Remember the context of this prayer.
- **Sermon Series:** I Am a Christian
 - What has Jesus been teaching in the Sermon on the Mount?
 - How we are to live as citizens of God's Kingdom in this world.
 - What topics did he cover?
 - The joy that comes from Kingdom living.
 - We are made to influence the world.
 - What he came to do on earth.
 - What it means to live righteously.
- **Today:** Jesus calls us to examine our prayer life—how we communicate with God.
 - **Big Picture:** Pray eternal prayers every day.
- **Read:** Matthew 6:9-15

Transition: Let's look at the importance of prayer as we live as Kingdom citizens on this earth.

- Here's where we start: Pause before you pray.

1) Pause before you pray (Matthew 6:9).

- **What the text says:**

- Jesus starts in verse 9: "Pray like this:"
- You cannot declare, "I am a prayer warrior," without grasping the Lord's Prayer.
 - We call it the Lord's Prayer not because Jesus prayed this prayer, but because it is the example of prayer from our Lord.
- The prayer starts off with four words: "Our Father in heaven."
- "Our Father in heaven."
 - Those four words are designed to cause us to stop; to pause; to reflect.
 - We should never utter these words flippantly.
 - They have so much meaning.
 - We start off our prayers typically with something like "Dear God."
 - Why?
 - Jesus is telling us that we must prepare our hearts for what we are about to say.
 - Let's break down those four words quickly:
 - **Our** = *Association with other believers*
 - We remember our place; that we, like our brothers and sisters in Christ, are part of God's Kingdom.
 - We are in this together.
 - **Father** = *Access to God through Christ's sacrifice.*
 - Think about this!
 - We have a direct line of communication to the Creator of the universe.
 - We have access to God because of what Jesus did.
 - Our immediate reaction should be praise and adoration.
 - In Heaven = *Adoration of God as King*
 - And that's what the next two words are about.
 - It's a "Wow! I am talking to God!" moment.
 - This introductory statement has depth far beyond the simplicity of its words.
 - Martyn Lloyd-Jones said: "There is a sense in which every man when he begins to pray to God should put his hand upon his mouth. . . . And, strange as it may seem to you, you start praying by saying nothing; you recollect what you are about to do."
 - The fact that we have the ability to access God in prayer should cause us to pause before we pray.
- **Illustration:** Do you have access to the most powerful person in the world?
 - No one in here, as far as I know, has the ability to walk directly into the Oval Office.
 - **Emphasis:** We have access not only to the most powerful being in the universe, but to the very one who *created* the universe.
 - That should cause us to pause.
- **Application:** How do you pray? How do you become a prayer warrior on the front lines of spiritual warfare?
 - You start not by praying, but by pausing and reflecting on who God is.
 - And then you start running to the throne of God!
 - **Emphasis:** We pause in prayer so that we may boldly approach God.

Transition: As you approach God in prayer, what do you pray? The Lord's Prayer gives us two major emphases for our prayers: eternal prayers and everyday prayers. My guess is that the majority of your prayer lives are focused on the everyday; but Jesus wants us to pray for so much more.

- Let's look at the first part: Pray eternal prayers.

2) Pray eternal prayers (Matthew 6:9-10).

- **What the text says:**
 - If you look at verses 9 and 10, you'll see that the word *your* is used three times.
 - In verses 11-13, the word *us* is used five times.
 - Let's unpack this. Look how Jesus starts in verse 9.
 - "May your name be kept holy."
 - What wasn't the first thing that Jesus prayed?
 - Prayer requests—he doesn't start with "Dear God, help me land that job."
 - So what does it mean that God's name be kept or honored as holy?
 - We are to recognize that God is greater than any earthly thing.
 - God is truly set apart from everything in this world.
 - And our lives are dedicated to giving God all the glory he is due.
 - We are calling others to recognize God's holiness.
 - We want our awe of God to be contagious to the world.
 - This is the mountaintop of the Lord's Prayer.
 - We are declaring our love and awe for God.
 - We begin our prayer by giving God glory. Everything else flows from that.
 - **Emphasis:** If you don't know who God is, then you can't give him the glory he's due.
 - The more time you spend getting to know God, the more you will see his awesomeness.
 - He's the reason we pray and the reason we live! So get to know him!
 - Jesus stays focused on the eternal and then prays, "Your Kingdom come."
 - Three aspects of God's Kingdom:
 - It has come through Christ.
 - It remains in the hearts of all believers.
 - It will be complete when the kingdom of darkness is overcome and God's new Kingdom on earth is established.
 - When you pray for God's Kingdom to come, you are praying for that third part—that Jesus will come back and complete the establishment of his Kingdom.
 - **Application:** As I continue to watch the world unfold, and as I get older, my heart longs more and more for Christ to return.
 - I'm reminded that this place—this world—is not my home.
 - One day, Jesus will return and make everything whole and new again.
 - We should spend a lot of time asking God to come back—to come back soon so that the pain and hurt and sin of this world will be gone for good.
 - But you may be thinking, "I'm not ready yet. There are people that I want to know Jesus before he comes back."
 - That's why Jesus tells us to pray this final part of eternal prayers.

- “Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”
 - In heaven, God’s will is being carried out perfectly.
 - This third eternal petition is asking God to cause his will to be accomplished on earth just as the angels carry it out in heaven.
 - And that happens through us by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - So when we pray for Christ to return, we are simultaneously longing for heaven and filled with urgency to see God’s will accomplished here on earth.
 - **Application:** You can take this model prayer and apply it many ways.
 - I wrote out this prayer to give you an example:
 - “Jesus, I am so ready for you to come back. I’m so ready for you to take away the effects of sin—the pain and the heartache. But I will continue to wait patiently. I trust you, and I know that you know best. So until then, I’m ready to do what you need me to do. I’m ready to carry out your will. I know your will is being perfectly carried out in heaven. I want to see that on earth too. Help me share the hope of Jesus with my neighbor. Help me spend more time with you. Help me lead my family. God, make it happen. Let it be as you will. Amen.”

Transition: We are to pray eternal prayers. But we are also to pray everyday prayers.

3) Pray everyday prayers (Matthew 6:11-13).

- **What the text says:**

- After we honor God, after we seek his will, then we petition God for what we need
 - When we frame our lives in a Kingdom perspective, it will change our petitions.
- “Give us today the food we need.”
 - Why does Jesus tell us to pray every day for what we need?
 - The idea of daily bread is that God will give us what we need in order to carry out his will.
 - We pray for a lot of wants, but the emphasis should be on what we need for today.
 - But why daily bread? Why not weekly bread? Some of you get a monthly paycheck—why not pray monthly?
 - Why doesn’t God just give us all that we need in one lump sum?
 - **Emphasis:** Jesus wants us to have a daily relationship with God.
 - The idea is that we come to God every day.
 - As Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, “If God just gave us all His glorious gifts of grace in one lump sum, we would be in danger of enjoying the gift and forgetting all about God. . . . The earthly father is grievously wounded by the son who is content to enjoy the gift the father has given him but who never seeks his company again until he exhausted his supplies and needs some more. No, the father likes the child to come and speak to him; and this is God’s way of doing it.”
- “And forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.”
 - Being forgiven and forgiving others go together—there’s no way around it.
 - Jesus gives us extra commentary on this in verses 14-15.
 - We don’t receive forgiveness because we forgive others.
 - We receive forgiveness because of God’s mercy and grace.
 - What Jesus is telling us is that if we have truly received God’s grace and mercy, we understand the weight of our sin and the magnitude of God’s grace. And then we can’t help but share that forgiveness with others.

- “And do not let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.”
 - God will allow us to walk ourselves into situations where Satan may tempt us.
 - Those times in life happen because we need training in sanctification.
 - But we can ask God to keep us from those situations.
 - Why is this important?
 - **Emphasis:** Sin is the great relationship disrupter.
 - We don’t want to break our fellowship with God.
 - We have to understand the devastation our sin causes in our spiritual life.
- **Application:** Our everyday prayers are not about comfort or abundance.
 - Our daily prayers are that God would give us enough physically and spiritually so that we can walk in his will and spend time with him.
 - Because we know that what we do daily matters for eternity as Kingdom citizens.

Transition: Let’s close with this quote, again from Martyn Lloyd Jones.

Conclusion

- **Quote:** “Prayer is beyond any question the highest activity of the human soul. Man is at his greatest and highest when, upon his knees, he comes face-to-face with God.”
 - Come face-to-face with God this week.
 - Pray eternal prayers every day.
 - Become a prayer warrior.
- Pray with me silently as I pray the Lord’s Prayer in my own words:
 - God, I am so blessed to approach you in prayer.
 - I pray that my heart will fill with more passion for you and your glory and that the people of this world will come to see your glory.
 - I look forward to the day when your Kingdom is established and all evil is vanquished.
 - God, may I carry out your will as best as I can. May I be a prayer warrior.
 - Give me the things I need in order to carry out your will. Nothing more, nothing less.
 - God, I’m so sorry for the things I have done contrary to your will and plan. Forgive me for the things I have done wrong.
 - Please keep me from evil and from temptation. I don’t want to sin and break my fellowship with you. I want to reflect your glory.
 - God, you are beautiful beyond words. Thank you for sending your Son to die for me in order that I can be part of your Kingdom.
 - In Jesus’ name, amen.
- **Big Action:** Pray for something eternal.
 - Your everyday prayers should be eternal prayers.
 - Maybe you’ve never prayed for Jesus to return—start now.
 - Maybe you’ve never prayed for God to receive glory—start now.
 - Pray for something eternal.
 - Become a prayer warrior.