Empowering Prayer: Practice
Matthew 6:5-15
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Matthew 6:5-15: "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. 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. [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. [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. ' [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. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church, and Community

1. _____ with prayer

_____ point: Then if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, if they will pray and seek me and stop their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NCV)

_____ security: Pray to your Father, who sees the secret places of your heart, and he will see you in secret and respond to you…. Don't be like those who think they deserve God's attention by their energy and effort. Relax and be confident that your heavenly Father knows what you truly need before you can even say it!
Matthew 6:6b-8 (JOT)

2. _____ the practice of prayer

_____ your heart: Let this pattern guide your prayer: Our Father who is in heaven, we sanctify your name by acknowledging your reign over us! Let it come upon us! Let your will happen on this earth, just as it does in heaven. Let your holiness and sovereignty guide us!
Matthew 6:9-10 (JOT)

_____ your spirit: Give us what we need on this day. Don't let us be anxious about tomorrow. Reassure us that you are enough. Release us from the guilt of our offenses, especially as we forgive the offenses done against us. Matthew 6:11-12 (JOT)

_____ God's help: Do not let temptations and trials drag us down into darkness but rescue us from the evil one. If you are willing to let go of the trespasses of others, then your Father will let go of yours. If you cling to offenses of others then your Father cannot set you free from yours. Matthew 6:13-15 (JOT)

3. _____ the power of practicing prayer

_____ into the Son's light: "If your eye is pure, there will be sunshine in your soul. But if your eye is clouded with evil thoughts and desires, you are in deep spiritual darkness. And oh, how deep that darkness can be! Matthew 6:22-23 (TLB)

Spiritual Action Step:

Where do you need to find the light? Is your lack of forgiveness dragging you toward darkness? Is anxiety continuing to build in your heart? Jesus said, "So if the son sets you free, you are truly free!" (John 8:36, NLT.) God wants to empower your life. The power that resurrected Jesus from the dead is the power that sets us free and makes us new creatures in Christ. It begins by asking for this power to be at work in your heart. This week, read Matthew 6 and use the Lord's Prayer daily to empower your prayer but also to enable the Holy Spirit to bring you into the light!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; NCV: New Century Version; JOT: Jon Own Translation; TLB: The Living Bible