

## Three Assumptions

### Three Assumptions in Matthew 6:1-18 (NLT)

When you give  
When you pray  
When you fast

### Teaching about Prayer

**Matthew 6:5-8 (NLT)** “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. **6** But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

**7** “When you pray, don’t babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. **8** Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

### Prayer is about communication with God

**Matthew 6:5-6 (NLT)** “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. **6** But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

The inner chamber was properly a little room in the interior of the house or on the housetop, but it is here used to indicate any place of privacy.

The shut door emphasizes the strictness of the privacy, for in all personal prayer we should strive to be alone with God.

Jesus found a prayer-chamber upon the mountain-top and in the garden  
Jesus prayed in the mountain alone, in the night alone and in public in the presence of his disciples.

Jesus was talking about our personal time with Him. Jesus wasn’t talking about prohibiting prayers in public assemblies.

We have records of many prayers offered by the apostles in public assemblies. "Thy closet" may mean any secret place. Peter's closet was on the house-top the Savior's on a mountain alone.

There is an expectation of intimacy in these verses

Look at the progression of intimacy here with Jesus:

Mark 14:32-42 (NLT) They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray." **33** He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. **34** He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." **35** He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. **36** "Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

***After all what underlies prayer, "It is to lay our inner man wholly open to the light of God in genuine, earnest simplicity, to be quite shone through by Him. It is, moreover, absolute and undivided self-dedication to God.***

***- Alfred Edersheim - "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah"***

It is the greatest invitation in the world

It came with a horrific price

Hebrews 10:19-20 (NLT) And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. **20** By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place.

Mark 15:37-38 (NLT) Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. **38** And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

He blew the door open

Luke 5:16 (NLT) But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.

Jesus modeled that we do it often

The empty chair

Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT) "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. **22** On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' **23** But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

How can we prevent ourselves from hearing these terrible words?

What does God's Word say, and how can we be assured that God knows us?

1 Corinthians 8:3 (NKJV) But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him."

1 Corinthians 8:3 (NLT) But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes.

"To be known of, (or by), God", here the knowing suggest approval and bears the meaning to be approved.

Where as in Matthew 7:23 "I never knew you" suggest I have never been in approving connection with you.

Known as used here often denotes a personal relationship between the knower and the known, so that the knowledge of an object implies the influence upon the knower. Vincents

The answer is being in a loving relationship with God.

**Matthew 6:7-8 (NLT)** "When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. **8** Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Matthew 6:33 (NLT) Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

**Matthew 6:5 (The Message)** "And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat?

**Matthew 6:6 (The Message)** "Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.

**Matthew 6:7-8 (The Message)** "The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply.

It is about intimacy  
It is about honesty  
It is relational

### **Assumptions**

To Pray

**9** Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be kept holy.

**10** May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.

**11** Give us today the food we need,

**12** and forgive us our sins,  
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

**13** And don't let us yield to temptation,  
but rescue us from the evil one.

**14** "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. **15** But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Like this:

Our Father in heaven,  
Reveal who you are.  
Set the world right;  
Do what's best— as above, so below.  
Keep us alive with three square meals.  
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.  
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.  
You're in charge!  
You can do anything you want!  
You're ablaze in beauty!  
Yes. Yes. Yes.