CFC
CHRIST FELLOWSHIP CENTRE

THE PRAYER

Living in Fellowship with God

Matthew 6:9-13

SERMON GUIDE

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Sermon Overview

Theme: Prayer is the believer's living fellowship with the Father through Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit.

Purpose: To lead the Church into biblical, faithful and persistent prayer that transforms believers and advances God's Kingdom.

Key text: Matthew 6:9-13

> ***"Prayer is where dependence becomes trust, and trust becomes obedience."***

Introduction

Jesus did not say, "If you pray." He said, "When you pray." Prayer belongs at the centre of Christian life. It is our response to God's invitation, our dependence on His grace and our participation in His work.

Many believers pray only when pressure becomes unbearable. Jesus teaches a deeper life of prayer: fellowship with the Father, surrender to His will, daily dependence, forgiveness, protection and Kingdom purpose.

1. Prayer Begins with Relationship

Matthew 6:9; Romans 8:15-16

• Jesus teaches us to approach God as our Father. Prayer grows from belonging, not fear.

• The Holy Spirit assures us that we are God's children and helps us speak to Him with confidence.

• We come through Jesus, trusting the Father's love and goodness.

2. Prayer Honours God First

Matthew 6:9-10; Psalm 100:4

• The Lord's Prayer begins with God's name, God's Kingdom and God's will.

• Worship lifts our eyes above the pressure of the moment and restores spiritual perspective.

• True prayer seeks God's purposes before personal comfort.

3. Prayer Brings Our Needs to God

Matthew 6:11; Philippians 4:6-7

• God invites us to ask for daily provision and to depend on Him one day at a time.

• Specific requests express trust because we place real needs into the Father's hands.

• Thanksgiving guards the heart while God's peace steadies the mind.

4. Prayer Includes Confession and Forgiveness

Matthew 6:12; 1 John 1:9; Mark 11:25

• Prayer brings sin into the light and receives the cleansing that Christ provides.

• We cannot ask for mercy while refusing to release others from personal offence.

• Forgiveness keeps the heart free and fellowship with God unhindered.

5. Prayer Gives Strength in Temptation

Matthew 6:13; Matthew 26:41

• Jesus teaches us to ask for protection before temptation gains power.

• Watchfulness recognises weakness. Prayer receives strength from God.

• A praying believer becomes spiritually alert and ready to obey.

6. Prayer Requires Faith and Persistence

Luke 18:1-8; Mark 11:24; Hebrews 11:6

• Faith rests in God's character even when the answer does not arrive immediately.

• Persistence keeps bringing the request to God without surrendering to discouragement.

• Waiting seasons deepen trust and align our desires with God's wisdom.

7. Prayer Must Agree with God's Will

1 John 5:14-15; John 15:7

• Confidence grows when Scripture shapes what we ask and why we ask it.

• Remaining in Christ changes our desires and makes prayer fruitful.

• God may answer yes, no or wait, but every answer remains under His loving wisdom.

8. Prayer Carries the Mission of the Church

Acts 4:29-31; Colossians 4:2-4; 1 Timothy 2:1-4

• The early Church prayed for boldness, and the Spirit empowered its witness.

• Prayer opens doors for the gospel and strengthens those who proclaim Christ.

• Intercession reaches leaders, families, communities and nations.

A Simple Pattern for Daily Prayer

Adoration

Begin by honouring God for who He is and remembering His faithfulness.

Confession

Allow the Spirit to search your heart. Confess sin honestly and receive forgiveness.

Thanksgiving

Name the mercies God has already given and thank Him before presenting requests.

Supplication

Bring personal needs and intercede for others with clear, faith-filled petitions.

Listening

Remain still before God. Let Scripture and the Holy Spirit shape your response.

Questions for Personal or Group Reflection

1. What has weakened consistency in my prayer life?
2. Do my prayers begin with God's glory or only my needs?
3. Is there sin to confess or someone I must forgive?
4. Which person, family or ministry will I begin to intercede for faithfully?

Conclusion and Call

God has opened the way into His presence through Jesus Christ. We do not pray as strangers trying to persuade a distant God. We pray as children welcomed by the Father, helped by the Spirit and covered by the finished work of Christ.

> ***Church, return to the place of prayer. Let prayer fill our homes, leadership meetings, services and mission. When the Church prays, hearts change, courage rises and the gospel advances.***

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for welcoming us into Your presence through Jesus Christ. Teach us to pray with faith and humility. Forgive our sins, heal our relationships and align our desires with Your will. Strengthen our intercession and make Christ Fellowship Centre a house of prayer. Let Your Kingdom come and Your will be done. In Jesus' name, Amen.