

1st Things First: Part 1

Matthew 6:5-9

In the Lord's Prayer we learn:

- 1. Not to make prayer about ourselves.**

- 2. Not to use prayer as a mechanical ritual or a means to manipulate God.**

- 3. To pray to our Father in heaven to remind ourselves of our place in relationship to God.**

- 4. To pray to our Father in heaven to remind ourselves that He is God and we are not.**

- 5. That praying this way helps us better understand that:**
 - a. God is enormous and near at the same time.**

 - b. God is the Father we were always meant to have.**

 - c. Praying this way does something to us.**

Questions for Discussion and Further Reflection

1. How are you tempted to have a transactional relationship with God?
2. How are you tempted to make prayer more about yourself rather than more about God?
3. "Don't be a bad person; be a good person, and then God will love you." Why is this NOT the gospel?
4. Why is growing in our prayer life much like falling asleep or falling in love?
5. In what ways has your own prayer life changed you?

