

**Text:** Matthew 6:5-13 (*Page 811 in Pew Bible*)

**Title:** “Church Growth Matters: *The Importance of Prayer*”

A biblically healthy and **spiritually growing** local church will be **actively obeying and learning about** Jesus Christ’s commands, principles, and desires for His Church.

**Context—Sermon on the Mount:** *Instructions on giving, praying and fasting*

**“When you pray...”** (Plural → 6:5, 7; Singular → 6:6)

1. Jesus Christ instructs His disciples to pray to their heavenly Father with hearts of **worship**. (6:9-10)
  - “Our Father in Heaven”
  - “Hallowed be Your name”
  - “Your Kingdom come”
  - “Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven”
2. Jesus Christ instructs His disciples to pray to their heavenly Father with **humble** hearts. (6:11)
  - “Give us this day our daily bread”
    - *Prayer is the Christian’s “Declaration of Dependence” upon God.*
  - Matthew 6:1-8

3. Jesus Christ instructs His disciples to pray to their heavenly Father with **honest** hearts. (6:12-13)

- “And forgive us our debts”
- “As we also have forgiven our debtors”
  - Matthew 6:14-15
- “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (or *from the Evil One*)”

***Big Idea:*** Church growth involves Christians growing together through biblical and unhypocritical prayer to God.

### Questions for Personal Mediation

- Is your prayer life hypocritical or unhypocritical before God and others?
  - *When you pray to God, is your heart **worshipful**?*
  - *When you pray to God, is your heart **humble**?*
  - *When you pray to God, is your heart **honest**?*
- Do you pray to God personally and regularly? (Matt. 6:6)
- Do you regularly pray to God with your local church? (“Our Father...”)
- In what ways do you need to grow and mature in this important ministry of prayer?