practice of prayer

Mt 6:5–15 (ESV) — **5** "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **6** But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. **7** "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. **9** Pray then like this: "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 this day 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 evil. **14** For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, **15** but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Prep for PRAYER

1. Be genuine from your heart when you approach God in prayer. Don't pray to win a prize or to earn other people's favor. (v. 5)
2. Prepare to pray with God alone in mind. (v. 6)
3. Remember that God is alive and real and is deeply interested in what you have to say. He wants to commune and have fellowship with you. (v. 7)
4. Remember that God knows what is going on in your life. You aren't praying to inform Him of anything. You approach Him to engage in a relationship with Him. (v. 8)

Petition #1: GOD'S GLORY "hallowed be **your** name"

1. Write out a prayer that reflects your concern and desire for God's reputation to be upheld and protected.
2. Write out a prayer that reflects your concern for communicating well Who God is.

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Petition #2: GOD'S PURPOSE "**your** kingdom come"

1. Write out a prayer that reflects your concern for God's purpose in history and people's lives.
2. Write out a prayer that reflects your concern and desire for His purposes, not yours, to be accomplished.

Petition #3: GOD'S PLAN "**your** will be done"

1. Write out a prayer that reflects your concern for God's will.
2. Write our a prayer that reflects your desire for His will, for the skill to understand His Word and the strength to carry it out.

Petition #4: YOUR PROVISION "our daily bread"

1. Write out a prayer that reflects your dependency on God for His provision.
2. Write out a prayer that reflects your desire to be content with God's provision.

Petition #5: YOUR RELATIONSHIPS "forgive us … we forgive"

1. Write out a prayer that reflects your desire to be right with God and others.
2. Write out a prayer of confession.

Petition #6: YOUR SANCTIFICATION "not into temptation … deliver us from evil"

1. Write out a prayer that reflects your desire to put off the old self and put on the new self.
2. Write out a prayer that reflects your dependency on God, His Son, His Spirit and His Word for making spiritual progress, becoming more and more like Christ in your desires, thoughts, words and actions.

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