

A wooden head silhouette is shown on a dark wood background. Inside the head, several gears of various sizes and colors (brass, steel) are visible. A magnifying glass with a brass frame and handle is positioned over the head, focusing on a large brass gear. The text 'Do we really want to be wise?' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Do we

really

want to be

wise?

Living for the approval of others - Praying

Matthew 6.5-15 (NIV11)

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

“This, then, is how you should pray:
‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

How not to pray #1

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others

How to pray #1

*But when you pray, go into your room,
close the door and pray to your Father,
who is unseen. Then your Father, who
sees what is done in secret, will
reward you*

How not to pray #2

*...do not keep on babbling like pagans,
for they think they will be heard
because of their many words*

How to pray #2

*Do not be like them, for your Father
knows what you need before you ask
him*

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7.7-8 (NIV11)

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18.1 (NIV11)

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4.16 (NIV11)

How to pray #3

*“This, then, is how you should pray:
‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,*

*your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'*

If we pray this way,
praying is so extraordinary

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

The heart that won't open up
to forgive others will stay closed
when Father God's own
forgiveness is offered