

The Closet Door

“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room [inner room, closet, center chamber], and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.”

Matthew 6:5-7 (New King James Version)

Each of us is called to having an authentic relationship before God, rather than being a hypocrite before man. God’s desire is for us to have a deep private relationship with Him, not merely to depend on public religious opportunities to attempt to grow. In order to have this private, intimate, authentic relationship with God, you must follow His invitation for you to go into your deepest closet, your personal secret place, your innermost place, and in this place He will meet in you.

After you listen to the message on-line, take some reflective time and answer the following questions:

Going into Your Closet

But you, when you pray, go into your room [inner room, closet, center chamber], and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Matthew 6:6 (NKJV)

1. What are the biggest distractions in your life that keep you from going to your innermost place before God?

2. What are your biggest fears about being with God in such a deep and intimate way?

God in the Secret Place

*But you, when you pray, go into your room [inner room, closet, center chamber], and when you have shut your door, **pray to your Father who is in the secret place**; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

Matthew 6:6 (NKJV)

God Dwells in This Place

2 Corinthians 6:16 (New International Version)

16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

3. How does it impact you that God dwells in the innermost place of a believer and that He promises to be a real God to them?

God Searches and Creates in This Place

4. Read Psalm 139. Allow God to search you. Write down things that God shows you about yourself:

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5. Psalm 139:15 teaches us that God created us in the secret place. It is in this place that He continues to create in us. From what God has shown you about yourself, what are some things that He wants to create in you?

The Reward

*But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; **and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.***

Matthew 6:6 (NKJV)

6. God promises to reward you during this intimate time with Him. As you have interacted today with the message, the Scriptures, and your God, what rewards is He giving you?

The Encounter

In this manner, therefore, 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 this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.*

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

7. We see in this passage that Jesus instructs us not to come to God with many words. Rather, we are to come to Him with small phrases and concepts. We are to sit before Him and let Him reward you on each thought. Pray the Lord's prayer piece by piece in your secret place and let God reveal to you different secrets about Himself and His relationship with you. Jot down some of the thoughts under each line.

In this manner, therefore, 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 this day our daily bread.

*And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.*

*And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.*

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
