

# Your Heart Toward God

Matthew 6:1-13

This section of Scripture deals with our heart as we give, pray and fast. Notice it's WHEN we do these things, not if. Although a Christian can be saved and not serve God at all and still enter Heaven, when God hands out rewards they will shed tears for opportunities lost.

When you give (vs 2) it should be as unto the Lord. In the Old Testament Israelites were required to give to the poor, including leaving the edges of their fields unharvested so the poor could help themselves (Lev 19:9-10). In the New Testament we are to give with a cheerful heart (2 Cor 9:7). In Mark 12:41-44 we read the story of Jesus witnessing people giving at the temple. He remarks on the widow who gave 2 mites, all she had, as she trusted God as her source. When you trust someone you will give them all you have.

True worship is the desire to please God, not man. We worship with our giving and our prayer. Where is your focus? When you give from your heart toward God this is a form of worship.

Our prayer should be directed toward God. That means you should not pray long prayers or refrain from praying because you are concerned with what others think. Pray from your heart and don't compare your prayers to another's (2 Cor 10:12). There are many examples of public prayer in the New Testament; Acts 8:22-24, 2 Cor 13:8; 14:6, James 5:13-16. Obedience to God includes praying with others when led.

Your heart should be sincere when you pray. You will be rewarded as a result of your obedience.

God knows your needs (vs 8). He is not caught by surprise at what you need. Why pray then? Because God wants you to commune with Him.

Vs 9 – 13 is often called the Lord's Prayer but it is better called Jesus Pattern of Prayer. It starts with drawing attention to God and His holiness. The person praying is stating God's holiness and holding Him in high esteem with respect.

How will God's will be done on earth? By and through His obedient people! We are to align our will with His. God's will being done on earth is accomplished when His people say "God use me".

We are to trust God for our daily provision. Trust and do not worry.

God does not tempt anyone to do evil (James 1:13). We are tempted when we are drawn away by our own desires (James 1:14). Ask God to lead you away from that which tempts you and into the paths of righteousness. It takes effort and discipline on your part to win over temptation. God won't do it for you but He will provide all you need to achieve victory.

The end of this pattern of prayer is like it's beginning – giving Glory to God.