

Pincipals **O**f **P**rayer

Put some P.O.P. into your Christian walk.

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

“How Not To Pray” – (Second in the series)

1. Don't pray to be seen or heard – Remember, you're speaking with God not so others will see or hear you. ***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 men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. Matthew 6:5***
2. Don't speak "vain repetitions" – Use words you normally use when talking. Changing your tone of voice or using phrases repeated over and over is not prayer. Jesus said this is, “much speaking”, ***But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Matthew 6:7.*** Be sincere.
3. Don't get into pride with your praying – If you think YOU'RE a good pray-er, or YOU have privileged access to the throne room, or YOUR prayers are something special, then the focus is on you and not on God. ***"Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall". Proverbs 16:18.*** You have a part but God does the work and gets the glory.
4. Don't pray to statues, pictures, images, or people – This is idolatry. God told Moses that, while on the mountain, he only heard His voice, ***"but saw no similitude", Deuteronomy 4:12, 15.*** Moses only heard God but didn't see what God looked like. Pray to God only.
5. Don't use God's name carelessly – The third commandment. ***Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Exodus 20:7.*** Using God's name in vain is not just saying the word “damn” with the name “God”. Any use of God's name when you're not talking **to** Him or **about** Him is using it in vain. Phrases like, “Oh my God!”, “Jesus Christ!” (as an exclamation), “Good God, did you see that!” or “God a-mighty” are all careless, vain, uses of the name of God and are prohibited.