



**PRAY/ER**  
**“The Pregame**  
**Directions to Praying”**  
*Matthew 6:5-8*  
April 3, 2016

**Assumption** “When you pray”

**Audience – Man** Key Word: Hypocrite

- ✓ **The Place:** Public
- ✓ **The Purpose:** Announce Ourselves
- ✓ **The Prize:** Men’s Applause & Approval

*Note: Nothing wrong with praying in public*

**Audience – the Lord** Key Word: Authentic

- ✓ **The Place – Private**
  - Secret
  - Secluded
  - Silent
  - Sincerity
- ✓ **The Purpose** – Align Ourselves with Our Father
- ✓ **The Prize** – God’s Applause, Approval & Answers

**Approach**

- ✓ Duplication

*Nothing wrong with repeating genuine requests*

- ✓ Duration  
*Nothing wrong praying for extended periods of time*
- ✓ Desperation & Dependence

**Our Response:**

1. 1. Would you be certain today that the Lord hears your prayers? The only way He hears you is if He is your Savior and Lord. Is He? If not, He will hear your cry today to make Him your Savior and Lord. Remember, it is as easy as **ABC**. **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God’s Son, **Confess** Him as Savior and **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord.
2. Do a **private heart check-up** today. Are you praying on a regular basis? Do you spend time alone with the Lord each day in prayer? Do you then pray throughout your day? If not, then make plans this week to spend time in prayer each day.
3. Do a **public heart check-up**. When you do pray in public, what is your motive? Remember who are praying to an audience of one. Are you coming to prayer meeting to pray together with other believers? If not, maybe try coming this week.
4. Are you praying for your church, its leadership and that God will continue to pour out His blessings here in amazing ways? If not, then add that to your daily prayer list.
5. Be reminded this week that the Heavenly Father already knows what you need, even before we ask. Go ahead and ask, He loves to hear His children crying out to Him. Remember, nothing wrong with praying about things on your heart over and over again.
6. Get in a LifeGroup & develop **your** Battle Plan for Prayer!

