

Tips on The Mode of Corporate Prayer

There is danger that the small meetings held by our people will be killed by imprudence. Let there be no long prayers. Save long prayers for your closet. Let not your prayers wander all over the world. Pray right to the point, asking for the blessing of God upon those assembled. When you pray alone in your closet, lay before God all the burden of your heart; but in an assembly, such long prayers are out of place. They kill the interest by making the meeting tedious. Look at the prayer Christ gave His disciples as a sample. How brief it is, how comprehensive! When you approach God, pray in simplicity. Do not dishonor Him by offering Him oratorical prayers, by preaching Him a sermon in your prayer. Come to God in your sore need, and tell Him just what you need. Trust your heavenly Father just as a child trusts its earthly parents.

[Letters and Manuscripts, Vol. 5, Manuscript 39a, 1887, par. 7](#)

Matthew 6:9-13, NKJV

⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

[Praise & Worship]

¹⁰ Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as *it is* in heaven.

[Supplication for God's will]

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

[Supplication for personal needs]

¹² And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

[Confession and Humility]

¹³ And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

[Supplication for spiritual victory]

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

[Praise/thanks-giving]

(Duration: Approximately 20–25 seconds)

The Lord's Prayer was not intended to be repeated merely as a form, but it is an illustration of what our prayers should be—simple, earnest, and comprehensive. In a simple petition tell the Lord your needs and express gratitude for His mercies. Thus you invite Jesus as a welcome guest into your home and heart.

[Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6, p.357.4](#)

The prayer and social meetings should be the most interesting gatherings that are held. Plans should be laid, and wisdom sought of God, to conduct these meetings so that they will be interesting and attractive. The people hunger for the bread of life. If they find it at the prayer-meeting, they will go there to receive it. Long, prosy talks and prayers are out of place anywhere, and especially in the social meeting. They weary the angels as well as the people who listen to them. Our prayers should be short, and right to the point. Let the Spirit of God pervade the hearts of the worshipers, and it will sweep away all formality and dullness.

[Review and Herald, Oct. 10, 1882, par. 13](#)

Pray much; walk humbly with God; make personal efforts. If self is hidden with Christ in God, you will have scriptural, religious life and energy. We must keep asking earnestly. Make short prayers in meetings, and lengthy prayers when you talk and commune with God in your closet.

[Manuscript Releases vol. 10, p.130.2](#)

For a simple model and guide for corporate prayer, see *Praying for Rain – A Mini-Handbook for United Prayer*: www.tinyurl.com/prayingforrain (or <https://www.revivalandreformation.org/resources/all/praying-for-rain>)