

**Series: MOVED – God Is Moved By Prayer**  
**Sermon: Prayer That Does And Does Not Move God**  
**Pastor John Carmichael**

**[Mat 6:5-8 NASB95] 5 "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you. 7 "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. 8 "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.**

- Not all prayers get answers. God is not the issue. The prayer(s) is the issue.
- [Jas 4:3 NASB95] 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend [it] on your pleasures.
- Jesus deals with what does not and what does get God to move.
  - Religious (Pharisees) showy prayers (v5).
  - Non-religious (Gentiles) senseless prayers (v7).
  - Relationship and priority prayers get answers (v6, 8)

**What prayer do and do not move God?**

**In Matthew 6, showy and senseless prayer do not move God, while secret prayers of relationship and priority do move God.**

**I. God is not moved by showy and senseless prayers.**

**a. Showy prayers do not move God.**

- i. V. 5
- ii. What Jesus is not against?
  1. Public prayers
  2. Jesus: Matt. 11:24-25, Lk. 11:1
  3. Church: Acts 4:24, 31)
- iii. What Jesus was against?
  1. Hunters of vainglory! Spiritual exhibitionism.
  2. Lightfoot: It was public prayers only vs. private prayers. Public prayers should be supplemental to the mainstay of private prayers.

**iv. God moves when He is the focus and motivation of our prayers.**

**b. Senseless prayers do not move God.**

- i. V. 7.
- ii. What Jesus was not against?
  1. "meaningless repetition" – hapax: used just once. BDAG: foolish talk. KJV: vain repetition.
  2. Repetition was not the issue. Psalms would be discarded. Jesus prayed same prayer 3x in Gethsemane. Luke 18, Jesus taught petition of prayer. Matthew 7:7 – Jesus said ask (GR: and keep on asking).
  3. New Bible Commentary: Not against repetition but against nonsense in prayers.
  4. The Gentiles did not know God, so if they prayed, they were manipulating a God Who did not know or care for them. Prayer was just a formula.
- iii. What Jesus was against?
  1. Seeing God as a means to an end.
  2. Prayers without relationship.

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3. Thinking that repetition and decibels make God hear us.

**iv. The Good Father moves by the continuous cries of His Children!**

**II. God is moved by secret prayers of relationship and priority.**

- a. V. 6, 8
- b. What does secret prayers of relationship and priority look like?
  - i. When you pray ... repetition, continual, habitual.
  - ii. Go... intentional
  - iii. Into your inner room... secret.
  - iv. Close your door... focused.
  - v. Pray – speak, sing, write. All acceptable modes of prayer.
  - vi. Your Father knows
    1. Trust (He cares for every detail of my life.)
    2. Relationship – surrender (Jesus is Lord of my life) and transformational (being changed by the power of Holy Spirit.)
- vii. The Father will reward secret prayers of relationship and priority. HE WILL MOVE!**

- God the Father is not moved by showy and senseless prayer, but He does move because of secret prayers of relationship and priority by His Children.
- God is ready to move when you pray.
  - **Set a time/rhythm.**
  - **Show up.**