

The Praying Church

Take Off the Mask!

Matthew 6:5-8

**Hypocrite - one who pretends to beliefs,
sentiments, etc., he or she does not
actually feel**



Our prayers should not be ...

Pseudo Prayers - Don't be like a hypocrite or heathen. (v.5,7)

Don't pray ...

- **To be noticed in the church**
- **To be noticed outside the church**
- **Empty prayers**
- **Ritualistic prayers**

Our prayers should be ...

- **Secret Prayers**
Pray in secret as God and His listening ear and answers are found in secret.
- **Solitary Prayers**
Just me and God!
- **Substantive Prayers**
Prayers from the heart lead to answers that change the heart.

Practical Steps to Begin an Authentic Prayer-Life

- Find a place to meet with God.
- Always bring Bible, Prayer Journal, and pen.
- Dispose of distractions.
- Quiet self.
- Begin with worship followed by repentance.
- Get real with God ... Get to the point.