

# The SECRET to Answered Prayer

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The SECRET to Answered Prayer  
Matthew 6.1-8

1. Almost anyone can learn any skill.
2. Commitment to practice is essential.
3. Mastering A new skill will change your life.

Prayer is a skill:

Prayer is a skill you can learn

- No one is a “natural” prayer. We all must learn how.
- The skill is in learning to listen as well as speak.

Commitment to practice is essential

- We follow the same learning pattern as with any skill: initial success followed by an obstacle. As we persevere we breakthrough into a growing relationship.

Mastering prayer will change your life

- Those who master prayer discover:
  1. They have resources for dealing with life.
  2. Their lives are shaped from the inside out.
  3. They KNOW God.
  4. Their prayers are answered, although not always in the way they expected.

Jesus’s insights into skillful prayer (Matt. 6.1-8):

1. Be faithful to God as a sincere act of relationship and don’t display your faithfulness to God as something for other people to see. If you do, God will let you have that as your reward. However, those who are faithful to God as a sincere act of

relationship will be rewarded for it.

2. Conspire with God for the benefit of others.
3. Pray in a secret or solitary place.
4. Do not babble on.
5. Look for God's activity.

Dallas Willard, "The visible side of your life will involve highly significant events that cannot be explained in terms of the visible world."