

Sunday June 13, 2021  
Matthew 6:5-8, 16-18  
Applied Christianity: Motive is Everything, Pt. 2

Through p\_\_\_\_\_, the believer e\_\_\_\_\_ the p\_\_\_\_\_ of God.

When our p\_\_\_\_\_ becomes a p\_\_\_\_\_,  
we lose God's p\_\_\_\_\_.

When we pray, we should pray in s\_\_\_\_\_.

When we pray, we should pray with s\_\_\_\_\_.

Through f\_\_\_\_\_, the believer e\_\_\_\_\_  
God's d\_\_\_\_\_.

When our f\_\_\_\_\_ becomes b\_\_\_\_\_,  
we lose our r\_\_\_\_\_.

When we fast, we must fast s\_\_\_\_\_.

When we fast, we must fast p\_\_\_\_\_.

## Devotional Thought

I grew up on King James Version prayers. You know what I mean by that, don't you? Every prayer was filled with "thee" and "thou" and "thine." God was always addressed as Father and never as Daddy. And sometimes you would wonder if the pray-er would ever stop praying. But when they did, they would end the prayer with the same three words: lead, guide, and direct. I call that the LGD syndrome because every prayer ended that way. Every now and then I still get to listen to some of these great prayer warriors and it takes me right back to my childhood.

When I became a Christian, I wanted to pray just like that. It was how my father prayed. It was how all of the godly men and women in my life prayed. I honestly thought that if I didn't pray just like them that God wouldn't hear me, and if I didn't end my prayer with "lead, guide, and direct" that I had fallen short. I learned, though, as I matured in my faith that all God really wants from us is that we talk to Him. It isn't about our vocabulary. It isn't about the length of our prayers. It's about heartfelt communication that opens the door to a two-way conversation. And now, as I get close to the big 6-0, I have realized that my favorite prayers come from our boys and girls who just tell God how they feel and what they want. They don't care about the "thee's" and "thou's" at all. In fact, they wouldn't even know what that means, but they really know that God hears them. Sometimes as adults, I think we lose that faith. We fall back into old habits. We stop praying. Or we think that we have to use just the right words. Forget all that. Just call Him Daddy, tell Him what you need, and watch what He does.

1. Think about your prayer life. What are some of the "habits" you have developed? Are they good? Bad? Neither?
2. What is the hardest part of prayer for you? Finding the time? Staying focused? Other? What can you do to change that?
3. Why do you think God wants us to pray? Why do you want to pray? Are those reasons similar? Why or why not?