✯**Sears job/Sears Wish-book/Was only valuable if you got what you wanted…otherwise it was used for toilet paper! Prayer is like the Sears wish-book…for several reasons!**

**Series Purpose**: Demystifying prayer by offering Practical Steps for adding joy to our journey with God. (I want you to say: ***“I will understand and enjoy prayer***!”)

**Prayer Purpose**: Intimacy with God by ***honestly*** speaking and ***actively*** listening.

➢*What was it about the way John’s disciples prayed that interested Jesus’ disciples?*

*(Jesus told them what* ***NOT*** *to de* ***before*** *telling them how to pray…I’m just saying!”)*

◆Jesus tells us a **lot** about a **lot** in his prayer instructions:

* + - * The uniqueness of God
      * Our place in God
      * Our purpose in the universe
      * God’s provision and protection for us
      * The confidence we are to have in our relationship with God
      * Nothing…but nothing about this prayer hints at ritualisms or religiousness

◆**The Lord’s prayer describes God as Unique//Provider//Protector**

**Tells us that:**

* + - * There is a God and Someone is in control of everything
      * There is a plan
      * There is provision (there is enough/plenty!)
      * There is liberty
      * There is absolute authority in God

◆Prayer begins in Matt 6:9 (Luke 2)… But Jesus warns of us useless and religious prayers…

* Don’t be like the hypocrites who want to appear to be deep and religious
* Go inside, close the door, shut the windows, pray to the unseen Father (Mt 6.6) and He will see what is done is secret, and reward you.
* It’s not the multitude of words, but the sincerity of your heart (What do you do with what you’ve rec’d from God or heard from God is prayer?)
* The Father knows what you need before you ask…
* Pray **thusly**…

Our approach to God **SHOULD NOT BE OUT OF AN ATTEMPT TO BE HEARD**…but out of a sense of knowing that God already knows who you are; what you need; and is still listening!

So…what do you really need to say to God and what does God need to hear from you?

* I don’t believe prayer is about wish-books but about alignment~
* *(People who are God-aligned are \*successful!)*

◉**Our Father:**

* + - Ours together, but also, and more importantly…ours with Jesus!
    - We are wanted, loved, provided for and protected
    - We are designed BY and FROM God
    - It allays my fatherlessness fears, stress, doubts, limitation.

✓**Examples** of prayer foci … (**via praise, declaration, confessions, meditation…)**

* I am **Fathered**…I approach my Father today.
* I am grounded today…
* I am not in charge today!!! Someone else is the **BOSS**
* I am totally **owned** by you, Father. **Seen** by you, Father. **Known** by you, Father. **Loved** by you, Father.
* You were Father before I was child. You’re Identifying as a Father…Provider. Protector. Revealer.

◉**In Heaven**

* + - My Father lives above and outside my limitation and is therefore unlimited and **supersedes** human structures, strategies and strife. God’s perspective is fresh, solution-focused and eternal.
    - God is **not afraid** of who or what I am afraid of. God outranks everything and everyone one
    - God is already victorious and is not stressed over any aspect of Earthly affairs!

✓**Examples** of prayer foci … (**via praise, declaration, confessions, meditation…)**

* You are in control, not satan, not politicians, not the wealthy, not media, not religious leaders…
* Your view is omni-directional…therefore I can trust your perspective and direction
* You are enthroned… you aren’t seeking power… you possess and wield it!
* Earthly matters bow to you…not the other way around.

◉**May Your name be \**sanctified*… in praise and in deed (Call to action…not just a saying!)**

* + - Jewish people praised God via names (Nehemiah/Johnathan/Elisha/Joshua/etc.
    - Sanctify the name by exemplifying the attributes of the Names
    - Don’t swear falsely by the Name of God

✓**Examples** of prayer foci …**(via praise, declaration, confessions, meditation…)**

* God our Healer
* God our Provider
* God our Strength
* You reveal your character and identity via your names.

**Prayer Challenge:**

1. Determine where your spiritual intimacy is with God on scale of 1-10
2. Commit 10 min daily to Pray the “Our Father” using today’s tools
3. Zero in on uniqueness of God and God’s love for you as a Father

**What are the 12 names of God?**

* ELOHIM My Creator.
* JEHOVAH My Lord God/I AM
* EL SHADDAI My Supplier.
* ADONAI My Master.
* JEHOVAH JIREH My Provider.
* JEHOVAH ROPHE My Healer.
* JEHOVAH NISSI My Banner.
* JEHOVAH MAKADESH My Sanctifier.