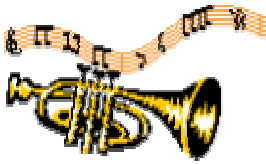


## Matthew Chapter 6

**Matthew 6:1** – *Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.*

In Jesus' teaching, he warned the people to take thought of what motivation they were giving their alms. Alms are money or goods given to the poor in charity. Jesus' teaching on almsgiving was to instruct the believer not to give in order to receive recognition of themselves. Many times individuals have the wrong motivations for giving. We shouldn't be as the world, but as the Word. The law of Moses made an ample provision against poverty, and if they had been strictly kept in letter and in spirit there would not have been destitution. The giving of alms is a great duty which all Disciples of Christ according to their ability must abound in. When we give from our hearts we shouldn't give to receive pats on our back. If we give according to the word of God we will receive a reward from God, and if we give to be seen of men then we shall lose our blessings. God never forgets our labor of love (**Hebrews 6:10** *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed towards his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister*). With man we can give today and if we disagree with them tomorrow how soon will they forget what we have done through charity, but when we give from the heart, it's with love and God will remember when man has forgotten.



**Matthew 6:2** – *Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the street, that they may have glory of men, Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.*

Many times Christians want both those in the church as well as those in the community to know what they have done. We should be concerned about what God thinks of us rather than what man thinks. Jesus said "they already have their reward", because they want glory of men.

**Matthew 6:3** – *But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth.*

Whatever kindness your right hand provides to the poor, let not your left hand know it, conceal it, keep it privately. Do it because of good works, not because it will give you a good name. Do it because we're doing it according to the word of God. (**Proverbs 19:17** – *He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he has given will he pay again*). (**Psalms 112:1-5** – *He that hath a bountiful (generous) eye shall be blessed; for he giveth his bread to the poor.*) The word of God tells us to be doers of the word and not hearers only. When we comply with the word of God we can expect God's blessings.

**Matthew 6:4** – *That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.*

When God blesses us because of our faithfulness and sincerity we don't have to tell anyone, they can look and see the blessings of God following us. They will see the blessings of prosperity surrounding us spiritually, naturally, mentally, emotionally, physical and financially because we did it from the heart. One can give faithfully and it's not from the heart, so in order to receive the blessings of God that will never fade away, it must be done from the heart in sincerity.

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**Matthew 6:5** - *And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites (pretenders) are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets that they may be seen of men, Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.*

Whether we're praying or giving alms it should be done in a manner that it will not bring attention to ourselves. Whatever we do, we should do it as glorifying the Lord. God said that He wouldn't give his glory to no man and when we try seeking His glory we get ourselves in trouble with Him. There are those that never pray at home, but when they attend church they want to pray. In a case like this, their not praying to the Father, they're praying to bring attention to themselves. Whatever we do it should be done in a manner that would please God. They have their reward. It appears that He doesn't take it lightly when we do things to be seen by man.

**Matthew 6:6** - *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet (inner room) and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which seeth in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*

God desires to have a close relationship with us. In order to have fellowship with God there must first be a relationship. In order to have a relationship we must spend quality time with Him to get to know Him. When you love someone you want to spend time with them alone, you don't want everyone hearing your conversation. In the natural you can tell when someone has been with the one they love. They have such a cheerful expression, they smile when they're usually complaining or looking angry. Well its similar when we have been with God. We don't have to tell anyone we've been in prayer, because they will see our attitude and character changing more in the image of Jesus, we become more Christ like. We're no longer grumpy, we're no longer complaining about this and that. There will be a glow on our face. When we leave the presence of God He gives us something in return. He anoints us to walk as disciples of Jesus Christ. He places His word in our mouth that when we speak according to His word it brings about a change in our lives as well as others. We go to Him in secret, but He rewards us where others will know that we have been with the Master.

**Matthew 6:7** - *But when you pray, use not vain repetitions, as they heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.*

Prayer is not a recitation or recital or a special prepared or memorized material. Prayer is contacting God with your heart and your spirit. God is not interested in how long we pray or how many times we pray for the same thing. When we go to God in prayer and ask Him to help us to pray according to His will, we move from praying out of our fleshly desires and begin to pray His will which is His word. We can pray for hours, but if its not from the heart, if it's not with sincerity then we're only making noise, but when we begin to pray from our inner man in the spirit realm we can feel a change. When we begin to reach God in the spirit that's when we know that He hears our prayers and He will answer us according to His will. **(1st John 5:14-15)** - *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us. And we know that he heard us, whosoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired (asked) of him.* When we pray according to the word of God we have a sure guarantee that our prayers will be answered.

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**Matthew 6:8** - *Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.*

When we pray, pray with faith. Praying without faith is a waste of your time, because you receive what you expect. If you expect nothing that is exactly what you will get, but if you go in expectation you shall receive from the Lord. Jesus was not instructing His followers not to ask the Father regarding their needs, He was instructing them not to let it be their entire prayer for what they want and what they need, God knows what we have need of, and He wants us to ask him, but the entire prayer shouldn't be about ourselves and our family. Secondly, we must know the difference between a need and a want. God said He would supply all of our needs, He didn't say He would supply all of our wants. Every need we have God will provide. Many times we spend hours praying for our needs when all we have to do is tell him according to His word.

**(Philippians 4:6** - *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God.* If we don't pray then we can't receive an answer to what's in our heart. Prayer is not always with sound, we can pray in our hearts, meaning it would be silent. Hannah prayed for a boy child and because her lips was moving but there wasn't any sound the prophet thought she was drunk. God's desire for us is to pray, but not praying repetitions. Repetitive prayer is when we continue to ask for the same thing during our prayer thinking because we prayed a long time makes the prayer be answered, whether long or short, if it's from the heart God will hear and answer. Some would say if one prayed more than once for the same thing then the individual is not asking in faith. We should pray until we see a manifestation of God in the prayer whether its days, weeks, months or years. The scripture is not saying not to continue in prayer for what you're praying for, it's saying you don't have to stay in prayer for hours repeating the same prayer.

**Matthew 6:9** - *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed would be thy name.*

Hallowed would be thy name is giving glory to God for who He is and what He means to us. When you love and admire someone you want to give them all the prompts that's due them. Our Father is making it personal, you recognize Him as God, but also as your Father. When we go to our earthly father we know that he loves us and we trust that when we ask him for what we want he will give it to us, if its not detrimental to our well-being. Our Heavenly Father loves us much more than our earthly father's could every love us. Our Heavenly Father is one that knows all, hears all, understand all, and He has all power in His hand to deliver us from anything or anyone that may have us bound, His name is above all names. Jesus taught us how to address ourselves to God when He becomes our Father. Everyone cannot go to God and call Him Father, because He is not the Father of all. He said "He was the God of all creation" indicating He is the God of the human race, but the Father to those that have received His Son as Jesus the Son of God and received of the Spirit of God. God is not the Father of those that hasn't received His Spirit (**1st John 5:12** *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*) Life is in the blood and the only way we can receive life is through the blood of Jesus, being born of the Spirit of God.

**Matthew 6:10** - *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

We're saying God, not my will, but let your will be done in me, in my life, in everything that pertains to me. Let your will be on earth as it is in heaven, as your word declare, your word is forever settle in heaven. When God's will is on earth as it is in heaven, there will be no more sickness, death, poverty, molestation, or disease. When God's will is on earth as it is in heaven everyone will be serving and worshipping Him in the beauty of holiness. God's will is for no man to perish, but since we are free agents, we have a choice

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whether we want life or death.

**Matthew 6:11** - *Give us this day our daily bread.*

Because our natural being is necessary to our spiritual being in this world, we pray for the necessary support and comfort for this present life. God has promised us in His word that He would supply all of our needs, so we must believe and stand on the promises of God after asking Him for our daily bread. As we read the word of God, we should always ask God to open our understanding to the word of God. No matter how many times we have read the word of God the Holy Spirit will always give new revelation when we seek for knowledge and understanding.

**Matthew 6:12** - *And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.*

We pray for God's forgiveness of the sins we have committed. This is not indicating that we should practice sin and then continue to come to God asking for forgiveness. This is why the scripture tells us that those that are called by His name, if they would humble themselves and pray and turn from their wicked ways then He would hear from heaven and heal our land. Turn means to stop practicing sin. There are times that we sin against one another and we want forgiveness, but we don't ask God to help us to forgive those that have wronged us. As we want God to forgive us our sins we should also forgive those that have wronged us. When we begin to think about the awesomeness of God and there is nothing done in heaven or under heaven that He doesn't see or hear, we must realize that God has it under control. We don't have to avenge ourselves because vengeance belongs to Him. Put the person or persons in God's hands and let Him deal with them.



**Matthew 6:13** - *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (the evil one): For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever Amen.*

Lead us not into temptation is a plea for the providential help of God. Whatever trial or tribulation that may come our way there is no other help other than God's help. He is the only one that can lead us away from the enemy's trap. Lead us not into temptation is asking God for his daily help that saves us from the enemy as well as our selfish will. Keep in mind that God will never test us in order to give us the opportunity to prove our faithfulness to him. He knows what's in the heart of man. He wants us to know what's in our hearts. God is not evil so He would never lead us into evil.

**Matthew 6:14** - *For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:*

As Christians it should be in our hearts to forgive others as we desire our Heavenly Father to forgive us of our sins. Yes, it is easier said than done, but if we pray with sincerity, asking God to help us to forgive those that have wronged us, He will be right there to assist us. As we grow in the Grace of God we don't want anything or anyone to hinder us from being all that we can be in Jesus. When we don't forgive we're giving

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Satan an open door to use us. When we hold on to hurts, and disappointments we're opening a door for sickness and disease to attack our bodies as well as stagnate our growth in the Spirit of God. God is always ready to forgive and as children of God we too should always be ready to forgive. Our duty as a Christian is to forgive and we must forbear, and forgive, and forget the affronts put upon us. Many times we don't have peace because in our spirit or our emotions, we're holding grudges and unforgiveness, LET IT GO, RELEASE IT!

**Matthew 6:15** - *But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

Because Jesus have instructed us in how to receive forgiveness from the Father, and how to forgive others if we fail to do so, indicates we're willingly walking in unforgiveness. The blessings of God cannot overtake us when we're walking contrary to the word of God.

**Matthew 6:16** - *Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites (pretenders) of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their rewards.*

Fasting is a very important part of a Christian's life. As Christians we must fast and pray, but we should do it without drawing attention to ourselves. Whatever we do spiritually we should do it from our hearts. Jesus instructed us not to be as the hypocrites when we fast. The hypocrites pretended to fast. Many times we fast for carnally things, and as we do this we're not pleasing God. Just because we fast does not indicate that we're super spiritual. We fast in order to make our flesh come subject to the spirit of God. We fast that we maybe more sensitive to the Spirit of God. We fast in order to present ourselves to God in order that He may use us as an instrument. When we fast to get applause of men Jesus said we will receive our rewards. In other words we're receiving what we want from man, but we will not receive from God because we're not acknowledging God in our fast. We're not fasting to please God, we're fasting to receive glory from man.

**Matthew 6:17**- *But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face.*

When we fast we should make sure that we're clean. Whenever God told the children of Israel to fast He instructed them to wash themselves as well as their clothes. Fasting and haven't bathe is not acceptable in God's eyes. Instructions are that we should anoint our heads and wash our face, so if the face is to be washed, one would think the the rest of the body would need washing too!

**Matthew 6:19** - *Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal.*

Many times as Christians we loose our focus on where our treasure should be. There is nothing wrong with being prosperous, but in order for us to be prosperous God's way, we must follow His instructions. Sometimes we place more focus on working a job to gain prosperity financially rather than doing God's work or we maybe more focus on our health by going to health clubs and spas instead of attending the house of God. Sometimes we may place more emphasis on our education instead of being filled with the word of God that will give us knowledge and wisdom for both the natural and the spiritually. Whatever we can gain and see with the natural eye isn't spiritually and it will pass away. If we set our affections on heavenly things, we don't have to worry about losing things of the natural.

**Matthew 6:20** - *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.*

Jesus is instructing us not to place things we can see, things that are temporal, our best things and placing our happiness in them. When we follow Jesus as the disciples did we must leave everything that is temporal and place God as the head of our lives. Things on this earth will pass away sooner or later, but the prayers, and supplications we have before God that have went into heaven before us, they will always be there. When we begin to get spiritual minded we're not so easily shaken when trouble comes because we know who can solve the problems of our lives. When we place God first in our hearts there is nothing that can come upon us that would make us leave God and return to Egypt (worldly activities). The thief can't come in and still our joy if God is in our heart. We can walk in joy when everything around us seems to be falling piece by piece. Man can give you happiness, but God will give you joy. Happiness can be turned to sadness or disappointment with one phone call, but with joy whatever the phone call maybe about, whatever tribulation we maybe going through, we can walk in joy when God is living in the inside. When we have given God our hearts, we watch our heart, we guard our heart from things that will corrupt our spirits as well as our hearts.



**Matthew 6:21** - *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

You can tell where a person's heart is just by their conversation. Too many times we place, people, places and things before God, because there is where our heart is. God told us in His word if we place anything before Him we have made that person or thing our god. One of the ten commandments was that we serve no other God. The reason why some of the children of Israel where consumed in the wilderness is because of fear, unbelief and idol worship. We give our hearts to everything except Jesus. Whether we believe it or not, God's Son is coming back and when He returns He will not be returning in love, but in wrath. For everyone that has an idol will receive the wrath of God. God told us to worship Him in spirit and in truth. If were serving another god we can't be serving God in loyalty. God does not want a part time lover. He wants our entire being to worship Him and love Him and when we do, we're yielding our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We will yield our time to do whatever God has called us to do. We will yield our money to support the building of the kingdom of God. We would spend time with God instead of spending all of our time watching television or whatever we're placing before God. Check your heart and see whose taking first place.



**Matthew 6:22** - *The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.*

The eye, that is the understanding; the practical judgment, the conscience which is to the other faculties of the soul, as the eye is to the body, to guide and direct the motions; now if the eye is single, if it make a true and right judgment, it will rightly guide the affections and actions, which will all be full of the light of grace and comfort. Those that look with an pure eye will see pureness in others, but those that have corrupt and an evil eye will only see what's within themselves and will not see the goodness in others.

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With the spiritual eye we will see others short coming, but that's to make us pray, fast and work with them until God be formed in them.

**Matthew 6:23** - *But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness.*

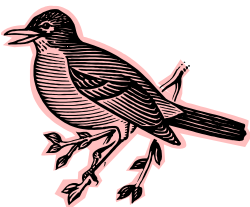
The eye, that is, the aims and intentions; by the eye we set our end before us. If the Son of God lives in us, there shouldn't be any darkness, because there is no darkness in Jesus. An evil eye does not seek heavenly things, but only those things that pertain to the world, lust of the eye, lust of the flesh and the pride of life.

**Matthew 6:24** - *No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon (riches).*

Mammon is a Syriac word, that signifies gain; so whatever in this world is, or is accounted by us to be gain is mammon. Whatever is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, is mammon. Self, the unity in which the world's trinity centers, sensual, secular self, is the mammon which cannot be served in conjunction with God. Many times religious people think they can serve both God and themselves, they can't see denying themselves and follow after Jesus. (**Matthew 16:24** - *Then said Jesus unto his disciples. If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.*) We must get heavenly minded, and seek those things that are above.

**Matthew 6:25** - *Therefore I say unto you. Take no thought for your life. What ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body what ye shall put on . Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

Jesus is telling us, as His disciples not to be anxious over nothing, don't worry about what we're going to eat or drink, don't worry about tomorrow because tomorrow isn't promised to us. Worry is the opposite of faith. God said we must have faith in order to please Him, we must believe that God is a rewarded of those that diligently seek Him on a continues basis, not just when trouble arises. If we seek Him daily in prayer, our faith would make worry flee. We would place all of our trust in Him, because we know that He is the provider of every one of our needs, because He is the Lord and our Shepherd and we shall not want.



**Matthew 6:26** - *Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are you not much better than they?*

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Jesus used a natural object to bring about a spiritual meaning. The birds are fed daily because God uses mankind to see to their needs and just as He take care of the fowls of the air, surely He will take care of those that He gave His only begotten Son for. Many times Satan wants us to think that God doesn't love us because of our mistakes or our shortcomings. God does not love our sin, but He loves us. As long as we live whether we serve Him or if we reject Him, God will always love and provide for His people. Many times the children of Israel forsook God, but he always provided for them, and they always was compensated for their sin.

**Matthew 6:27** - *Which of you by taking (worrying) thought can add one cubit unto his stature?*

The only thing worrying has provided for those that worry is strokes, heart attacks, nervous breakdowns, ulcers and so forth. Worrying has never placed money in our checking account. Worrying causes us to not hear from God, worrying is the opposite of faith.

**Matthew 6:28** - *And why take (do you worry) ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:*

Jesus instructed us to observe the providence of God concerning the birds, and the plants. There are various sorts of fowls and plants, but they are fed with food convenient for them. God knows what we have need of, and He has promised that He would supply all of our needs.

**Matthew 6:29** *And yet I say unto you. That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed (clothed) like one of these.*

With all that Solomon possessed it didn't come close to the beauty of the lilies of the field. The excellences of the creature flow from God. It was He that fed the fowls their food and the lily its beauty.

**Matthew 6:30** - *Wherefore, if God so clothe (clothes) the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*

God want us to place our faith in Him, not our circumstances or our discomforts. Just as He provides for the fowls and the lilies, He will also provide for His people. As we place our trust in God and do what is required of us then He will provide the need. We can't trust God for a job and never go and fill out an application, or look in the want ad, but yet, we're trusting God. It don't work like that. If we're trusting God for deliverance of a habit, we don't continue to invite Jody or Sue in a place where we know we will end up sinning. Yes, God will supply all of our needs, but we must position ourselves to receive His blessings. You maybe living all you know how and you're having financial problems, seek God in prayer, listening for His direction, it is He that will instruct and direct you in which way to go to get out of your dilemmas. Just as he provide for nature, He will also provide for His creation.

**Matthew 6:31** - *Therefore take (do not worry) no thought, saying what shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or Wherewithal shall we be clothed.*

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Look at nature and it will testify of God's goodness. God has each one of us in the palm of His hand. He knows all, He sees all, and He hears all. There is nothing that is going on in our lives that God is not aware of. Don't worry about your bills, your spouse, children or job. All these things God gave for our enjoyment, they weren't given to us for us to worry about them. If you lose your job, God will bless you with another one, better than the one you had. If your spouse is unfaithful, tell God about it and let Him deal with them. If your children are misbehaving, tell God about it and begin to pray the prayer of faith over them. You do your part and God will do His. Don't worry about tomorrow, enjoy the day, trust God today. Believe the report of God and not the report of the adversary.

**Matthew 6:32** - *(For all these things do the Gentiles seek): for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*

When we begin to worry about what we will eat, drink or wear, we're placing these items as our god and we don't have time to think on God because we're busy worrying about these things. If we keep our mind on Him, He will keep us in perfect peace. Our job nor our spouses are the supplier of our every need. God is the Source of our resource. What you need God's got it!

**Matthew 6:33** *But seek you the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

Just as God will provide our spiritual need as we seek Him by prayer, studying or reading His word. He will also supply all of our material needs. Solomon asked God to bless him to discern between good and evil. He wanted wisdom from God in order that he would be able to direct and instruct God's people. He wanted to do it God's way and because he desired that, God blessed Solomon with wisdom and knowledge as well as wealth. Because Solomon was seeking after the things of God, God also blessed him abundantly above all that he could ask or think, spiritually and financially.

**Matthew 6:34** - *Take (don't not worry about tomorrow) therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil (trouble) thereof.*

Don't worry about tomorrow, rejoice and be happy for today. No one knows what tomorrow may bring. Know that He that has control over today also controls our tomorrows. What He provided today, He will also provide for tomorrow. God is our beginning and He's our ending. God will be an oasis in every dry and dead place in our lives if we let Him. He can destroy or established everything we need in our lives, He will perfect everything that concerns us!

**Be blessed and know that God is bigger than any problem you can ever have!**

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