

PRAYING LIKE CHILDREN

Written by David Feddes

Read Matthew 6:5-15

When you pray, do not keep on babbling... for your Father knows what you need.

□ **Matthew 6:7**



If you are new to faith in Jesus, or even if you've been a Christian for a long time, you may find it hard to pray; you're not sure you know the right words. But take heart. According to Jesus, prayer doesn't have to be fancy. When you pray, you are not performing to impress the judge of a speech contest; you are pouring out your heart to your Father. He understands you and knows what you need even before you ask him.

Think of words you learned as a child: "Daddy." "Wow!" "I'm sorry." "Please." "Thank you." "Ouch!" "Why?" "I love you." If you know these words, you can pray. Like a child saying "Daddy," talk to God as your dear Father (Matthew 6:9). Like a child exclaiming "Wow!" or "Awesome!", marvel at God and praise his wonders (Psalm 104). Like a child sobbing "I'm sorry," admit your sins to God and ask his forgiveness (Psalm 51). Like a child begging "Please," bring your requests to God urgently but respectfully, trusting him to give you what is best for you (Matthew 6:7). Like a child saying "Thank you," count your blessings and thank God for his answers to prayer (Psalm 107). Like a child screaming "Ouch!", tell God your pain and problems (Psalm 6). Like a child asking "Why?", bring your confusion to God and seek his wisdom (James 1:5). Like a child saying, "I love you," pour out your love to God, and rest in his love (Psalm 18:1).

PRAYER--Father, thank you for hearing me. By your Spirit, with Jesus praying alongside me,

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help me speak from my heart to your heart, knowing that you, dear Father, will answer in love.
Amen.