

# Inner Life of the Called

#3278 26 0308A

1590wds

Matthew 6:1-15

**1** There is a difference between public performance and private prayers.

**2** In *Dark to Different* we learned that it's not *outward* righteousness but *inner* sincerity that matters. It is living our life distinctly *different* from the world.

**3** *Character of the Called* explained that the *real* Christian life is from a true *inner* trust on God, and *Beyond Surface Faith* warned of religion which *looks* holy to people but *lacks* faith in God.

**4** The issue is not about what others *see*—but what the Father *knows* is in our heart.

## Performing for Applause

**5** NKJV Matthew 6:1 “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

**6** <sup>2</sup> “Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.”

**7** Doing charitable deeds is right but not doing so to *be seen*—there *is* a difference.

**8** We let our life of faith in God *shine* before others—not to be *seen* but to be *known* by God. It's not about *visibility* but about *motive*.

**9** Satan wants us to crave *attention*; receive a *compliment*; or see a *nod* of approval—and our *wanting* that can stay with us.

**10** The Pharisees were actors performing for applause. Jesus called them hypocrites because they were *acting spiritual* but not *being spiritual*.

**11** Satan makes people *want* to be seen and *serve* for applause but if we do anything to get attention—that *is all* we get.

## Giving from the Heart

**12** NKJV Matthew 6:3 “But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

**13** <sup>4</sup> that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”

**14** We give anonymously to help someone and being generous in doing so—that is a *character trait* of the *called* and is reflecting the heart of God.

**15** If we give so others would *hear* and think *well* of us—that is *all* the reward we get. *Public* giving inflates the ego, but *secret* giving humbles the heart.

**16** Jesus says *Your Father rewards you*—because He wants a close and personal relationship with us, and desires to bless us for giving a donation or doing anything in such a way that one hand isn't aware of what the other is doing.

## Praying without Performance

**17** Matthew 6:5 “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of

the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

**18** <sup>6</sup> “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

**19** Prayer is not for show—and Jesus warns against wanting to “*be seen*” by others instead seeking a secret place when speaking with God.

**20** It is always the *motive* that matters as Jesus and the church had to pray in public at times.

**21** Intention is the issue—prayer is not a *performance* but a *communion* with our heavenly Father.

**22** If giving a donation is a test of our *generosity*, then prayer to God a test of our *closeness* with the Father. We pray because we *love the Lord*—not because we love being noticed.

**23** Matthew 6:7 “And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.”

**24** Jesus repeated prayers in Gethsemane so He is explaining that prayers should not be *empty phrases* without sincerity; *repeated words* without relationship.

**25** <sup>8</sup> “Therefore do not be like them [heathen]. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”

**26** The Father *knows* what we need before we ask Him—so prayer is not to *inform* Him but to *align* our heart with Him.

**27** He invites us to connect personally with Him through prayer as a loving father would want to connect personally with his own child.

## Pattern for Prayer

**28** Jesus explains how to word our prayers. <sup>9</sup> “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.”

**29** We first identify the One to *whom* we pray which is the Father in Heaven.

**30** We greatly esteem His *Name* that is always revered, respected, and honored. Before *requests* come *reverence*; Before *petitions* come *praise*. **10** “*Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*”

**31** Looking for His return and desiring to do the will of the Father is to be our continuing focus.

**32** We live in a culture that begins with “*give me,*” but Jesus teaches us to begin with “*provide us*” **11** “*this day our daily bread.*”

**33** *Dark to Different* told us that changing our attitude from *loathing* to *loving* our neighbor changes our *direction* from *Hades* to *Heaven*.

**34** And our prayers are for one day—not for a month or year. It is a reminder that God’s daily provisions are by His mercy, love, and grace.

**35** A vital part of the prayer is confession and repentance. **Matthew 6:12** “*And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.*”

**36** We *ask* for mercy to us and *extend* mercy to others. We must not *cling* to grudges and still *claim* we are under grace. Forgiveness *received* must become forgiveness *released* to others.

**37** The Lord’s Prayer is well balanced—*reverence and relationship; dependence and surrender; confession and protection*—it’s not *long* just *real*.

**38** **Matthew 6:13** “*And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For [Thine] is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*”

### **Seriousness of Forgiveness**

**39** Jesus circles back to—**14** “*For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*”

**40** Then He gives the consequences if will not let go of grudges, past wrongs, and bitter feelings. **15** “*But if you do not forgive men their*

*trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*”

**41** Unforgiveness poisons our inner life. We can give quietly; pray privately; and appear righteous, but if resentment remains our *inner life* needs correcting.

**42** *Beyond Surface Faith* told how spiritually dangerous it is to *look* clean on the outside but *remain* unchanged on the inside.

**43** Resentment is a sure sign of *surface faith*. The *forgiven* must become *forgivers*—not because it is easy; not because the wounds are not real; but because *God’s grace* rewrites and redirects the direction of our life.

**44** The prayer says—*your Father who sees in secret*—which is *one* believer to *One* Father—an *audience of One*.

**45** Whose eyes matter? Who alone can forgive? It is the Father who knows the heart.

**46** The world loves being visible; social media thrives on display—but Jesus invites us to enter the secret place with God. “*Go into your room, and pray to your Father who is in the secret place.*”

**47** The Pharisees wanted to display outward conformity, but God’s kingdom operates from the *inside out*.

**48** Jesus goes beneath *outward* behavior to the *inner* condition of the heart. It is not outward *compliance* but inward *reliance* on God.

**49** Our *Inner Life* must be right with God for our *visible life* to be right with others.

**50** It means giving when *no one sees*; Praying when *no one applauds*; Trusting when *no one confirms* since *God* sees and knows and provides.

**51** Those who seek no spotlight *shine the brightest*; Those who want no applause *experience the greatest joy*.

**52** Trusting only on God results in no pressure to impress; No anxiety to compare; No striving to

perform—just faithfully walking with the One who holds our very life in His hands.

**53** When our devotion is only of God—our generosity *increases*; our prayers *deepen*; our forgiveness *expands*; and our dependence on God *improves*. It is the *Character of the Called* coming from the sincerity of our heart.

**54** We need to ask—Who is my audience? If it is people, the reward is temporary; If it is God, the reward is eternal.

**55** With the help of the Holy Spirit, may we live in such a way that when the Father looks into the *secret place* of our prayers, He sees the sincerity of our *Inner Life* and richly rewards us.



1 *Character of the Called* is *inner trust* on God

2 Giving is not to be *seen* but to be *known*

3 Prayer is not to *inform* but to *align*

4 To not *loathe* but *love* our neighbor changes our direction from *Hades* to *Heaven*

5 Forgiveness *received* means forgiveness *given*—the *forgiven* become *forgivers*

6 We *forgive* when **no one sees**...  
*pray* when **no one applauds**...  
*trust* when **no one confirms**...

7 God *sees* and *knows* and *provides*

[www.fcgchurch.org](http://www.fcgchurch.org)

\*Receive free Tracts email:  
[fcgchurch1@gmail.com](mailto:fcgchurch1@gmail.com)

#3278 26 0308A

Matthew 6:1-15