

The Faith Fight Podcast - How Not To Be A Hypocrite

“The Bible tells us that a hypocrite is someone who puts on a mask and pretends to be something he is not. Hypocrisy is to claim to know and follow certain beliefs but to behave in a way that counteracts those beliefs. While we should have wisdom to discern words and actions that do not match, we also need to remember that God is the ultimate judge of character. Use these Bible verses and scriptures to guide your own holiness!”

*If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. - **1 John 4:20***

It’s easy to say that we love God when that love doesn’t cost us anything more than weekly attendance in church, but the real test of our love for God is how we treat the people right in front of us - Our family members and fellow believers. We cannot truly love God while neglecting to love those who are created in his image around us.

*You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. - **Matthew 7:5***

People sometime act like hypocrites when they are quick to point out the faults of others and overlook their own faults, which in some cases are even worse. This verse is saying to always evaluate yourself first before you try to pass judgement on someone else.

*“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. - **Matthew 6:1-2***

The term “hypocrites” here describes people who do good acts for appearances only, not out of compassion, love or a pure heart. Their actions may be good but their motives come out of a hollow self-centered heart.

*You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” - **Matthew 15:7-9***

When we claim to honor God while our hearts are far from Him, our worship means nothing. It is not enough to act religious. Our actions and attitudes must be sincere. If they are not, Isaiah’s words also describe us.

*“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.” - **Matthew 6:5***

Some people (Especially religious leaders) wanted to be seen as holy and public prayer was one way to get attention but Jesus saw through their self-righteous acts. At the very core of prayer it is a private connection and communication to God. He is the only audience that you should focus on when you are praying by yourself or with others.

*““No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.” - **Luke 16:13-15 NIV***

The Pharisees acted piously to get praise from others but God knew what was in their heart. They considered their wealth to be a sign of God’s approval. God detested their wealth because it caused them to abandon true spirituality. Though prosperity may earn the praise of people, it must never substitute for devotion and service to God.

*The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. – **Luke 18:11***

This Pharisee did not go to the temple to pray to God but he announced it to all who could hear and what he did was made himself out to be better than the tax collector. The truth of the matter though is that we all are sinners and need forgiveness that is only offered through Jesus. This Pharisee not only was acting like a hypocrite but was also stuck in pride as well.

Weekly Prayer Plan – How Not To Be A Hypocrite

How to Use this Template:

Download and save this document to begin using at the beginning (Monday) of every week. Every Week will have different bible verses to meditate on based on the Faith Fight Podcast episode topic for that week. Determine the time and place that you will devote to prayer. The below structure is set for one hour and is only used as a guide. You can adjust your timing if necessary.

Time: _____

Place: _____

5 min – Drawing Near To God

5 min – Confession

10 min – God-Centered Petitions

10 min – Intercessory Prayer

10 min – Personal Petitions

15 min – Meditation

5 min – Praise, Thanksgiving & Closing

1. **DRAWING NEAR TO GOD** - Matt. 6:9 “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”

God the Father is the focus of all our prayers. We should never forget what a privilege it is to bend our knees on earth and reach almighty God in heaven.

2. **CONFESSION** - Matt. 6:12 “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”

When we repent and forgive others, we maintain fellowship with God. But if we hold grudges, that fellowship is broken. God loves to answer our prayers when the lines of communication are not disrupted.

3. **GOD CENTERED PETITIONS** Matt 6:10 “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.”

Prayer should reflect a desire to align ourselves with God’s goals and purposes, not to get Him to follow our plans.

4. **PERSONAL PETITIONS** Matt 6:11 “Give us today our daily bread.”

We are dependent upon the Lord for our needs and He wants us to come to Him with our requests.

5. **MEDITATION Joshua 1:8** “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

Meditation is thinking about the word of God to understand what it means in the context of the scripture and how it can apply to your life today. The Word of God is powerful enough to still be relevant in your life today even though it was written thousands of years ago.

Read through the scripture passages for today as listed below:

Meditational Verses

Monday: **Matthew 7:1-5**

Tuesday: **Matthew 6:1-2**

Wednesday: **1 John 4**

Thursday: **Matthew 15:7-9**

Friday: **Luke 18:9-14**

Saturday: **Matthew 6:5**

Sunday: **Luke 16:1-15**

Once you have read the scripture for today, write down your answer to the questions below or any other insight/revelation that you receive in your prayer journal.

1. Is there a promise to claim?
2. Is there a lesson to learn?
3. Is there a blessing to enjoy?
4. Is there a command to obey?
5. Is there a sin to avoid?
6. Is there a new thought to carry with me?

6. **PRAISE & THANKSGIVING 1 John 5:14-15** “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

We can end our prayer time with confidence that God has heard our prayer and will answer in His perfect timing. Demonstrate your faith in Him by showing thanks before you see the answer to your prayers.