

The Simple Gospel

How do we live it?

Pastor Craig Sweeney | November 16, 2025

Thread: Time in the chair comes with its own rewards.

“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. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” **Matthew 6:5-8 ESV**

Myth: All God’s and religions are the same.

Especially in the US, we assume and overlay the *love, relationship, grace, mercy and hope* of Christianity to every other religion.

- None of them claim this about themselves.

“Pray then like this:” **Matthew 6:9a ESV**

God is always with us, prayer is the intentional time we spend together.

“Our Father in heaven...” **Matthew 6:9b ESV**

This is the relationship He chooses to use.

- We now know His intentions and motives towards us.

“...hallowed be your name.” **Matthew 6:9c ESV**

Giving awe to My Father in heaven.

- Or am I? That would *not* be His problem, but mine.
- When I underestimate WHO my Father is, I am the one who loses. **John 4:9-11**

“Your kingdom come your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Matthew 6:10 ESV

This is what we gain when we know who it is we are speaking to.

- Jesus brings clarity to what His will means for us in this sermon.
- God wants to break into your life.

“Give us this day our daily bread,” **Matthew 6:11 ESV**

What is your need?

Sometimes in the inner room, I discover:

- I don’t *need* it.
- It’s in my strength to get it.
- How grateful I am to be His daughter/son.

“...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Matthew 6:12 ESV

Keeping my heart and mind clean of life’s debris.

- In the inner room I wrestle with God over the pain I’ve caused Him and others, along with the pain others have caused me.
- I settle my debts by asking for forgiveness from my Father and by forgiving others.

“...and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Matthew 6:13 ESV

Acknowledging I am vulnerable and in need of my Father’s help and rescue.

Challenge:

- Has your thinking about Chair Time shifted? How?
- Do we know Who we are speaking to in prayer?
- Do I want the rewards of Chair Time?
- What freedom would I have if I cleaned out the debris?

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