**Pray First** *\*\*Series Graphic\*\**

**Part 1: Ask**

(Matthew 7:7-8)

“**Ask** and it will be given to you; **seek** and you will find; **knock** and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who **asks receives**; the one who **seeks finds**; and to the one who **knocks, the door will be opened**.”

1. Keep **Asking**—is prayer.
2. Keep **Seeking**—is earnest prayer.
3. Keep **Knocking**—is actively patient in prayer.

(Matthew 7:8)

“For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, **the door will be opened**.”

**How Jesus Said to Pray**

(Matthew 6:1)

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others **to be seen** by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

(Matthew 6:2-4)

“So when you give to the needy, **do not announce it with trumpets**, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your **Father**, who sees what is don’t in secret, **will reward you**.”

(Matthew 6:5-8)

“And **when you pray**, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be **seen** by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But **when you pray**, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, **will reward you**. And **when you pray**, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

**Jesus likes—**a heart that is **right**, prayer that is **real**.

(Matthew 6:9)

“This, then, is **how you should pray**: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name,’”

1. Approach God with **honor** and **worship**.

(Matthew 6:10)

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

1. Pray for **God’s** will.

(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.”

God’s **will** is God’s **word**.

(Matthew 6:11)

“Give us today our **daily bread**.”

1. Pray for your **personal** needs.

(James 4:2-3)

“You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. **You do not have because you do not ask God**. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

(Matthew 6:12-13)

“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.”

1. Pray to find **freedom**.

(Acts 13:38-39a)

“Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes **is set free from every sin**,”