

SONRISE CHURCH  
**I Am a Church Member — Part 2**

*Praying & Serving*  
Matthew 6:5–13 | Philippians 2:5–8

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### KEY THOUGHTS

- 1. Prayer is relationship, not ritual.** Prayer is simply talking to God—the King of Kings who wants to hear from us. It requires no special language, no formula, and no audience. The significance is not technique but access: the Maker of heaven and earth invites us into conversation.
- 2. Private prayer is effective prayer.** Jesus warns against performative prayer and calls us into a quiet place where we can give God our full attention (Matt 6:5–6). One believer praying alone can accomplish extraordinary things—Elijah and the prophets of Baal prove it.
- 3. The Lord’s Prayer is a template, not a script.** Jesus gives us a pattern—adoration, submission to God’s will, daily provision, forgiveness, and deliverance—not a mantra to repeat. Vain repetition turns prayer into the very babbling Jesus forbids.
- 4. Prayer aligns our will with God’s will.** “Your will be done” tempers our expectations and sets us up for peace. When we pray in alignment with God’s will, He hears and fulfills (1 John 5:14–15). Prayer is not a hack to get what we want; it reshapes what we want.
- 5. Service is the visible side of prayer.** Prayer without service becomes self-serving spirituality; service without prayer becomes self-powered exhaustion. Together, they create Spirit-filled transformation. Jesus—who emptied Himself and took the form of a servant (Phil 2:5–8)—is our model.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** In Matthew 6:5–6, Jesus contrasts performative prayer with private prayer. What makes private prayer more effective, and what obstacles keep you from finding that “quiet place”?
- 2.** Read Philippians 2:5–8. What stands out to you about the way Jesus approached His role, and how does that reshape your understanding of service?
- 3.** Pastor Chris said, “Prayer without service becomes self-serving spirituality. Service without prayer becomes self-powered exhaustion.” Which side of that coin do you tend to lean toward? Why?
- 4.** The Lord’s Prayer includes “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.” Why is unforgiveness such a barrier to both prayer and service? Is there someone you need to forgive this week?

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**5.** The sermon pointed out that Matthew 18:20 (“where two or three are gathered”) is about church discipline, not prayer. How does correcting that misunderstanding actually strengthen your confidence in personal prayer?

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**6.** What is one specific way you can serve this week—in your home, at Sonrise, or in your community—that begins with a surrendered heart in prayer?

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## APPLICATIONS

**1. Pray daily—start with five minutes.** Find a quiet, distraction-free place and simply talk to God. Use the Lord’s Prayer as a template: praise Him, submit to His will, ask for today’s provision, confess and forgive, and ask for strength against temptation.

**2. Serve where God has placed you.** Identify one act of service you can do this week—in your home, at Sonrise, or in your neighborhood. Before you act, pray: “Lord, Your will be done. How can I serve You today?”

**3. Encourage a fellow servant.** This week, find someone who serves quietly and faithfully at Sonrise and thank them—a note, a word, a text. Let prayer fuel gratitude and gratitude fuel community.

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Father, thank You that You—the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Maker of heaven and earth—want to hear from us. Forgive us for treating prayer like a performance and for treating service as beneath us. Teach us to pray with broken and contrite hearts, to listen for Your will, and to move when You say move. Give us the mind of Christ—willing to empty ourselves, to serve the least, and to lay down comfort for the sake of others. Make us a church that prays and serves together for Your glory alone. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

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