

# Praying about Problems

## 40 Days of Prayer week 2

### Matthew 6:1-18

"If it's big enough to worry about, it's big enough to pray about!" Ron Dunn

How should we pray?

#### 1. Pray without showiness

*"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.<sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you."* Matthew 6:5-6

#### 2. Pray with simplicity

*"When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again.<sup>8</sup> Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!"* Matthew 6:7-8

Mother Theresa: How do you learn to pray? "By praying...if you want to pray better, you must pray more!"

How long do we keep praying about a problem?

#### a. Until we receive the answer

*"And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.<sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."* Luke 11:9-10

**Myth of the week:** *To pray about something more than once shows a lack of faith.*

#### b. Until we have peace about it

*"And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts."* Col 3:15a

#### c. Until God says no!

#### 3. Pray specifically

*"Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.*

<sup>10</sup> *May your Kingdom come soon.*

*May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*

<sup>11</sup> *Give us today the food we need,*

<sup>12</sup> *and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.*

<sup>13</sup> *And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one."* Matthew 6:9-13