

Date. 8/21/16 RBC sf2964
How to Avoid Praying Like a Hypocrite
Matthew 6:1-8

Hypocrite: a person who pretends to have virtues, moral or religious beliefs, principles, etc., that he or she does not actually possess, especially a person whose actions belie stated beliefs.

Trademarks of hypocrites when they pray

1. Stand while praying in places so they could be seen.
2. Never pray in secret.
3. Very long winded.
4. Use words to impress the listener.
5. Use emotion to call attention to themselves.
6. Use a lot of repetition.

Prefer private prayer over public prayer. v.6
Go to your room

Posture in prayer is secondary to the purpose of prayer. v.5
standing, kneeling, bowing, lying down, head down, eyes closed, hands raised or folded.

Pray with the purpose of revealing God's power.
Thy will be done

Petition God with anything. v.6

John 16:23 - In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

1 John 5:14 - This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

“The proper way for man to pray,’ said Deacon Lemuel Keyes;
‘The only proper attitude is down upon his knees’
‘Nay, I should say the way to pray,’ said Reverend Doctor Wise,
‘Is standing straight with outstretched arms with rapt and upturned eyes.’
‘Oh, no, no, no,’ said Elder Snow, ‘such posture is too proud.
A man should pray with eyes fast-closed and head contritely bowed.’
‘It seems to me his hands should be austerely clasped in front
With both thumbs pointing to the ground,’ said Reverend Doctor Blunt.
‘Last year I fell in Hodgkin’s well headfirst,’ said Cyril Brown.
‘With both my heels a-stickin’ up, my head a-pointing’ down;
And I done prayed right then and there; best prayer I ever said,
The prayin’est prayer I ever prayed, a-standin’ on my head.’”

