

A Method for Prayer, Matthew Henry – Outline of Chapter 1 (<http://www.matthewhenry.org/>)

1. We must solemnly address ourselves to that infinitely great and glorious Being with whom we have to do, as those who are possessed with a full belief of his presence and a holy awe and reverence of his Majesty, which we may do in such expressions as these:
2. We must reverently adore God, as a Being transcendently bright and blessed, self-existent and self-sufficient, an infinite and eternal Spirit who has all perfections in himself, and give him the glory of his titles and attributes.
 - 2.1. That he is an eternal God, immutable, without beginning of days or end of life or change of time.
 - 2.2. That he is present in all places, and there is no place in which he is not included or out of which he is excluded.
 - 2.3. That he has a perfect knowledge of all persons and things, and sees them all, even that which is most secret, at one clear, certain, and unerring view.
 - 2.4. That his wisdom is unsearchable, and the counsels and designs of it cannot be fathomed.
 - 2.5. That his sovereignty is incontestable, and he is the owner and absolute Lord of all.
 - 2.6. That his power is irresistible, and the operations of it cannot be controlled.
 - 2.7. That he is a God of unspotted purity and perfect rectitude.
 - 2.8. That he is just in the administration of his government, and never did, nor ever will do, wrong to any of his creatures.
 - 2.9. That his truth is invariable, and the treasures of his goodness inexhaustible.
 - 2.10. Lastly, that when we have said all we can of the glorious perfections of the Divine nature, we fall infinitely short of the merit of the subject.
3. We must give to God the praise of that splendor and glory wherein he is pleased to manifest himself in the upper world.
4. We must give glory to him as the Creator of the world and the great Protector, Benefactor, and Ruler of the whole creation.
5. We must give honor to the three persons in the Godhead distinctly, to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, that great and sacred Name into which we were baptized and in which we assemble for religious worship, in communion with the universal church.
6. We must acknowledge our dependence upon God and our obligations to him as our Creator, Preserver, and Benefactor.
7. We must declare this God to be our God and own our relation to him, his dominion over us, and propriety in us.
8. We must acknowledge it an unspeakable favor and an inestimable privilege that we are not only admitted, but invited and encouraged, to draw near to God in prayer.
9. We must express the sense we have of our own meanness and unworthiness to draw near to God and speak to him.
10. We must humbly profess the desire of our hearts towards God, as our felicity and portion and fountain of life and all good to us.
11. We must likewise profess our believing hope and confidence in God and his all-sufficiency, in his power, providence, and promise.
12. We must entreat God's favorable acceptance of us and our poor performances.
13. We must beg for the powerful assistance and influence of the blessed Spirit of grace in our prayers.
14. We must make the glory of God our highest end in all our prayers.
15. We must profess our entire reliance on the Lord Jesus Christ alone for acceptance with God and come in his name.