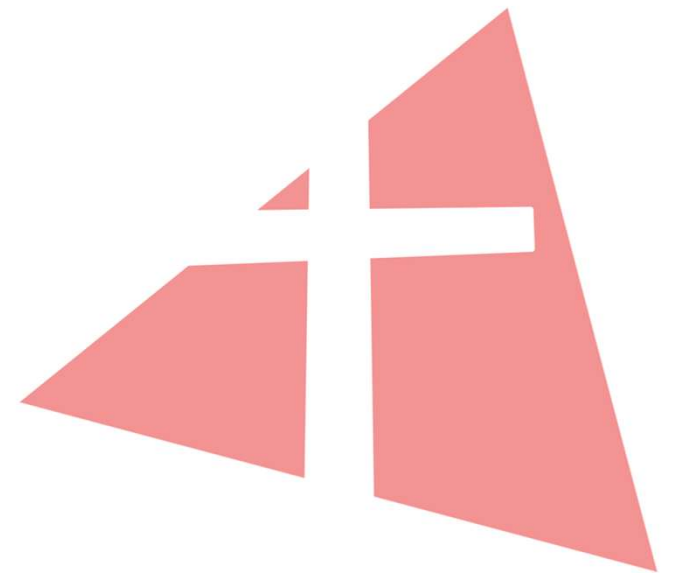


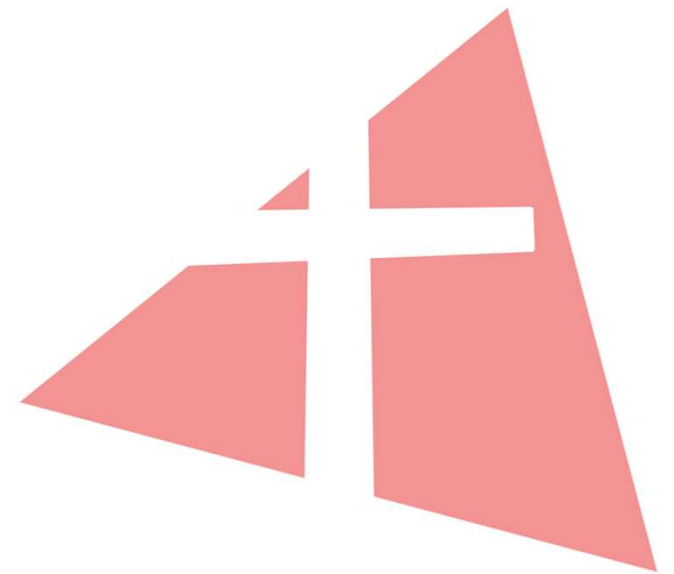
Prayer: The Basics

02/02/2025



Our Series

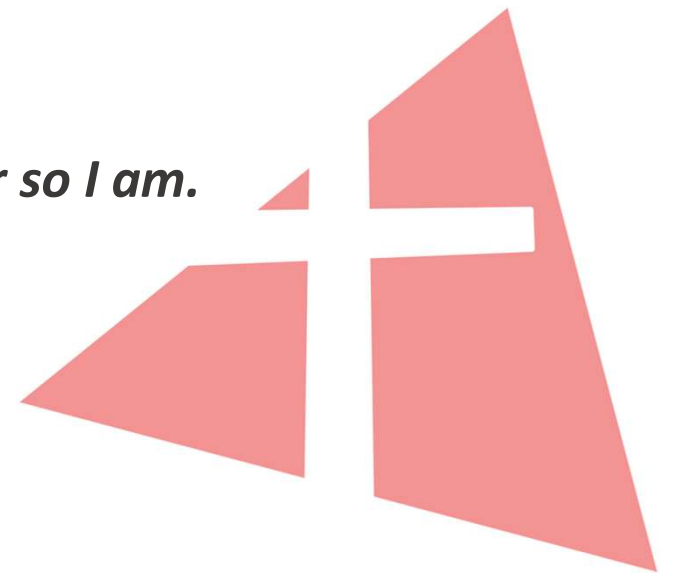
○ Prayer



How most People Pray

- “God, give me what I want”

John 13:13 You call me Teacher and Lord: and you say rightly; for so I am.



The Nation of Israel

1 Samuel 4:1-2 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and encamped beside Ebenezer: and the Philistines encamped in Aphek. And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was defeated before the Philistines: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.

1 Samuel 4:3 And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it comes among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.



The Nation of Israel

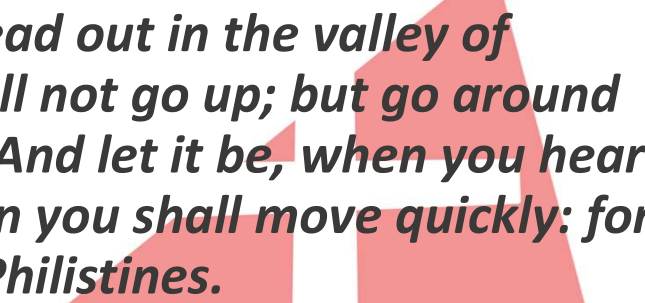
1 Samuel 4:10-11 And the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen. And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.



David's Example

2 Samuel 5:19 And David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines? will you deliver them into my hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand.

2 Samuel 5:22-24 And the Philistines came up yet again, and spread out in the valley of Rephaim. And when David inquired of the LORD, he said, You shall not go up; but go around behind them, and come upon them opposite the mulberry trees. And let it be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then you shall move quickly: for then shall the LORD go out before you, to strike the army of the Philistines.



How to Approach God

- We can't treat God as an "external super-power"
- We have to treat God as a person

- God will allow us to make our own choices
- But most of the time, He will not contribute to our own choices by answering our prayers



What some Christians believe

- God never promised to give us whatever we want
- God promised to answer prayers according to His will

John 14:13-14 And whatsoever you shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.

John 16:23 ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever you shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it to you.

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we desired of him.

The Purpose of Prayer

- Prayer is for God's Glory

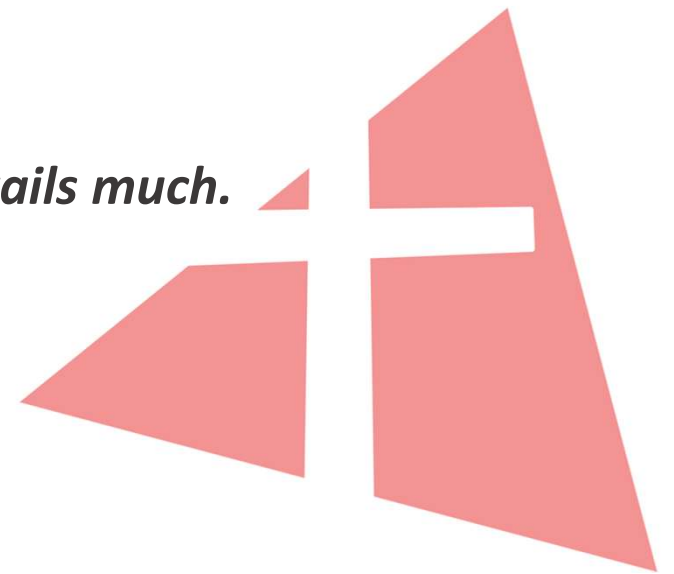
1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God.



One Definition of Prayer

Prayer is telling God what He tells us to tell Him

James 5:16 ... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

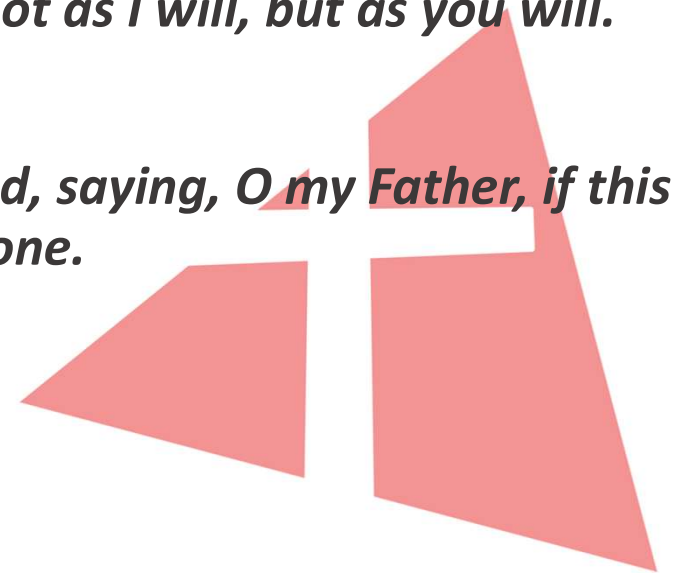


Jesus in Gethsemane

Matthew 26:39 And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as you will.

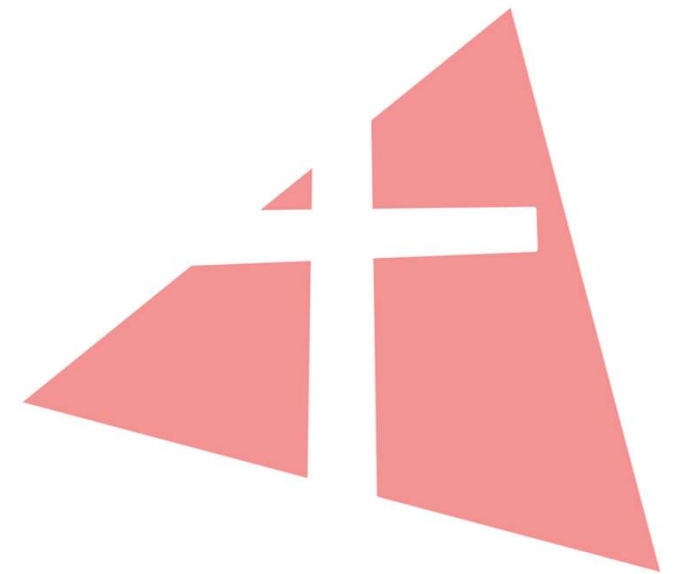
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Matthew 26:42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, your will be done.



Many People's Experience with Prayer

- I prayed
- My prayers don't give me anything, they don't get answered
- It's pointless
- What the Bible says is not true
- I don't pray any longer



Biblical Prayer

○ Stage 1: Knowing God's Will

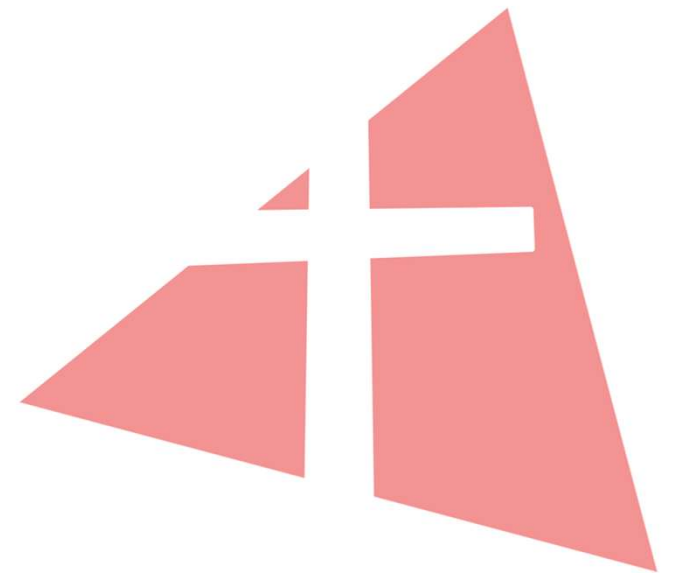
- Bible
- Holy Spirit
- Prophetic Words
- ...

○ Stage 2: Once we know God's Will, we pray according to God's Will



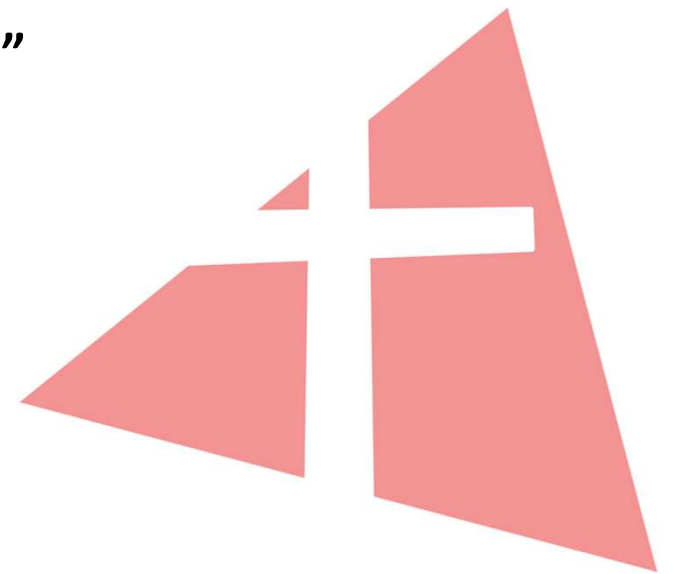
Biblical Prayer

- **We run into problems when we pray for things that are not God's Will**
- **We can tell God what we want**
 - Like Jesus did
- **But we need to surrender the final decision to God**



A Short Testimony

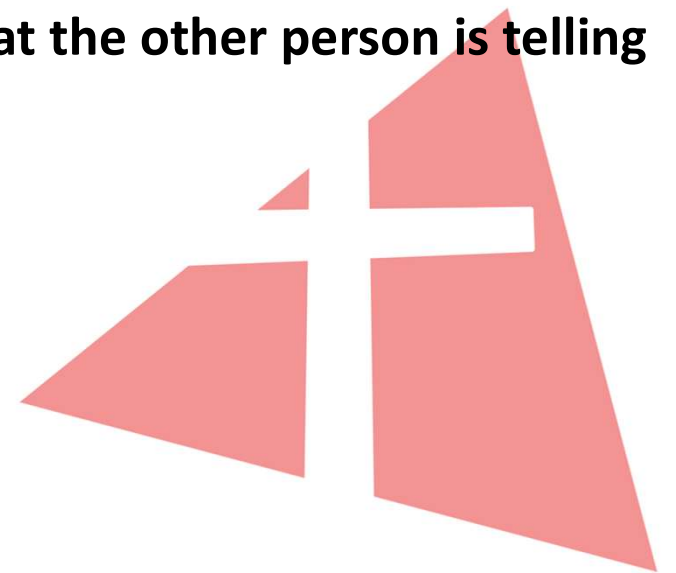
- **My wife and I needed one year to discern God's will about "us"**
- **That year laid a very important foundation for our marriage**



Praying for each other

- **There's nothing wrong sharing prayer requests**
- **But in the end, it is God who has to guide our prayers (not what the other person is telling us)**

Prayer is telling God what He tells us to tell Him



In Conclusion

- **Prayer is for God's Glory**
- **We ought to pray God's Will, not our own**

