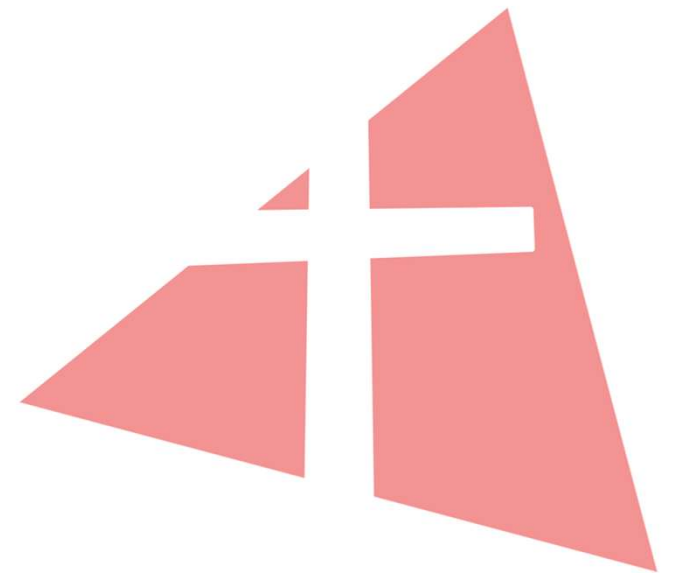


# Prayer: Discerning

03/30/2025

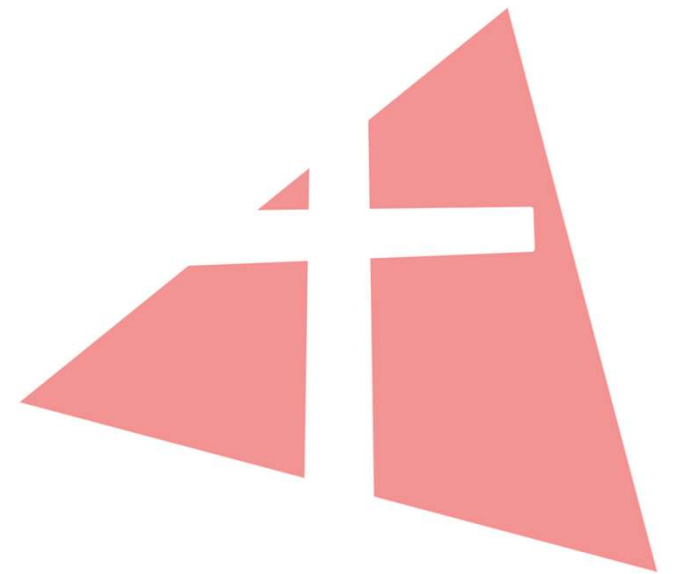


# Our Series: Prayer

- **Prayer is for God's Glory**
- **Biblical Prayer is about "praying God's Will"**

*Prayer is telling God what He tells us to tell Him*

- **Repentance**



# Today's Focus

- Discerning

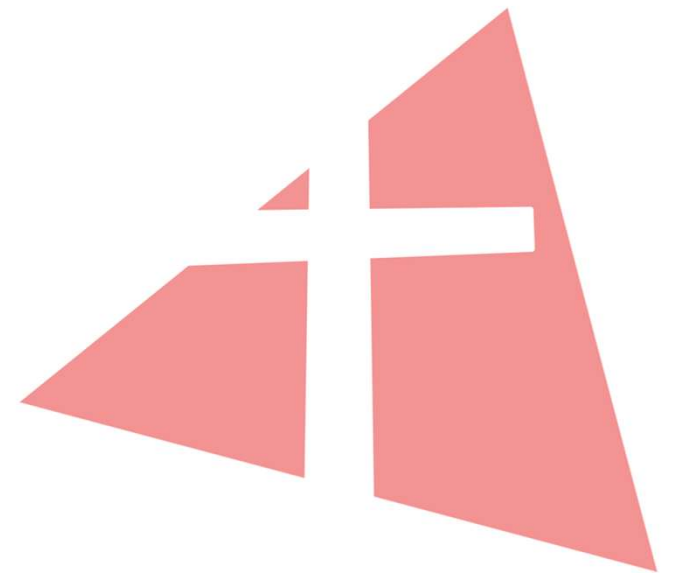
*Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

*John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*



# The Bible

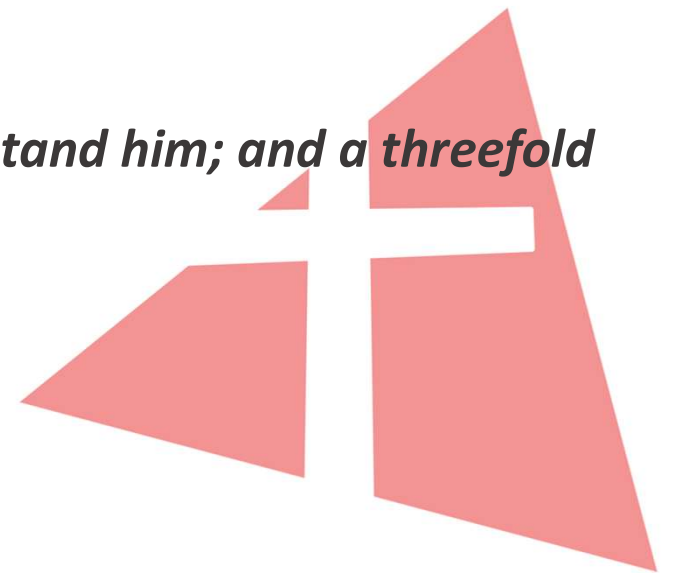
- **God never guides us contrary to His Word!**
  - God's Commandments
  - God's principles



# The Power of Community

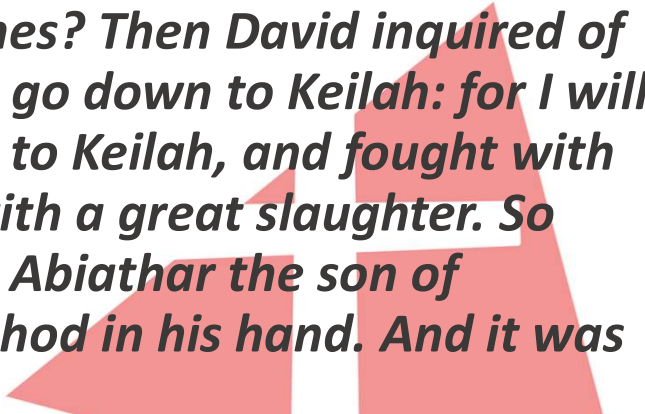
- Share with and pray for one another

*Ecclesiastes 4:12 And if one prevails against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*



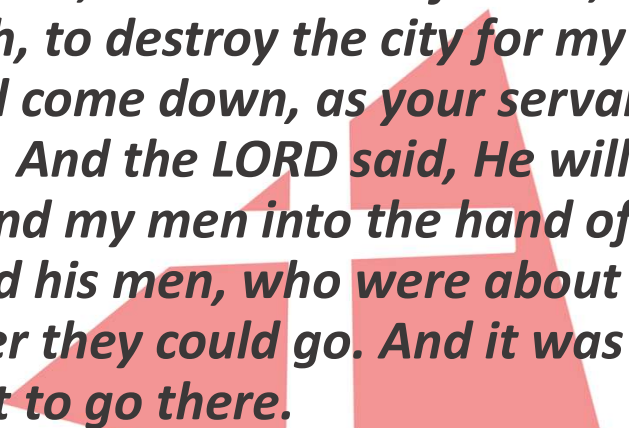
# Today's Passage

*1 Samuel 23:1-13 Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshing floors. . Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and strike these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and strike the Philistines, and save Keilah. And David's men said unto him, Behold, we are afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines? Then David inquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah: for I will deliver the Philistines into your hand. So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and struck them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah. And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand. And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah.*



# Today's Passage

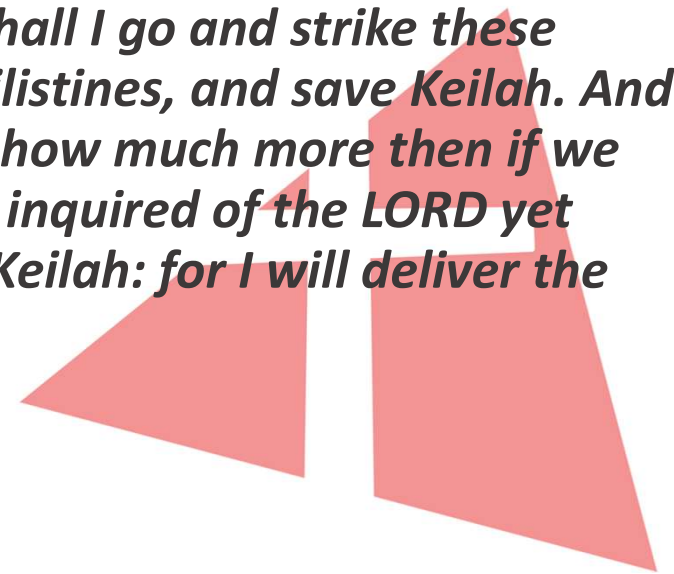
*And Saul said, God has delivered him into my hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that has gates and bars. And Saul called all the people together to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. And David knew that Saul secretly plotted evil against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring here the ephod. Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake. Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech you, tell your servant. And the LORD said, He will come down. Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver you up. Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went wherever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he decided not to go there.*



# David

- If in doubt, it's OK to seek God's confirmation

*1 Samuel 23:2-4 Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and strike these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and strike the Philistines, and save Keilah. And David's men said unto him, Behold, we are afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines? Then David inquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah: for I will deliver the Philistines into your hand.*

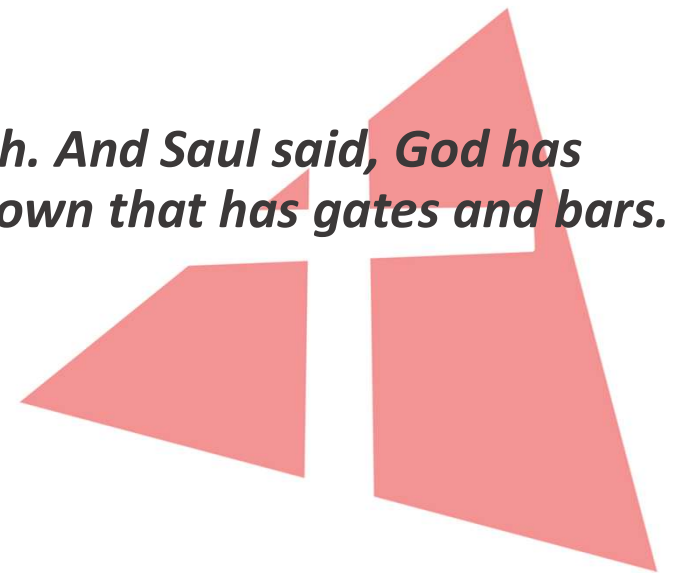




# Saul

- Avoid making conclusions based on circumstances

*1 Samuel 23:7 And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah. And Saul said, God has delivered him into my hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that has gates and bars.*



# David

- God won't always give us an "easy life"

*1 Samuel 23:10-13 Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake. Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech you, tell your servant. And the LORD said, He will come down. Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver you up. Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went wherever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he decided not to go there.*

# Jonathan

- The danger of “adding to God’s Word”

*1 Samuel 23:17 And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you; and you shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto you; and that also Saul my father knows.*



# David

- Never disobey God's Word

*1 Samuel 24:3-6 And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself: and David and his men remained in the recesses of the cave. And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto you, Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it shall seem good unto you. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe stealthily. And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart troubled him, because he had cut off Saul's robe. And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.*

# In Conclusion

- Seeking God's Guidance is one of the most challenging parts of the Christian life
- Nobody will get this 100% right
- But "seeking God's will" should be a foundation of all aspects of our lives
  
- Today's examples
  - It's OK to seek confirmations from God
  - Not all circumstances are God's guidance
  - God won't always give us an "easy life" or a "quick fix"
  - We can't add to God's Word
  - God never wants us to sin for His Word to come true

