

# Prayer: The Basics

February 04<sup>th</sup> 2024



# The Season

- **We have our first prayer meeting next Sunday**
- **The season of Lent is starting soon**
- **Reminder on the basics of two important topics**
  - Today: Prayer
  - Next Week: Fasting



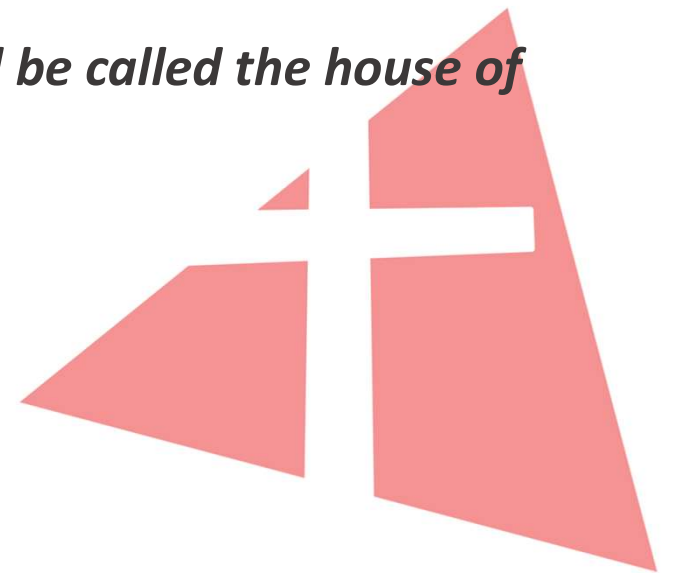
# Common Comments

- Prayer is boring
- Prayer doesn't work
- Prayer is a waste of time
- I've tried prayer many times, but given up on it
- ...



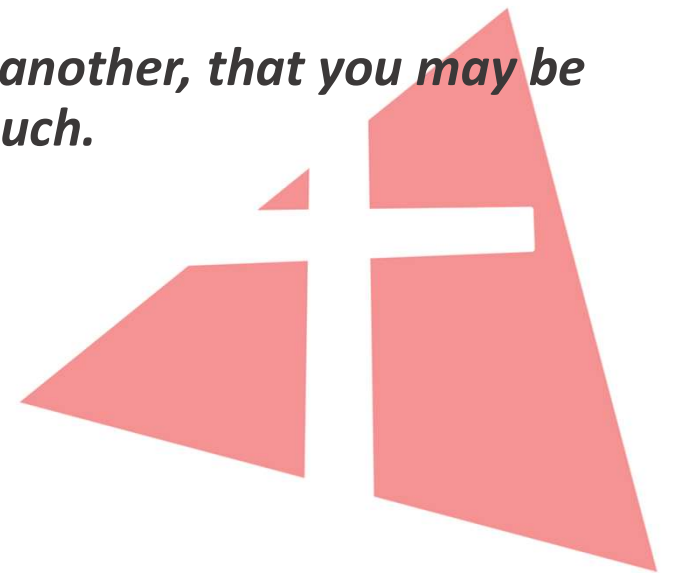
# Jesus' View

*Matthew 21:13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but you have made it a den of thieves.*



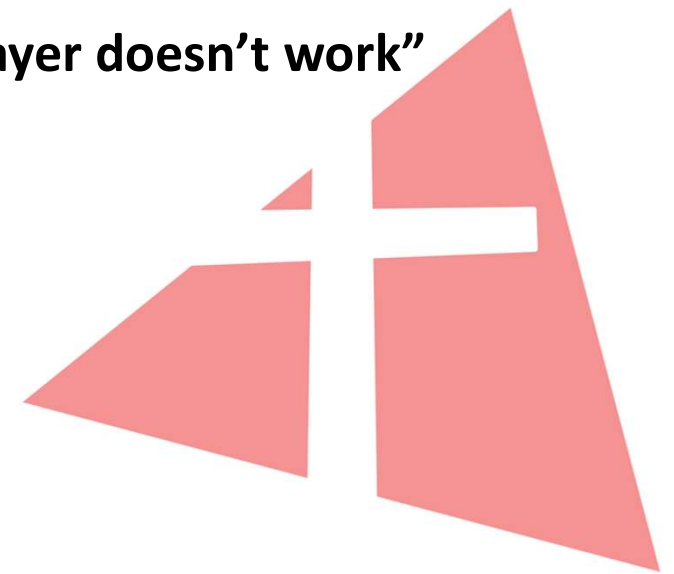
# Effective and Ineffective Prayer

*James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*



# The wrong Conclusion

- **When people pray ineffective prayers, they conclude that “prayer doesn’t work”**
- **Instead: These people should change the way they pray**



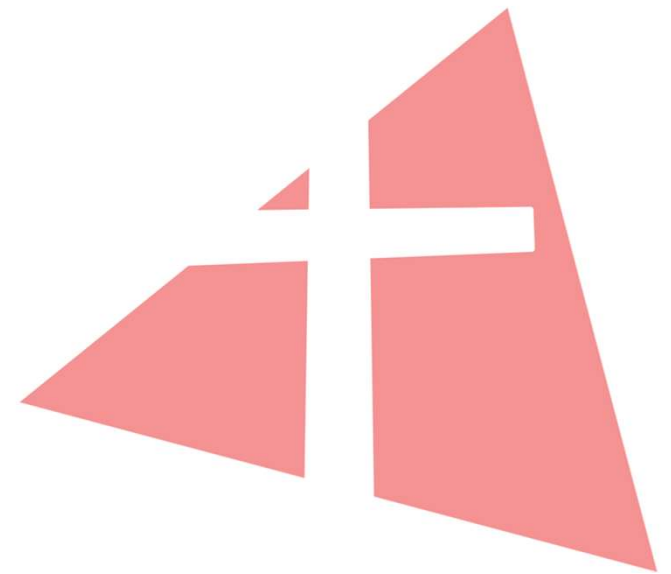
# What is Prayer not?

- **Telling God what to do**
- **Telling God what we want**
- **Telling God what is best for us**
- **Giving information to God**
- ...



# Our View on God

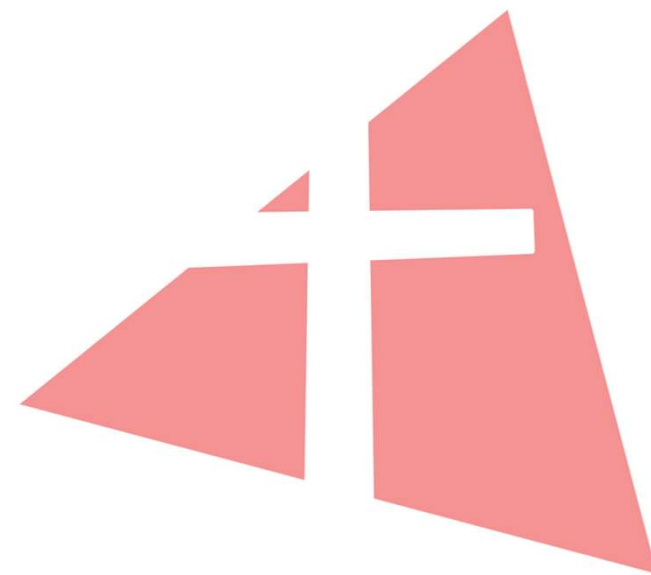
- **God is a person, not just a power**
- **God knows ...**
  - ... what is best for us
  - ... what we truly need
  - ... the future
  - ...
- **God is omniscient and omnipotent**





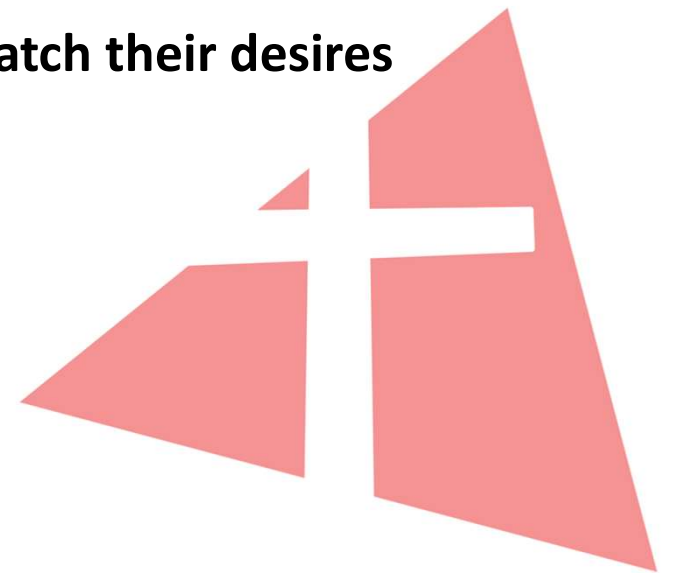
# What is Prayer?

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



# Our Attitude

- **Most people treat prayer as a way to change God's plans to match their desires**
- **Biblical prayer is for us to align with God's will**



# We don't know how to pray

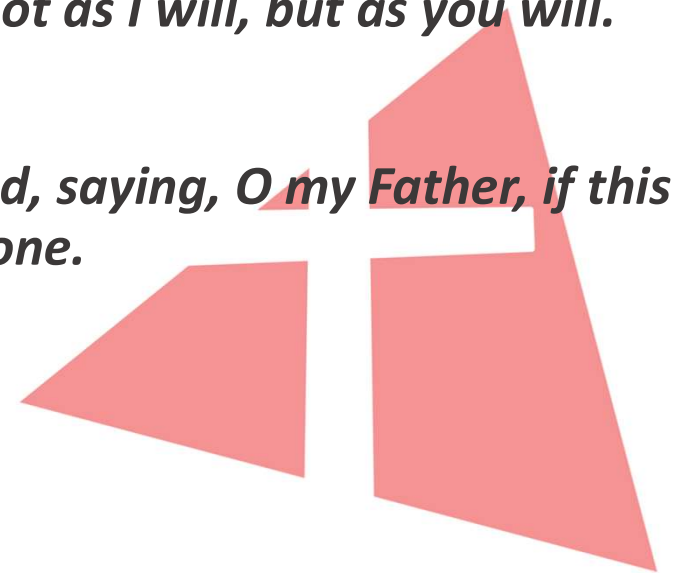
*Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps our weakness:for we know not what we should pray for as we ought but the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*



# Jesus' Example

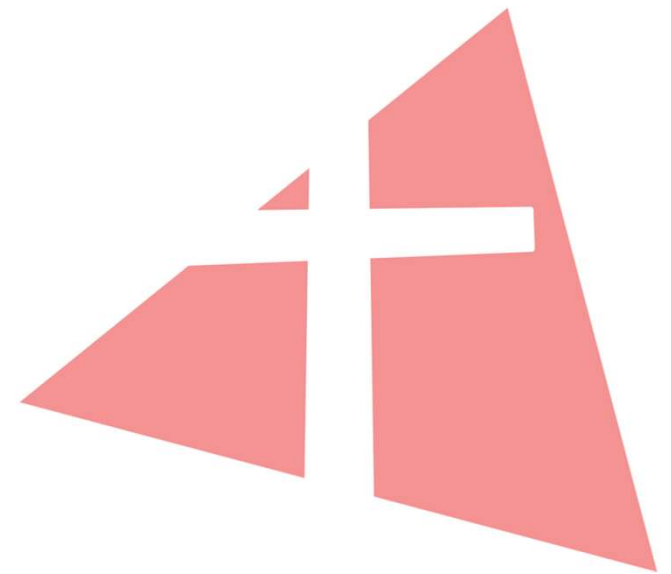
*Matthew 26:39 And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as you will.*

*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.*



# The Key

- **“Listening first” is the key to effective prayer**
  - Logos
  - Rhema



# Prayer Blockers

- **Unconfessed sin**

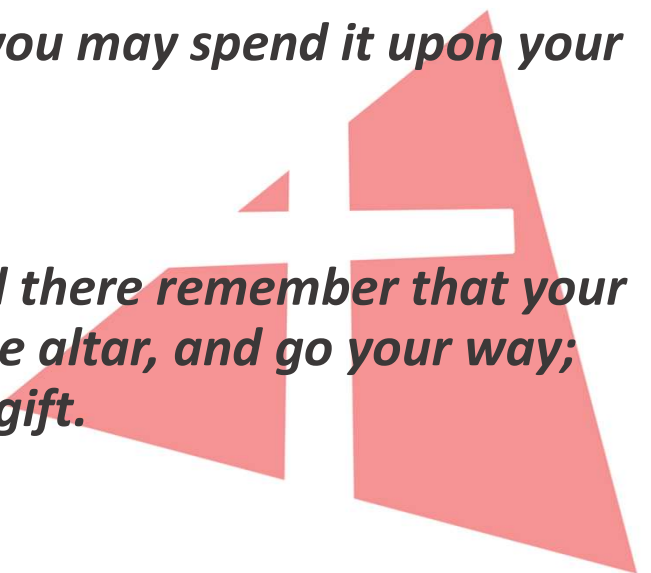
*Psalm 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*

- **Wrong motives**

*James 4:3 You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it upon your lusts.*

- **Unforgiveness**

*Matthew 5:23-24 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has anything against you; Leave there your gift before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*



# Prayer Blockers

- **Not taking care of our relationships**

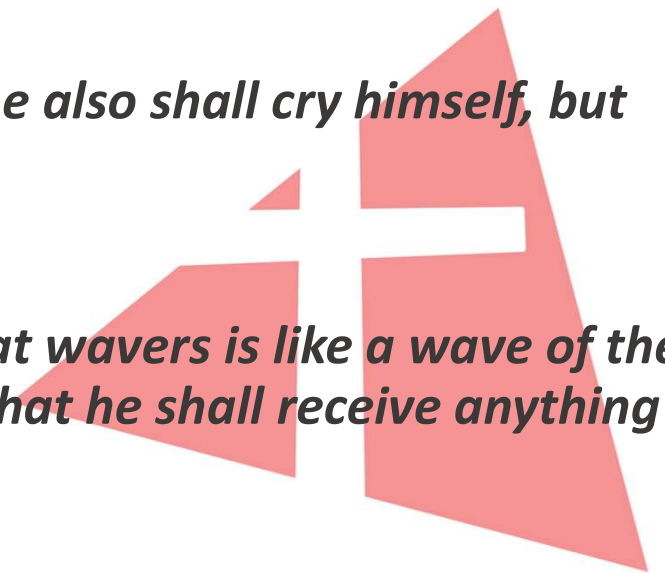
*1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, you husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

- **Lack of Compassion**

*Proverbs 21:13 Whosoever stops his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.*

- **Doubt**

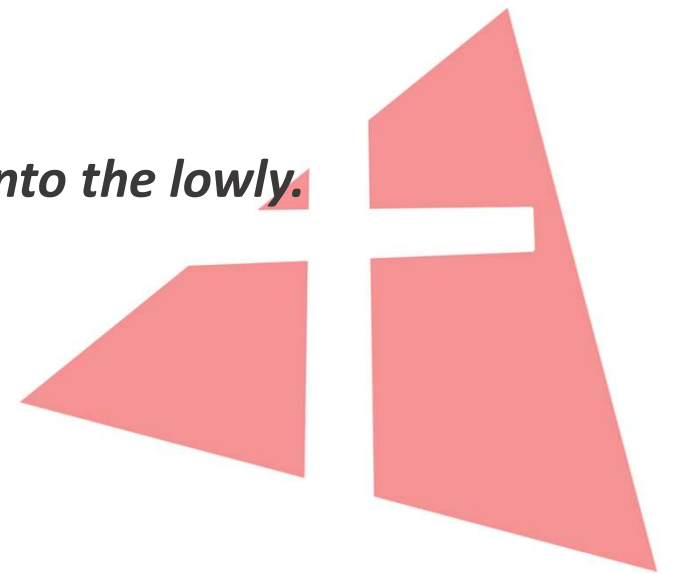
*James 1:6-7 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.*



# Prayer Blockers

- **Pride**

*Proverbs 3:34 Surely he scorns the scornful: but he gives grace unto the lowly.*





# Prayer Meetings

- We'll have a focus/theme
- We'll spend time listening first
  - Soaking
- Then we'll share
- Then we'll pray



# 2 Types of Prayer in my life

- **2 times in the same situation**
- **2 different prayers**
- **2 different outcomes**



# In Conclusion

*... Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.*

