

Daily Devotion



Monday, 11th November – Sunday, 8th December 2024

2024							
Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
46	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
47	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Nov		Dec			

Our Declaration at IIC

We, the people, are the Church—
a battleship with every one of us
on deck, fully committed to
carrying out Christ's mission. We
are not a cruise ship where a
small crew serves and entertains a
crowd of passengers.



an Ipswich In... ation



Cell Groups

Do you want to sign up to a cell group but not sure which one?

Scan this QR code to register your interest in joining one and we'll try our best to match you to one.



SCAN ME



Do you already know which group you would like to join?

The scan the QR code below or follow the instruction below on how to sign up using the 'My ChurchSuite App' on your phone...

SCAN ME



Sign up via 'My Churchsuite App'

1. Open the App and Log in.
2. Click on the menu button - (Bottom Right) 
3. Click on 'Cell Groups'.
4. Click on the group you'd like to join.
5. Click the 'sign up' button - 
6. Finished.





Monday, 11.11. 2024

Dearly Beloved

Farewell Pastor Harold

Yesterday, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Pastor Harold, his wife, Florence and their three children, as they departed Ipswich after twenty-four years of devoted service to assume leadership roles at City Gates Church in Ilford, another branch of the Elim Pentecostal Church.

Until a permanent appointment is made by the National Leadership Team, I will serve as acting lead minister. I am deeply grateful to Pastor Harold for inviting me to the IIC leadership team over a decade ago. Our shared journey has greatly enriched my personal growth and ministry development.

Our team's ethos of respect, authenticity, and sincerity has been unwavering, and we are committed to preserving this culture across all levels of leadership within our faith community.

As part of our commitment to prayer, the monthly corporate prayer on the first Friday of each month will continue. **Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this important event in person at Barrack Corner.**

Please join our daily online devotion at 6:00 AM, a cherished part of our worship lifestyle. Access it via iic.io/daily6am with the password [daily6am](https://iic.io/daily6am). Beloved, if

you haven't joined yet, I encourage you to embrace the blessing of shared Bible exploration, prayer, and devotion.

We're thrilled to see the relationship between **IIC** and **Elim Church Colchester** evolve into something even more meaningful. By focusing on collaboration, shared aspirations, and mutual encouragement, we can cultivate a warm and thriving community that uplifts and inspires everyone involved.

As we look ahead, let's reaffirm our identity in Christ and our shared purpose as His followers. **Please take a moment to reflect on 1 Peter 2:9-10**, considering how it speaks to your identity. I would love to hear your reflections on this scripture—please feel free to share your thoughts with me by email at **lead@iicelim.uk** or via text at **07520 631 507**.

Thank you for your dedication and service in the Father's kingdom.

With love, remember that the best is always here in Christ.



Adéwélé Adéfuyè

PARENTS', BABY & TODDLERS GROUP

ELIM CHURCH, CLEMATIS WAY,
GREENSTEAD, COLCHESTER, CO4 3PY

EVERY TUESDAY 10 A.M. UNTIL 2 P.M.



Suffolk and
North East Essex
Maternity and
Neonatal Services

Elim Church
Colchester



Born to Pray: Rediscovering Our Spiritual Nature

I have heard countless sermons and read numerous reflections on the many beautiful names of God found throughout the Scripture. Each name of God reveals something profound about His character and relationship with us: Jehovah Rapha—the Lord our Healer, Jehovah Tsidkenu—the Lord our Righteousness, and Jehovah Shalom—the Lord our Peace, just to name a few. These names reassure us, each reflecting an aspect of God that meets our needs or speaks to His presence in our lives. But amidst all these well-known names, there is one that is rarely discussed in sermons: the name revealed in Psalm 65:2.

In this verse, we find a powerful and significant title for God, **Hearer of Prayer**, highlighting His accessibility to all humanity and His readiness to listen to our prayers:

"Hearer of prayer, all flesh comes to You." **LST**¹

"Hearer of prayer, to Thee all flesh cometh." **YLT**²

"All humanity will come to You, the One who hears prayer." **HCSB**³

The psalmist David, in his own poetic yet profound way, captures an attribute of God that is vital but often overlooked: God hears us.

God is not just a silent or distant deity; He is active, listening, and attentive to the cries, praises, and supplications of His people.

So, as we reflect on this verse and other supporting verses and what they reveal of God, let us pay close attention to what they reveal of our nature as well. [The Hearer of Prayer has made us as Prayer Beings, a compliment to Himself](#). This is more than a name; it's a profound reality of a deeper relationship to explore and experience.

Adéwálé Adéfuyè

Ipswich, Suffolk

10 November 2024

¹ Literal Standard Version,

² Young's Literal Translation

³ Holman Christian Standard Bible

God's Lesser-Known Name



Psalm 65:2

HCSB All humanity will come to You, the One who hears prayer.

ESV O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.

NLT For you answer our prayers. All of us must come to you.

Tanakh All mankind comes to You, You who hear prayer.

YLT Hearer of prayer, to Thee all flesh cometh.



God is described by various names, each revealing a different aspect of His character, attributes, or relationship with His people:

- Yahweh (YHWH) – "I AM WHO I AM" - [Exodus 3:14] Meaning: The self-existent, eternal God
- Elohim – "God" (Creator, Mighty, and Strong) Genesis 1:1
- El Shaddai – "God Almighty" or "All-Sufficient One" Genesis 17:1
Meaning: Emphasises God's power to sustain and provide.



List two other names of God and what they say of His covenant relationship with His own.

How does He expect us to respond to the revelation of Himself?



Praise God for making Himself known, for He cannot be found through human searching alone. Reflect on His many attributes and pray about how you feel regarding each aspect of His nature and how they shape your perspective, thoughts, and attitudes. Consider anything that may hinder you from fully embracing Him as the One who hears prayers.

Hearer of Prayers



Psalm 65:2

BSB O You who listen to prayer, all people will come to You.

HCSB All humanity will come to You, the One who hears prayer.



God created us to share in a unique relationship with Him, one where we complement His love and desire for communion. Just as He is a God who listens, He designed us with the capacity to reach out to Him through prayer. He didn't just give us the ability to speak but also the purpose of speaking to Him, bringing our needs, thanks, and praise before Him. In His responsiveness, we find that our prayers are not just words but a bridge to the heart of God, fulfilling a profound connection He intended for us to experience with Him.



(a) What does it mean for God to be the one who "hears prayer"? (b) How does knowing that God hears prayers impact my approach to Him? (c) Why is it significant that "all flesh" is invited to come to God in prayer? (d) Are there any areas of my life where I struggle to believe that God hears my prayers? (e) How does this verse deepen my understanding of God's accessibility and openness to all people? (f) What might be hindering me from fully trusting that God listens to my prayers? (g) In what ways does this verse invite me to approach God with greater confidence and expectation?



Praise the Father for being Hearer of prayer. Thank Him for, by extension, making us prayers (prayer-beings). Consider anything that might keep you from fully embracing Him as the Hearer of prayers.

Crafted for Communion



Genesis 1:26–27 (BSB)

²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness, to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, and over all the earth itself and every creature that crawls upon it.” ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Psalms 65:2

BSB O You who listen to prayer, all people will come to You.

ESV O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.

HCSB All humanity will come to You, the One who hears prayer.

LSV Hearer of prayer, all flesh comes to You.



We bear God's image, a truth the Scriptures clearly affirm. God's declaration of purpose—“Let us make mankind in our image”—is followed by His act of creation: “And God made mankind in His image.” This unique designation signifies that humans possess the capacity for relationship, communication, and understanding akin to God's nature. It implies that we are inherently relational beings, designed to engage in meaningful conversations with our Creator. As He is a Prayer-Hearer, we are designed as Prayer Beings, crafted specifically for divine communication.



Here are a few thoughtful questions to consider: (a) Why does the psalmist say that “*all people will come*” to God? (b) What does this phrase signify? (c) What does this imply about the accessibility of God to everyone, regardless of background? (d) How might this verse encourage someone who feels distant from God? (e) How do you see yourself in the light of this verse? (f) In today's climate of identity confusion, how can you help others recognise this truth?



Praise God for the revelation that you were designed to ‘[come to Him](#)’. Consider anything that may hinder you from fully expressing your nature as a prayer-being.

Designed for Divine Dialogue



Genesis 3:8–10 (BSB)

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the breeze of the day, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called out to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ "I heard Your voice in the garden," he replied, "and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

Isaiah 1:18 (BSB)

¹⁸ "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are as red as crimson, they will become like wool."

Psalms 65:2

BSB O You who listen to prayer, all people will come to You.

ESV O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.

HCSB All humanity will come to You, the One who hears prayer.

LSV Hearer of prayer, all flesh comes to You.



God extends an open invitation to humanity to engage with Him, offering a personal relationship that transcends mere ritualistic practices.



Here are a few questions to ask of these verses today: (a) What does it mean for God to invite us to "reason together" with Him? (b) How does this invitation reflect God's character, particularly in His communication with humanity? (c) How do these verses speak to God's desire for relationship rather than mere judgment? (d) How can this invitation impact the way I view forgiveness, both in my own life and in how I forgive others? (e) What serves as a primary means of dialogue with God?



Thank the Father for the open invitation.

Father, as You ask, 'Where are you?' help me to respond

honestly. (1) Ask for help me to hear His voice and draw near to

Him with an open heart. (2) Pray for awareness of God's pursuit. (4)

Confess areas of hiding, fear or shame.

Pray without Ceasing



Luke 18:1

BSB Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray at all times and not lose heart:

NKJV Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart...

1 Thessalonians 5¹⁷ BSB, Pray without ceasing.

Psalms 65:2

BSB O You who listen to prayer, all people will come to You.

ESV O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.

HCSB All humanity will come to You, the One who hears prayer.

LSV Hearer of prayer, all flesh comes to You.



Here are a few thoughtful questions to help as we explore our texts for today: (a) What does it mean to "always pray"? Does this imply continuous prayer, an attitude of prayerfulness, or a specific habit of regular, devoted prayer? (b) What is the significance of "not giving up" in the context of prayer? Why might Jesus emphasise persistence, and what situations might test someone's endurance in prayer? (c) What are some ways to "pray and not give up" in today's world? (d) What habits or practices might help a person remain committed to prayer despite difficulties? (e) How can this verse and the following parable inspire believers to support each other in prayer? (f) How does the teaching of persistence in prayer align with your personal experience and understanding of God?



(1) Thank God for His faithfulness. (2) Ask for a heart of perseverance (3) Seek strength to overcome discouragement (4) Pray for growth in faith and patience (5) Commit to regular prayer.

“We will give ourselves to pray”



Acts 6:4 (BSB)

⁴ and will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Psalms 65:2

BSB O You who listen to prayer, all people will come to You.

ESV O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.

HCSB All humanity will come to You, the One who hears prayer.

LSV Hearer of prayer, all flesh comes to You.



Here are a few questions to consider: (a) What does it mean to “devote” oneself to prayer and the Word? How can this commitment be reflected in the lives of modern believers?

(b) What can we learn from this passage about the foundational activities that should guide church functions? (c) How can prayer enhance the effectiveness of life and ministry?

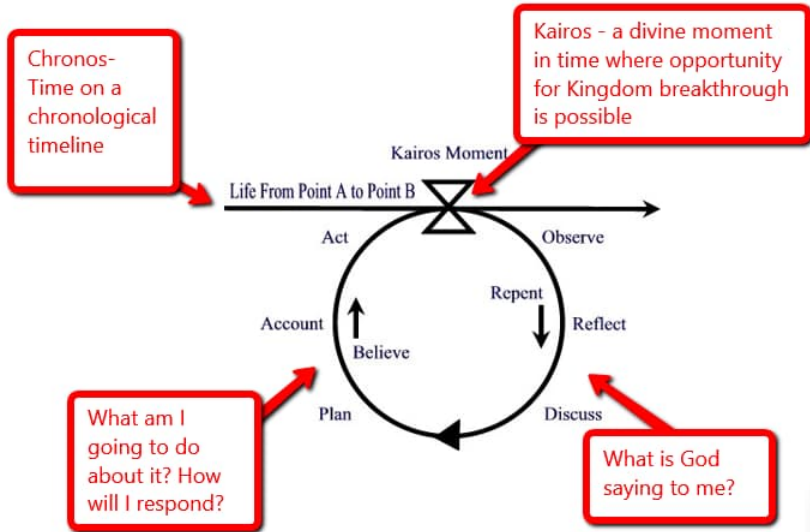
(d) In what ways can this principle be applied in contemporary church practices? (e) In what ways can individual Christians today devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word? What practical steps can be taken to embody this commitment?

(f) What challenges might arise when we focus on prayer and the ministry of the word? How can these challenges be addressed?



(1) Ask for help to devote yourself to prayer and to the study of the Scriptures. (2) Ask for the discipline and desire to spend time with Him daily. (3) Pray for focus and prioritisation of His Word and prayer above distractions. (4) Ask for strength to persevere. (5) Pray for a heart that values God’s presence and Word. (6) Seek wisdom for serving others.

Pause. Reflect. Process



It's time to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

This week, _____

GIVING
as an act of worship
BEFORE GOD

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

2 ways **you can** give in



Transfer to bank account



Elim Foursquare Gospel
Alliance

Sort: 60-05-16

Acc: 18558313

In person cash



You can give in person in our services. Look for the designated collection boxes, or feel free to reach out to any team member for assistance.



Saturday, 16.11.2024

Dear Church

A Divine Invitation

Yesterday, we gathered for a time of fasting and prayer at the Church Building in Barrack Corner at 7:30pm. We began our meeting by thanking, praising, and adoring our dear Father. During our prayer, Papa God posed a thought-provoking question: "**What would you say about Me to someone who doesn't know Me?**" In essence, God is asking us for a character reference.

A **character reference** is a written or verbal statement that affirms an individual's personal qualities, character traits, and overall behaviour. It is often used to support job applications, legal matters, or academic admissions. So, what character reference would we provide for God? We reflected on His **faithfulness, His care for His own, the peace He bestows, and the intimacy of His fatherhood.**

As we prayed in response to His word from **Psalm 110:1 & 3**, we sensed His invitation to partner with Him in this season to reach the unsaved. Our response was a resounding "**Yes, LORD!**" We have committed to fasting and praying together on the next four Fridays: **November 22, 29, and December 6, 13.** We will gather in person at 7:30pm in Barrack Corner for prayer.

Dear Church, as someone remarked during the prayer meeting, "**It is a great honour to partner with the Almighty.**" We want to extend this invitation beyond those who were present; **it is for everyone in the IIC faith community.**

Remember the best of God is in Christ.

With love

Adéwálé Adéfuyè

everyone born of God overcomes the world

Divine Mandate, Divine Dialogue

The question, **“Why does God allow certain things to happen?”** resonates deeply in many hearts. People frequently grapple with this inquiry, particularly during prayer meetings or moments of shared contemplation. With sincerity and heartfelt emotion, they express, *“God knows why He allows this,”* seeking solace in the belief that there is a purpose behind every circumstance, even those that are painful or perplexing.

In his book, **I Believe in Visions**, Kenneth E. Hagin shared a vision that taught him that God allows what we allow. During one of his encounters with Jesus, Hagin experienced a striking lesson about spiritual authority. He described a vision where Jesus was teaching him about this principle, and during their conversation, a demon-like creature appeared, causing distraction. The creature created noise and interference, preventing Hagin from hearing Jesus.

Hagin expected Jesus to address the creature, but Jesus did nothing. Eventually, Hagin, realising that he had the authority to act, rebuked the creature himself, and it immediately left. Jesus then explained that if Hagin hadn't acted, He wouldn't have either. This moment revealed to Hagin that God has given authority to Believers, and it is up to them to exercise it. Failing to act allows certain negative circumstances to persist, as God respects the responsibility He has delegated to mankind.

As we contemplate the role of the Believer in fulfilling God's will on earth through prayer, faith, and the authority of Christ, may our hearts be receptive to embracing our place within God's mandate to: “be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it.”

Adéwálé Adéfuyè

Ipswich, Suffolk

16 November 2024

Stewards of Earth: Humanity's Mandate



Psalms 115:16 (BSB)

¹⁶ The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth He has given to mankind.

Genesis 1:27-28 (BSB)

²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that crawls upon the earth."



God entrusts humanity with the earth, granting us the privilege and responsibility to inhabit, cultivate, and care for it. This delegation signifies a partnership, with humans serving as co-workers under His guidance. Prayer serves as the means to align with His will, seeking His assistance and direction in fulfilling our responsibilities on earth.



1. How does acknowledging God's control over the highest heavens affect our approach to prayer?

2. How can recognising our role as stewards influence our prayers?

3. How can we ensure our prayers reflect His intentions for creation?

4. How should the understanding that the earth is given to humanity influence our prayer life?

5. Who might we pray for in relation to their roles and responsibilities?

6. How can we express humility in our requests and thanksgivings?

Prayer Application: Pray for alignment with God's purpose in your work, relationships, and role as a steward of His creation.



Thank God for the privilege of being stewards of His creation. **Ask for a heart that appreciates the responsibilities entrusted to us.**

Request wisdom and discernment in how to manage the resources and opportunities He has given us, ensuring they align with His will. **Pray for fellow believers and leaders to fulfil their roles responsibly and effectively, asking God to equip them with the necessary resources and strength.**

Ask for help in ensuring that our desires and actions reflect God's purposes for our lives and the world. **Request empowerment to serve those in need in our communities, reflecting God's love and compassion in our stewardship.**

On Earth as in Heaven



Matthew 6:10, Genesis 1:26-28, Revelation 21:1-3



This prayer, taught by Jesus, highlights God's original intent for the earth to reflect His heavenly authority and beauty. It underscores the central purpose of prayer as aligning the earth with the perfection and order of heaven. Through this, Jesus envisions a world where God's reign is fully manifested, His purposes fulfilled, and His glory evident, mirroring the harmony and righteousness of heaven.



- a. What does it truly mean for God's Kingdom to come to earth in our current context?
- b. How can we actively participate in the process of bringing God's will to fruition in our daily lives?
- c. In what ways can prayer help align our desires with God's purposes?
- d. How does understanding that we are made in God's image influence our self-worth and interactions with others?
- e. What practical steps can we take to fulfill the command to "be fruitful and multiply" in a way that honours God?
- f. How does the concept of dominion over the earth challenge or inspire our view of environmental stewardship?
- g. What insights does the promise of a new heaven and new earth provide for our understanding of hope and restoration?
- h. How can the vision of the New Jerusalem shape our understanding of community and relationships in the present?
- i. In what ways does this passage challenge us to reflect on the temporary nature of our current struggles and the eternal promise of God?



Thank God for creating humanity in His image and likeness. **Pray for a deeper understanding of your identity and authority as a child of God.** Tell the LORD how open you are for His will to be fulfilled in your life and the lives of those around you. **Intercede for nations to align with God's purposes and for His peace to reign.** Ask for strength and wisdom to fulfil the mandate to "be fruitful, multiply, and subdue the earth." **Intercede for those who are suffering and in need of comfort, reminding them of the promise of renewal.** Ask God to help you live in a way that reflects the values of His Kingdom.

Divine Dialogue: How God Encourages Our Input



Genesis 18:16-33



God invites Abraham into the divine deliberation, granting him insight into His intentions and purposes for these twin cities. This reflects a profound act of trust and a desire for Abraham to engage in intercession, showcasing the close relationship between God and Abraham.



- i. Why might God choose to reveal His intentions about Sodom and Gomorrah specifically to Abraham?
- ii. How does Abraham balance his boldness with humility when speaking to God?
- iii. Why does God permit Abraham to question Him repeatedly and reduce the number of righteous people required to spare the city?
- iv. What does Abraham's interaction with God suggest about human agency in influencing divine decisions?
- v. What does this passage reveal about God's willingness to engage in a dialogue with humanity?
- vi. What ethical responsibilities do we bear for the righteousness or welfare of the communities around us?
- vii. How does Abraham's intercession compare to other examples of intercession in the Bible (e.g., Moses for Israel, Jesus for humanity)?
- viii. How might this passage inform our own approach to prayer, especially prayers of intercession?
- ix. In what ways does this dialogue foreshadow the broader theme of salvation and God's desire to save rather than condemn?
- x. Are there areas in our lives where we hesitate to "negotiate" with God or to intercede boldly for others?



Give thanks to God for encouraging our input. **Pray for the boldness to intercede on behalf of others.** Ask for a heart that desires to stand in the gap for those in need of His mercy. **Seek wisdom and understanding regarding God's justice and mercy.** Pray that you may comprehend the balance between His righteousness and His desire to save. **Ask God to cultivate a deep compassion in your heart for those who do not know Him.** Pray for the courage to reach out and share His love with those who are lost.

When God Leaves Room for Our Response



Deuteronomy 9:12–14; 10:10



Sarcasm can be used to convey humour, frustration, or irony, and it's a great conversational tool when both people are on the same page. God tells Moses, "Leave Me alone, so that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven." God and Moses seem to be on the same page. Did He really want to destroy them?



- a. Why does God describe Israel as Moses' people in verse 12? How might this language reflect His disappointment or emphasis on Israel's accountability?
- b. Why might God, knowing all things, still express His anger so forcefully? What purpose could this serve in His relationship with Moses and Israel?
- c. Why might God give Moses the opportunity to intercede rather than immediately carrying out His judgment on Israel?
- d. What does this moment reveal about the responsibilities and challenges of spiritual leadership?
- e. What might God's willingness to share His anger with Moses suggest about the role of intercession?
- f. Why is Moses' intercession significant here, and how might it affect both God's plan and Israel's future?
- g. What lessons can be drawn from Moses' role in this passage that might apply to our own roles as intercessors or leaders?



Thank God for His grace and patience, despite our shortcomings.

Pray not to take His kindness for granted, but rather live in a way that honours His sacrifices. Pray for the ability to recognise,

confess and renounce your own sins. **Ask for a repentant heart that seeks to turn away from wrongdoing.** Request deeper insight into the mercy of God, as displayed throughout history. **Pray that you may fully grasp the extent of His love and forgiveness, especially in times of failure.**

Ask God to instil in you a strong desire to obey His commandments and follow His ways. **Pray for the strength to resist temptation and remain faithful to His Word.** Pray for those around you who may be struggling with disobedience or distance from God. **Ask for opportunities to encourage them to return to the Lord and experience His grace.**

Engaging with God, Understanding His Intentions



Luke 24:28-29 BSB

²⁸ As they approached the village where they were headed, He seemed to be going farther. ²⁹ But they pleaded with Him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So He went in to stay with them.



Yesterday, we reflected on how God told Moses to leave Him alone so He could destroy Israel. This led us to ponder whether God truly intended to destroy Israel or if this was an implicit invitation for Moses to intercede on behalf of the people. Similarly, in today's text, we see Jesus "acting as if He were going farther," prompting us to consider the deeper significance of these moments where God appears to leave room for human response or engagement. Both instances highlight divine intention to draw humanity into deeper partnership, intercession, or understanding of His will.



- a. Why might Jesus initially act as though He were going farther instead of directly revealing His identity to them?
- b. What might be the significance of Jesus' decision to accept their invitation only after they insist?
- c. How does Jesus' behaviour in this passage encourage or challenge the disciples' understanding of Him, even before they know who He is?
- d. What might Jesus be teaching through His willingness to walk with and stay with them, despite their lack of recognition?
- e. How does this apply to prayer?



Pray for a hunger and thirst for deeper revelation of Jesus in your life. **Ask for your eyes to see Him more clearly in your daily experiences.** Just as the disciples urged Jesus to stay with them, pray for a desire to invite Christ into your home, heart, and daily activities. **Request that God help you to be more attentive to His guidance and direction in your life.** Pray for the wisdom to recognise His leading, especially in moments of uncertainty. **Pray for an open heart and mind to receive the truths of Scripture.** Seek God's help in building and maintaining meaningful fellowship with other Believers. **Pray that you may encourage one another in faith and grow together in Christ.** Pray that your life reflects the love and grace of Jesus in all that you do. **Pray for the boldness to share the good news of Jesus with others.**

Prayer: Encountering a God Willing to Wrestle



Genesis 32:22-32



Jacob is deeply fearful about meeting his brother Esau, feeling as though his past actions are finally catching up to him. He takes practical steps to prepare for the encounter, arranging his family strategically. And he prays (Genesis 32:9-12). In the solitude of the night, when he is left alone, God meets him in a profound way. This moment demonstrates the intersection of human fear, divine assurance, and the transformative presence of God.



- i. Does Jacob have a reason to be afraid of Esau?
- ii. Who might this mysterious figure be, and why does the text describe him ambiguously as “a man”?
- iii. What could be the purpose of this figure wrestling with Jacob rather than communicating in a more straightforward way?
- iv. How does the figure’s ability to injure Jacob with a mere touch reveal his power and identity?
- v. What might be the significance of this figure changing Jacob’s name to Israel?



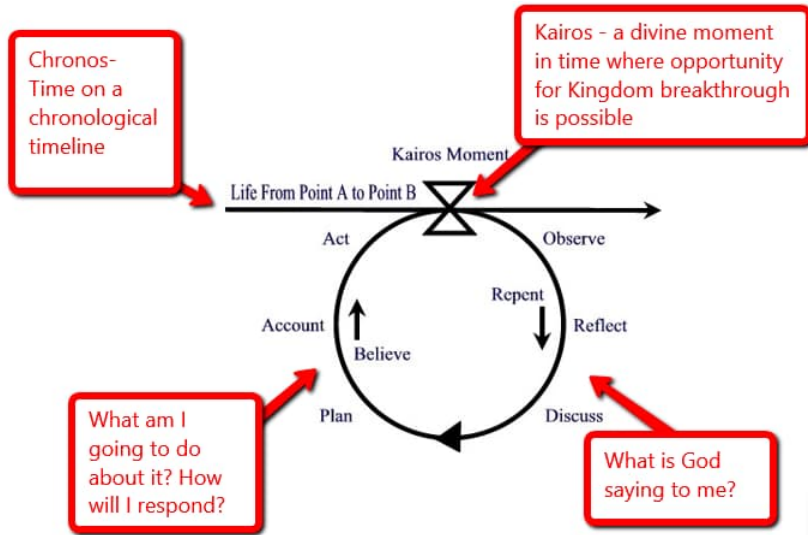
Thank God for His mercy and grace in your life. Acknowledge His faithfulness, even when you have struggled with doubt or disobedience.

Pray for a hunger to encounter God in a personal way. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you and to help you recognise His presence in your life.

Request strength to endure and persevere through life’s struggles. Pray for the ability to hold on to God during difficult times, just as Jacob clung to the angel. **Just as Jacob’s name was changed to Israel, pray for a transformation in your identity. Ask God to help you embrace your new identity as His beloved child and to live accordingly.**

Ask God to help you overcome any fear or doubt that may hinder your faith. Pray for courage to face challenges and to trust in His promises. Pray for a renewed commitment to prayer and seeking God’s face. Ask for the discipline to spend time in His presence, seeking His will and guidance. **Lift others who are struggling in their faith or facing challenges. Pray that they may have their own encounters with God and experience His blessings and transformation.**

Pause. Reflect. Process



It's time to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

This week, _____

David's Dialogues with God

"I have found David son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will and carry out My program fully." These powerful words from Acts 13:22 (Amp) reveal a profound truth: God was actively searching for someone to partner with Him in fulfilling His divine purposes. And He found David.

But why David? What made him stand out?

Scripture frequently tells us, "David inquired of the LORD," emphasising the close relationship and fellowship he had with God. Each time David sought God, it was an expression of his sincere desire for guidance, wisdom, and understanding. Like how we might turn to a search engine today for answers, David turned to God, trusting in a personal, covenantal relationship, knowing that God's responses were perfect and rooted in love. His prayerful inquiries reflect a life lived in continuous dialogue with God.

David's repeated inquiries, which we ponder this week, reveal a profound truth: his prayers were not simply casual requests for information. They were a purposeful means to align his heart with God's will.

Today, God is still searching. He has plans of redemption, restoration, healing and grace for the world, and He's looking for people who, like David, will respond wholeheartedly. Through prayer, we too can cultivate hearts that align with God's will, ready to fulfil His purposes.

Will we, like David, seek God's guidance in every aspect of our lives? Will we trust His plans even when they are difficult? Will we be willing to sacrifice our own desires for His will?

If we answer yes to these questions, then we too can be found by God, and become partners in His grand design for the world.

Adewale Adefuye
21 November 2024

GIVING *as an act of worship* BEFORE GOD

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

3 ways you can give in



Transfer to bank account



EFGA Ipswich
Sort code: 60-05-16
Account: 18534082

Scan QR code



In person cash or card



During our gatherings, you can give in person. Look for the designated collection boxes, or feel free to reach out to any team member for assistance.

Givt

You're ready to give.
Scan this QR code with the Givt app.



David at Keilah: A Heart After God's Will



1 Samuel 23:1-5



David is currently a fugitive, on the run from King Saul who views him as a rival for the throne. Despite being anointed by Samuel as the next king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:13), David has not yet taken the throne and is in perpetual peril, constantly moving to escape Saul's unyielding chase.

Even in his uncertain circumstances, David stays committed to God's will and the well-being of others. Upon learning that the Philistines are raiding Keilah and taking grain, David, instead of putting his own safety first, seeks guidance from the LORD, showing his dedication to the welfare of God's people.



What prompts David's prayer in today's text? **How can I balance caring for my own needs with taking risks to serve others?** How do I discern and confirm God's will in my life? **What steps can I take to encourage those around me to trust in God's plans, even when circumstances seem difficult?** How can David's example of faith and reliance on God while waiting for the throne encourage me in my own seasons of waiting? **In what areas of my life is God calling me to step out in bold obedience?**



Thank You, Lord, for showing Your faithfulness to David and the people of Keilah. **I praise You for being a God who hears and answers prayer and for Your constant presence in my life.** Teach me to listen and trust Your guidance above my own understanding. **Give me the courage to act on Your instructions, even when they challenge my comfort or seem risky.** May I, like David, trust Your word and step out in faith. **As David faced the threat of the Philistines, empower me with strength and boldness to confront the battles in my life, knowing that You go before me to secure victory.** Help me to have a heart for those in distress, like David had for the people of Keilah. **Use me as an instrument of Your deliverance and peace in the lives of others.**

David's Dilemma: Hearing and Heeding God's Voice



1 Samuel 23:6-13



The story picks up after David's victory over the Philistines in Keilah. While still in the city, David learns that King Saul is planning to attack him. In response, David seeks guidance from God, who knows all things. This passage underscores the ongoing danger and tension in David's life as he tries to evade Saul's relentless pursuit, while also highlighting David's reliance on God's guidance and protection amid betrayal and danger.



1. What can we learn about prayer, decision-making, and seeking God's guidance in times of uncertainty? 2. How does this impact our understanding of God's foreknowledge and human free will? 3. What does David's decision to flee from Keilah, after being warned by God, teach us about balancing faith and practical wisdom? 4. Why do the people of Keilah, whom David saved, seem willing to betray him to Saul? 5. What does this reveal about human nature and the complexity of loyalty? 6. What can we learn from this story about trusting God in situations where betrayal and uncertainty loom? 7. How can we apply this in our relationships or personal struggles?



Praise the Father for knowing all things, including the hidden motives and plans of others. Thank Him for reminding you through David's story that He is faithful to guide, protect, and deliver His children. Thank Him for being your protector and refuge.

Strengthen my faith in Your promises and Your presence in my life. Help me to trust Your wisdom and rely on Your guidance when faced with uncertainty and challenges. Teach me to turn to You in moments of fear, confusion, or danger. Like David, help me to inquire of You with faith, believing that You will provide clarity and direction in my time of need. Teach me discernment to recognise threats and wisdom to respond according to His will. Help me to act wisely and courageously, trusting Your plan for my life.

David at Ziklag: Strengthened by Prayer



1 Samuel 30:1-8



In the previous chapter, David was sent back to Ziklag by the Philistine rulers who did not trust him. This occurred just before a significant Philistine battle with Israel, which resulted in Saul's death in 1 Samuel 31. Upon returning to Ziklag, David and his men found that the Amalekites, long-time enemies of Israel, had raided and burned their home.



1. What does the reaction of David and his men (weeping until they had no strength) teach us about the importance of expressing emotions in times of distress? 2. How might David have felt when his own men talked of stoning him, and what does his response teach about leadership under pressure? 3. What does it mean that David "strengthened himself in the Lord his God"? How can we practically apply this principle in our lives today? 4. Why did David seek God's guidance rather than acting impulsively? 5. How can we balance action and dependence on God when facing modern-day challenges, as David both sought God's guidance and actively pursued the Amalekites? 6. In what ways can this passage encourage believers who feel abandoned or overwhelmed by loss today?



Lord, thank You for being a God of restoration. Lord, when I face overwhelming situations, I would like to draw strength from You, just as David did. May I always remember that You are my refuge and ever-present help in times of trouble.

In moments of deep sorrow or confusion, teach me to bring my burdens to You. Let me find comfort in knowing that You care about my pain and are with me in every trial.

In moments of tension and blame, as David's men experienced, LORD I would like to promote peace and unity; and respond with wisdom and faith, trusting You to resolve the situation.

Father, I would like to grow in courage to move forward in faith when You speak a word of assurance or promise. Help me to act boldly, knowing that You are faithful to fulfil what You have spoken.

A New Chapter: Following God into Hebron



2 Samuel 2:1–3



Today's text marks the beginning of David's rise as king over Judah, following the death of Saul. This passage occurs during a transitional period for Israel and for David's journey toward fulfilling God's promise that he would be king.



What does David's act of inquiring of the Lord before moving to Hebron reveal about his dependence on God, and how can we emulate this practice in our own decision-making? **2. Why is it significant that God answered David so specifically ("Go up," and then "to Hebron")? What does this teach us about God's willingness to guide those who seek Him? 3. What can we learn about David's character and patience as he waits for God's timing to unite the entire kingdom under his rule? 4. How does this passage contrast David's reliance on God's direction with Saul's frequent disregard for seeking God's will? 5. How can we discern God's direction for our lives as clearly as David did, and what steps can we take to strengthen our relationship with God? 6. In what areas of life are we being called to patiently wait for God's timing instead of pushing ahead with my own plans?**



Thank You, Lord, for Your faithfulness. Even in moments of uncertainty and hardship, You remain steadfast and true. I thank You for Your constant guidance, protection, and provision.

Lord, help me seek Your guidance in every transition of my life. Just as David inquired of You before making decisions, teach me to trust You for direction and clarity, especially when facing new seasons or changes.

Ask for a heart of obedience to His guidance, to follow His instructions faithfully, even when it seems challenging or uncertain, trusting that His plans for you are good and will lead to peace.

Ask for His help in aligning your desires to His will. May my heart desire what You desire, and may I act in a way that reflects Your purpose for my life. Let me not move ahead of You but wait for Your perfect timing. In times of uncertainty or when I do not know the next step, help me trust You completely. May I not be driven by fear or pressure, but by faith in Your sovereignty and goodness.

David at Baal-Perazim: A Breakthrough of Faith



2 Samuel 5:17–21



As soon as it becomes known that David is enthroned king over Israel, the Philistines mobilise their forces to seek to eliminate him before he could consolidate his power.



Let's think about how this story can apply to our own lives: 1.

When faced with challenges or opposition, do I first seek God's guidance or rely on my own strength? How can I develop a habit of turning to God for direction in times of difficulty, as David did?

2. Am I trusting God for victory in areas where I feel overwhelmed or outmatched? What does it look like for me to acknowledge God's power and sovereignty in my battles? 3. Do I follow God's instructions, even when His guidance seems unconventional or unexpected? In what areas of my life might God be leading me to take a different approach than I would naturally choose?



Thank You, Lord, for Your faithfulness in helping me overcome the challenges I face. I give You praise for the victories You have given me and the strength to endure through every trial.

Father, just as David inquired of You before going into battle, I pray that You grant me wisdom and clear direction in every challenge I face. Teach me to seek Your guidance in every decision, especially in difficult situations.

God, help me to follow Your instructions carefully, even when they seem unconventional or require great faith. Just as David followed God's specific directions in battle, may I obey You fully in all areas of my life.

David recognised Your strength in defeating his enemies, I pray that I always acknowledge that it is by Your might, not my own, that I am able to overcome any obstacle. Lord, let me experience Your powerful presence in every area of my life.

Father, I ask for spiritual breakthroughs in my life. Like a flood breaking through the ground, may Your power sweep through every area of my life, bringing freedom, deliverance, and restoration where there has been resistance or stagnation.

David's Second Battle: A Lesson in Trusting God Again



2 Samuel 5:22–25



After David's initial victory over the Philistines at Baal Perazim, they regroup and come back to challenge him again. This shows that the Philistines viewed David as a threat to their power and were determined to confront him.



1. Why does David inquire of the LORD again for this second battle? Would I seek the LORD's guidance in a situation that seems like one He has already guided me through in the past? 2. **Why does God provide a different strategy for this battle compared to the first one?** 3. How significant is the waiting for the sound of marching in the balsam trees? 4. **What does this passage reveal about the relationship between obedience to God and success?** 5. How might partial obedience or self-reliance have affected the outcome? 6. **How does this account illustrate God's power working through human action?** 7. What can we apply from this passage about seeking God's guidance in recurring challenges in our lives?

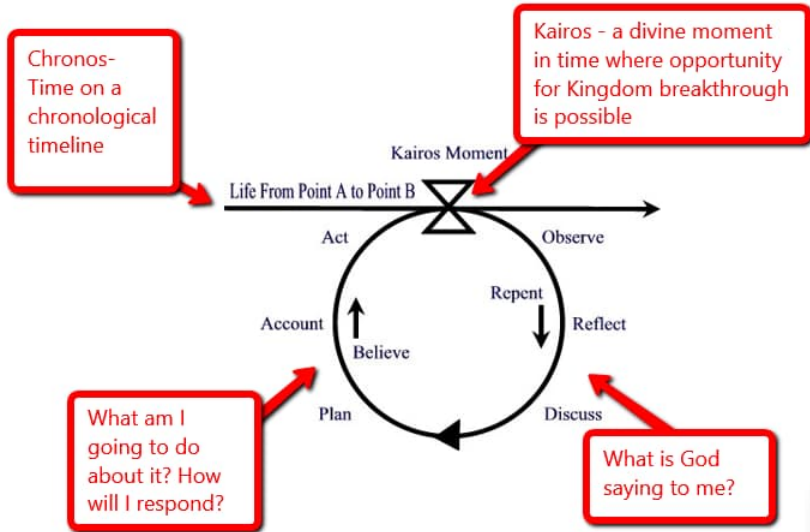


Lord, when I face repeated opposition, help me to keep pressing forward with faith. Just as the Philistines came again after David's first victory, give me perseverance to keep trusting You, even when challenges return.

Pray to remain sensitive to His voice for the next steps in my life. After David's first victory, he didn't act on his own but waited for further instructions. Teach me to be patient and obedient, listening for Your direction in every season.

Father, I pray for humility in all my victories. Help me to never become prideful, but always give You the glory for every success. Let my heart remain humble, acknowledging that it is by Your grace and strength that I achieve anything.

Pause. Reflect. Process



It's time to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

This week, _____

Monday 02.12.24

Dear Family

The Parable of the Eagle and the Chickens

Have you heard this story? It's about an eagle's egg that accidentally ended up in a chicken coop. When the egg hatched, the eagle was raised among the chickens. As the eagle grew, it learned to behave like the chickens. It clucked, scratched the ground for food, and never realised it was different from the other birds. It never attempted to fly high or explore its true potential because it thought it was just a chicken.



But one day, the eagle noticed its size and strength compared to the chickens. It would occasionally look up at the sky and see other eagles soaring high above. Eventually, the eagle met another eagle that encouraged it to embrace its true nature. The eagle learned that it was not a chicken but a magnificent bird capable of flying high and living freely.



With this newfound understanding, the eagle spread its wings and took to the skies, realising its potential and the greatness that lay within.

We often limit ourselves by the environment we're raised in, or the beliefs instilled in us. However, our true potential lies beyond these constraints.

Imagine St. Peter, the disciple who walked side by side with Christ and dined with Him in the flesh, standing before you. His voice carries the weight of one who has witnessed the divine, and his eyes seem to pierce through your soul.

He points directly at you. Not the person next to you. You. With a steady hand and an unwavering gaze, he asks, "You—have you not given your life to Christ?"

Startled by his intensity, you nod and respond, “Yes.” He doesn’t look away. Instead, he leans in as if to ensure you hear his next words with crystal clarity. “You are a chosen people. A royal priesthood.”



The words hang in the air, heavier than any sermon you’ve heard before. For a moment, you’re tempted to glance around, thinking surely this must be addressed to someone else—the pastor, the ministry leader, the prayer warrior or the worship leader.

But Peter leaves no room for doubt. His voice sharpens. “How many times have you read that verse in my letter and thought it was about someone else? Your pastor? Your church elder? No. It is you.”



He pauses, allowing the weight of his declaration to sink in. You feel a tug in your heart, an awakening. In that moment, it’s not just Peter speaking—it feels as though God Himself is reminding you of your identity.

You close your eyes and repeat to yourself, slowly, deliberately: “Peter is referring to me. I belong to the chosen people. I am of royal priesthood.”

And as you say it, something shifts. You realise that you, in all your ordinary humanness, have been called to live as someone extraordinary. You are part of God’s kingdom, chosen to carry His light, not because of what you’ve done, but because of who He says you are.

This truth is not just for the church leaders or the spiritual elite—it is yours to claim. Let me know what you think! I’d love to hear from you! Feel free to share your perspective using my contact details below.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adewale Adéfuyè'.

Adéwálé Adéfuyè

Our Declaration at IIC

We, the people, are the Church—
a battleship with every one of us
on deck, fully committed to
carrying out Christ's mission. We
are not a cruise ship where a
small crew serves and entertains a
crowd of passengers.





Leadership Team

Ministers



Adéwálé Adéfuyè



David Howe

Elders



Denest Akintaju



Dan Jolley



Sourik Lahiri



Tracey Maugé



Sophie Ogunlaja



Philip Ogunniyi



Philip Ash
Colchester



Marian Pintilie
Romanian Fellowship

A Very Christmas Carol

Thursday 19th, Friday 20th, Saturday 21st
December 2024.

Every evening 7:00pm (doors open 6:30pm)

Ticket price: £2 per person or £5 for 4 people.
Book early by scanning the QR code or pay at the door.

For more information please email info@icelim.uk



Teach Us to Pray: Introduction

After each examination, many examination bodies typically issue a comprehensive report that provides valuable feedback on the overall performance of candidates.

This report not only comments on the results, highlighting trends in performance and any notable patterns, but also delves into common errors made by candidates. These errors are often analysed in detail to help future examinees avoid similar errors.

Furthermore, the report offers guidance on what future candidates can do to improve their performance, such as specific study strategies, areas of focus, and essential skills to develop.

Additionally, the report sheds light on the criteria that examiners prioritise, giving students a clearer understanding of what is expected in their responses, enabling them to better align their preparations with the examiners' expectations.

This feedback aims to help candidates perform better in future exams, providing both practical advice and insights into the exam process.

Prayer is a skill that must be learned, and effective prayer requires both practice and understanding. Who better to teach us than Jesus? As God, He is a Prayer-Hearer, and as human, He had a direct connection with the Father. Jesus' life and teachings show us the power and importance of prayer. In His own words, He prayed, "Thank You, Father, for always hearing Me." His example demonstrates not only the necessity of prayer but also how to approach God with confidence, knowing He listens and responds. Jesus is the ultimate guide for learning how to pray effectively.

Adéwálé Adéfuyè

Ipswich, Suffolk

26 November 2024

“Lord, Teach Us to Pray”



Luke 11:1 (BSB)

¹ One day in a place where Jesus had just finished praying, one of His disciples requested, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”



Jesus is praying in a “certain place.” Throughout the Gospels, Jesus is depicted as someone who frequently prays, often in solitude or in specific moments of need. His prayer life is an important model for His followers, showing the value of regular communication with God.



1. Why did the disciple specifically ask Jesus to teach them to pray? 2. What was it about Jesus’ prayer life that stood out to this disciple? 3. Was there something unique in how Jesus prayed compared to other Jewish leaders or teachers at the time?⁴ 4. What does it tell us about the importance of prayer in Jesus’ ministry? 5. Why does the disciple refer to John the Baptist teaching his disciples to pray? 6. What can we learn from the fact that the disciple asks “Lord, teach us to pray”? 7. Why is the request framed as “teach us to pray” instead of a request for a particular prayer or ritual? 8. What does this reveal about the nature of prayer according to Jesus? 9. How does the disciple’s request challenge modern Christians in their prayer lives? 10. What role should prayer play in our personal spiritual journeys?



Thank Him for the gift of life. If you feel your prayer life needs a refresh, let Him know. Longing for a deeper connection with Him? Tell Him. Want a consistent relationship through prayer? Share that desire. Aim to pray sincerely, speak from your heart, and truly listen for His voice in return.

⁴ Matthew 7:28-29 might be helpful

See
Father Christmas

in his

Grotto



Come and join us, fun for all the family!

At



Christmas

Tombola

Fete

Saturday 7th December 12pm-4pm

Colchester Elim Church

Clematis Way,

CO4 3PY

Cakes & Treats

Name the Reindeer

Floating Ducks

All proceeds go to maintenance of the church.

Working in partnership with Elim Church, Colchester. Charitable Trust (charity number 251549)

Pray Sincerely, Not for Show



Matthew 6:5, BSB

⁵ And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. Truly I tell you, they already have their full reward.



According to the Gospel as rendered by St Matthew, Jesus starts by explaining what prayer should not be. He cautions against praying like hypocrites who seek public recognition for their religiosity. Jesus warns against performing spiritual acts for outward appearances instead of from sincere devotion to God.



1. Why does Jesus assume that His followers will pray (i.e., "when you pray")? 2. How can we view prayer as a natural, ongoing part of our relationship with God rather than a duty or ritual? 3. Why does Jesus criticise public displays of prayer in this context? 4. Is He condemning all public prayer or only certain attitudes behind it? 5. How can we evaluate whether our own prayers are motivated by a desire for approval from others or a genuine connection with God? 6. How can a community encourage authentic prayer practices without falling into the trap of performative spirituality? 7. What specific steps can an individual take to cultivate a more sincere, private prayer life? 8. How might this verse inform how religious leaders approach public prayer in services or gatherings? 9. How does this verse challenge modern practices of faith, such as posting religious content on social media or participating in public rituals? 10. What is the "reward" that hypocrites receive for praying to be seen by others? How does it compare to what God desires to give?



Be grateful for the privilege of prayer, knowing that He hears us and care about the intentions of our hearts. 2. Praise the Father that we don't need to perform for others, but that He sees and rewards what is done in private. 3. Pray for purity in heart, seeking only His presence and approval and not the praise of others. 4. Pray for protection from pride and self-righteousness. 5. Pray for authenticity and intimacy with God. 6. Pray for discernment in public and private prayer. 7. Pray for consistency in private prayer.

Shut Out the World: Pray in Secret



Matthew 6:6, BSB

⁶ But when you pray, go into your inner room, shut your door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.



Jesus continues His teaching on prayer by highlighting the importance of finding a private, quiet space, a sanctuary to connect with God. He suggests a simple act: "Get into your closet, shut the door." This isn't just about physical isolation, but about creating a mental and emotional space where distractions fade, and our hearts can truly speak to God. In this quiet solitude, we can focus entirely on our relationship with the Most High, ensuring our prayers are sincere and heartfelt. This guidance highlights the value of privacy and concentration in nurturing a meaningful spiritual life.



1. What does Jesus mean by "go into your inner room"? Why is it important? 2. How does the instruction to "close the door" symbolise the attitude or focus required in prayer? 3. How does this teaching contrast with public displays of piety mentioned earlier in Matthew 6:5? 4. What are some distractions that can hinder private prayer, and how can this teaching help overcome them? 5. In what ways do you experience God's presence when praying privately? How does it differ from communal or public prayer? 6. What are the implications of the promise that God will reward those who pray in secret? 7. Do you find it challenging to prioritise private, unseen prayer? Why or why not? 8. How can we ensure that our private prayers remain sincere and not merely a routine?



Praise God for His willingness to listen and reward those who seek Him earnestly. Thank Him for His constant presence, even when He is unseen. Pray for discipline to set aside distractions and focus during private prayer times. Ask God to help you create a consistent habit of prayer that strengthens your relationship with Him. Seek God's help in guarding your heart against seeking human recognition for acts of devotion. Pray for purity of motives in your worship, so your focus remains on God. Pray for patience and trust in God's timing and method of rewarding obedience. Ask for spiritual insight to discern the blessings that come in response to your prayers.

Meaningful Prayer, Not Babbling



Matthew 6:7, BSB

⁷ And when you pray, do not babble on like pagans, for they think that by their many words they will be heard.



The effectiveness of prayer does not depend on the number of words used. Believing that if twenty words fail, fifty might succeed reflects a pagan mindset. This view mistakenly assumes that prayer's purpose is to persuade a reluctant God or to inform Him of something He is unaware of.



1. What does Jesus mean by "babbling like pagans"? 2. Is He critiquing the form of prayer, the content, or the intention behind it? 3. What cultural or religious practices is Jesus referring to, and how might they relate to modern-day understandings of prayer or communication with God? 4. Why does Jesus emphasise the quality of prayer is not in the number or repetition of words? 5. Is there a difference between repetitiveness in prayer due to vain repetition and praying persistently or with heartfelt requests? 6. Does this verse suggest any critique of certain contemporary practices or rituals in prayer that may be seen as overly ritualistic or mechanical? 7. How do you personally approach prayer? 8. Do you ever find yourself praying out of habit or routine rather than genuine connection with God? 9. What role does sincerity play in your prayer life, and how can you avoid "babbling" without reducing the depth of your prayers? 10. What steps can you take to deepen your understanding of what God desires in prayer, as taught by Jesus?



Give thanks to the Father for His understanding that He already knows your needs before you speak and that you don't have to use elaborate words to be heard by Him. Praise Him for His simplicity and accessibility that prayer is not about rituals or complexity, but about a sincere heart connecting with Him. Ask for forgiveness if you have ever prayed thoughtlessly, repeating words without meaning or sincerity. Ask for help to approach Him with intention and reverence. Repent if you have felt the need to 'impress' Him or others in prayer, rather than seeking Him with an honest heart. Ask for wisdom to avoid ritualism and mechanical prayer. Pray for family, friends, and community to pray with sincerity and free from the need to perform. Pray for Church leaders to model authentic prayer.

Effective Prayer: Beyond Self-Righteousness



Luke 18:9–14



In today's text, Jesus presents another important lesson on what not to do in prayer by contrasting two individuals praying in the temple. The purpose of the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector is clearly articulated from the beginning, ensuring that its message is both clear and focused.



1. What does the Pharisee's prayer reveal about his understanding of righteousness and his relationship with God?
2. Why does the tax collector's approach to prayer receive God's favour, despite his sinful reputation?
3. What does Jesus mean

when He says, "For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted"? 4. How does this principle apply to prayer? 5. In your own prayer life, do you ever find yourself comparing yourself to others? 6. How can this parable shape your perspective? 7. What role does self-awareness play in this story? 8. How can we cultivate a deeper understanding of our own need for God's mercy? 9. How can we ensure that our prayers focus on God's grace rather than on our achievements or self-perceived righteousness? 10. What practical steps can a faith community take to avoid becoming like the Pharisee, judgmental and self-righteous? 11. What does this parable teach us about the nature of justification and God's grace?



1. Give thanks for God's boundless mercy and grace, which do not depend on our works or status but on His love and forgiveness. 2. Praise God for His justice for He judges the heart, not outward appearances, and He honours those who approach Him with humility. 3. Repent and accept His forgiveness if you have been like the Pharisee, looking down on others or trusting in your own righteousness rather than His grace. 4. Repent of any tendency to compare yourself with others, seeking to elevate self instead of focusing on His mercy and holiness. 5. Commit yourself to seeking the LORD with a humble heart, relying not on your own works or goodness but on His mercy and love. 6. Ask for divine help to see others through His eyes and avoid judging them based on appearances or actions. Ask for a heart full of compassion and understanding. 7. Ask to be a reflector of His grace by treating others with kindness and avoiding a judgmental spirit.

The Fatherhood of God: The Foundation of Prayer



Luke 11:2 & Matthew 6:6



The heart of prayer, as taught by Jesus, is rooted in the fatherhood of God. This theme is beautifully illustrated in His high priestly prayer in John 17, where Jesus repeatedly addresses God as "Father," reflecting the deep intimacy and trust in their relationship. By doing so, Jesus reveals the closeness and love that defines His connection with God and invites Believers to share in that same relationship. The repeated use of "Father" emphasises that prayer is not a distant ritual but a heartfelt dialogue with a loving parent. It reminds us that we are God's children, fully known and deeply loved.

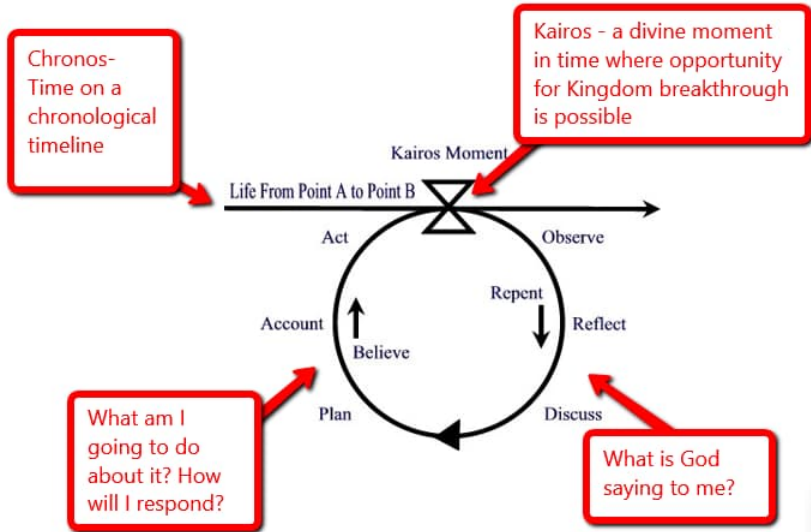


1. What does addressing God as "Father" reveal about the relationship Jesus encourages us to have with God? 2. How would Jesus' Jewish audience, accustomed to formal titles for God, have understood His instruction to call God "Father"? 3. How does the description of God as "your Father, who is unseen" shape your understanding of God's presence in prayer? 4. How do you personally approach God in prayer—as a distant authority or a loving Father? What shapes that perspective?



Thank God for being able to approach Him as His beloved child, assured of His loving and compassionate care. **Thank God for the privilege of direct access to Him through prayer.** Praise Him for His willingness to listen and reward those who seek Him earnestly. **Thank Him for His constant presence, even when He is unseen.** Pray for discipline to set aside distractions and focus during private prayer times. **Ask God to help you create a consistent habit of prayer that strengthens your relationship with Him.** Seek God's help in guarding your heart against seeking human recognition for acts of devotion. **Pray for purity of motives in your worship, so your focus remains on God.** Pray for patience and trust in God's timing and method of rewarding obedience. **Ask for spiritual insight to discern the blessings that come in response to your prayers.** Pray for specific friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to know God as Father.

Pause. Reflect. Process



It's time to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

This week, _____



Our Priorities

ELIM 2025 INVESTMENT

**MAKING
DISCIPLES**

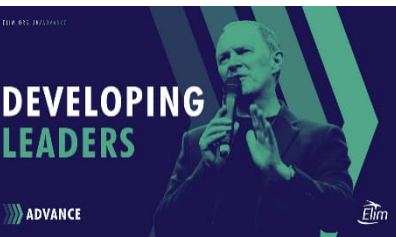
»»» ADVANCE

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white shirt, singing into a microphone with her right hand raised. The background is dark blue with light blue geometric shapes.

ELIM 2025 INVESTMENT

**DEVELOPING
LEADERS**

»»» ADVANCE

A man with short hair, wearing a dark suit, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark green with light green geometric shapes.

ELIM 2025 INVESTMENT

**GROWING
CHURCHES**

»»» ADVANCE

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a patterned dress, singing into a microphone. The background is dark orange with light orange geometric shapes.

ELIM 2025 INVESTMENT

**REACHING
NATIONS**

»»» ADVANCE

A man with short hair, wearing a light-colored shirt, speaking into a microphone. The background is dark red with light red geometric shapes.