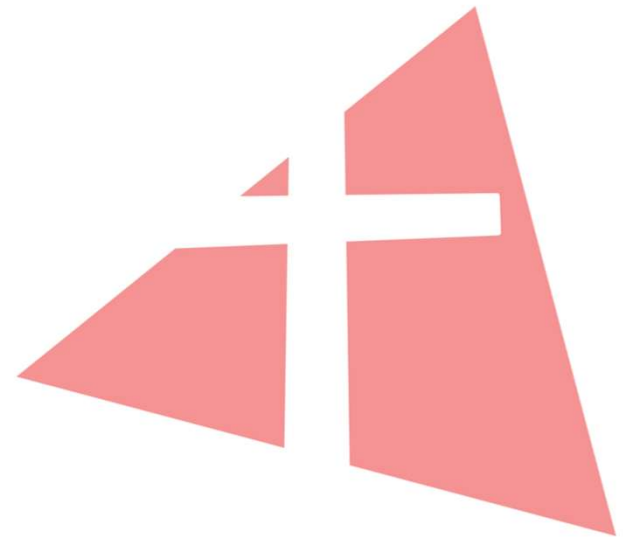


PRAYER

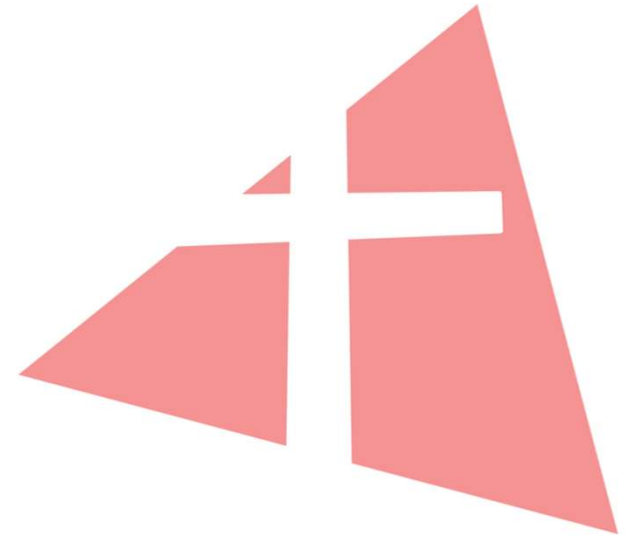
February 02nd 2020



OUR NEW SERIES

○ Prayer

- Purpose
- Common misconceptions about prayer
- How Jesus prayed
- Prayers from the OT/NT
- When/How to pray
- ...



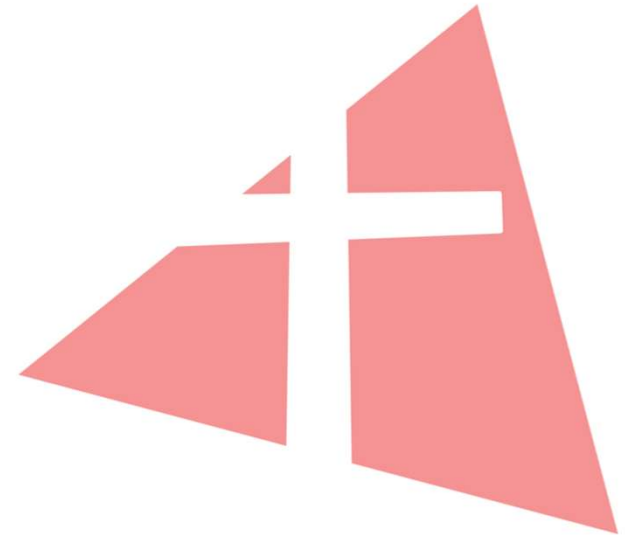
INTERESTING FACT

- **Nearly every person calling himself a Christian says that “Prayer is very important”**
- **Most people calling themselves Christians think that they should do better in their prayers**



COMMON OPINIONS

- Prayer means I tell God what I want Him to do
- Prayer is about me
- Prayer is to get my way
- Prayer is about God helping me
- When my way doesn't work, I pray



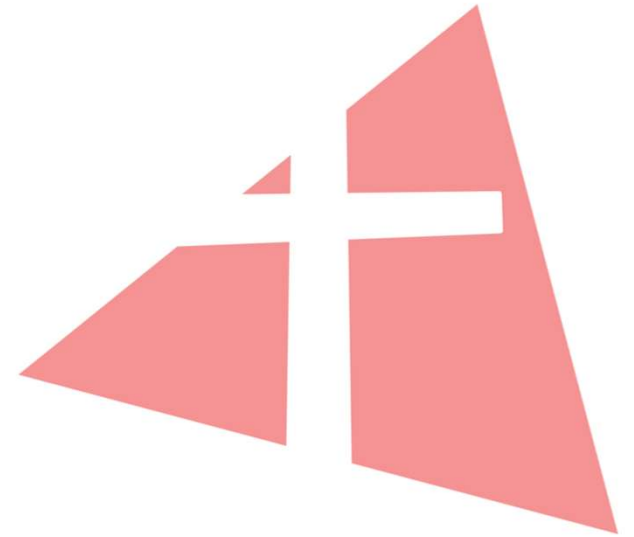
COMMON QUESTIONS/OBJECTIONS

- If God already knows everything, why do I need to pray?
- What if the farmer prays for rain, while the bride and groom pray for sunshine?
- What does it mean to “pray always”?
- Is it sin if I don’t pray in the morning on a certain day?
- When I pray, and God doesn’t answer, can I just fast, so that He’ll give me what I want?
- When did I pray enough?
- Is it because I sinned that God didn’t answer my prayer?
- ...



SIMPLE QUESTIONS

- What is prayer?
- What is the purpose of prayer?



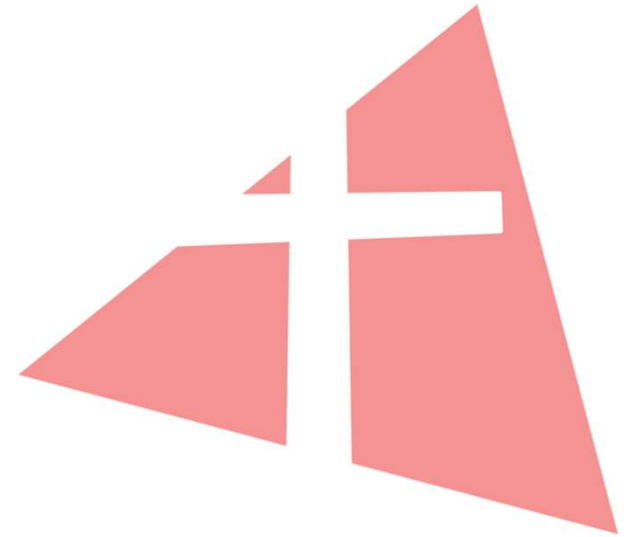
JESUS ON PRAYER

Matthew 6:7-8 But when you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not therefore like them: for your Father knows what things you have need of, before you ask him.



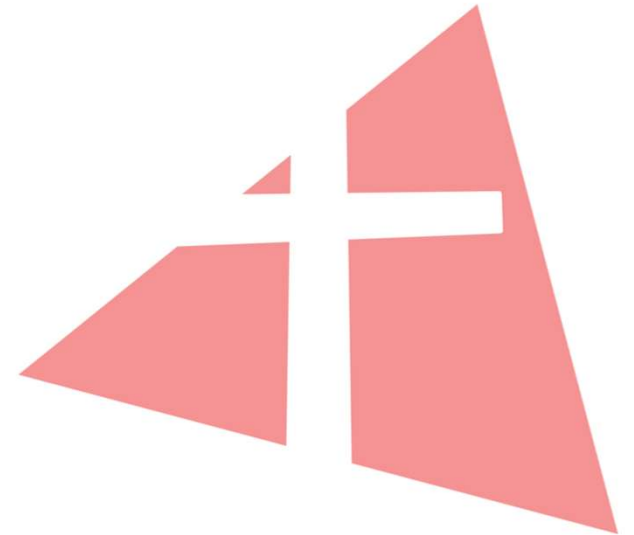
2 BASICS FROM THIS VERSE

- You can't inform God of anything



2 BASICS FROM THIS VERSE

- **We cannot “perform” to get our prayers answered**
 - Vain repetitions
 - Fasting
 - “Praying forever”
 - ...

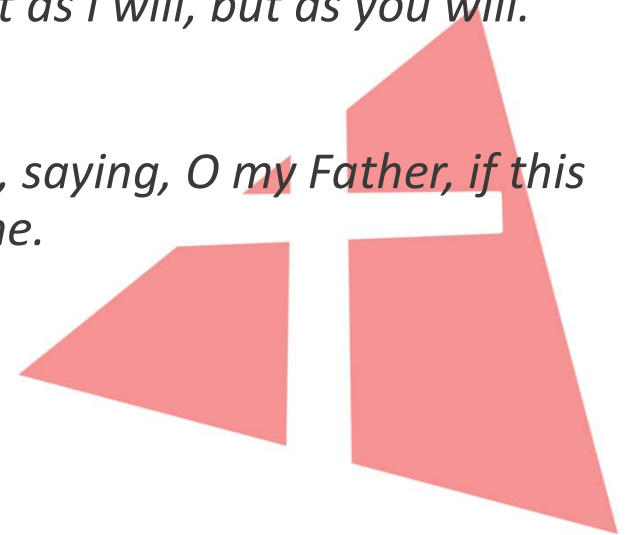


THE EFFECT OF JESUS' PRAYER

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.

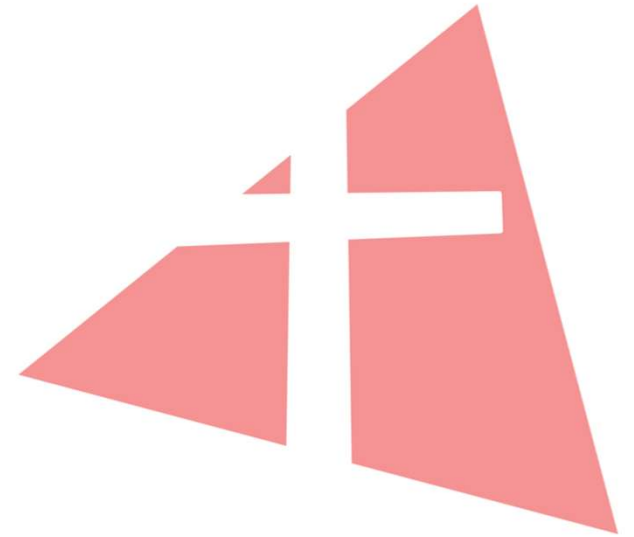
...

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.



WHAT HAPPENED WHEN JESUS PRAYED?

- God the Father didn't change His mind
- Jesus aligned His own will to the will of the Father



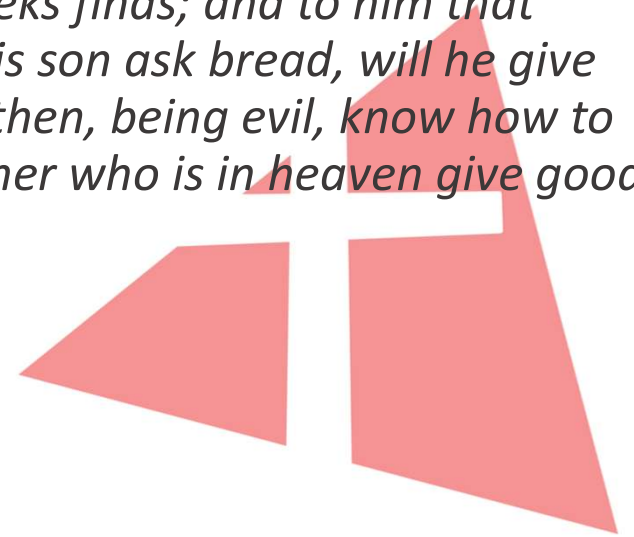
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER?

- **Isaiah 43:21** This people have I formed for myself; they shall show forth my praise.



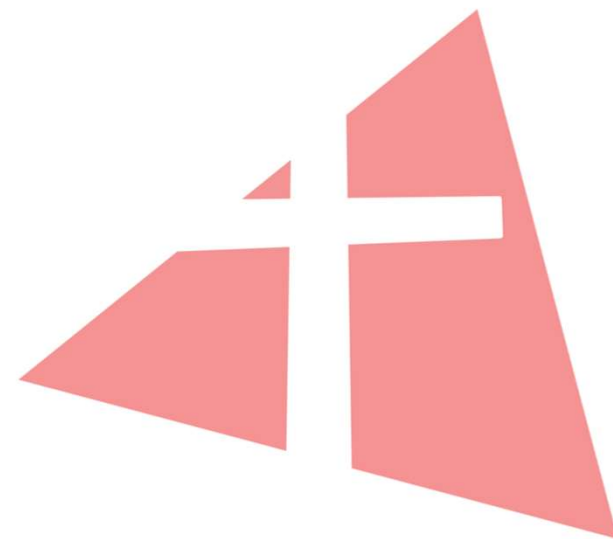
THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Matthew 7:7-11 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?



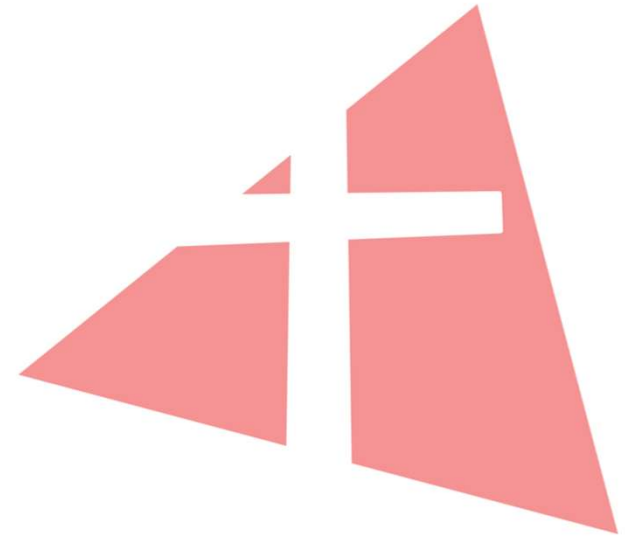
THE GREATEST PRAYER BLOCKER

○ No prayer



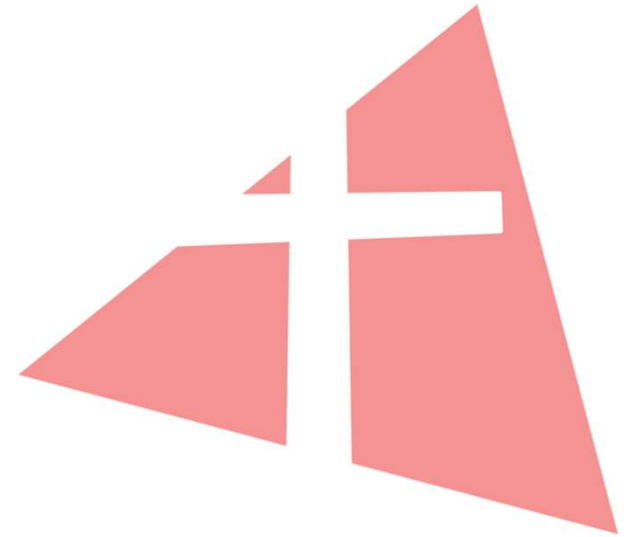
WHAT IS PRAYER?

- Prayer is not about God aligning His will to ours
- Prayer is about us aligning our will to God's



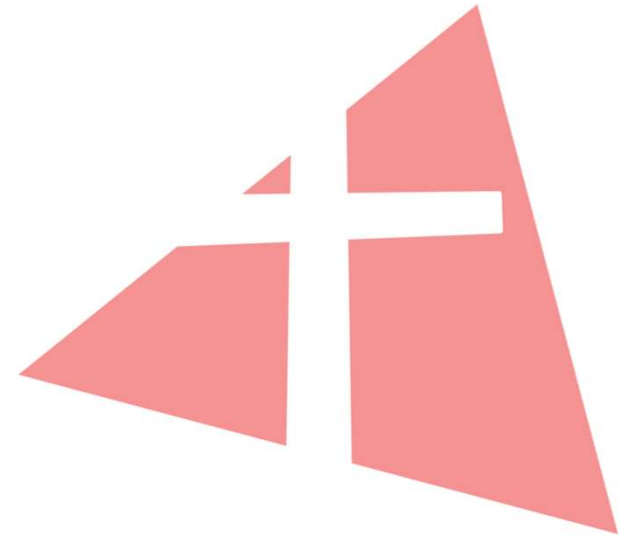
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER?

- The purpose of prayer is “The Glory of God”



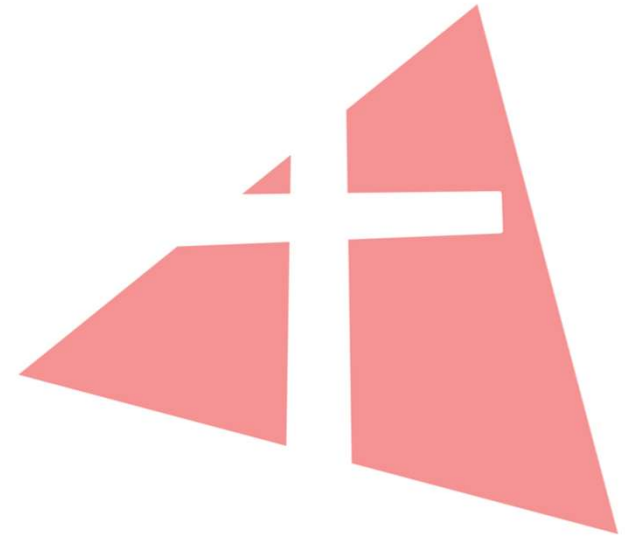
GOD'S GOODNESS

- God always gives us good things



COMMON QUESTIONS/MISCONCEPTIONS

- **With these foundations everything else will change**
 - I don't see God as my "almighty fixer of things"
 - I won't try to "pray harder until I get what I want"
 - I won't get mad when God doesn't give me what I asked for
 - My prayer will be less about speaking, more about listening
 - ...



IN CONCLUSION

- Prayer is not about “me getting my way”
- Prayer is about me aligning myself with God

