



2024

the year of...

What Is Prayer?

- **Simply - talking to God**
- **It's about God and not perfection**
- **Pray with your voice - the voice that God gave you**

Punchline

The right prayer is the prayer that's prayed

This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 6: 9-13 NIV

Matthew 6:9

“This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”

- Relationship between God and people
- ◆ True example of a Father
- Hallowed - revered and honored
- Recognizing God’s status as Holy and that He should be treated that way



Matthew 6:9

“This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”

→ **Father**

◆ **Not imposing our own expectations or experiences of fathers on God**

→ **Holy**

◆ **Anytime we say His name we invoke His Holiness**

Matthew 6:10

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”

- **A now and forever reign**
- **God isn't distant and far off**
- **His will is also personal**
 - ◆ **What does He have for us in the context of His overall plan?**

Yes Chef!!



Matthew 6:10

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”

→ **Focus on God’s will**

◆ **“God if it’s Your will can this thing happen?”**

→ **“God what is YOUR will?”**

◆ **Give the desire and control to God**

Matthew 6:11

“Give us today our daily bread.”

- Provision and daily needs
- Doesn't mean things will just magically show up
 - ◆ Still might need to do some work



I NEED
THESE!!!!

Matthew 6:11

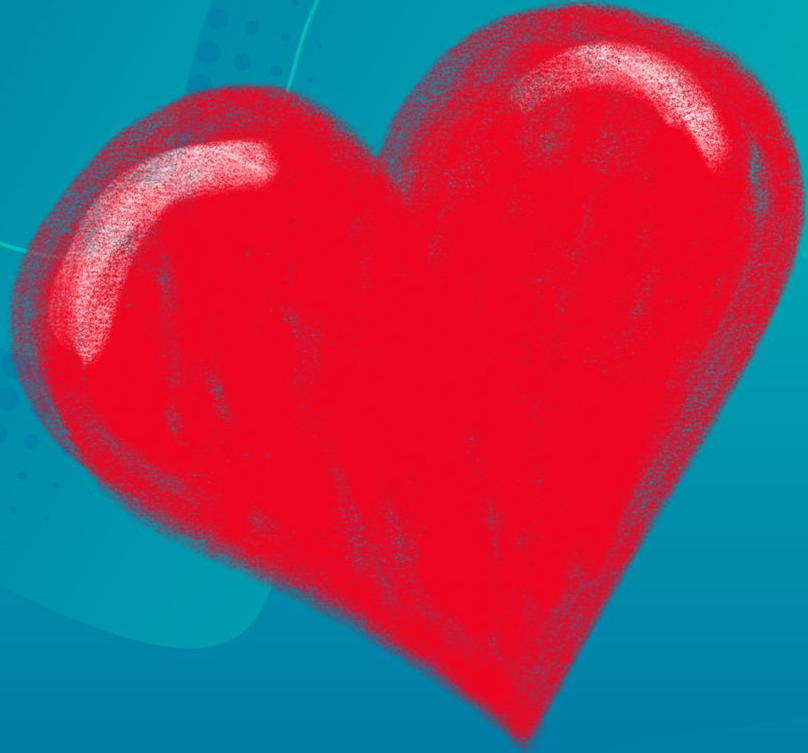
“Give us today our daily bread.”

- **“Needs NOT greeds” - D.A. Carson**
- **God’s way of providing is different for everyone**
- **Provision doesn’t equal comfort in the world’s eyes**
- **Focus on your needs and be grateful for God providing those**

Matthew 6:12

*“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven
our debtors”*

- Debts equal sins here
- Forgive “AS WE” no “forgive us SINCE”
- Prayer and forgiveness are both from the heart



Matthew 6:12

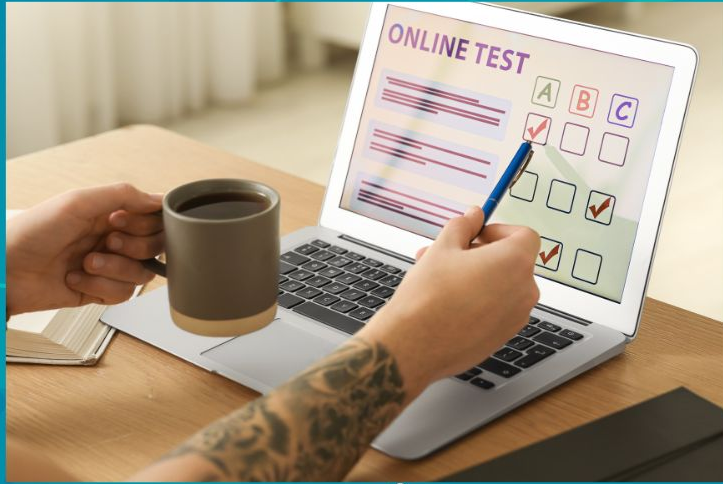
“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors”

- Remember the need for continual forgiveness - both directions
- Can't pray from a sincere heart if we haven't given forgiveness
- Prayer and forgiveness come from deep down and are pure and authentic

Matthew 6:13

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from the evil one*

- **Tempting is tested**
- **Not wanting to be tested**
- **Free from Satan**



EXCUSES.....
EXCUSES.....
EXCUSES.....

EXCUSES.....
EXCUSES.....
EXCUSES.....



Matthew 6:13

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from the evil one*

- **Sparing us from situations in which we could be vulnerable**
- **Pray God will be our strength in testing**
- **Pray God will deliver us from what we fall into**
- **Pray God will free us from Satan - now and forever**

Wrap Up

- Pray more
- Pray the the Lord's Prayer
- Pray with the voice God gave you
- The right prayer is the prayer that's prayed

Audio file

[Prayer Audio.mp3](#)

Transcript

So we we all have. Preferred methods of communication. There are a lot and coming out of the pandemic there's a lot of different ones between video and texting and on the phone and we all have different ways we communicate. That's fine. Usually it's actually interesting at our house if we need to reach out to somebody, if it's a phone call, Stacy will do it. If it's like an e-mail message, I can be sent it to me because we're just those are where we prefer to be in our. Our strengths are that.

Right.

So we do it that way, but there are lots of ways to communicate. We also not just communicate with each other. We need to communicate with God. And one way to do that is through prayer, and prayer is going to be our focus today. We are in week four of four in our 2024, the year of Data dot series. And we've talked about repentance. We've talked about forgiveness. We've talked about growth. You can catch up on any of those on our website if you would like to or you missed those. But today, we're going to end with prayer. This will be our 4th, 1:00 next week. We'll do something different for church in Chile. Then after that, we will dive into some time in the book of Philippians just to give you a little bit of a. Preview as to what is coming, but prayer today prayer is going to look different, probably for all of us. We all have different experiences with prayer, different prayer lives. If you've have them, maybe you're at a place where you're like. I just need to start praying and to pray. I don't do it enough. Maybe you need to pray more or a bunch more. Or or how you pray or pray about different things or anything. And wherever you are that is totally fine. We're going to hopefully help get us into a little bit more prayer life today. I wanted to start though by saying what is prayer like if we if we think about it, we say as Christians we're supposed to pray, we talk about it. But if we look at prayer, Simply put, it's talking to God. If we just take it down to its most basic level, and the cool thing is you can pray about and talk to. God about literally anything. It's about you and God and God doesn't need perfection when you pray, your words don't have to be perfect. They should just be from the heart. I've been in groups where it's prayed and you hear people and like, Dang, that guy's like a really good prayer. They use super big words or they're praying really like this

faint stuff, but God doesn't actually care about that. That's fine for them, but he doesn't need it to be perfect. And Jesus even cautions against praying as a public spectacle, or to be showy. And I bring that up because I've heard people say, like, I don't want to pray because I don't know if I pray. As well or as somebody else or I don't know how. Or I might do it wrong? But pray with your voice, the voice that God gave you, and the way I want us to think about it today is like this. The right prayer is just the prayer that's prayed. The right prayer is the prayer that's prayed. Meaning. Just pray that's what God wants. Just to give you a little of my own experience with it. I'm pretty good about praying and, but honestly, I'm usually pretty short and concise when I pray. I'll ask God for direction on a number of things. Pray for people that have asked me to pray for them or that I know are sick or things coming up in their lives. Sometimes I don't want to pray about things because I don't think I'm going to like the answer I get, so I avoid it. If I'm being honest and sometimes my mind wanders when I pray. Maybe you're like me. You got other things on your mind, so it wanders. What I want to do today is get into some things that maybe will help us focus that prayer time or give us some ideas of things we can pray about to make our prayer honest and authentic and hopefully just get us all to pray or to pray more. And I mentioned earlier that Jesus cautioned against praying to be showy or to be seen, and it's in the context of that that he leads to the Lord's Prayer, which is pretty familiar. It's very possible you've read it before, if you haven't, we're going to read it today. That's going to be our main passage today. It's Matthew 6 versus 9 through 13. It's bookmarked in your Bibles. It'll be up here. Behind me, I'm just going to read it and then we're going to kind of break it. So Matthew 6, starting with verse nine, it's Jesus is saying this then is how you should pray. Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us today Our Daily Bread. Forgive us our debts, as we've also forgiven our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. It's possible if you've recited this before you've ended. With the phrase for thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory perfectly appropriate ending. It was not original to Matthew's writing of the prayers. We're gonna hit that part today, but totally appropriate ending to the pro. So Jesus gives us the Lord's Prayer and it's great. It is not the only way to pray. If you look at it, this doesn't include praying for other people, which we should do 100% whether they ask for it or not. But it does give us a description of what our prayers can look like. I'd actually love that. It's simple and it's short, but it's super. Powerful it it helps us focus on God and see how we can rely on it. So today we're going to break it down piece by piece, kind of quickly. But how it applies to all of our own lives. And I think that will help us get some ideas of different things to pray if we need to start praying or different things to focus on so. We'll look at. Verse by verse. So 69 this then how you should pray. Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name. So he says. Our father, now. This is everyone's father, including. Jesus, it shows a relationship between people and God and God being the true example of

a father, one that's loving, caring will. Discipline is honest. It also makes us his children. When we think of it that way puts us as part of a family, that relationship. And then it says the word hallowed be your name. Hello meaning revered or honored recognizing God's status as holy and that he should be treated that way. I think he brings that up so that we know who we're praying to. It's about helping understand our relationship with God. But when we think of him as holy and say holy is your name, it clicks that this is a God that can answer our prayer that will come through. And hear our prayer. So this first verse is about our relationship with God. Think about if you ever had some type of relationship, not necessarily romantic, but just any relationship that maybe there's a little misunderstanding about like you thought you were tighter than you were, or it was really just a business relationship and you thought it was closer or anything like that. Or you've seen that. I remember we were renting an apartment my senior year of college. Of us. And it was being shown to us a couple of times by this leasing agent, this nice woman, and she was showing it to us. And one of the features of it was she's like, oh, you're only minutes away from the Princeton Club on the West side, where she's like, I have a membership. I don't really go as much as I should. And a couple of my roommates had memberships, so we ended up renting the apartment. And then he got, he went to the gym one night. And I guess he saw. Our leasing agent there and went up to her and made some crack about like, oh, hey, you're finally here. How you get there? And she just gave him the blank stare and looked right by him. Like, who are you? What are you doing? So he thought there's some sort almost like, a friendship. We know each other. It was strictly business to this woman. She rented us an apartment. She was. So it went from like friendly to super awkward and he was like dude, I felt. So stupid. I'm like, yeah. You understand the relationship. This first thing helps us understand our relationship to God in prayer. So we're gonna look at those two words, father and hallow, to understand that father, he is our Heavenly Father and a true representation of what a father should be. And the tricky thing is to not impose our own beliefs or experiences on fathers, on to God. I have heard many people that understandably have a hard time seeing God as a father because of their own relationship with their father, and I get that. But we want to see God as what the true father should be. Loving, honest, but also approachable and available any time and seeing God like this is also a way to remember we're all connected. Our father, our family, all of us together. And then hallow it. Holy, I think Holly is a word one of those words. As Christians, we say, but I don't know if we think about a lot. It's set apart, revered and respected, just the very name of God is that big his name. Anytime we say it or invoke it or think of it should be seen as holy. It's one word, 3 letters that mean that. Much, and that's who we pray to. So we remember our relationship. The next verse 610 your Kingdom come. Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven Kingdom come. This is a reign now and forever. So we're kind of looking at now and also for the future the fact that God reigns in heaven but also wanting

him to reign right here on Earth. That God isn't distant and far off. But he's active right here. And right now. His way, his plans to be working in heaven and on Earth. And it's really bridging this gap that if we ever feel like there's this big distance between us and God, we're trying to bridge that by remembering God, your will come to Earth right now, whatever he wants or needs to have happen will happen. It's interesting. Jesus praised this. And part of what God needs and wants to happen will needs to happen. Is Jesus going to the cross and Jesus knows that's part of his will coming. So it's also, it's what's going on there, but also what's going to happen when the Kingdom is fully realized and Jesus comes. Back his will. But as well as also personal to us, what does he have for us within the context of his overall plan, so allowing ourselves to hear and respond to his will, your Kingdom, your will. Right. So it's putting that that focus on God and what he wants done. There's a TV show that's been out called the Bear. Some of you are familiar with it, Stacy, and I've watched it. Season three will be coming sometime in the near future. I'm very excited about it, but the show, basically, it occurs all pretty much in a restaurant and it has a lot to do with. There's a lot of relationships going on, but one big phrase that is uttered a ton is yes, chef. Yes, chef. And what this is is there's a chef in the restaurant that kind of oversees everything, his plans, his menu, how things go, how it's set up. So he'll say something. The response is always. Yes, chef, whether you agree or not. Yes, chef. Yes, chef. It's saying what he wants done. So when we ask for God's will and then we say, God, you're will come. Yes. God, that is our version of Yes, Chef. Right. So we're focusing on God's will. So focus on that and what is God's will because he's active and present here today. He's not just kicking it up there in heaven, looking down on us once in a while. Like Ohh, you're doing great and not so much. No. He's active and present all the time. I've prayed for God's will in my life, but here's how it often sounds. God, if it's your will, can this thing happen? That's not inherently wrong. I am asking for God's voice. I'm bringing it to God. Often what I'm doing is trying to impose my will to God and then having him have that be his will, and I'm pretty crafty with words when I do it to like trick myself into thinking I'm not doing. It God's. A lot smarter than me, and he's like you're you're doing it again. And it's like, yeah, right, cause I just walk out to rubber stamp what my idea is. So we gotta flip this a little bit and this is hard telling you this is very difficult for me. So I'm saying it out loud and hopes that I stopped doing it. Try the word and change it to God. What is your will in this situation or show me your will or God get my own desires out of it right? Cause we take our desires out our control out. This is hard. I get it. But we give the desire and the control to God and take it from ourselves. And when this does get hard, we don't want to give up our personal control. Remember how personal our salvation is? Thank God saved each one of us individually. He didn't have to, but he did. So we respond by being obedient to his will. So we give up our personal control. Because we have personal salvation from God. So it's obedience to him. So his will next verse. Matthew 6:11 very short. Give us today Our Daily

Bread. This has to do with provision and daily needs. God provides for our needs every day. If we think back to this fall. If you were with us we were in Exodus and there was the story of how God provided the man on the ground. Every day for the Israelites, and they were told to only gather enough for each day and not save any for the next day. This was a way of remembering that God will provide for their needs every single day. They need to rely on God every single day. Now it doesn't. Mean that the food just magically showed up right in their house, right? There was still some work to be done. They had to go out and gather it. There was some work to be done, but God will provide for physical needs. That word need is fascinating because we all would probably say we need things and maybe we do or don't. I was thinking back to one. You can throw this next one. Chris, when I was a kid, sneakers with the pumps were a big thing. Yeah, I'm seeing a few nods. Right. You're my age. Yeah. You remember. I don't know what they did to this day. They were supposed to put like some sort of air in your shoes or something. And the idea was what make you jump higher and, like, dunk a basketball. I'm 5-6 with shoes on. I was never gonna dunk on a big rim, but I thought I needed these. I never got them, but I thought I needed them. Right. Everybody had the cool shoes with the pumps. I needed them. But it really didn't. It was like a it was a want or a greedy. There's a commentator named DA Carson. I was reading a little bit of him on this passage and he described it as this passage button needs not greets like the stuff we actually need. Think about food, water, shelter, clothes and it might not be the fanciest stuff. Might not be the most high end stuff. Now. There's nothing wrong with nice things. I really don't think that's true, but it's about having just what's needed. In God's way of providing for each one of us might look different for all of us, it might be he miraculously provides for something through gifts or donations that you need, and that's awesome. It's super cool. God might provide that way. Might also be that God provides for you through that job that you either love or hate the ability to where I hear some Snickers and I get it right. The ability to work job opportunities, earning what you can are ways that God provides the means to purchase what you need is a way that God provides. So if you struggle with your job, that is one perspective I get. Again, not an easy one, but it is one perspective to try to take. But also, God's provision doesn't always equal comfort in the world's eyes. It's not always comfort like you may have enough, but by society standards or kind of first world standards in the US, they may say you don't have enough. That's where this Kingdom perspective comes in. We have our basic needs for now, and we believe in a Kingdom. That's coming. That isn't based on our material needs, our material wealth. So think, do you have your needs for today? There are people out there that legitimately do not have them and those are people that as Christians we want to help and serve and be there for. So when you feel stressed about not having enough, does it have to do with needs or greed needs or wants? And this is a very personal question for everybody to take in your own context, but focus on what your needs are and rely on God for those and take the step

to be grateful for what you have. Let's go to the next verse. 612 forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors debts here would equal sins. We're talking about sin here and we're not going to go too deep into forgiveness. We did that a couple weeks ago as one of our words, but having this in a daily prayer in the Lord's Prayer is a good reminder that it's a constant need for. And I like the wording. Forgive as we not forgive us since. So meaning we don't forgive to earn God's forgiveness. Jesus reinforces how forgiveness with God works. We forgive because we've already been forgiven. It's not earned. And it just needs to be an authentic forgiveness. It comes from the heart. Prayer is from the heart. Forgiveness is from the heart. That's what I think is important about it. Probably heard the phrase put your heart into it, or you've done something, or somebody's done something and you say, man, their heart was in it or their heart just wasn't in. I've heard stories of actors that have said. Either was really into that role or it really wasn't. There's a movie out now called Wonka. I haven't seen it, but Hugh grants in it, and he's actually quoted as saying he hated making it. He hated the whole process and took the role because he has children and he needed the money. So he said he just. Didn't want. To do the role didn't want to do it. Talk about your heart. Now don't roll if that's what he did it. Contrast that. If any of you saw the Batman movie years ago where Heath Ledger played the Joker, one of my favorites. His comments on that role and getting ready for it, he said it's a combination of reading all the comic books I could that were relevant to the script. Then just closing my eyes and meditating on it. I sat around in a hotel room in London for about a month, locked myself away, formed a little diary and experimented with voices. It was important to try and find a somewhat iconic voice and laugh. I ended up landing more in the realm of psychopath, someone with very little to no conscience towards his act. He's just an absolute sociopath, a cold blooded mass murdering clown. And he put out an incredible performance in that role. But talk about two contrasting approaches to a role 1 putting no heart into. It's like this was simply a paycheck and one guy that locked himself away in a hotel room for a. Month to get. Himself into the role prayer and forgiveness is more like that second one where we want it to be completely from the heart. So remember the need and importance of continual forgiveness from your heart and it's both directions. We receive it and we give it. So we're already forgiven by what Jesus did on the cross. But when we ask for forgiveness, part of that is confessing our sins and recognizing where we've been wrong. And we also want to make sure we're focused on having forgiven others. Because we can't pray sincerely from our own hearts, we can't sincerely ask for our own forgiveness if we haven't given forgiveness as well. So this sincerity about it, of forgiving and being forgiven. They work together because remember, our sins aren't held against us, so we can confess daily and be forgiven every day. And you can also forgive daily if you need to. So think about are you holding anything against anyone else? And again, I understand giving forgiveness is difficult, so maybe it's one day. It's like I gotta start working through this and God help me

start working to forgive. But start working towards that every day and remember it's from the heart. Forgiveness and prayer from the heart. Forgiveness doesn't have to be overly thought out or said perfectly. Neither does prayer. But if it comes from deep down inside of us and it's pure and not. And tick. So that's what forgiveness and prayer are both like, and we pray every day about forgiveness. Last verse 613 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil 1. So this section is more about protection for the future. Here it says leads not to temptation. The same Greek word that rendered temptation would also be testing. Testing might actually be a little better word here. God won't actually lead us into temptation. God doesn't tempt people to. That comes from Satan, but our faith and our strength will absolutely be tested at times through our lives. And the idea here is really not wanting to be tested because we know how hard that is, right? We know we're vulnerable and will potentially fall or go through difficult things during a time of testing. Maybe we're not up for it. So it's not wanting to go through that. And then it's asking God to deliver us from Satan to be free from Satan, away from him. It recognizes that Satan and evil are very, very real and very, very powerful, and we need deliverance from that. But it also recognizes that God is stronger than that evil. So we're vulnerable. We can be weak, but God can deliver us from evil and be our strength. So we ask for God's guidance through the future and what we hope to avoid in being tested. Not wanting to be tested, we have some teachers in the room that give tests, so I asked some of them, hey, what are some ways your students have said they weren't ready or didn't want to take a test? Stacy said. She had a student say my sister had an appointment yesterday. I'm not sure how that makes the student now ready to take the test, but the sister had an appointment. Lindsey had a student that said I was sleeping when you. Taught us that that would, I suppose, or also I was on my phone. Shocker. You're not ready if you're on your phone or you were sleeping. My brother is a high school social studies teacher overseas. He had a student that said I had emergency pinky toenail surgery yesterday. So I'm not ready for the. Test turns out that was true. He also to teach at international schools, so a lot of the students aren't from the country in which to school. As he said, I'm not ready for the tests. I had to get my visa renewed yesterday. He's like that one could be totally legit. Apparently he's in Indonesia right now and he said you get 24 hours notice to go to your renewal. So he's like that. One could have been legit fun fact in Indonesia. If you're a guy. And you don't show up wearing a tie to your renewal, you get turned away. And women, you have to wear clothes. Don't shoes. I didn't know. So if you're. Ever there and. Your visa. Remember that but. It turns out there there are a variety of ways people would say like I'm not ready for this test. I don't want to take this test and not prepare. We're praying here in essence, to lead us away from the test. We want to be spared from situations in which we can be vulnerable and weak and ill prepared cause it happens because we're human. But we have times. We will go through testing, ready or not. And what we really pray is that God will be our strength during

that time of testing, because we'll fail on our own. But God is strong enough to take us through it. So we pray that God will also deliver us from any evil we fall into or from tempting during that time of. And we're all tested in different ways, so we have to be aware for ourselves. That also, we're praying that God would just free us from Satan. That he free us. He's crafty and sneaky and he wants to get a hold of us in different ways. But we ask God to free us from that to deliver us from that. That's a now and forever line that we would be away from Satan now, but also for eternity and war in heaven. And we need God for that. And we remember that in daily prayer. So that's kind of all the contents of the Lord's Prayer ways we can pray. So as we wrap up, think about why, OK, why do we actually pray, though? We're gonna pray that way. Well, the short answer is God wants us to. We're his children and he wants to talk to us. He wants us to talk to him. He wants us to know him and he wants to continually know us. And we do that through communicating with him in prayer. So we pray. It opens us up to hearing his will more clearly and remembering who he is in our lives. So this week, simply one thing I would encourage you to do is pray more. Whatever that looks like for you, regardless of how much you already pray, whether you do or don't, you pray a lot, pray, pray a little more. And think about all these elements in the Lord's Prayer. Are there some things you already focus on and some maybe you need to focus on more? And even pray the actual prayer like prayed out loud. I did it a few days this week. I want to do it every day and I didn't do it, but pray the actual prayer and then think about it in your actual context for you. What does it look like? It's a communal prayer, but it can be very personal. And then pray about absolutely anything. Anything else that's on your heart and say it with your own voice. The voice God gave you. It doesn't have to be perfect. Doesn't have to be the best words ever. But just pray because remember, the right prayer is the prayer that's prayed. So let's pray now. Got to thank you for today. I thank you for this description of how we can pray, how we can just talk to you every day. And I pray God that all of us this week would take more time with you and just spend time talking to you. A little bit more than we have. God, we pray about what you put on our hearts. We pray these things from the Lord's prayer. God. Anything else we pray for each other as a church. So, God, I pray that we would just spend our time with you. We don't worry about the words. Don't worry about the structure. We would just come to you, sit down and kneel down and stand up. Whatever it is, we would just talk to you in prayer. God, I thank you that we can do that and come to you at anytime, anytime we want. You're always there to listen. Your name.