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Are You Connected

### Recap

**Problem with Prayer** 

It feels like speaking to no one

Is God listening?

Does God care?

Am I saying the right things?

What am I supposed to be doing or saying?

Insecure prayers: Is it me? Is it God? Is it my request?

Do we even need God?

### Recap

### **Daniel 3:16-18**

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

### Recap

Prayer is...

Relational

"This, then, is how you should pray:
Our Father in heaven..." Matthew 6:9

**Positional** 

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9



The computer used an operating system which allowed astronauts to type in nouns and verbs that controlled their spaceship.

**Apollo Guidance Computer (AGC)** 

AGC wasn't particularly powerful having 64Kbyte of memory and operating at 0.043MHz.

the iPhone 6's clock is 32,600 times faster than the best Apollo era computers and could perform instructions 120,000,000 times faster.

### Out of the Garden

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" Genesis 3:8-9

At that time people began to call on the name of the Lord. Genesis 4:26b

### **Hebrew Roots**

The Hebrew word Tefilah (תפילה) is generally translated into English as the word "prayer."

But this is not an accurate translation, for to pray means to beg, beseech, implore, and the like, for which we have a number of Hebrew words which more accurately convey this meaning.

### **Hebrew Roots**

The Hebrew word tefilah (תפלה) comes from the verb pallel (פלל), "to judge." We use the reflexive verb lehitpallel ("to pray"), which also means "to judge oneself." Thus, the time of prayer is the time of self-judgment and self-evaluation.

# Different Kinds of Prayer Blessing and Adoration (Worship)

1 Chronicles 29:11-12, Luke 1:46-48, Revelation 5:13
Blessing expresses the basic movement of Christian prayer: it is an encounter between God and humanity. The prayer of blessing is our response to God's gifts: because God blesses, the human heart can in return bless the One who is the source of every blessing.

Adoration is the first attitude of man acknowledging that he is a creature before his Creator. It exalts the greatness of the Lord who made us<sup>99</sup> and the almighty power of the Saviour who sets us free from evil.

## Different Kinds of Prayer Petition

Ephesians 1:15-19, Colossians 1:9-12, James 1:5-6

Prayers of petition are the type of prayer with which we are most familiar. In them, we ask God for things we need—primarily spiritual needs, but physical ones as well. Our prayers of petition should always include a statement of our willingness to accept God's Will, whether He directly answers our prayer or not.

### Different Kinds of Prayer Intercession

Deuteronomy 9:25-27, Romans 8:26-27, 34, Ephesians 6:18

In a prayer of intercession, we're not concerned with our needs but with the needs of others.

# Different Kinds of Prayer Thanksgiving

Psalm 9, Psalm 107:1-3, 1 Corinthians 1:4-5

Perhaps the most neglected type of prayer is prayer of thanksgiving. While Grace Before Meals is a good example of a prayer of thanksgiving, we should get into the habit of thanking God throughout the day for the good things that happen to us and to others.

# Different Kinds of Prayer Praise

Psalm 27, 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Praise is the form of prayer which recognizes most immediately that God is God. It lauds God for his own sake and gives him glory, quite beyond what he does, but simply because HE IS. It shares in the blessed happiness of the pure of heart who love God in faith before seeing him in glory. By praise, the Spirit is joined to our spirits to bear witness that we are children of God

He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. 1 Samuel 1:2

Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. vs 6

This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. vs 7

In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. vs 10

Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. vs 13

"Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." vs 15-16

My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides yo there is no Rock like our God. 1 Samuel 2:1-2

In order to combat our grocery list before God we must start by reminding ourselves about who God is

Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. vs 3

After her praise, she humbles herself

The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honour. vs 6-8

There is no room for "why" when our trust is in God

In want and plenty, suffering and praise, God is present

If you believe God loves you and cares for you then our faith isn't shaken when our requests aren't answered as we expect

When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfill his vow, Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the Lord, and he will live there always." 1 Samuel 1:21-22

According to Jewish rabbinical traditions, weaning could take place anywhere between 18 months and 5 years of age

But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—a boy wearing a linen ephod. Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice.

vs 18-19

Hannah received her answer but was faithful to her promise

God answered her prayer and used it to bless an entire nation

# Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. 1 Chronicles 16:11 (prayer of Asaph before the Ark)