

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

A Picture of Prayer Before the Throne

Revelation 8:1-5



Revelation 8:1



- When the Lamb opened the seventh seal,
- there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

**All explanations about
this silence for 30
minutes are pure
speculation.**

**Most suggest it is the
calm before storm idea.**



**There are 90+ references
to God being in heaven
throughout your entire
Bible.**



Revelation 8:2



- Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

**We will look @ the 7
trumpets after Christmas.**

Revelation 8:3



- And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne,

**See the great
comfort this
vision provides
of our prayers
being handled
by angels before
the throne of
God.**



Exodus 30:1 & 7

- And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: *of* shittim wood shalt thou make it.
- And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.



Like the altar of old in the Tabernacle and Temple John sees an altar of incense in heaven but this is different because of the direct reference to “the prayers of the saints” and the angelic involvement.



Revelation 8:4



- and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

**Do you
pray?**



Revelation 8:5



- **Then the angel** took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

John's vision portrays a direct link between the prayers of God's people and the judgments happening on the earth apocalyptically pictured as thunder, rumblings, flashes of lighting, and an earthquake orchestrated by angels.



**Is prayer
part of
your life?**



Prayer is not a spiritual discipline reserved for an elite group of super Christians.

Turn to Matthew 6:5



“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.



The Bible is packed with encouragements to, examples of, promises about, and instructions concerning prayer.





**Prayer is to
the Christian
life what
dribbling is to
basketball.**



James 5:16

- Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.



1 Peter 3:12

- For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, **and his ears are open to their prayer.** But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”



**If you don't
pray you are
missing out.**



James 4:2-3

- You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. **You do not have, because you do not ask.** ³
You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.



**Do you
understand
what you just
read?**



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Turn to

Acts 10:1-8

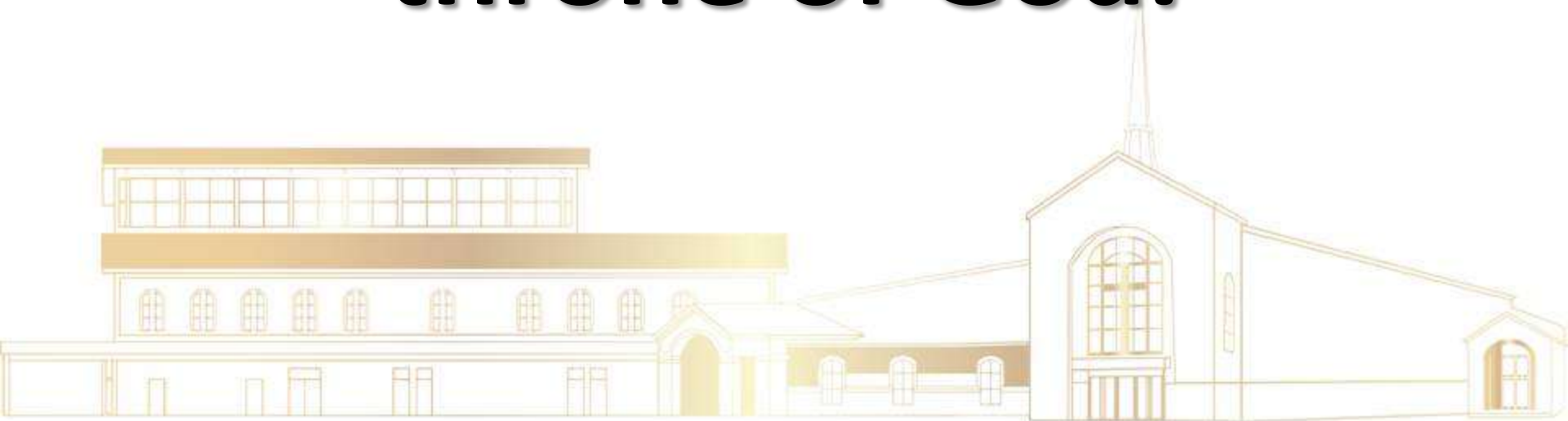


¹ At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, ² a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and **prayed continually to God.** ³ About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision **an angel of God come in and say to him,** “Cornelius.” ⁴ And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, **“Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.** ⁵ And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.” ⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, ⁸ and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.



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**The Bible is clear our
prayers make it to the
throne of God.**



Genesis 20:17

- Then Abraham prayed to God,
and God healed Abimelech,
and also healed his wife and female
slaves so that they bore children.



Numbers 11:2

- Then the people cried out to Moses, **and Moses prayed to the LORD, and the fire died down.**



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Turn to 1 Samuel 1



1 Samuel 1:10

- She was deeply distressed and **prayed to the LORD** and wept bitterly.

Who is this?



¹¹ And she vowed a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.” ¹² As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. ¹⁴ And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.”



¹⁵ But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but **I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD.** ¹⁶ Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.” ¹⁷ Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel **grant your petition that you have made to him.**” ¹⁸ And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.



19 They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. 20 And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked for him from the LORD.”



**What about the
miraculous
birth of John
the Baptist?**



Luke 1:13

- But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, **for your prayer has been heard,** and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.



**James
encourages the
church with the
example of Elijah.**



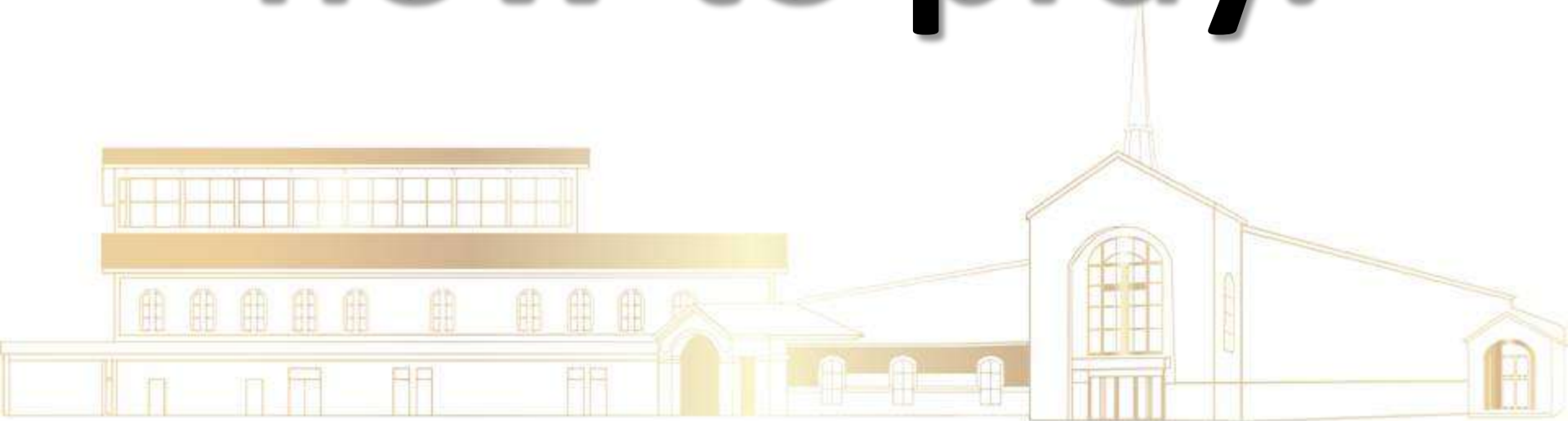
James 5:17-18

- Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.



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**Jesus taught us
how to pray.**



Luke 11:1

- Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, **“Lord, teach us to pray,** as John taught his disciples.”



² And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread, ⁴ and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.” ⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”



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Turn to Matthew 6:9



Matthew 6:9

- Pray then like this:

**This is the
model prayer.**



Matthew 6:9

- “Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.



1. Our

2. Father

3. In heaven.



Matthew 6:10

- Your kingdom come,



We pray for the rule and reign of Christ to be established in our:

- 1. Hearts & Lives**
- 2. Marriages & Homes**
- 3. Sons and daughters; grandchildren, nephews, nieces**
- 4. Church & Ministries**
- 5. Friends & Acquaintances**
- 6. Place of Work**
- 7. Nation**



Every prayer for the salvation of a soul is a petition for the kingdom of God to come in the life of that person.

Whose salvation are you praying for?



“Thy Kingdom Come” prayers include:

- **Confession of Sin**
- **Prayers for grace to obey**
- **Petitions that give God Glory**
- **Advancement of the gospel**
- **Restoration of wayward saints**
- **Salvation of the lost**
- **Power to be holy**
- **Supplications for unity**



**Do you realize the entire
book of Revelation is God
answering the prayers of
His saints praying
Thy Kingdom Come**



Revelation 11:15



- Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

Matthew 6:10

- your will be done,
on earth as it is in
heaven.



**I must align my
prayer life with
God's Will.**



“Thy will be done” prayers include:

- **Any request for wisdom**
- **Petitions for discernment**
- **Appeals for all forms of reconciliation**
- **Anything to do with sanctification**
- **Calls for repentance**



Matthew 6:11

- Give us this day our daily bread,



Twenty-first century application of “give us this day our daily bread” must include:

- **Requests for work or employment**
- **Good health in order to work**
- **God’s blessing upon my work**
- **Safety and security so that I can work**
- **Wisdom to work well**
- **Petitions for good stewardship**
- **Divine intervention to overcome the effects of the fall**



**Is it an accident that Jesus
taught his disciples to pray,
“Give us this day our daily bread”
and then will later declare
“I am the bread of life”?**

Matthew 6:12

- and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.



These words about forgiveness remind me of two critical ideas:

- 1. I need God's forgiveness.**
- 2. God expects me to apply the vertical forgiveness I have received from God to the horizontal relationships I have with others.**



Matthew 6:13

- And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.



**Put simply this
is a petition for
personal
holiness.**

