



**Wednesday, June 16**

True prayer ultimately brings a close connection with God, through which you submit your mind, heart, and will to God for alignment with God’s heart and will. This truly is the most important purpose of prayer (not just asking for protection and blessing!) The night before his crucifixion, Jesus prayed for his followers’ alignment with God’s will and heart, and then began the journey to the cross with his own time of painfully surrendering himself to God’s will and greater purpose.

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**John 17: 1-26 and Matthew 26:36-46**

- From John 17, list at least three “alignment” requests Jesus makes to God on behalf of his followers. What request does he make for himself in Matthew 26?
- Some call Jesus’ prayer for God’s will to be done, not his own (Mathew 26:42) “the prayer that never fails.” Why do you think this is—and do you agree?

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**Thursday, June 17**

Following the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, his followers gathered together and formed communities that shared all things in common, especially prayer. They continued to grow in their understanding of God’s plan and their trust in God to handle all things. Their experiences give followers of Jesus today the assurance that miracles can happen when believers pray together.

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**Matthew 18:18-20 and Acts 12:1-19**

- In Matthew 18, Jesus taught that group accountability in prayer brings miraculous results. What did he say is the supernatural component when believers gather together to pray?
- The people in Acts 12 prayed together for Peter’s situation—and God responded with a miracle that surprised them. Have you ever been surprised by a miraculous answer to prayer? How did you and others react?

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**Friday, June 18**

Within just a few chapters of Scripture (Luke 5-9), four different occasions are described in which Jesus sought God in prayer, either alone or in the company of his disciples. It is clear that going to God in prayer was a regular pattern in Jesus’ life and always happened before major decisions, significant ministry, and the working of miracles.

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**Luke 5:12-16, 6:12-19, and 9:18-36**

- In each of today’s readings, what God-empowered event happened in conjunction with Jesus’ spending time in prayer?
- What decision or life situation are you facing that needs intentional time in prayer with God? After reading today’s scriptures, what results can you expect?

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**Saturday, June 19**

The Bible clearly teaches that your state of heart and mind have everything to do with your prayer life. It is only when you have asked for forgiveness for your wrongs and have brought yourself sincerely and wholly before God that your prayers can become aligned with God’s best intentions and miraculous power. Although you do not need certain words or posture for effective prayer, examining your intent and preparing the state of your heart for prayer are vitally important.

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**Mark 11:12-24 and James 4:2-10**

- According to today’s Scriptures, what is necessary in order to pray effectively? What can make your prayer life ineffective?
- Which of these most challenge you in your prayer life?

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