

This Is Us

## **Why We Pray**

### **Acts 2:42-47**

- We must be people of prayer.
- We must pray individually. We must pray corporately. There is power in prayer.
- We must be a praying church.

We pray to God because we believe that God hears and answers our prayers. We pray because Jesus prayed often. We pray because Jesus taught us to pray. We pray for those who are not currently seeking God and His righteousness. We stand in the gap for them.

**(James 5:16).**

### **Psalm 61:1-4**

- Life can be overwhelming, but we are not forsaken.
- God is our strong tower. He is our shelter. He will rescue us.
- Cry out to Him in prayer.

### **Matthew 6:5-13**

- “When you pray” is repeated three times in three verses. Jesus assumes we are people of prayer.
- Lord’s Prayer is not just to be repeated verbatim. It can and should be prayed often. Yet, its greatest value is by guiding us as we pray.

### **Our Father...**

- Begin your prayer time with worship.
- Psalm 100:1-5 - Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to

Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

- El Shaddai [God Almighty]
- El Elyon [God Most High]
- Yahweh [self-existent One]
- When Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac, God provided a ram for the offering in Isaac's stead, prompting Abraham to declare that he now understood God as Yahweh-Yireh, The Lord Will Provide (Gen. 22:14).
- After the children of Israel were delivered from Egypt, from the hand of Pharaoh, God made this statement: "I am the Lord who heals you," Yahweh-Rapha (Exodus 15:26).
- After God empowered Israel's army to defeat the Amalekites, Moses built an altar and named it Yahweh-Nissi, The Lord Is My Banner (Exod. 17:15).
- Upon receiving God's call to be an instrument to deliver Israel, Gideon built an altar and named it Yahweh-Shalom, The Lord Is Peace (Judg. 6:24).
- Reflecting upon God's faithfulness through both exhilarating victories and depressing defeats, David called him Yahweh-Rohi, The Lord Is My Shepherd (Ps. 23:1).
- **Romans 12:1-2** - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.