

## PRAYING: GROCERY LIST OR MARCHING ORDERS?

### SERIES: *MAKING IT THROUGH THE STORMS OF LIFE*

<sup>1</sup> Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. <sup>2</sup> Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. ***Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 (NIV)***

- When I pray, do I do all the \_\_\_\_\_ and none of the \_\_\_\_\_?

### 1. WHAT IS PRAYER?

- *Prayer is an openhearted interchange with the One who cares about you most.*

<sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. <sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. ***Psalms 51:16-17 (NIV)***

<sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ***Matthew 6:6-8 (NIV)***

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD

<sup>9</sup> "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." ***Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)***

- **A** – Adoration
- **C** – Confession
- **T** – Thanksgiving
- **S** – Supplication
  - a) Kingdom business – SLC, missionaries, persecuted church
  - b) The needs of others
  - c) Your own needs, seeking God's will

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD

<sup>15</sup> He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. <sup>16</sup> Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. <sup>17</sup> You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.'" ***2 Chronicles 20:15-17 (NIV)***

<sup>5</sup> If any of you needs wisdom to know what you should do, you should ask God, and he will give it to you. God is generous to everyone and doesn't find fault with them. ***James 1:5 (GW)***

<sup>22</sup> Do what God's word says. Don't merely listen to it, or you will fool yourselves. <sup>23</sup> If someone listens to God's word but doesn't do what it says, he is like a person who looks at his face in a mirror, ***James 1:22-23 (GW)***

### 4. WHY GOD \_\_\_\_\_ TO US

- To \_\_\_\_\_ our intimate relationship with Him

<sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" ***Mark 1:35-37 (NIV)***

- To communicate His \_\_\_\_\_ and empower us to carry it out.

<sup>10</sup> For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. ***Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)***

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." ***Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)***

### 5. A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR PRAYER

- We need \_\_\_\_\_ with God

<sup>24</sup> "Everyone[27] who hears these words of mine and does them is like[28] a wise man[29] who built his house on rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain fell, the flood[30] came, and the winds beat against that house, but it did not collapse because it had been founded on rock. ***Matthew 7:24-25 (NET1)***