



The Ultimate Apologetic

LEARNING TO PRAY EFFECTIVELY

JAMES 5:16-20



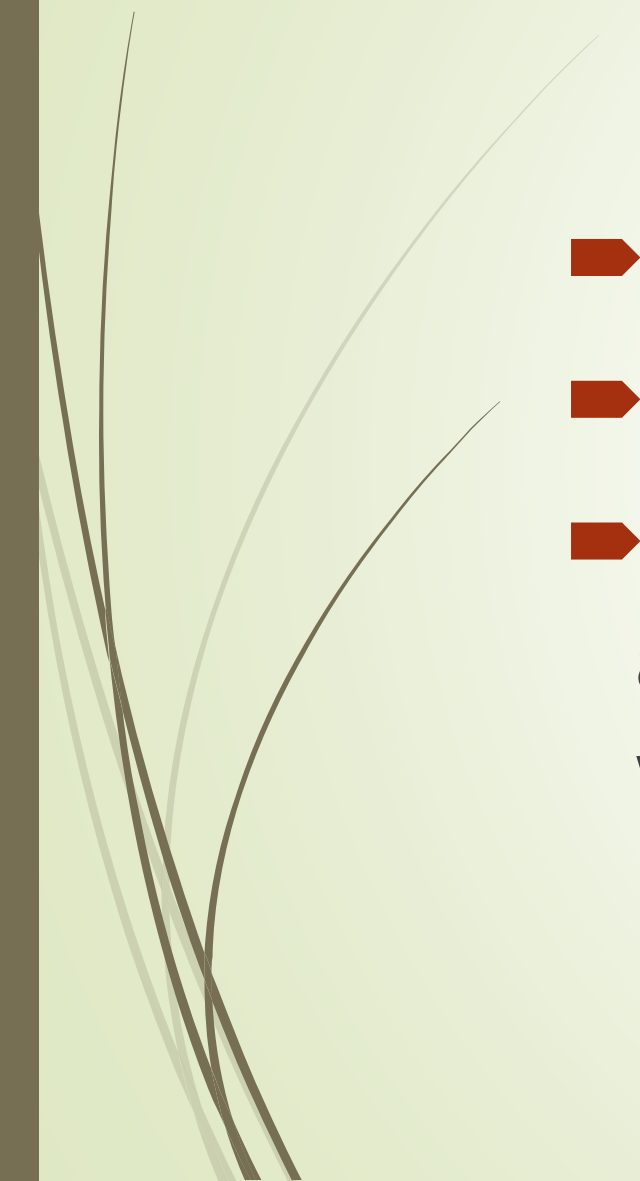
JAMES 5:16-20

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

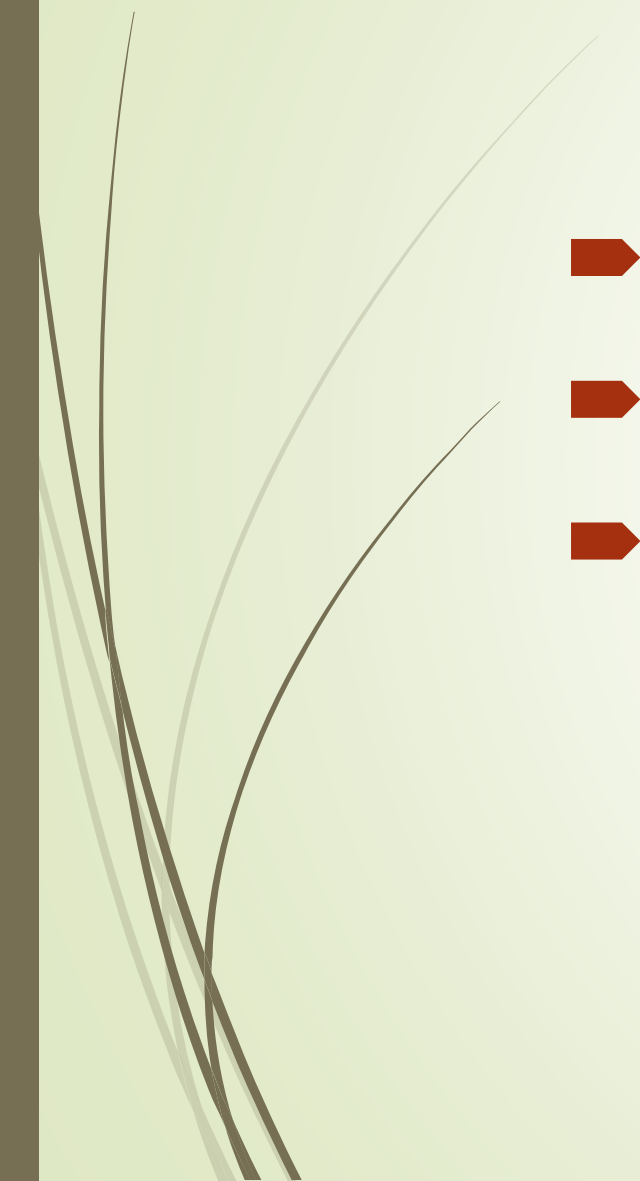



WHAT DOES JAMES WANT US TO UNDERSTAND?

- The fact that prayer is powerful
 - The fact that prayer is effective
 - The truth that prayer is most powerful and effective in response to the person who is committed to obeying God, no matter the cost.
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HOW IMPORTANT IS PRAYER IN YOUR LIFE?


- Everyone prays
 - Not all prayers are equally effective
 - Where can we go to learn how to pray?
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LUKE 11:1–4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”





LUKE 11:1–4

² He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“ ‘Father, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

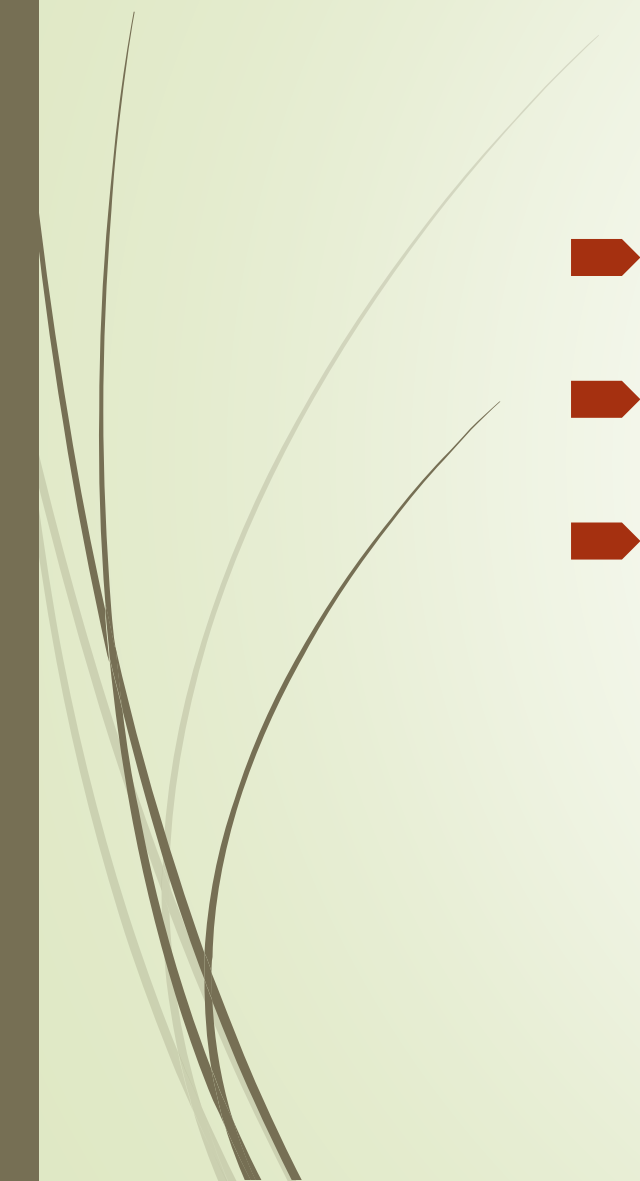
³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive
everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation.’ ”



3 KEYS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER

- Simplicity
 - Transparency
 - Balance
- 



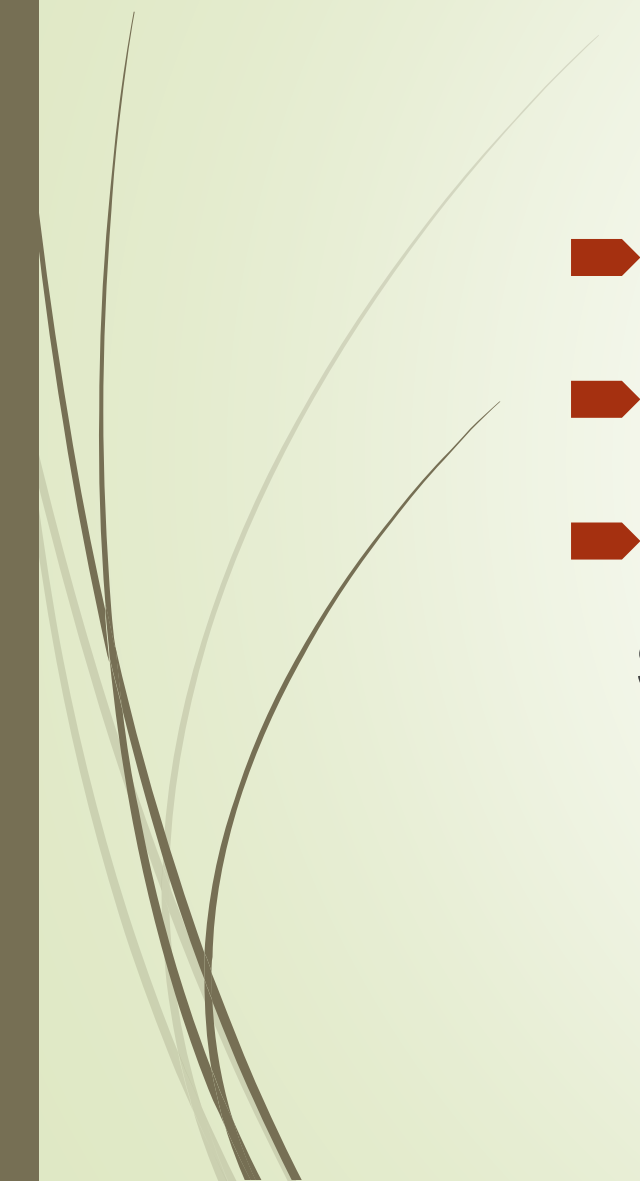
SIMPLICITY

- 34 words
 - Simplicity is not easily attained
- 



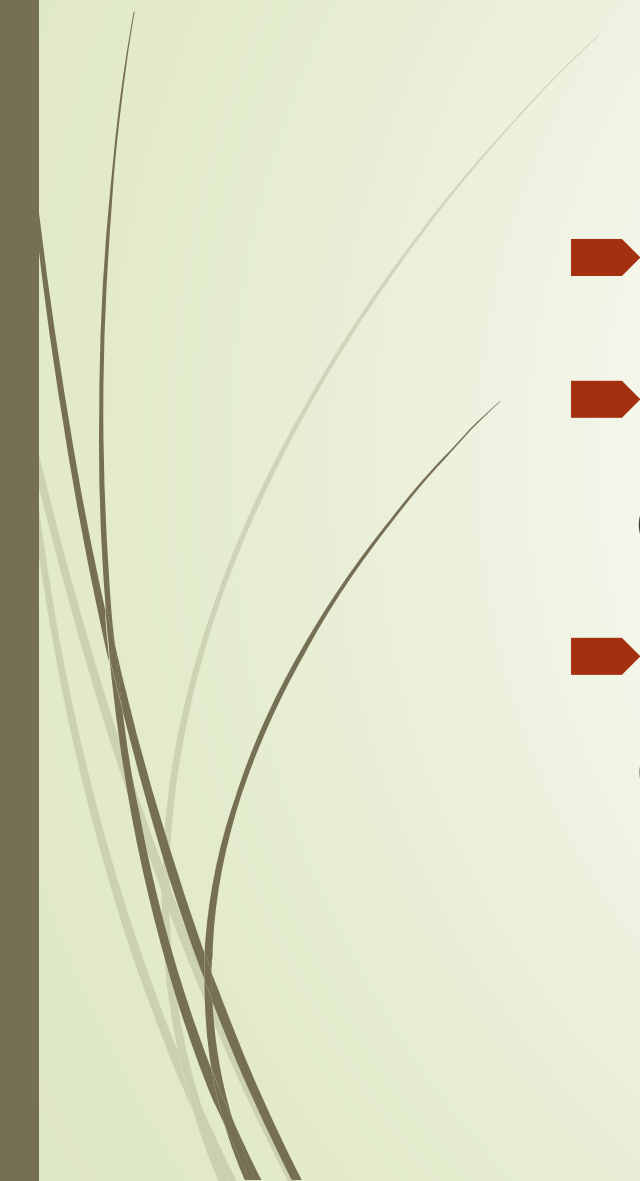


SIMPLICITY

- 34 words
 - Simplicity is not easily attained
 - Simplicity is not the same thing as simplistic.
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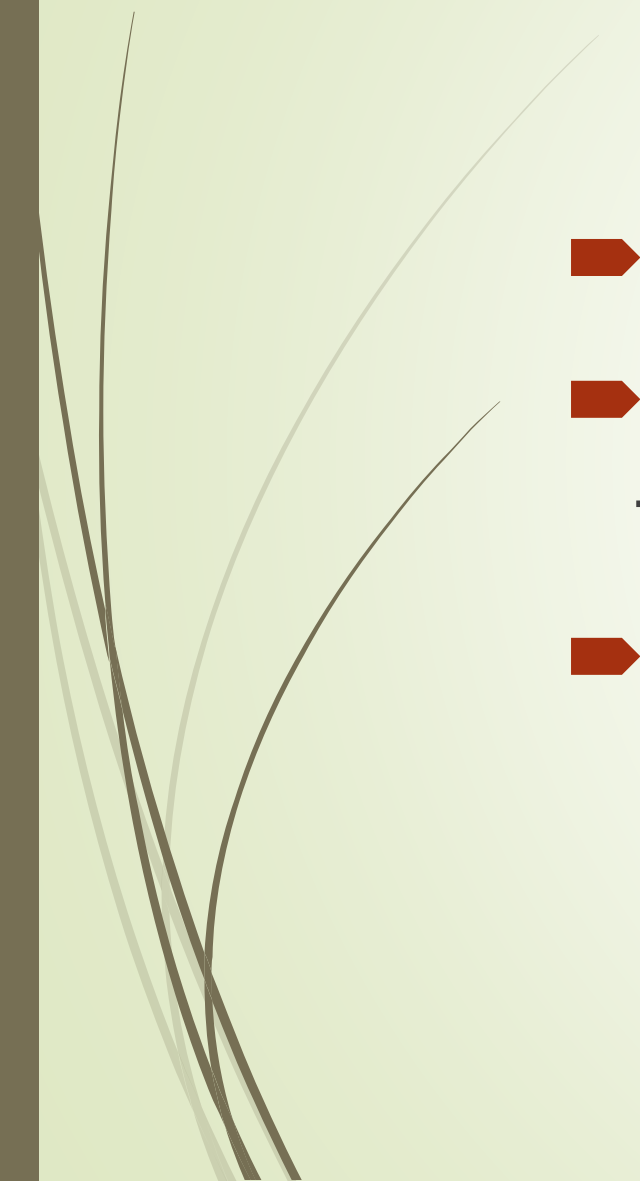


TRANSPARENCY

- We need to know what we really want.
 - We need to know what God desires to give.
 - We need to take off our masks and allow God to touch us and transform us as we pray.
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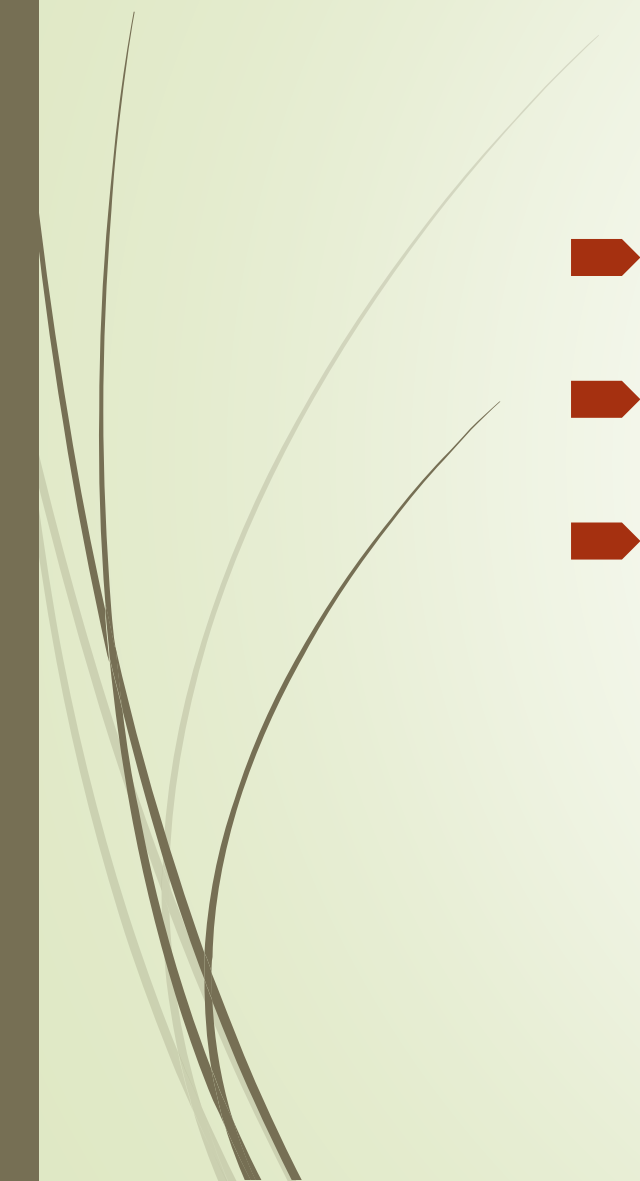


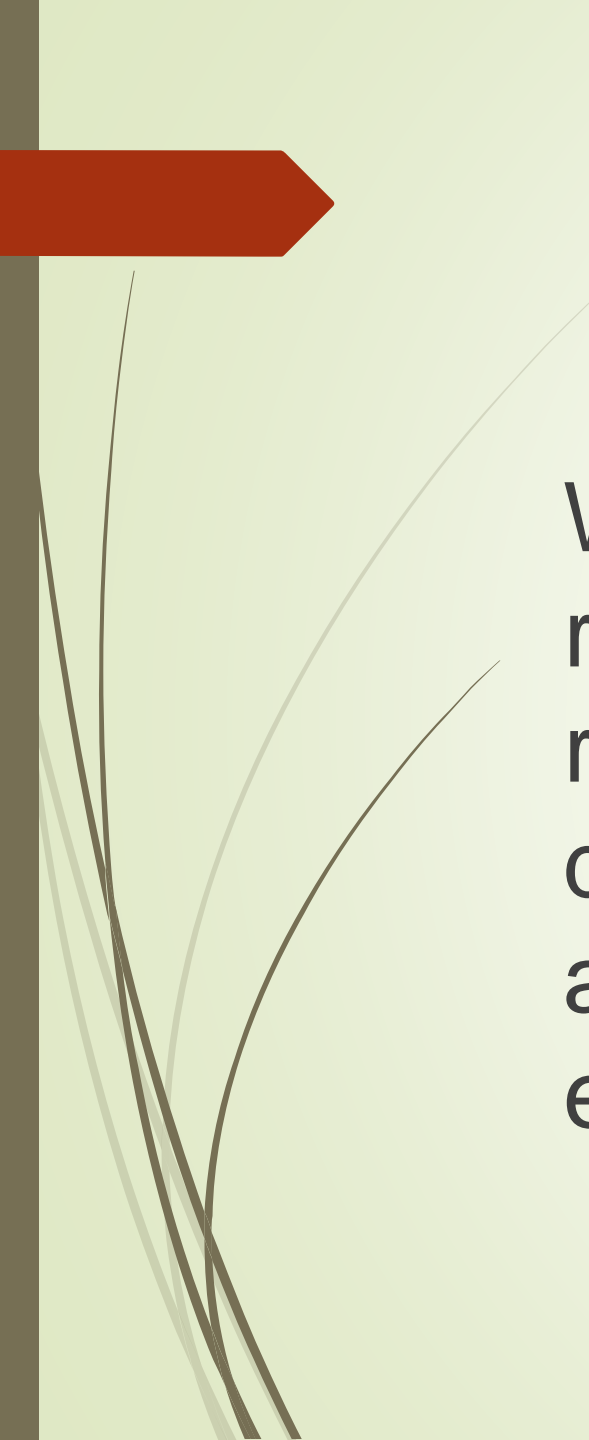
BALANCE

- Between the will of God and our desires.
 - The first phrases provide the context for the balance of the prayer.
 - To be out of balance is to lack power.
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3 KEYS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER

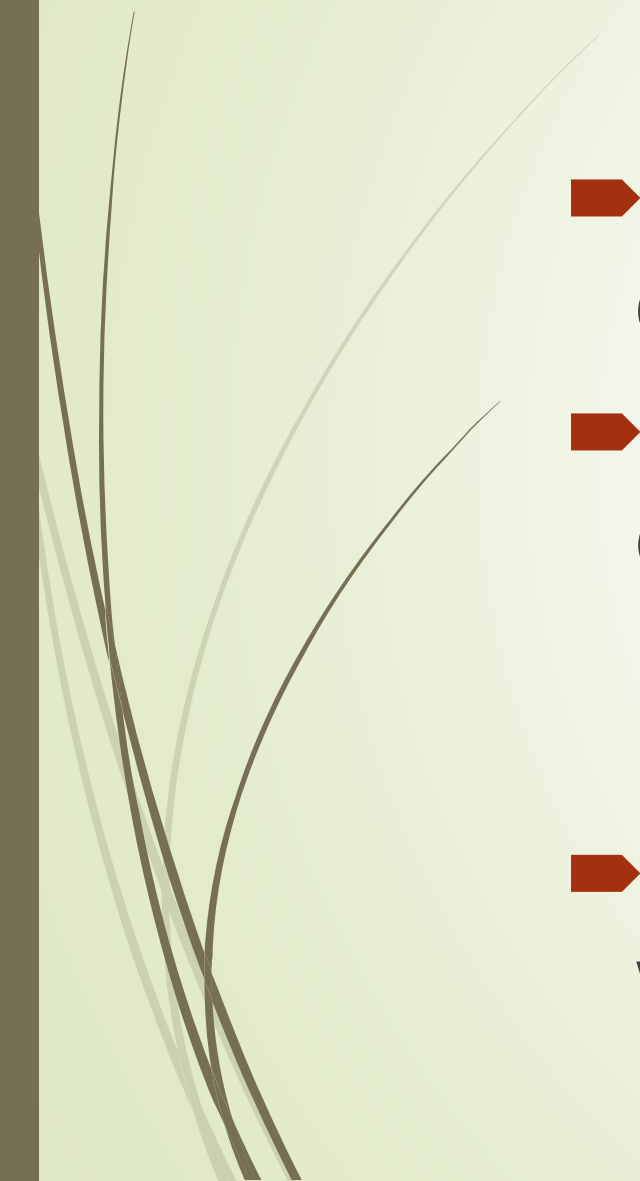
- Simplicity
 - Transparency
 - Balance
- 



Without prayer our deepest longings will remain unsatisfied but as we pray God will reveal Himself to us, we will find ourselves desiring his word, our joy can be genuine and complete, and our witness will be enhanced.




SO WHAT?

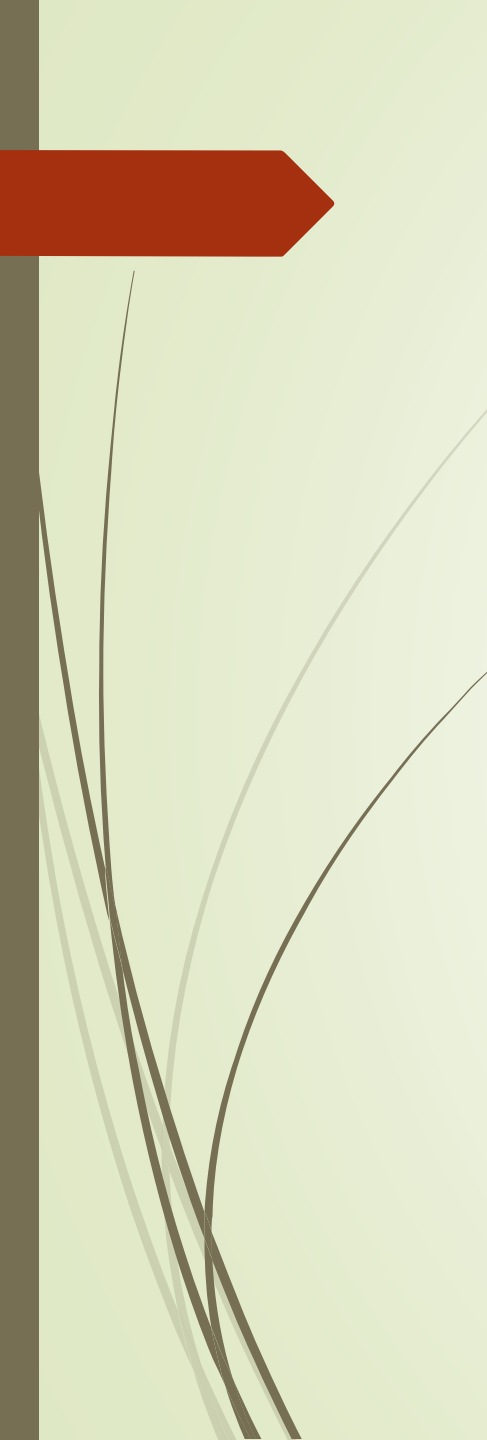
- How much time do you devote to prayer on a “normal” day?
 - Does the amount of time that you dedicate to prayer reflect your “true” understanding of the effectiveness of prayer?
 - Are you willing to be conformed to the will of God?
- 



EPHESIANS 3



¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.



And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.