

“In Christ: Centered Praying”
Ephesians 6:18-20

Praying Is Personal and Relational – Never Impersonal or Mechanical – Ps 69:13

...a free encounter between 2 persons who share life together – Song of Sol 1:4; Matt 6:6

...like all love affairs, prayer has an element of mystery to it – Ro 8:26

Prayer Always Begins with Divine Initiative – Jer 33:3; Matt 7:7; Rev 3:20

- So we may learn to live with God at the center – Matt 6:33

...prayer is not the center of the Christian life – Jesus Christ is – Ga 2:20; Col 3:4

...through prayer we re-center in Christ and His story – Is 48:6; I Cor 2:9-13

- So we may be adjusted to reality = What God sees – Col 3:1-4; II Cor 4:14-16; I Pet 5:6-7

...so that appearances do not supersede reality – Eph 4:1

...so that soul does not take precedence over spirit – Heb 4:12; Col 3:23-24

...so that we may stay centered while under attack – Acts 4:23ff

An Example from Jesus' Life – John 17

- He prays (fights) from union not separation

<u>Passions</u>	<u>Purposes</u>
oneness/fellowship (17:11, 21-22)	communion/fellowship (Jo 15:1-11)
truth (17:14,17)	liberty (Jo 8:31-36)
self-expenditure (17:18-19)	life for others (Phil 2:3-6)
reveal His Father (17:4, 25-26)	glorify, bear witness to God (17:1,5)

Our Own Examples: _____

- My “Battle Cry”: _____

- Pray centered in the One Who forever lives at the center of you – Col 3:4; Ga 2:20

- Pray according to what God says, not what my soul/body says – Ps 25:5; 86:11; Jo 16:13

- Pray with a readiness to be for others – Ro 15:2; Phil 2:3-4

- Pray with a willingness to reveal/glorify God – I Cor 10:31