

# Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal & Spiritual Foundations

## Bible Doctrines

Eschatology  
 Thanatology  
 Ecclesiology  
 Israelology  
 Dispensationalism  
 Doxology  
 Hodology  
 Soteriology  
 Hamartiology  
 Natural Law  
 Anthropology  
 Angelology  
 Pneumatology  
 Christology  
 Paterology  
 Trinitarianism  
 Theology Proper  
 Bibliology  
 Prolegomena

Broad and deep understanding of BD

The greatest natural gift from God is the mind with its never ending capacities:

- 1) Apprehension
  - Bible concepts
  - Divine concepts
- 2) Systematics
  - Systematic theology
  - Synthesis
- 3) Abstract thinking
  - Metaphysics
  - Being/Reality
  - Total Christian worldview

One of the most dangerous things is to see all truth *just* through one spectrum of truth

Logos Philosophy

- Logic (32)
- Truth (6)
- Metaphysics

**John 8:31** ... "If you abide in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; <sup>32</sup> and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Enough BD to be overcomer

1 John 2:14, "you are strong, and the word of God abides in you"

Lacks BD, DV

Eph 4:14, "tossed here and there by waves, & carried about by every wind of *doctrine.*"

## Mature Believer – Level 3

- Mind of JC, OWC, PLG
- Enormous Capacity for the synthesis of BD, high abstract thinking, the metaphysician
- Complete worldview that he can defend.

## Adolescent – Level 2

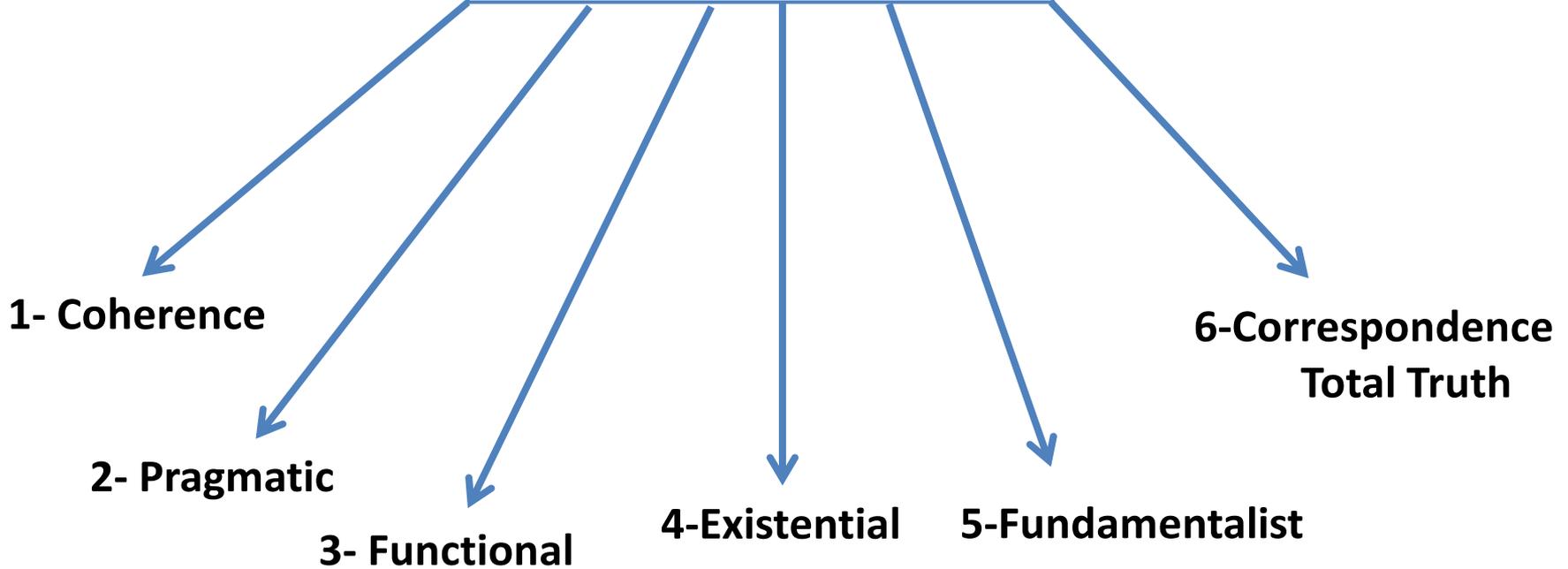
- Synthesized of Truth
- Systematic theologian

## Babe – Level 1 = basic apprehension

- Baby believer
- Basic conceptualization.
- Limited to basic apprehension.
- Unable to defend concepts because lack of synthesis of truths

# Truth (6)

## 6 Views of Truth



- 1-4 = Postmodern/relativistic. These human and cosmic viewpoints have infected much of Christianity due to lack of confidence in Truth.**
- 5 = Anti-intellectual, anti-philosophical, superstitious view of Truth.**
- 6 = Biblical View. Truth is what corresponds to Reality. It is in the Bible because it is actually true. However, this does not mean that this truth is not pragmatic, functional, existential, or fundamental.**

# Correspondence View of Truth and its 3 Categories

1 General  
Revelation

## CREATION

**Romans 1:20, 25** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. . . . **they exchanged the truth of God** for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

2 General  
Revelation

## CONSCIENCE

**Romans 2:14** For when Gentiles who do not have the Law **do instinctively the things of the Law**, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, <sup>15</sup> in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts

3 Special  
Revelation

## THE 66 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is **God-breathed**.

**God is the Author of all three books (science, man's conscience, and sacred texts agree). The correct study of each book reveals to God.**

# Truth (6)

## Common Postmodern Slogans Used Against Christians

**“We Have the Right to Choose our own Values”**

Responses:

- ✓ Then why can't a person choose to be intolerant?
- ✓ Then why should we try to live ethically and cultivate character?
- ✓ Is cheating, stealing, torturing wrong if someone chooses those “values”?

# Truth (6)

## Common Postmodern Slogans Used Against Christians

**“We Only Act Morally because of Social Conditioning”**

Responses:

- ✓ Then why should I believe you, since you are a product of social conditioning as well?
- ✓ If we do not get our values from God, there are no values—period!
- ✓ Were the Nazis evil for the deaths of 12 million people?
- ✓ Was slavery evil? What about bride burning? Suttee? Deforming babies so they can be better beggars? What about the reformer’s dilemma in those cultures? Are they immoral?

Resurrection Special #65: A Walkthrough from  
the Lord's Supper to the Tomb: 'Ehyeh and Pure Act's Attributes

**Matthew 26:36-56**

**Garden of Gethsemane**

1. Pride in Gethsemane.
2. Prayer and Christ.  
- Kenosis  
→ \* 'Ehyeh, Ex 3:14
3. The love of God - L

**Resurrection &  
the Spiritual Life  
in the Epistles**

**A Walkthrough of the  
Resurrection Narratives**

**A Walkthrough  
from the Lord's Supper to the Tomb**

**6 Ways of Falsifying Naturalism**

**The Failure of All Alternate Theories**

**Bedrock Facts: Death of JC & Multiple Appearances**

**Historiography: Establishing Historical Proof  
for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ**



# Exodus 3:14-15 – Esse and Attributes of God

## Exodus 3:14-15

1. There are three names of God which really describe Him as He is: God, Yahweh, 'Ehyeh
2. The term “God” emphasizes His nature or essence and superiority over all, though it broadly describes Him, it is unable to reach the level of 'Ehyeh.
3. Yahweh is the second highest name of God. The term emphasizes His self-existence, causative powers, and Being in the perfect tense.

4. Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh (Tanakh) (“Pure Act,” I AM WHO I AM,” “I AM ACT OF BEING”, “ἐγώ εἰμι ὁ ὢν,” “Qui Est,” is the most proper name of God because it is the name that most perfectly and unambiguously signifies God’s unique and matchless reality.
  
5. Ehyeh/Pure Act is the most proper name of God on account of the fact that it signifies not just any form or essence but being itself. God’s being is identical with divine essence, which is not true of any creation.

6. Ehyeh/Pure Act is the most proper name for God on account of its universality and manner of signifying. All other names limit being and give it a form in some way. God is act of being in Himself. We more properly predicate of God whatever names are less restrictive and more common and absolute. Every other name is restrictive in some sense. “Pure Act” points to the infinite and indeterminate status of God’s being, which is characteristic of God alone.
  
7. Ehyeh/Pure Act is the most proper name for God on account of its way of signifying time. It signifies being in the present tense, which is true of God since divine being knows neither past nor future.

8. All of the names of God are either proper to Himself as God or metaphorical predications. God, Ehyeh, and Yahweh are all proper to Himself.
9. All other names take on metaphorical predications with likenesses taken from creatures (anthropomorphisms, anthropopathisms) or a relative activity (Creator, Sustainer, Helper).

## 10. Basics of metaphysics.

- a. Metaphysics is the study of the real as real.
- b. God is not the direct subject of metaphysics.
- c. Metaphysics is of the highest order of abstract thinking.
- d. A “real” thing is an actually existing thing, one which exists in itself and is not merely an object of thought.
- e. Being is common to many.
- f. The first act of the mind is “simple apprehension” by which there is an intellectual grasp of “what” a thing is (concept).
- g. The second act of the mind is judgment by which we assert (or deny) that a thing is (concept).
- h. The third act of the mind is reasoning by which we come to conclusions about relationships between judgments or propositions.

11. There are three levels of mental development and maturity—all are aided through BD and the supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit (spiritual IQ).

## Metaphysics



Highest order of grasping God (Exodus 3:14-15) & the SL (Eph. 3:14-20)



### Mature believer:

Avoids common errors; highest capacity for abstract Truth and loving God with all of the heart, soul, and mind.

Highest Order abstract thinking—: astounding capacity to put the verities of the Word of God in a relational manner and demonstrate certain knowledge, metaphysician.



More advanced grasp of God & SL



**Adolescent believer:** systematic theologian, 2& 3<sup>rd</sup> acts of mind, educated, informed knowledge, organization of truth, thoughts, and reflective on BD.

Systematic Knowledge/theology



Basic ideas of God & SL



**Baby believer:** mainly limited to 1<sup>st</sup> act of mind; everything from random details of life to baby concepts of God, characterized by a lot of disjointed fragmented knowledge, unable to defend Truth, superficial view of God, sensate, victimized by KD.

Apprehensive Knowledge – 1<sup>st</sup> act of mind Bible concepts



12. Overview of metaphysics and Pure Act (to be unpacked at a latter time).
  - a. Changing beings exist.
  - b. All changing beings are composed of act and potency.
  - c. No potency can actualize being.
  - d. Only Pure Act can actualize being.
  - e. So, all finite beings are actualized by Pure Act.
  
13. God the Holy Spirit provides the spiritual IQ for every believer to go from simple, disjointed, and scattered Bible concepts, to systematic understanding of God's Word, and finally to high abstract thinking in metaphysics—with a living appreciation of Jesus Christ in science e.g., the four basic laws of governing the universe and in theology.

14. Through Bible doctrine and the ministry of the Holy Spirit every believer has the God-given capacity to become a metaphysician to the level of the apostles John and Paul. Each believer has been recreated with a human spirit to understand the highest abstract and metaphysical truths, but these capacities have to be developed bit by bit.
15. Development of these latent capacities enables the believer to see God, Reality, and the Word of God in very deep and profound ways. This cannot be done if all one does is memorize concepts and doctrines as per the first and second acts of the mind. Growth comes from HS in the second and third acts of the mind.

16. Pure Actuality means that God is infinite. Infinity means without limits. What is Pure Actuality has no limits; it has no potentiality for any kind of limitation. Potentiality is what limits being. Since a Being with no potentiality has no limits, Pure Actuality is infinite.
  
17. God's Pure Actuality means that all of God's attributes are present and indivisible. Although we distinguish in thought between God's eternity, power, goodness, intellect, will and so forth, in God Himself there is no distinction between any of these divine attributes. God Himself just is His power, His goodness, just as He is just His existence and essence—Esse.

18. Pure Act or Esse is infinitely involved in all of the universe. God made our universe as big as it is and so abundantly infused with properties to give a hint of the superabundance of perfections that He is, Psalm 19.
19. Pure Actuality means that God is omnipresent. Omnipresence means “present everywhere at once.” God is present in all His creation, but in no manner limited by it. Whereas immensity emphasizes the transcendence of God in that He transcends all space and is not subject to limitations of space, omnipresence has special reference to His presence within the universe:

**1 Kings 8:27** "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Thee, how much less this house which I have built!

**Isaiah 66:1** Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?"

**Acts 7:48** "However, the Most High does not dwell in *houses* made by *human* hands; as the prophet says: <sup>49</sup> 'Heaven is My throne, And earth is the footstool of My feet; What kind of house will you build for Me?' says the Lord; 'Or what place is there for My repose? <sup>50</sup> 'Was it not My hand which made all these things?'

**Acts 17:24** "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; <sup>25</sup> neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; <sup>26</sup> and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation,

20. The doctrine of omnipresence provides great comfort for believers.

**Deuteronomy 4:7** "For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him?"

**Psalm 46:1** God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

**Psalm 145:18** The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.

**Matthew 28:20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

21. A look at David's orientation to the God's omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence, Psalm 139.

- ✓ Verse 1. Note David's orientation to Yahweh (Pure Act, Esse), verse 1.
- ✓ One of the most comforting and blessed things in life if one is oriented to grace is that God knows us *personally*, 139:1. The God to whom we belong has perfect knowledge of us. He knows our souls, struggles, and everything about us. He has searched down to the very core of our beings. He truly knows us better than we know ourselves.
- ✓ Verses 2-5. God knows all of the details of our lives, 139:2-5.
- ✓ Verse 6. Comprehension of God's Pure Act of knowing us elicits admiration, love, and worship of God, 139:6.

- ✓ God's omniscience is connected to His omnipresence. His omnipresence means that God is in and yet beyond all creation. He not only knows all, but is present in all. He is the Activator of all existing things.
- ✓ 7-12. God will always be near us—now and throughout all of eternity.
- ✓ 13-16, Yahweh's omniscience and omnipresence is directly related to His predesigned plan for your life, 139:13-18. His design of you actually goes back to eternity past. He has made us, not we ourselves. All of this is by divine operation. What a miracle!

- ✓ 17-18. Note David's capacity to worship by contemplating Yahweh, Pure Act. This is correct application.
- ✓ Note the love of God in the "vast thoughts." Note how "precious/yaqar" (יָקָר) the thoughts of God are for the believer. Now here is an existential blessing that is actually based on reality, correspondence truth.

22. The believer is repeatedly urged to trust God in every walk of life on the ground of His omnipotence—Pure Actuality: His creative, preserving, and providential power.
- ✓ **Isaiah 45:11** Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "Ask Me about the things to come concerning My sons, And you shall commit to Me the work of My hands. <sup>12</sup> "It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands, And I ordained all their host. <sup>13</sup> "I have aroused him in righteousness, And I will make all his ways smooth; He will build My city, and will let My exiles go free, Without any payment or reward," says the LORD of hosts.
  
  - ✓ **Jeremiah 32:16-44.**

- ✓ **Acts 4:24-29** And when they heard *this*, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is Thou who didst make the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them, <sup>25</sup> who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Thy servant, didst say, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, And the peoples devise futile things? <sup>26</sup> 'The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord, and against His Christ.' <sup>27</sup> "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Thy holy servant Jesus, whom Thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur. <sup>29</sup> "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Thy bond-servants may speak Thy word with all confidence,

23. God, Pure Act, is perfect love. The perfections of all of His attributes necessitate that He is perfect love.

- a. 2 Corinthians 13:11 *Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*
- b. 1 John 4:8 *The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

- c. It is God's Pure Act to love. He is eternally moved to love and communicate Himself to the objects of His love.
- d. God's love is not restricted to believers, John 3:16; Mat 5:45.
- e. God's love is not an emotional impulse, but a rational and voluntary affection that is inseparable from holiness and righteousness.
- f. The assurance of God's love is a source of comfort to the believer, Romans 8:35-39.

24. God, Pure Act, is full of grace.

- a. Ephesians 1:6 *to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*
- b. Ephesians 2:7 *in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*
- c. It is God's Esse to communicate His grace. He is moved in grace by His very Being.
- d. God's grace is manifested toward unbelievers and believers (Rom. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).
- e. Those who accept His grace have access to the greater surpassing riches of His Grace, Eph. 2:7.

25. God, Pure Act, is Truth—Ultimate Truth or reality is God.

- ✓ God's knowledge, declarations, and representations eternally conform to reality—correspondence view of Truth.
- ✓ God is the source of all truth. The truth of God is the foundation of all knowledge.
- ✓ *1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*
- ✓ God's revelation of Himself in nature, consciousness, and Scripture are true and trustworthy, Psa. 31:5.

- ✓ **Psalm 31:5** Into Thy hand I commit my spirit; Thou hast ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth.
  
- ✓ Because God is Truth, He is faithful to His Word, and to his people. This is an abiding source of encouragement.
  - **1 Corinthians 1:9** God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- **1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:24** Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
- **2 Thessalonians 3:3** But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil *one*.

26. God, Pure Act, is incomprehensible; yet, any grasp and greater understanding of His true Being leads to admiration, adoration, worship, and glorification of Him for who and what He is. To grow mentally and spiritually is to move to a totally new dimension of life—spiritual and temporal.

**Romans 11:33** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

**Romans 11:36** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

27. God, Pure Act, is the "I AM" of the Old Testament.

- Isaiah 43:11-13 "I, even I, am the LORD; And there is no savior besides Me. <sup>12</sup> "It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange *god* among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And I am God. <sup>13</sup> "Even from eternity I am He; And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"
- Isaiah 44:6, "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.
- Isaiah 45:6, That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other,
- Isaiah 45:21, "Declare and set forth *your case*; Indeed, let them consult together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A righteous God and a Savior; There is none except Me.

28. God, Pure Acts, is the “I AM” of the New Testament incarnated in Jesus Christ. The one who said “I am (Ἐγώ εἰμι) the good Shepherd, I am (ἔγώ εἰμι) the door, I am (Ἐγώ εἰμι) the way, the truth and the life, I am (ἔγώ εἰμι) the resurrection and the life, I am (Ἐγώ εἰμι) the vine. He is the eternal I am—the Same, yesterday, and today, and forever.
29. John 8:58, Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am (ἔγώ εἰμι)." -- I am (ἔγώ εἰμι) is the most profound statement made by Jesus Christ in identifying Himself with ‘Ehyeh, Pure Actuality, the “I AM” of Exodus 3:14. The term teaches continuous absolute existence as self-conscious esse.

30. Mark 14:61-63, "But He kept silent, and made no answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed *One*?" <sup>62</sup> And Jesus said, "**I am (ἐγώ εἰμι)**; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." <sup>63</sup> And tearing his clothes, the high priest said, "What further need do we have of witnesses?"
31. John 8:23 And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup> "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am (ἐγώ εἰμι), you shall die in your sins."

## **Back to the life of Christ and prayer:**

1. Life of Christ: He lived a perfectly balanced life.
  - a. He was a serious man yet without being melancholy, joyful without being frivolous. He was in the Word daily, Isa. 50:4.
  - b. He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows (Isa 53:3f.; Psalm 69:9; Rom 15:3; Heb. 2:10).
  - c. He had a sense of humor, Matt. 19:24; 23:24; Luke 7:31-35.
  - d. He wept over those who willingly rejected His free salvation, Matt. 23:37; John 5:40.
  - e. His joy was all about the plan of God– the joy of seeing the multitude of souls saved and being with Him forever in glory, Heb. 12:2; Isa 53:11.

## 2. The life of Christ:

- a. He was always doing the works of the Father (John 5:17; 9:4).
- b. He often began very early in the morning (Mark 1:35; John 8:2) and continued until late at night (Matt. 8:16; Luke 6:12; John 3:2). He was always looking to help a needy soul.
- c. He taught, Matt. 5-7.
- d. He preached, Mark 1:38f.
- e. He cast out demons, Mark 5:12f.
- f. He healed the sick, Matt. 8, 9.
- g. He saved the lost, Luke 7:48; 19:9.
- h. He raised the dead, Matt. 9:25; John 11:43
- i. He called and trained His workers, Matt. 10; Luke 10.
- j. He was characterized by courage, John 2:14-17; 19:11.
- k. He was impartial, Matt. 11:19.
- l. He was tactful, Mark 12:34; John 4:7-30.

3. Jesus Christ spent long times in prayer, sometimes whole nights, Matt. 14:23; Luke 6:12.

Luke 6:12 And it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

4. At other times He arose early and sought seclusion for prayer, Mark 1:35.

Mark 1:35 And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there.

5. Christ prayed before and after engaging in great tasks:
  - a. Before entering upon a missionary tour in Galilee, Mark 1:35-38.
  - b. Before choosing the twelve apostles, Luke 6:12.
  - c. Before He went to the Cross, Matt. 26:38-46.
  - d. He prayed after great success, John 6:15.
  - e. He prayed for Himself, but He never forgot to pray for his own, Luke 22:32; John 17.
  - f. He prayed earnestly, Luke 22:44; Heb. 5:7.
  - g. He prayed perseveringly, Matt. 26:44.
  - h. He prayed believingly, John 11:41f.
  - i. He prayed submissively, Matt. 26:39.
  - j. If the Son of God needed to pray, how much more do we need to pray to God for strength and guidance?

6. Christ urged believers to watch and pray, Matt. 26:41.

- ✓ Watchfulness keeps us prayerful, and prayerfulness keeps us watchful.
- ✓ To watch without praying is presumption—e.g., Rambo Christianity.
- ✓ To pray without watching is hypocrisy—no recognition of the spiritual dangers.
- ✓ Failure to watch is to fall into many temptations. Failure to watch and pray leads to the self-centered life rather than the CCL.

7. One of the greatest lessons of Gethsemane for us is the importance accepting God's will. We will all have our "gardens" of sufferings, loneliness, sorrow, and distress. There will be times when our prayers will not be answered as we wish. Peace and strength will not come until we accept God's will completely—without reservation.
8. Through biblical prayer even the most unbelievable pain and tragedy can be turned into great strength and comfort as the believer accepts the will of God and moves into an *epignosis* relationship with the Lord that is above all one can ask or imagine.
9. Regardless of what a believer faces, through biblical prayer the believer can receive the most fantastic strength no matter how the prayer is answered.

**10. Philippians 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Note the context, Philip. 4:4-6.

- The spiritual dynamics of rejoicing (Χαίρετε) in (έν) the Lord always (πάντοτε).
- “Forbearance (έπιεικής) . . . to all men.” *Epieikes* has the idea of being ready to forgive (cf. LXX) as well as not insisting on your way. This is genuine humility. The term has the idea of being charitable towards men’s faults and merciful in judgment at their failings because of fair-mindedness. This is grace orientation. This is the outshining of joy in the Lord. God’s grace always provides grace disposition.

**Philippians 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

- **“Be anxious for nothing”** (μηδὲν μεριμνᾶτε). This imperative is impossible apart from total trust in God’s care and provision. Worrying has been called by theologians and Bible scholars unconscious blasphemy. Worry is always a result of lack of trust and personal relationship with God. Worry was about the only thing for which the Lord chided the disciples.
- **“but in everything”** (ἀλλ’ ἐν παντί). This refers to every circumstance.
- **“by prayer”** (τῇ προσευχῇ). The Greek word emphasizes *face to face* prayer. Prayer is very powerful. Face to face prayer can get you through anything in life. Not a ritual, it is face to face contact with God. What a special privilege we have of this face to face prayer with God. The term emphasizes the relationship.

## Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

- **“and supplication”** (τῆ δεήσει).
  - ✓ This is a bit different from standard prayer. This is a petition and entreaty for your specific and personal needs. As you advance in the spiritual life you should petition God for specific personal needs. We all have specific and personal and special needs. Remember: Some have not because they ask not, James 4:3. He is waiting for your freewill expression in the midst of the angelic conflict.
  - ✓ In your spiritual battle you need to pray.
  - ✓ Never take prayer for granted. This is a special privilege as part of the royal family of God. We have so many benefits as royal members of the family of God—benefits that were never given before in all of human history. Prayer is one of the most overlooked blessings we already possess.

## Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

- “**with thanksgiving**” (μετὰ εὐχαριστίας). Plural, and it occurs in the times of testing even *before* the petitions are granted. Giving thanks for the difficulties of life as the Lord becomes more real to you! You can do this if you trust the nature and character of God.
  - ✓ **Philippians 2:14** Do all things without grumbling or disputing;
  - ✓ **Ephesians 5:20** always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;
  - ✓ **1 Thessalonians 5:18** in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

11. It is important for every believer to realize just what a privilege it is to come before the Father for general prayer and for specific needs for self or others. If you have needs and things are not going right, then try prayer. It has nothing to do with earning or deserving anything—it is about grace, Heb. 4:16. God is not there just to hear your voice. He seeks fellowship with you in prayer.
  
12. Biblical prayer is to be addressed to God the Father, Mat 6:6-9; Eph. 1:17; 1 Pet. 1:17
  - ✓ **1 Peter 1:17** And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *upon earth*;

13. Prayer is through the person and work of Jesus Christ, John 14:13-14;
14. Prayer is to be done under the power of the Holy Spirit, Eph. 6:18.
  - **Ephesians 6:18** With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,
15. The concept of prayer pursuit, Luke 11:1-13. **Ask . . . Seek . . . Knock.** There are so many promises God has for the believer. We are enjoined by Jesus to pursue those prayers. Privilege of prayer is a right you will never lose. We have so many promises and it is never about “being good.”

16. God is not interested in prayer as a ritual—prayer for the sake of just praying. He is not interested in lip service. He is very interested in biblical prayer where the believer comes to the Lord in a personal relationship and with confidence in His promises in His Word.
- **Mark 7:6** And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. <sup>7</sup> 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' <sup>8</sup> "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

17. When the believer goes to the Father in *biblical/doctrinal prayer* he is oriented to God the Father's person, plan, and provisions. He is not there to play religious games in an effort to cajole God. The doctrinal believer:
- realizes that God the Father loves him unconditionally
  - realizes that God is immutable so He cannot change
  - realizes that God is faithful and will always be there
  - realizes that God is a God of grace so it does not depend upon personal "performance"
  - realizes that God is sovereign and has authority over all things
  - realizes that God is omniscient and knows all things from billions of years in eternity past
  - realizes that God is sovereign, He has authority over all things
  - realizes that God is who He says He is
  - realizes these things because he is living in fellowship with God and is applying the Word of God

18. A look at magnificent promises of prayer:

**John 14:13a** "And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do"

**John 15:16** "that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.

**John 16:23b** "if you shall ask the Father for anything, He will give it to you in My name."

## 19. What about the unanswered prayer of 2 Corinthians 12:7-10?

2 Corinthians 12:7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself! <sup>8</sup> Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup> And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.