
THE POWER OF
GOD-CENTERED
PRAYERS
PASTOR KEITH NIX

THE TEXT

MATTHEW 6:9–13

> “Our Father in heaven, hallowed beyour name. Your kingdom come, your will bedone, on earth asitisin heaven. Giveus this day our daily bread...”
> MATTHEW 6:9–13 (ESV)

We've walked through the power of prayer when things look impossible, the power of simple prayer, bold prayer, and praying for others. Today: there is power in God-centered prayer.

Prayer is most powerful not when it's passionate or urgent, but when it begins with God, seeks God, and surrenders to God. The purpose of prayer is not to get God to serve our agenda — it's to bring our hearts into alignment with His.

POINT ONE

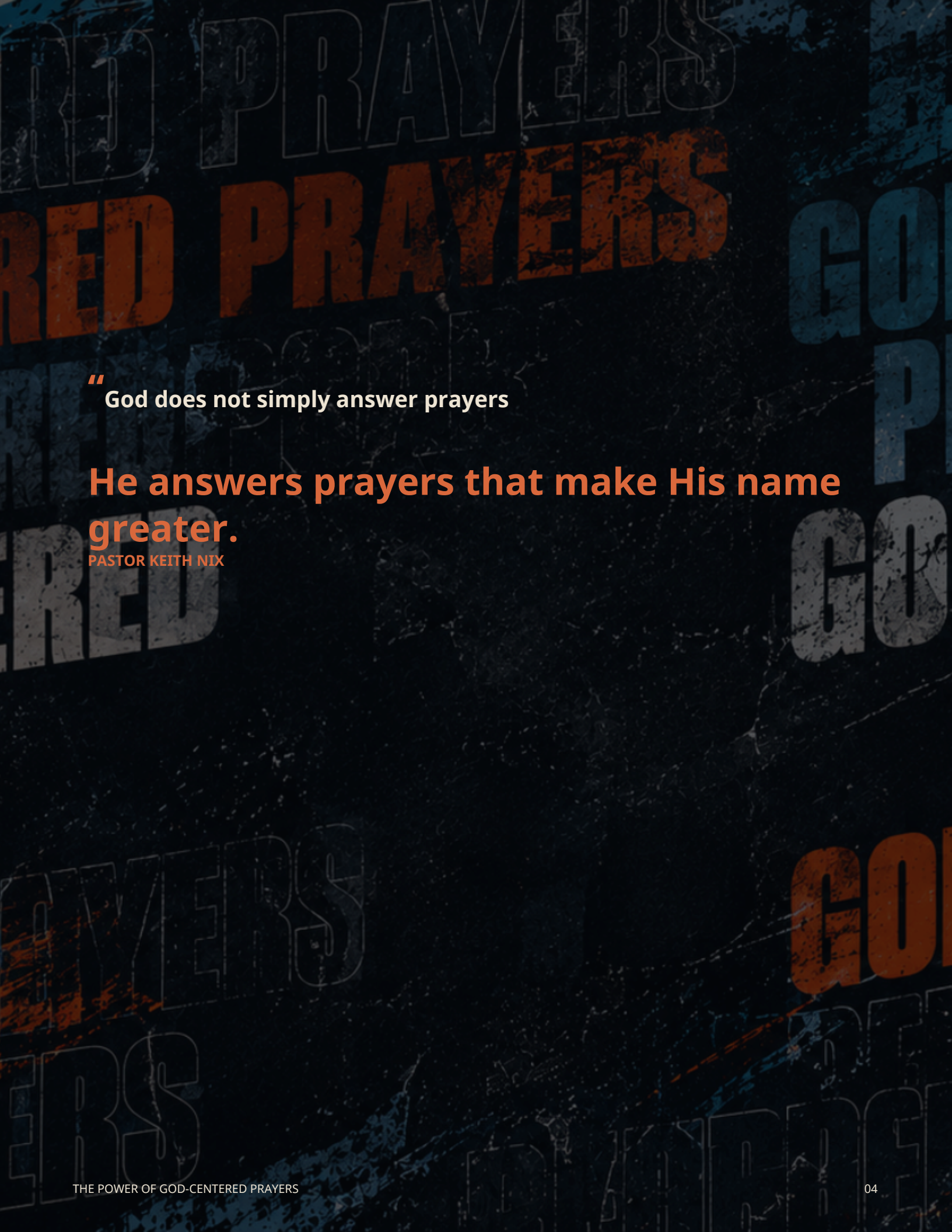
BEGINS WITH GOD

Jesus didn't begin the model prayerwith“Give me.”He began with “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be yourname. Yourkingdom come, your will be done.” Before asking for bread, forgiveness, or deliverance, He lifted eyes to the Father first — His name, His kingdom, His will.

This order matters — in prayer and in living. God-centered prayer says: “I have desires, but Your desire is greater. I have a plan, but Your plan is wiser. I have a timetable, but Your timing is perfect.”

KEY IDEA

Start with God before you start with your request.



"God does not simply answer prayers

He answers prayers that make His name greater.

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POINT TWO

SELF-CENTERED PRAYER MISSES THE HEART

“You donot have,because you donot ask. Youask anddo not receive,because you ask wrongly, tospenditon your passions” (James 4:2–3). Not everyprayerthat is passionate is God-centered. Not every open door is God's will.

A God-centered prayer asks: “Lord, is this Your will — or merely my preference? Will this bring glory to You, or attention to me? If You say no, can I still trust You?”

REFLECTION

Where might my prayers be shaped more by what I want than by what God wants?

POINT THREE

ACCEPTS GOD'S DIRECTION

Paul's teamtriedto gointoAsia —the Spirit saidno. They triedBithynia— the Spirit said no again.Good plan,pure motive, right mission —but twice,Godshut the door (Acts 16:6–7).

At Troas, out of options, Paul received a vision: “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” They had a good plan. God had a greater plan. That redirection led to Philippi — Lydia saved, a jailer's household converted, a church established.

A closed door is not always failure. Sometimes it's evidence of divine guidance. “Lord, lead me in Your way” — not “God, bless my route.”

REMEMBER
Closed doors can be part of God's direction.

POINT FOUR + CLOSING

SURRENDERS LIKE JESUS

InGethsemane, Jesusprayed honestly:"MyFather, if it be possible,let this cuppass fromme"—then surrendered: "Nevertheless,not as I will, butasYou will" (Matt. 26:39).

Faith is not simply believing God can do what we ask. Faith is trusting God even when His will leads us through something we would not have chosen. What looked like the darkest hour became the greatest victory — the cross led to resurrection.

TAKE IT WITH YOU

1 What am I asking God for — and am I holding it with open hands?

2 Is a closed door redirecting me toward something greater than my own plan? 3 Can I

pray, "Not my will, but Yours," and still trust Him completely?

KEY PRAYER

"Lord, lead me in Your way. Let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done."