

Series: Pursue

Running After the Heart of God with Undivided Devotion

Title: Direction

Prayer is not just about asking God for what we want; prayer is about seeking God for the direction He wants us to take.

Prayer: Seeking God's Direction

Prayer is often thought of to ask God for what we need. We pray for healing, provision, protection, opportunities, and blessings. But prayer is much more than asking God to give us something. **Prayer is also where we learn where God wants us to go.**

Sometimes we come to God with a plan already made and ask Him to bless it. But there is a difference between saying, **"God, bless what I want to do,"** and saying, **"God, show me what You want me to do."**

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

Notice the promise: **"He will show you which path to take."**

God doesn't just want to hear our prayers. He wants to **direct our paths through our prayers.**

1. Prayer Helps Us Hear Before We Move

One of the biggest mistakes we can make is moving before we pray.

We see an opportunity, and we immediately say yes.

We face a problem and immediately try to fix it.

We have an idea and immediately start working on it.

But prayer teaches us to **pause before we proceed.**

Jesus demonstrated this. Before making major decisions, He spent time with the Father.

Luke 6:12-13 (NLT)

"One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. At daybreak he called together all his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles."

Prayer came before the decision.

Sometimes God doesn't answer our prayer with a "yes" or "no." Sometimes His answer is "Wait."

And waiting isn't wasted time. **Waiting gives God an opportunity to give you direction.**

2. Prayer Aligns Our Will with God's Will

Jesus gave us the greatest example of this in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Luke 22:42 (NLT)

"Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Jesus wasn't simply asking God to remove the situation. He was surrendering His will to the Father's will.

That's one of the deepest purposes of prayer.

Prayer changes our perspective before it changes our circumstances.

We may enter prayer saying:

"God, this is what I want."

But after spending time with God, we begin saying:

"God, what do You want?"

That's when prayer becomes about direction.

3. Prayer Gives Us Direction When We Don't Know What to Do

There will be moments in life when you don't know which way to go.

You don't know what decision to make.

You don't know what job to take.

You don't know whether to stay or leave.

You don't know what the next season looks like.

That's when prayer becomes essential.

James 1:5 (NLT)

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."

God isn't bothered when we ask for direction.

He wants us to ask.

You don't have to pretend you know what you're doing. You can come to God and say:

“Lord, I don't know what to do. I need You to lead me.”

And sometimes the most powerful prayer isn't a long prayer.

It's simple:

“Lord, lead me.”

4. Direction Requires Listening

Prayer isn't supposed to be a one-way conversation.

We talk, but we also need to **listen**.

If we spend all our time telling God what we want and never take time to hear from Him, we can miss His direction.

Psalm 46:10 (NLT)

“Be still and know that I am God!”

Sometimes God gives direction in the stillness.

We live in a world full of noise—phones, social media, opinions, distractions, and pressure.

But prayer creates a place where we can become quite enough to hear what God is saying.

5. God's Direction Doesn't Always Make Sense

One of the hardest parts about following God is that His direction may not always make sense to us.

Proverbs 3:7 (NLT)

“Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.”

Faith means trusting God even when we don't understand the entire route.

Think about Abraham. God told him to leave his country without giving him every detail about where he was going.

God didn't give Abraham the entire map.

He gave him the next step.

The Danger of Moving Without Direction

There are things we can accomplish through our own strength that God never told us to do.

Just because something is possible doesn't mean it is God's will.

Just because a door is open doesn't mean you should walk through it.

Just because everyone else is doing it doesn't mean you should do it.

Before you make the decision, **pray.**

Before you accept the opportunity, **pray.**

Before you enter the relationship, **pray.**

Before you make the move, **pray.**

Before you respond, **pray.**

Because prayer isn't just about getting God's blessing on our plans.

Prayer is about discovering God's plans.

A Different Way to Pray

Instead of only praying:

"God, give me what I want."

Try praying:

"God, give me what You want me to have."

Instead of:

"God, open this door."

Pray:

"God, open the right door and close the wrong one."

Instead of:

"God, make this work."

Pray:

"God, if this isn't Your will, give me the strength to walk away."

Closing Thought

Prayer is not simply a place where we give God our requests.

Prayer is where we surrender our direction to God.

Sometimes God will answer by changing the situation.

Sometimes He will answer by changing us.

Sometimes He will give us an opportunity.

Sometimes He will tell us to move.

Sometimes He will tell us to wait.

But whatever His answer is, we can trust that **His direction is better than our own understanding.**

So, before you make your next decision, don't just ask:

“Lord, will You bless what I'm about to do?”

Ask:

“Lord, is this what You want me to do?”

Because when God directs your path, you don't have to know everything about the road ahead.

You just must trust the One who knows where the road leads.

Closing Prayer

“Father, we come before You today asking You to direct our lives. Give us wisdom when we don't know what to do. Give us patience when You tell us to wait. Give us courage when You tell us to move. Help us not to depend on our own understanding, but to trust You with all our hearts. Teach us to pray not just for what we want, but to seek what You want. Lead our decisions, our families, our future, and our purpose. Let our lives follow Your direction and not our own. In Jesus' name, Amen.”