

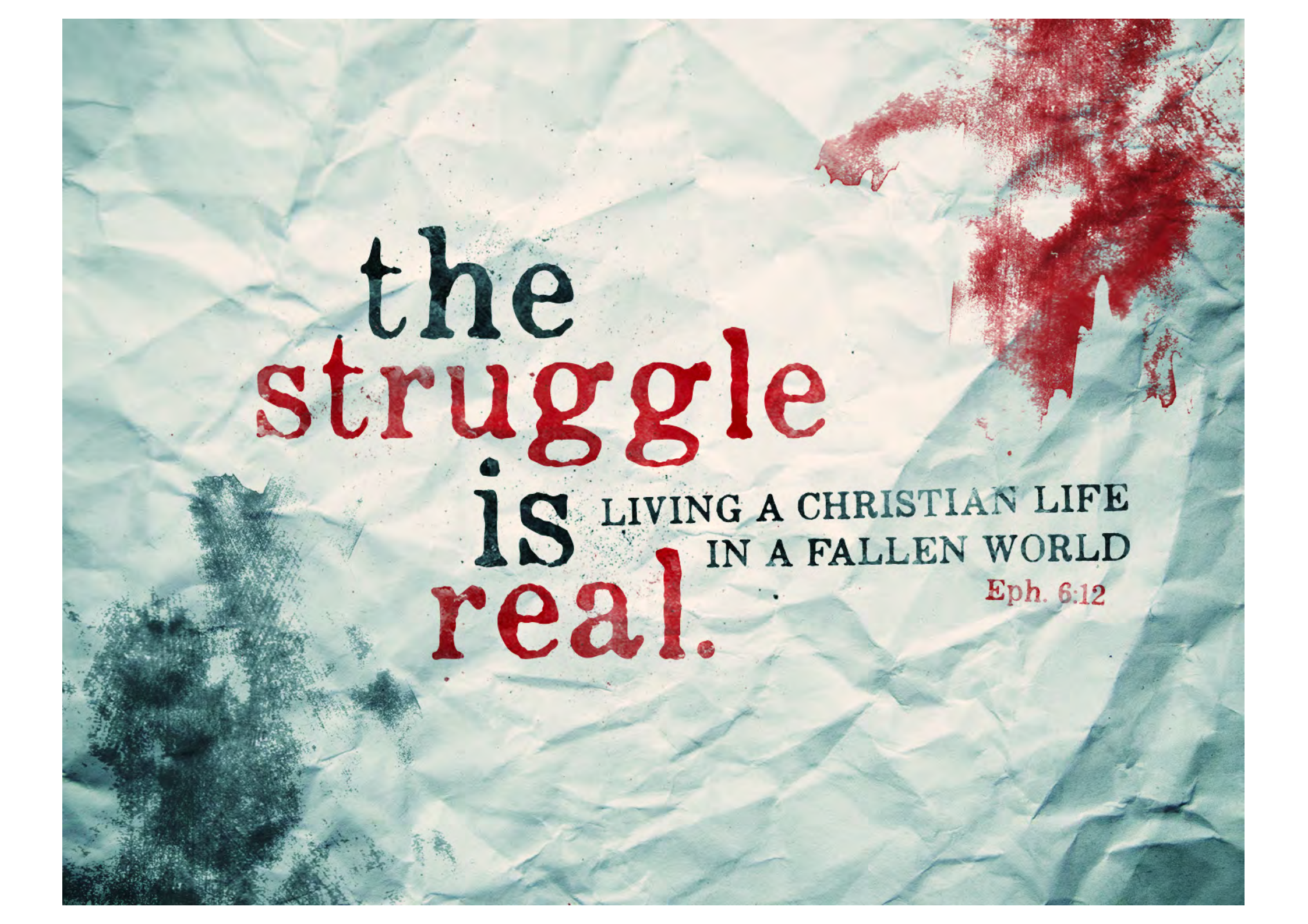
Our Greatest Battle

Matthew 6:5-15

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BibleStudyDownloads.org

The Lord's Prayer



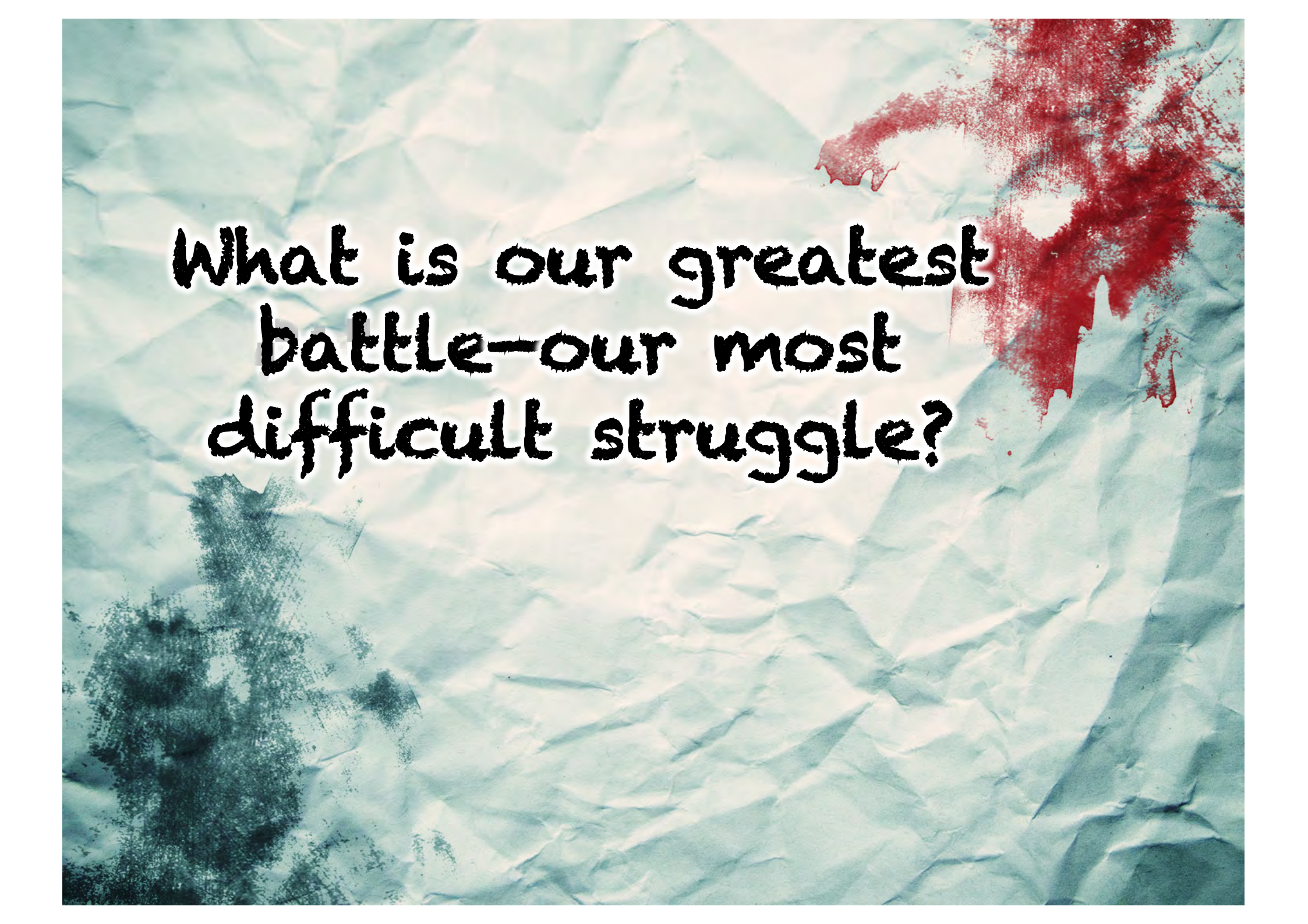


the
struggle

is
real.

LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE
IN A FALLEN WORLD

Eph. 6:12



What is our greatest
battle—our most
difficult struggle?



**What is Our
Greatest Battle?**

What is Our Greatest Battle?



What is Our Greatest Battle?



What is Our Greatest Battle?



What is Our Greatest Battle?



What is Our Greatest Battle?



What is Our Greatest Battle?



What is Our Greatest Battle?



Prayer: Our Greatest Battle



**How are you doing at...
Prayer?**



PRAYER



JUST DO IT.





Our Great Battle



Not a new problem.





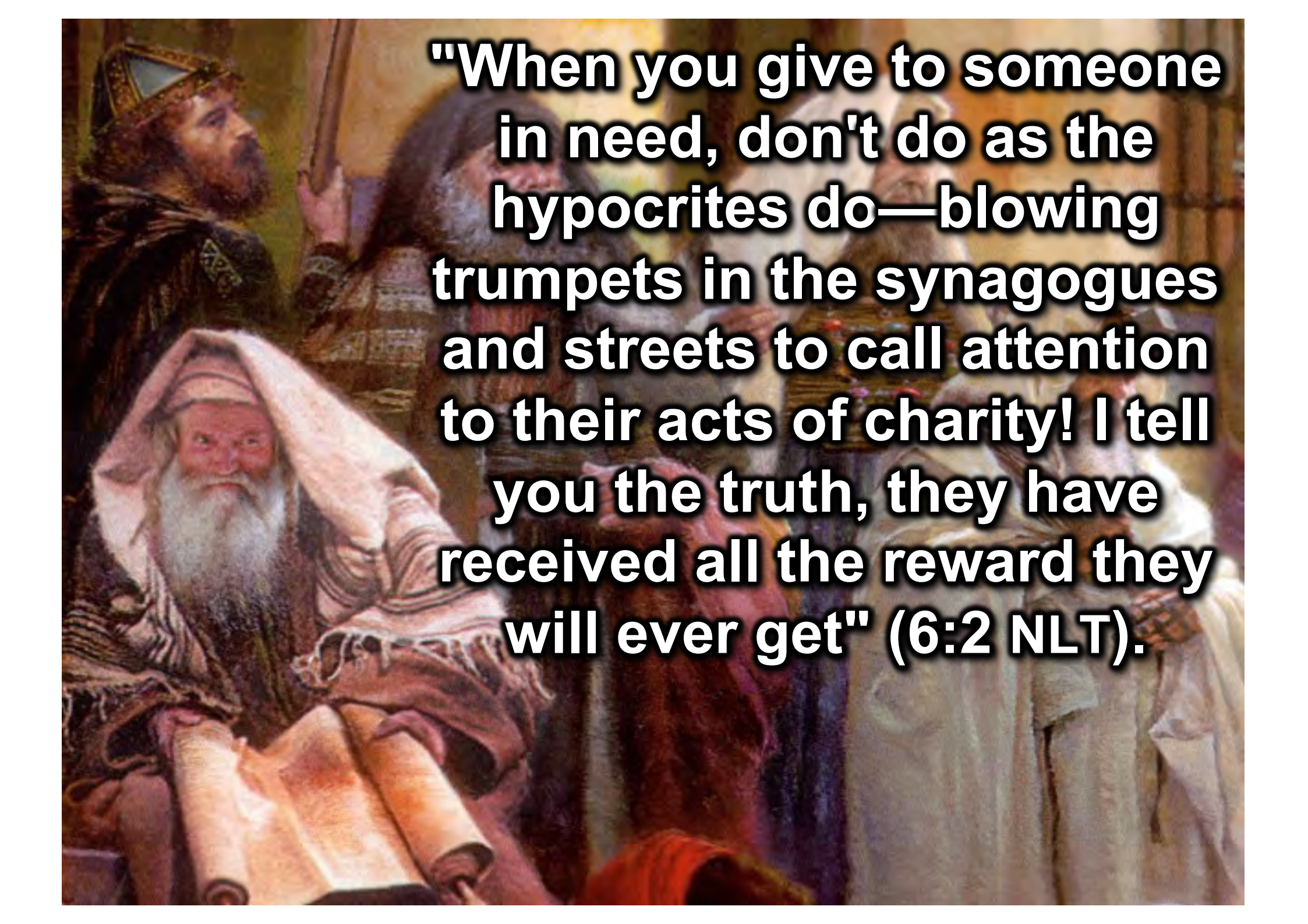
The Sermon on the Mount

**Pharisee Teaching
(Matthew 5)**

**Pharisee Practice
(Matthew 6)**

**"Be careful not to
do your 'acts of
righteousness'
before men, to be
seen by them. If
you do, you will
have no reward
from your Father
in heaven"
(6:1 NIV).**





"When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get" (6:2 NLT).

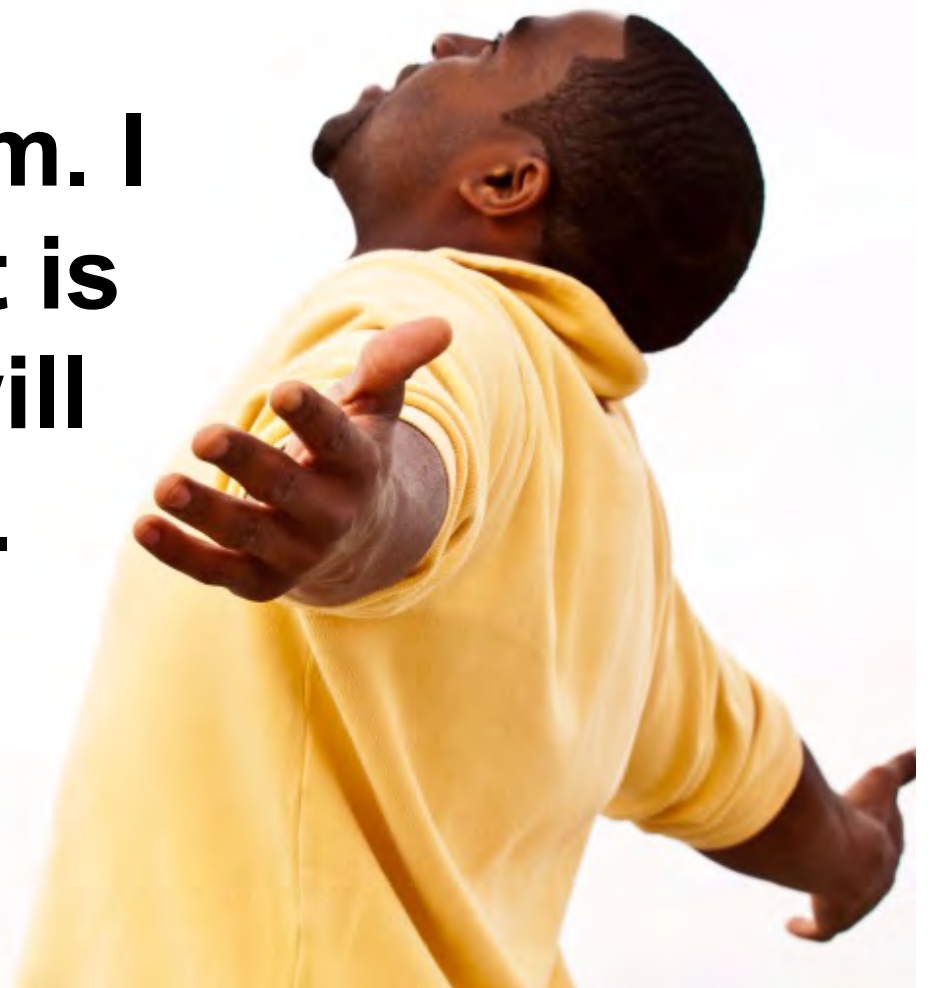
How should we **pray**?



**The way *not* to
pray is with
self-focus like
the Pharisees
(6:5-8).**



"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get" (6:5 NLT).



"But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you" (6:6 NLT).





**"When you pray,
don't babble on and
on as people of
other religions do.
They think their
prayers are
answered merely
by repeating their
words again and
again" (6:7 NLT).**



**"I saw altars to many gods —even
to the unknown god"
(Paul in Acts 17)**

Prayers for slaughtered chickens



**The Parthenon
above the other
altars in Athens**



"More than 70 Buddhist monks joined Abbot Wing Sink in a seven-day chanting marathon in Hong Kong yesterday to appease the souls of more than a million chickens, slaughtered since Monday to rid the territory of the deadly 'bird flu' virus. The Abbot entreated more than one million Buddhists in Hong Kong to join in the prayers." —Reuters picture, *The Straits Times*, Thursday, January 1, 1998

Why are repetitive prayers so bad (6:7)?

"We must pray sincerely (vv. 7–8). The fact that a request is repeated does not make it a 'vain repetition,' for both Jesus and Paul repeated their petitions (Matt. 26:36–46; 2 Cor. 12:7–8). A request becomes a 'vain repetition' if it is only a babbling of words without a sincere heart desire to seek and do God's will. The mere reciting of memorized prayers can be vain repetition. The Gentiles had such prayers in their pagan ceremonies (see 1 Kings 18:26)"
(Wiersbe, *Matthew*, 57).

Why are repetitive prayers so bad (6:7)?

"My friend Dr. Robert A. Cook has often said, 'All of us have one routine prayer in our system; and once we get rid of it, then we can really start to pray!' I have noticed this, not only in my own praying, but often when I have conducted prayer meetings. With some people, praying is like putting the needle on a phonograph record and then forgetting about it. But God does not answer insincere prayers"

(Wiersbe, *Matthew*, 57).

A close-up portrait of a woman with long brown hair wearing a hooded sweatshirt. The image is split vertically down the middle. The left side of her face and the hoodie is a dark, muted brown color, while the right side is a bright, warm yellow-orange color. She has a neutral, slightly smiling expression.

"Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!" (6:8 NLT).

Pray it exactly?



P
R
A
Y
E
R
S

Seven Elements of True Prayers



Praise God as Father (9a).





Pray with normal language!

**“You can just talk to me normally.
I don't just speak King James.”**



Praise God as Father (9a).

Reverence God's name as holy (9b).





**Confess all
known sin.**

Praise God as Father (9a).

Reverence God's name as holy (9b).

Anticipate God's kingdom (10a).





Matthew 6:9-10 (NKJV)

9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.**

**10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.**

"Thy Kingdom Come"

Matthew 6:10



**What does it mean to pray...
"Thy Kingdom come"?**



"Many passages speak of the second coming of Christ being followed by a reign of righteousness on earth (Pss. 2; 24; 72; 96; Isa. 2; 9:6-7; 11-12; 63:1-6; 65-66; Jer. 23:5-6; 30:8-11; Dan. 2:44; 7:14; Hosea 3:4-5; Amos 9:11-12; Zeph. 3:14; Matt. 19:28; Luke 14:1-9; Acts 15:16-18; Rev. 2:25-28; 19:11-20:6)."

—John Walvoord, "Revelation," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 2:978



**"And the wolf
will dwell with
the lamb, and
the leopard will
lie down with
the young goat,
and the calf
and the young
lion and the
fatling
together."**

Isa. 11:6

Isaiah 11:6-9



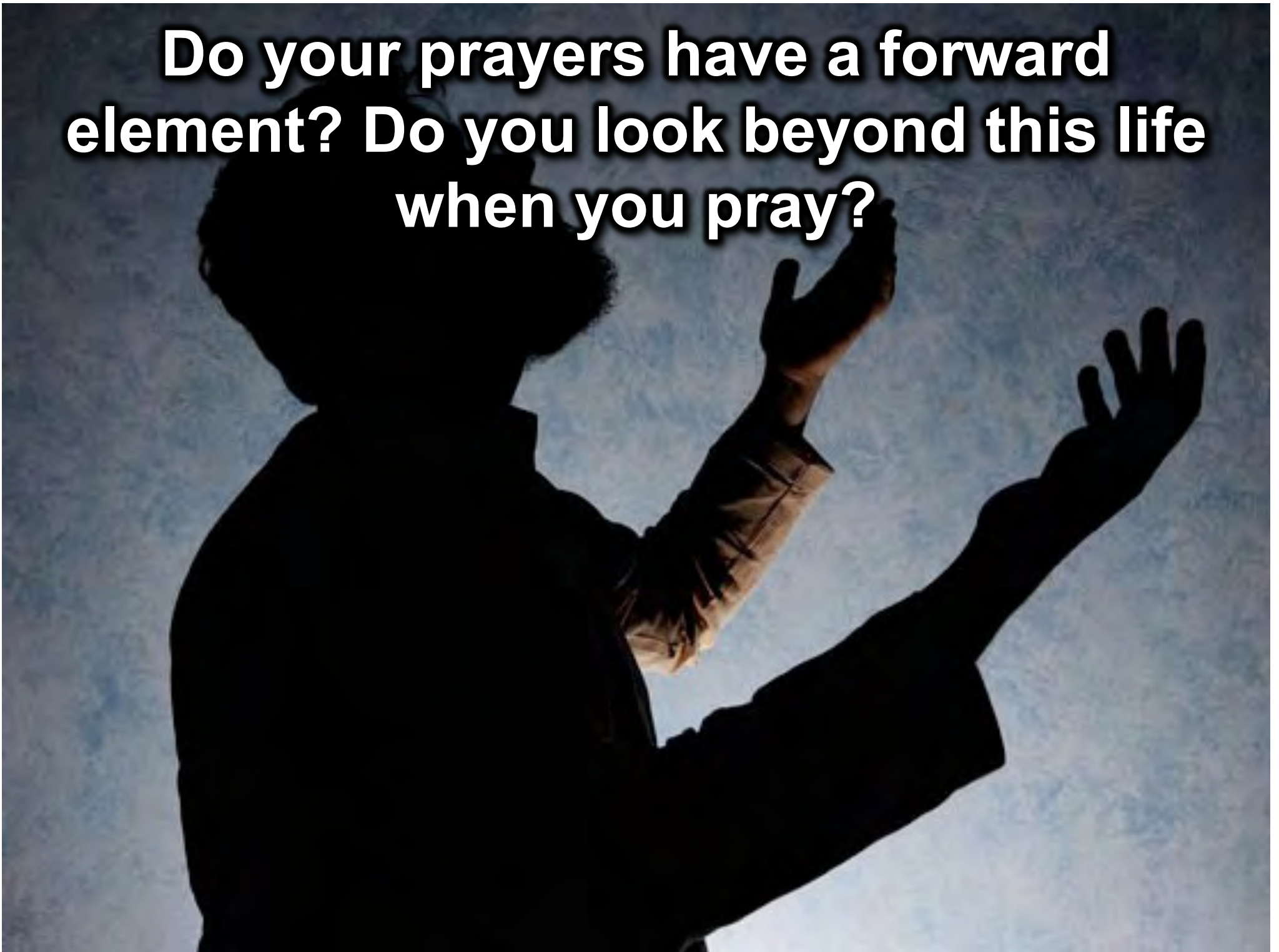
"And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them."

Isaiah 11:6-9



⁷ Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and **the lion will eat straw like the ox.**

**Do your prayers have a forward
element? Do you look beyond this life
when you pray?**



Praise God as Father (9a).

Reverence God's name as holy (9b).

Anticipate God's kingdom (10a).

Yield your will to His (10b).



Thy will be done.





**YIELD
TO GOD**

Praise God as Father (9a).

Reverence God's name as holy (9b).

Anticipate God's kingdom (10a).

Yield your will to His (10b).

Entreat God for your needs (11).



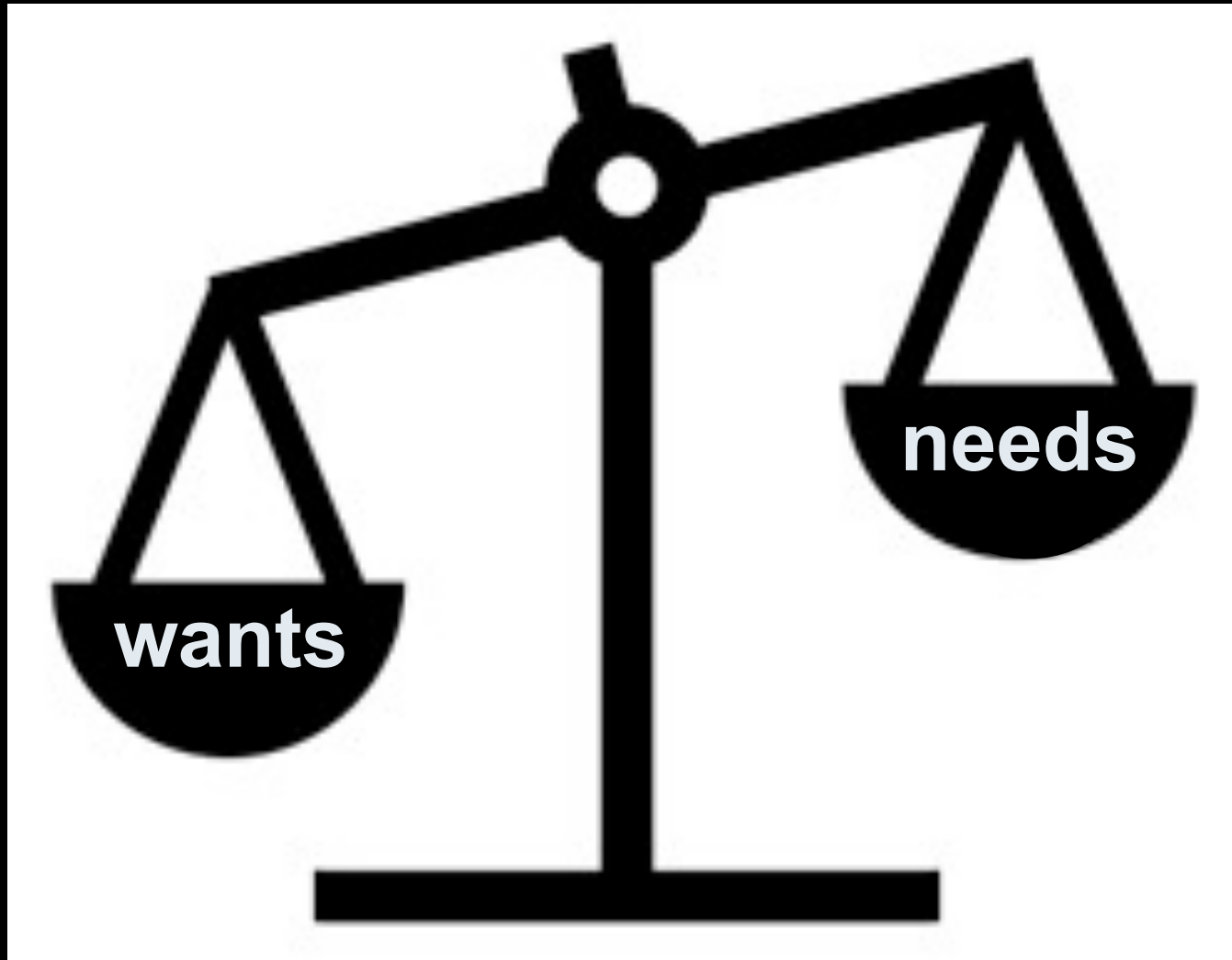
Give us this day our daily bread.



Needs or Wants?



**"...and my God shall supply all of
your needs..." (Phil 4:19)**



Praise God as Father (9a).

Reverence God's name as holy (9b).

Anticipate God's kingdom (10a).

Yield your will to His (10b).

Entreat God for your needs (11).

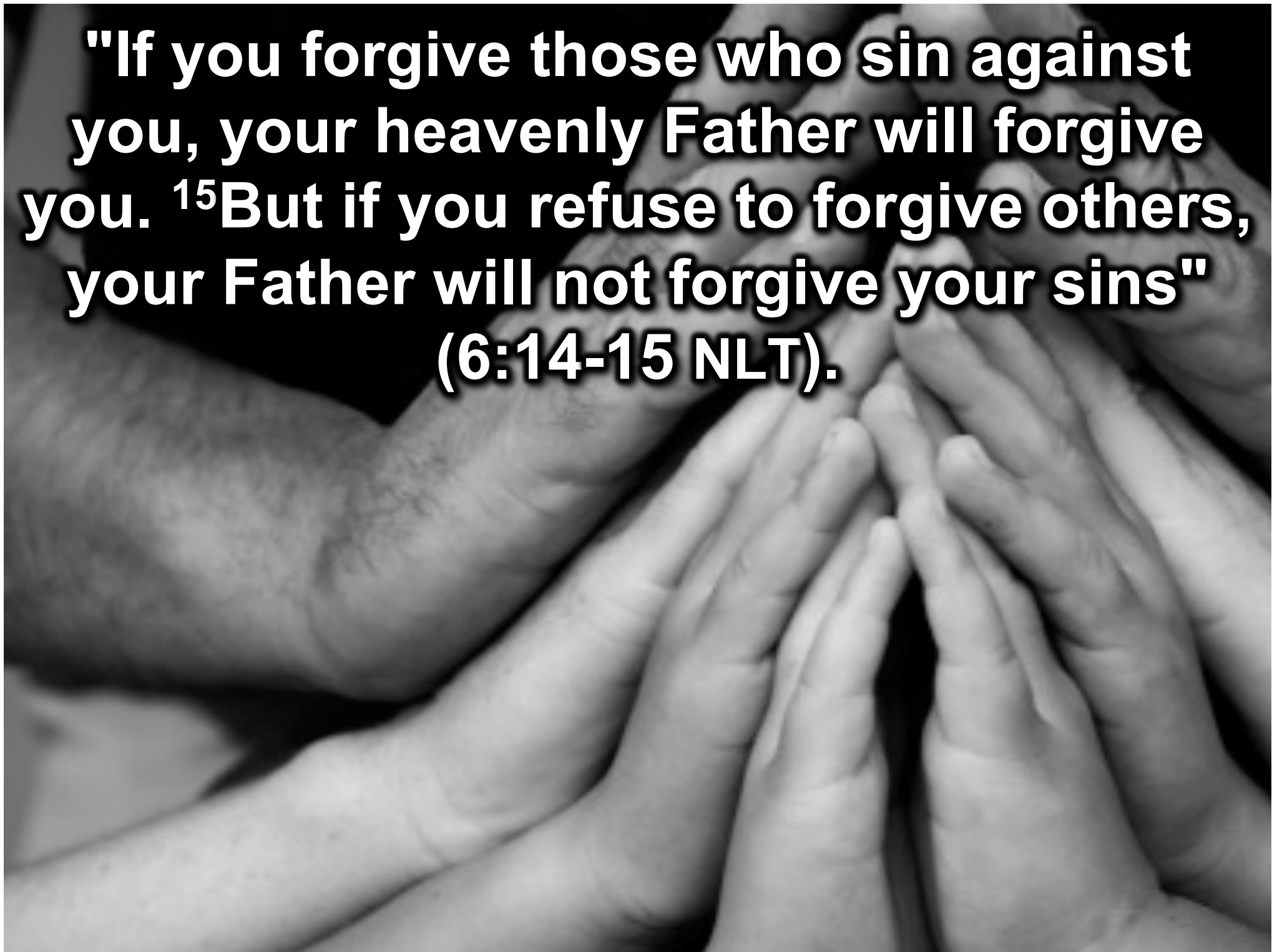
Release sins hurting you (12, 14-15).



**"and forgive us our sins,
as we have forgiven those who
sin against us" (6:12 NLT).**



"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins" (6:14-15 NLT).



Praise God as Father (9a).

Reverence God's name as holy (9b).

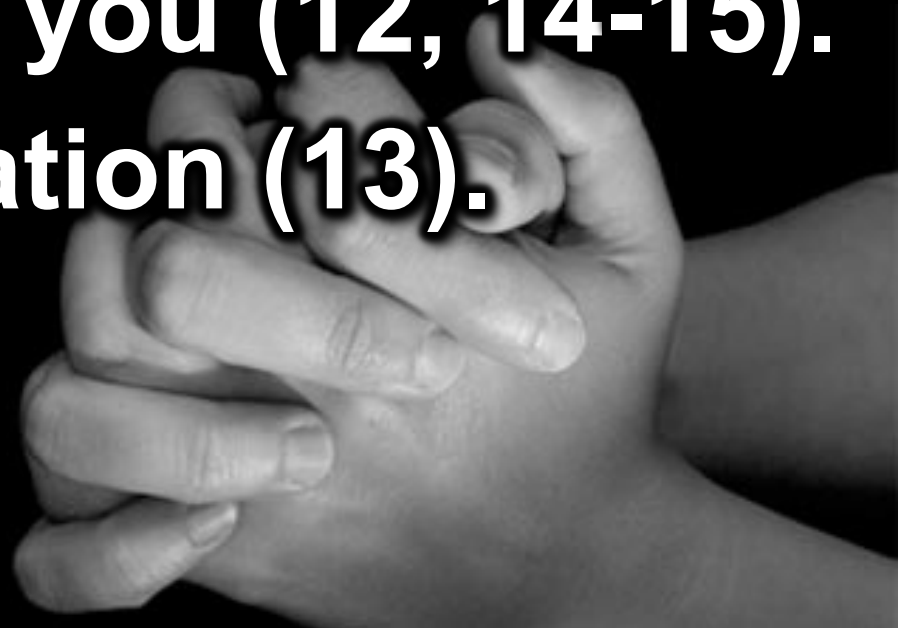
Anticipate God's kingdom (10a).

Yield your will to His (10b).

Entreat God for your needs (11).

Release sins hurting you (12, 14-15).

Succeed over temptation (13).



Lead me not into temptation.



**Lead me not into temptation;
I can find the way myself.**



ROTTENeCARDS USER
CARD

Lead me not into temptation.





**What is Our
Greatest Battle?**

How should we **pray**?



Pray to focus on **God, not you.**
—Main Idea—



Praise God as Father (9a).

Reverence God's name as holy (9b).

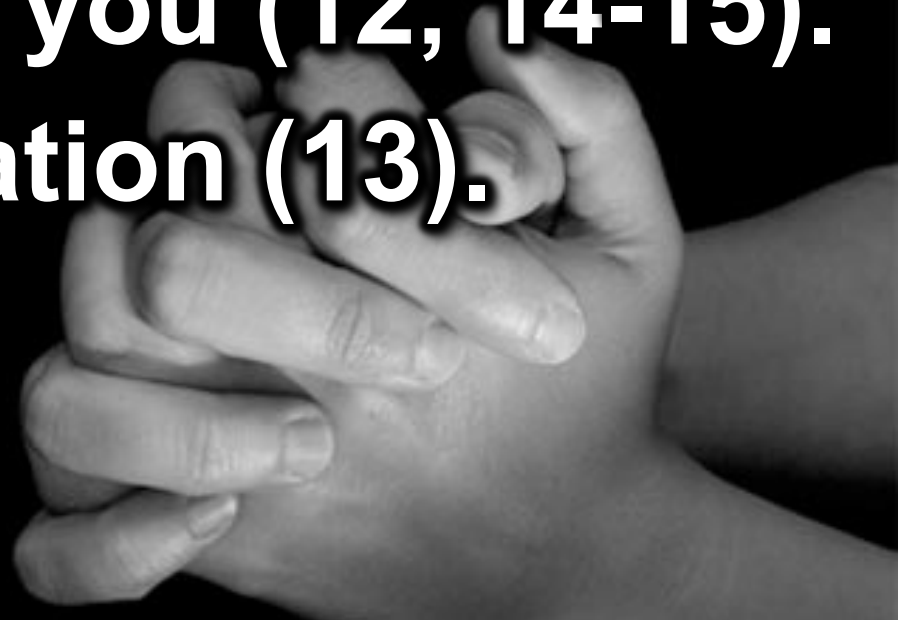
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Yield your will to His (10b).

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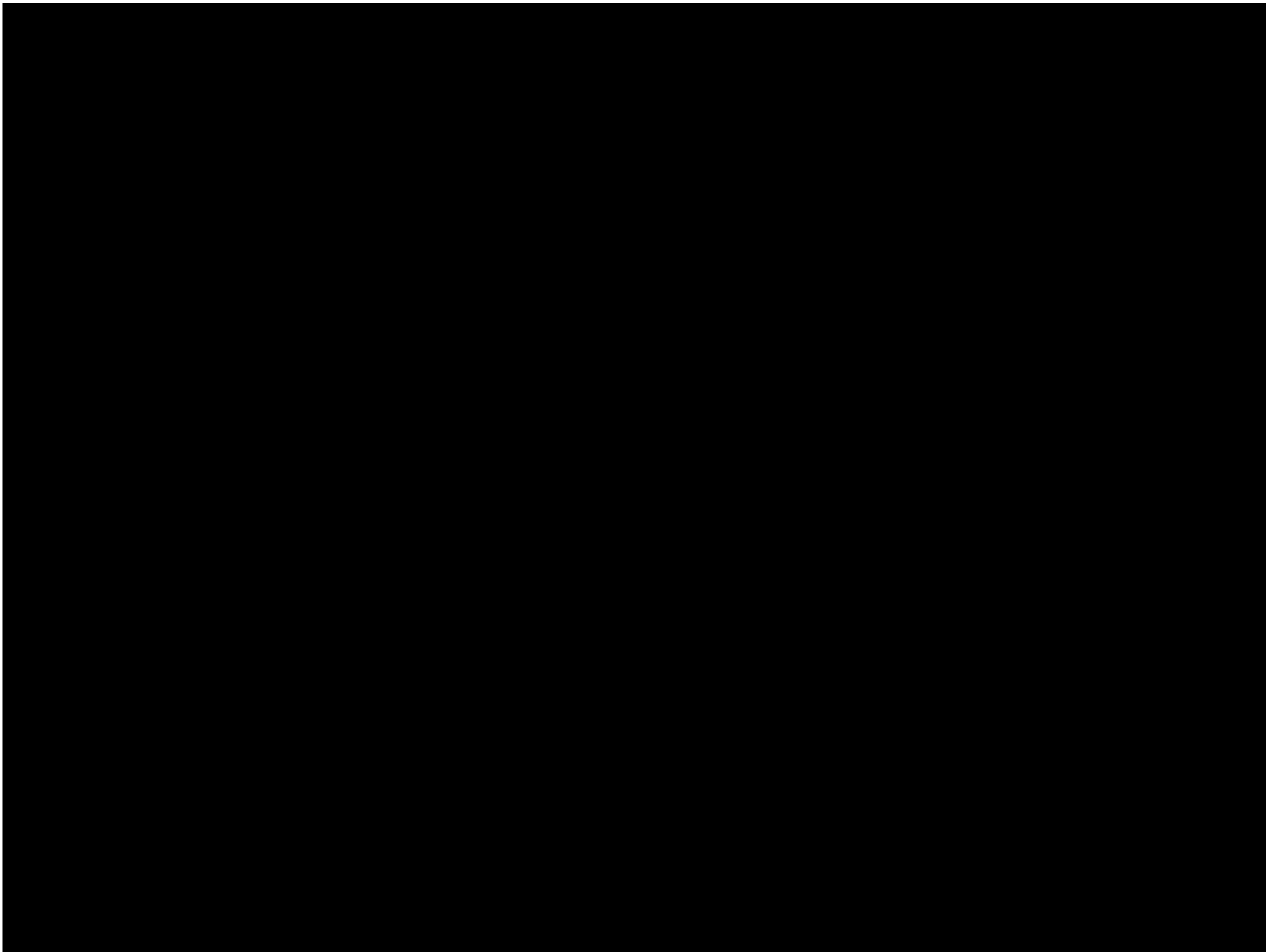


**Why no "In Jesus'
name, Amen"?**

Questions to Consider



- 1. Are your prayers mostly about you rather than God?**
- 2. With whom do you need to reconcile for effective prayer?**
- 3. Can you say these seven elements right now?**
- 4. How can your prayer life grow deeper?**



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A large background image for the main banner showing a pair of hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

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