



Church in the City

WWW.BRISBANEFIRE.COM





The Paradoxes of Prayer

03 - Your Provider

Church in the City | Sunday, 15 May 2022 | Glen Gerhauser

Text: “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Mt 6:33, NASB).


Theme: Prayer is full of paradoxes—seeming contradictions that are only resolved if we pray in the Spirit.

Intro: Today's message is inspired by two events this week.

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “ ‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Matthew 25:1–13

NIV



1) Keep watch but don't fall into the trap of worry (Matt. 25:13; Matt. 6:33).

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Jesus' teaching about worry is different from a human call 'not to worry.'

**THE MUPPET SHOW
PREDICTED WHAT MOST
WOMEN WOULD LOOK LIKE
IN 2022 BACK IN 1975.**



Jesus offers the ultimate solution: HIS KINGDOM.

That's why Jesus calls us to seek the Father's Kingdom first.

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Matthew 25:13

NIV

“Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Matthew 26:41

NASB95

Watching is different than worrying.

Only some people will get this...lol



What is watching?

‘Watch’—gregoreo in Greek—means to be alert, watchful, fully awake and vigilant.

Watching and praying means you are spiritually alert, seeing what the Father wants to do and how the enemy seeks to oppose it. Watching causes your prayers to be meaningful.



**Never lose your
glasses again!**

The good news is when Jesus calls us to watch,
he is calling us into the Father's watchfulness.

The Father is watching over our lives. And prayer calls us into God's own watchfulness.

We see God's watchfulness in one of the classic word plays in Jeremiah.

“The word of the LORD came to me saying, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” And I said, “I see a rod of an almond tree [sha-KED].” Then the LORD said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching [sho-KED] over My word to perform it” (Je 1:11–12, NASB).

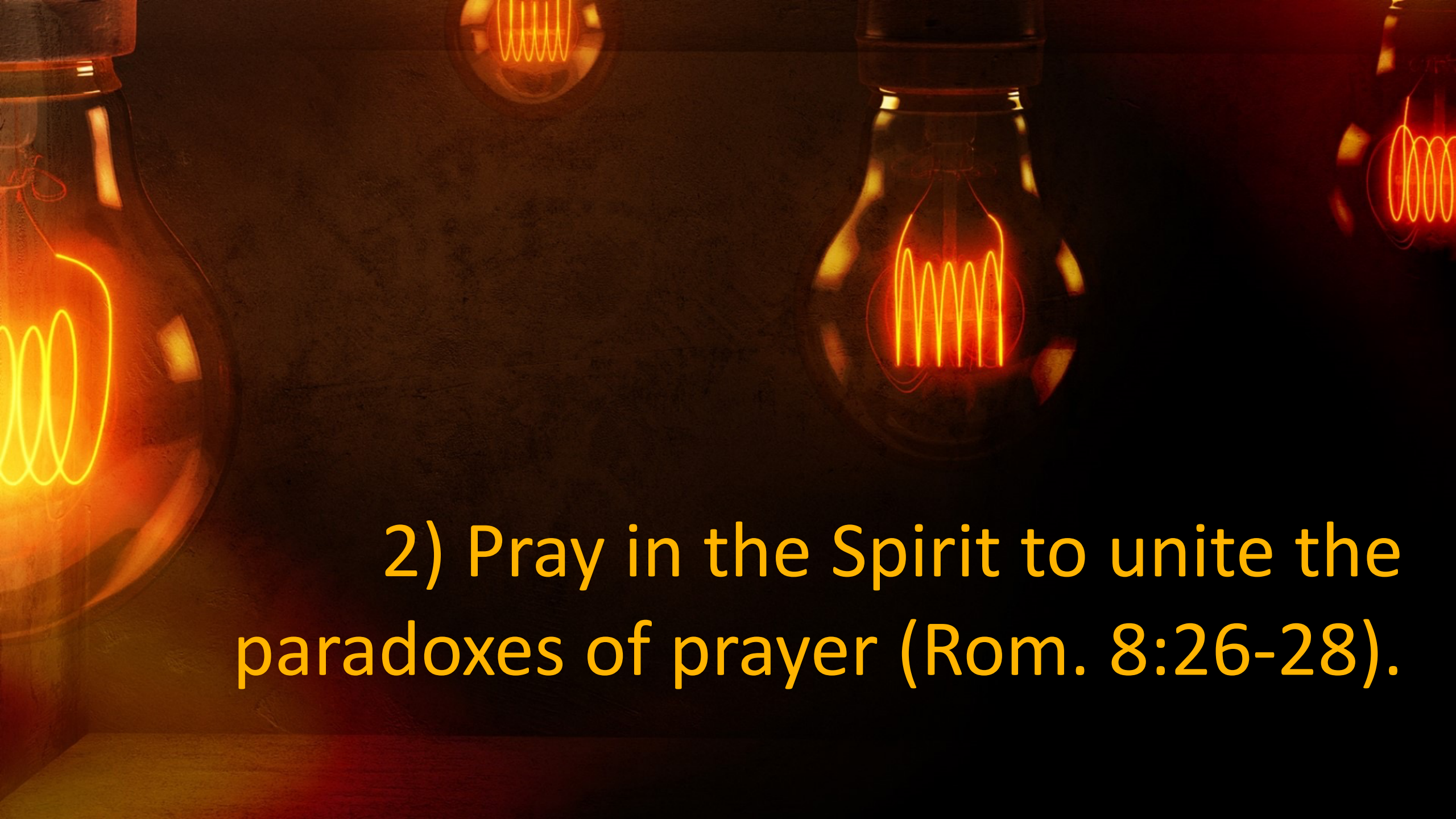
In Hebrew, 'almond tree' and 'watch' are spelled the same way.

שקד



Vincent Van Gogh

The point of this whole vision is that Yahweh is taking care—watching over Jeremiah—to perform his Word. And Yahweh is doing the same for all his children.



2) Pray in the Spirit to unite the
paradoxes of prayer (Rom. 8:26-28).

HOW TO PRAY

Seven Facets of Biblical Prayer

By Glen Gerhauser



1 PRAY ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

Discover God's will through Scripture and entreat him based on his will (1 John 5:14-15).



2 PRAY THE WORD BY THE SPIRIT

God's Word is fuel for your prayers. Pray his Word by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:26-27).



3 SEEK INTIMACY WITH GOD

Intimacy with God is the heart of prayer. Press into the Most Holy Place and seek his face. Get to know the heart of the Father (2 Chron. 7:14; Heb. 10:19-24).



4 PRAY PRIVATELY BUT ALSO WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

Both secret and corporate prayer are essential to the Kingdom and our lives (Matt. 6:5-6; Acts 1:14, 2:1-4).



5 PRACTICE REPENTANCE & FAITH

Turning from sin and putting your faith in God go together like two clasped hands (Matt. 21:21-22; Mark 1:14-15; James 4:13-18).



6 PRAY HUMBLY BUT WITH AUTHORITY

James connects submission to God with authentic authority. Humble yourself but also pray with boldness, knowing your authority in Christ (James 4:6-10).



7 STAND IN THE GAP & FIGHT

Prayer also involves intercession and spiritual warfare. Stand in the gap for your family, friends and community. Fight for their freedom, safety and growth (Eze. 22:30; Eph. 6:10-18).



HOW TO PRAY

Seven Facets of Biblical Prayer

By Glen Gerhauser



1

PRAY ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

Discover God's will through Scripture and entreat him based on his will (1 John 5:14-15).



2

PRAY THE WORD BY THE SPIRIT

God's Word is fuel for your prayers. Pray his Word by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:26-27).



3

SEEK INTIMACY WITH GOD

Intimacy with God is the heart of prayer. Press into the Most Holy Place and seek his face. Get to know the heart of the Father (2 Chron. 7:14; Heb. 10:19-24).



4

PRAY PRIVATELY BUT ALSO WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

Press into the Most Holy Place and seek his face. Get to know the heart of the Father (2 Chron. 7:14; Heb. 10:19-24).



4

PRAY PRIVATELY BUT ALSO WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

Both secret and corporate prayer are essential to the Kingdom and our lives (Matt. 6:5-6; Acts 1:14, 2:1-4).



5

PRACTICE REPENTANCE & FAITH

Turning from sin and putting your faith in God go together like two clasped hands (Matt. 21:21-22; Mark 1:14-15; James 4:13-18).



6

PRAY HUMBLY BUT WITH AUTHORITY

James connects submission to God with authentic authority. Humble yourself but also pray with boldness, knowing your authority in Christ (James 4:6-10).



7

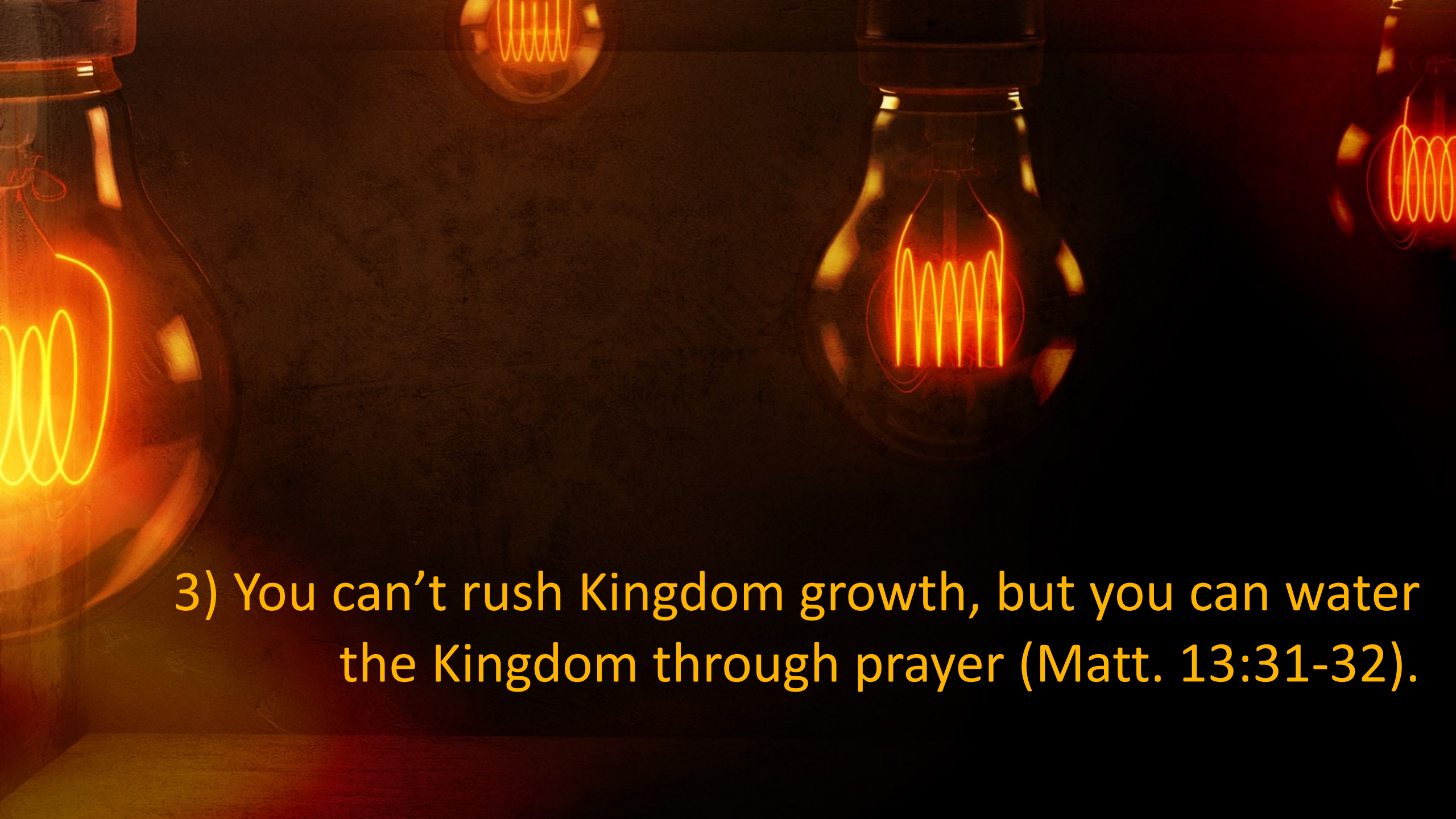
STAND IN THE GAP & FIGHT

Prayer also involves intercession and spiritual warfare. Stand in the gap for your family, friends and community. Fight for their freedom, safety and growth (Eze. 22:30; Eph. 6:10-18).



Authentic prayer depends on the Spirit. Let the Spirit lead to pray right.

To pray as a church, we need to all be in the Spirit together.



3) You can't rush Kingdom growth, but you can water the Kingdom through prayer (Matt. 13:31-32).

How long? Psalm 13 is small. It's only six verses, yet it says 'how long' four times. With all God's precious promises, how long will this thing take? The Kingdom takes time on this earth. You can't rush it. Like a mustard seed, the King's Kingdom grows at its own rate. But we can seek the Kingdom first, watering its growth. Yes, many times we will say, 'How long?'. Nevertheless, be sure that the Kingdom will grow and become the largest plant in the garden (Matt. 13:31-32; Psalm 13).

Conclusion: Authentic, watchful prayer is Jesus' solution to worry. It's the kind of prayer that seeks the Kingdom first and is empowered by the Holy Spirit. You can't rush the Kingdom growth, but you can water the Kingdom by Spirit-anointed praying.