

Machine generated transcript - So we're going to start a series today called foundations and just some of these I'm going to talk about some foundational things. That are part of our faith and I This list could go on and on please don't read into the four things that I've picked and I prayed about them I really believe that this is what God wants us to talk about for the next month just as we're going through these things but I know there's other important things to all right but these are four things that I think are foundational as a matter of fact I think these are four things that that really are benchmarks to see if we're growing in our relationship with God right and I I chose these specifically in that way as we prayed and it's important and I want to talk today we're going to talk about prayer all right today is is is we're going to we're going to cover that topic and I want to talk about John fourteen thirteen through fourteen All right so you can open up your Bibles to John Chapter fourteen versus thirteen through fourteen I'm going to be right I want to read out of the Living Translation I'm going to warn you today right now ahead of time that we are going to be flipping back and forth through the Bible like crazy today I usually like to pick one main piece of scripture and land on it but today we're going to be going back and forth I'm not going to wait as long as I am for this main one every time so if you're quick with your fingers you can follow along if not get ready to write some down OK but I just want to give that warning right now but John Chapter fourteen versus thirteen through fourteen this is where we're going to start all right and this is really the hub of what we're talking about today John Chapter fourteen versus thirteen fourteen say you can ask for anything in my name and I will do it so that the son can bring glory to the Father Yes ask me for anything in my name and I will do it. And I know a lot of people quote that verse and they do those kind of things but I want to just be honest I've been a pastor either youth or adult now for fifteen years I've been doing this for fifteen years and I don't know if there's a verse in the Bible that I have seen cause more people to walk away from their faith than that one right there. Like literally I mean of all of the reasons that I can think of when people came to me and they question their faith or they doubted their faith or they flat walked away from Jesus this Bible verse right here is probably the most often quoted one I prayed for it the Bible said if I asked for it it would happen and it didn't figure that out for me all right this is a big deal as we talk about prayer as we do all these kind of things it's such a big deal prayer is communication with God all right and we've even people who say they don't love to communicate they do right that's why things like online social media is such a big deal because people want to chance to communicate when none of their friends will even listen to him anymore right so they go online and they post it online to a bunch of people who it's a captive audience right we communicate you know guys are like oh I don't communicate and what they mean is I don't want to talk to my wife but you go down and get them talking about something that they enjoy and they really like that right don't be that guy OK. We love to communicate did you know when they set up the challenger right when they set up the Challenger space probe there's communication on on the off chance that alien life would find the Challenger they wanted to communicate with those aliens in a way that they could maybe understand Mark could you throw up that picture for me this is a golden record literally plated with gold that is on the front of the Challenger space probe literally it's a record and you can see if you see those marks that's how to build a record player and they actually included the stylus on the record player or on the space probe so they could put the stylus on the record player and listen to it in all kinds of buying area all kinds of instructions and all those kind of things they want to show this alien race who they would say if they're out there would have to be advanced enough to be able to crypt our poor human reasoning and play this record on their sounds of Earth there's people saying welcome there's all kinds of there's photographs that they can actually pull the source code off of and show it on there were so desperate to communicate as human beings that we're trying to communicate with aliens. Because we communicate. We talk we use body language we use sarcasm we snort we roll our eyes right I was talking to some ladies the other day and I'll leave them nameless Sharon and Beth that. Probably have like the best excuse in the world for having the most practiced eye roll in the world right because of who their husbands are and and Beth was like I don't roll my eyes as she's like giving me the giant eye roll right like it was so classic We communicate in so many just different

ways where we are people built to meet to communicate and prayer is simply at its most basic definition it's communication with God. It's how we communicate with God and we have this verse we have this verse in John and it says if you ask anything in my name I will do it right and so what happens I want to talk about that today because like I said I've seen so many people walk away from their faith or doubt God because of this very verse and it's tragic to me it's such a tragic thing and I want to talk about some things you've heard me if you've been around here very long if you're a guest you haven't heard me say this yet but if you've been around here very long you've heard me say I one of my pet peeves is taking Bible verses out of context it's an absolute pet peeve for me for people to use a viable verse in a way that it was not intended to be used Take for instance I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength right like every Christian athlete has that on the side of their shoes and what they mean is it's going to help me play defense better it's going to help me Doc and dunk about that has nothing to do with what that verse was meant to say right I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength has nothing to do with dunking a basketball that has everything to do with contentment OK that's that's what it means and so what is our context here first of all one of the reasons that we get in trouble with this verse is we make us the center of the story right like we read you can ask anything in my name and I will do it and we're like OK well this is all about me that. I can ask anything about God and he's going to do it because I'm the center of my world again. And obviously everything in the Bible is really about me OK and I want to talk about that as we go through what are some things God cares about when we pray right if God doesn't answer every prayer and all of these different things what are some things that God cares about when we pray and this is where I really want to land today all right as we go through I'm going to talk about this Mark Chapter eleven twenty four through twenty five. Tells you I tell you you can pray for anything again right repeating the same concept the same idea I tell you you can pray for anything and if you believe that you've received it will be yours. But when you are praying First forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins too. So when we pray our relationships matter when we pray our earthly relationships matter. When we pray what are we supposed to do first. Forgive. Because our relationships matter and some of you just stop listening and all you can think about now is either this guy has messed up. Or you can think about the relationship that's eating you alive right now. When you pray. Your relationships matter I want to turn to a very controversial verse in scripture actually first Peter chapter three I'm going to read verse seven first Peter chapter three verse seven it says this is a verse about relationships right this is a portion of Scripture about relationships Paul saying about women he or not Paul Peters talking about women and men and all these different things and he says you husbands in the same way live with your wives in an understanding way as with someone weaker since she's a woman and that's usually where people stop reading rather like all women are weaker I'm done out. That's not what Peter is saying at all if you actually look at it right he's saying what he says live with your wise and understanding way. Right now ladies it's Mother's Day. Don't elbow your husband I'm talking about somebody else's husband right now OK. Live you can live with your wives in an understanding way as with someone weaker since she is a woman as with it doesn't say she's a woman so she's weaker Peter is simply saying in his context here be a gentleman be chivalrous. Take responsibility let me put my Jason he's on it don't be a jerk that's all he's saying he's not calling women weaker he's saying live with them as if they are weaker. Be understanding big hurty this. Be gentle man show her honor as what a fellow air and the grace of God fellow air she's equal. Right if Scripture. Of the grace of life why so that your prayers will not be hindered. Husbands. I'm no rocket scientist. But this is not complicated. I treat my wife well. So that my prayers may not be hindered So if I don't treat my wife well what is true my prayers are hindered. But that's not my opinion. That's just the Bible first Peter chapter three percent. Our relationships matter when we pray. Take care of him. If there is somebody you need to forgive. Go Forgive be the bigger person. Pray to God we've talked about this before forgiveness is not human forgiveness is only able to be done through the grace of God. Your relationships matter when you pray. James Chapter four verses two through three. James Chapter four verses two through three say you want

what you don't have so you steamin kill to get it you are jealous of what others have but you can't get it so you fight and wage war to take it away from them yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it most people only know the very end of that verse you have not because you ask not. Right you want to talk about a verse taken out of Scripture or out of context there you go you have not because you asked not is all the people know that verse but it's talking about how we have all of these desires that don't align up with God So we're willing to do anything to get him but we never ask God for it but then keep reading the very next verse verse three says and even when you ask you don't get it because your motives are all wrong you only want what will give you pleasure our motives matter when we pray to God. We pray to God our motives matter if it's all about me and it's all about pleasure and it's all about what makes my life easy my motives matter Proverbs sixteen two says people may be pure in their own eyes but the Lord examines their motives God knows the heart behind what you're asking right a lot of times we like trying to sugarcoat it for a people right we're going I really want a new car because if I have a new car I'll be able to dependably pick up kids for church and drop them off right you laugh and snicker when the last time you've done some like that. Try to make it sound real holy even though this is someone. It's OK to have wants I'm not saying you shouldn't have it he wants. But really what's your motive God knows scripture just says right we can look good to men but God examines our motives we're not going to trick him right you can try and trick him but in the end you're just looking down. Because God knows the motives of our heart James Chapter one verses six through seven if you turn back a little bit toward the beginning of this book that we were just in James Chapter one Verse a six to seven say but when you ask him be sure that your faith is in God alone do not waver for a person with divided loyalty is an unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown in tossed by the wind such people should not expect to receive any from the Lord anything from the Lord our Faith Matters when we pray now I'm going to give a little disclaimer right here I don't fully get this. OK I truly believe that I believe you know things of God prayed didn't see them happen I mean people in faith pray those kind of things sometimes people with no faith whatsoever pray. And things happen I cannot fully explain the connection here but if you look through the both the Old and the New Testament you will see this overriding theme that emerges as people pray is and that's that our Faith Matters when we pray to God. Do we believe he's going to do what he said he's going to do Matthew Chapter nine twenty nine through thirty talks about these lepers that come in he says he touched their eyes and said because of your faith it will happen that their eyes were open and they could see it says that in other places that Jesus could not perform miracles in his hometown because of their lack of faith you can talk about the centurion and daughter who's made well because of the faith of this man the there is a direct correlation between our faith in God and him answering our prayers I cannot explain that fully but I see it to be true in the Bible and if I want to believe in what the Bible says then I have to accept that this is a recurring theme and it's probably important my faith matters to God when I pray. So so far we have our relationships matter our motives matter and our Faith Matters and if it's if we just stop right there it would sound like you can kind of manipulate God into doing what you want if you just do enough good stuff right if you just have the right motives and if you just have enough face and you really work on those relationships then God is going to do what you want to do. Even though that's a jacked up motive. But if we stop right there we're basically a name it and claim it territory right. Like I can control what God is going to do some people call it name and claim it maybe blab it and grab it whatever right we're like we're in the zone where I can make this happen. And I want you to hear from me I don't care. What you've been taught that is not right. You don't get to manipulate God that way. You can't it is it is a fool's errand for you to think that you can somehow make God do what you want to do by just doing enough good stuff. You completely eliminate the Gospel story when you feel like God is your servant instead of the other way around and I can tell you right there your motives are not what they need to be let's look at another thing that matters first John Chapter five so this is the same guy first John K. The guy who wrote first John is the guy who wrote John OK When we look back at that first verse and we talk about you can ask for anything in my name and I will do it that's the same guy that wrote what we're about to read. OK First John

Chapter five we're going to read verses fourteen and fifteen first John Chapter five were reversed fourteen and says this is the confidence which we have before him that if we ask anything according to His will He hears a sound familiar and if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask we know we have the requests which we have asked. From him if we ask according to what his will so apparently God's Will matters when we pray I can't fully quantify that I don't understand why God sometimes does things and sometimes doesn't because it seems like it's the same thing I can't I can't fully explain all this correlation but what I do know. Is when I look at the context of scripture and I look back at that same verse you can ask for anything in my name. I will do it so that the son can bring glory to the father yes ask for anything in my name and I will do it I realize that as I talk to God things matter. But really it's about His glory not mine. It's about his will not mine it's about his name not. Mine and those things matter I can't answer. Why things sometimes happen and sometimes don't I've told you stories in here I've been a part of praying for things and seen miraculous things happen and many of you have to you've seen the miraculous the unexplainable happen I have to I've also been praying for my dad for as long as I could remember that God would heal a psoriasis and I truly believe that I have faith that God can and will heal my dad. But he has yet. So much keep plugging away. I want to keep praying and faith asking over and over again until one of two things happens either God tells me to stop which is scriptural as Paul right God told me to stop praying about the thorn in the flesh OK or he sealed. Until one of those two things happen I'm going pray as long as I have breath in my body believing that God will I cannot explain why it happened sometimes and not others but I will do my part. And I will continue to pray prayer is one part of this OK it's one part of this equation we can trust God we can line things up we can pray and we can see things happen we need to make sure that our motives are pure in our relationships are right that our faith is intact and we submit our will to God's that's part of prayer What about here in God. That's something that a lot of a stink Yeah. Can I just be really honest and can I ask you to be really honest and say when you pray to God Does your prayers to God more resemble you approaching a genie or a God who wants good for you right and by that I ask when you go to a genie you don't have to listen to what the genie wants to say that you just go to the Genie and you say I want this and then the genie grants your wish right that's how all the movies say when you go to a God who created heaven and earth who gave His Son for us to live who conquered sin and death who died that we might be made right with God Do you think maybe we should just shut our mouth for a little while listen to what he might want to say but most of us don't make time in prayer for that. Because we don't have a little bit of time we've got to maximize it with our wish list asking to hear God's voice listening for God's voice is a big deal and I want to make sure I'm clear on this I do not believe in my life that I have ever heard the audible voice of God like something that I could physically hear with my ears so when I say hearing God I'm not talking about hearing God the way you can hear me now because I'm talking into a microphone and it's coming through speakers. I'm talking about settling my heart and listening for him to speak into my spirit. Not not in an audible way but in my spirit and learning to decipher when that is. And when it's just me there are times when I'm going to share a little story next week as we talk about worship next week I mean I was sitting there in preparation for that sermon starting to work on the outline and stuff and I I mean I. It is as close to the audible voice of God as anything I've ever heard I mean it was so strong in my spirit there was no doubt that it was God and it's not something that I would normally say. But it doesn't line up a scripture. When talk about that next week but I want to I want to make sure if you're new to this whole prayer thing that I want I want you to hear I'm not talking about an audible voice I'm talking about God speaking into our spirit do we make time to listen the Bible says we should be still and know that he is God The Bible talks a lot about stillness and quietness and Jesus the the Son of God made time to go into the wilderness and quiet himself. And listen and pray Can I ask how many times when you are in the middle of prayer your phone goes off turn it off quiet your world. And listen him some you like all this muted you write. The notification still come up and you got to see what that little blinking green light is and these blue in your phone I don't know. Stop. And listen. How do we hear God Sometimes he'll speak right to our spirit like that sometimes I truly

believe God will speak through others one of the most important ways that I think we need to hear God is to read His Word. God still wants to speak to you through his work through his Bible right I know a lot of people in here have everyday questions like you feel worthless and you start listening to all these voices around you I'm not pretty enough or I'm not smart enough or I'm not good enough or that person is better than me at this or this person likes that better than me if I could just be like that person and what God really wants to say to you is you are my masterpiece. And I have made you in my image you are my adopted heir and my child you have a seat at my table I have done everything necessary to make you right with me all you have to do is trust me. And all of that is in your Bible read it and see what God says about you instead of Facebook read it and see what God says about you instead of that jerk who you always let run you down. I'm sorry I don't mean to judge someone's soul but it was a it was an anonymous jerk. What does God want to say to you if you stopped long enough to read and listen maybe some of you are runnin down a path that isn't right and God wants to say to you stop I know the plans I have for you they're good plans you are ignoring them. It's one thing out of I know God want to say to you this morning. From the most common scripture of all time people that have never opened a Bible know that there is something that Christians like in John three sixteen simple verse. And it says For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. That whoever believes in Him will not perish. But will have eternal life. God loved you so much. That he sends son. To die for you and if you keep reading and will go to the movie right there within the first seventeen For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world. But that the world might be saved through Him most of us at some point time have come across the notion that God is a mean old guy in the sky who loves to smite people right he says need to do usually we think of an old white guy with a great oak long grey beard sitting on a big throne holding a lightning bolt. Let me just clear this up you're thinking of Zeus. Not got. OK. God sent His Son to die for you because he loved you. Not to condemn the world. But to save the world. And he did that for you. And a lot of us as we walk through life as we go through faith. At some point time we pick up this label is like we identify ourself by our sin and set up by the sin. And maybe you've been struggling with something for a long time maybe you've been you've been having a hard time with whatever. And you kind of it's almost like you know the scarlet letter right and you've got this this read a this adulterous on your chest. And you feel like that that sin has come to define you and who you are and what God would say is No. What defines you is that I made you and what I want you to carry is my name and my forgiveness and all of the things that I have done for you that's right and his word just read it and let it speak to us still speaks today he still answers prayers today I hear from people why don't we see this or that or that I don't know. I still see that. I don't we see miracles the way we used to two people gave the heart to Jesus for the first time last week. As a miracle pray I want to offer this challenge. I want you to think about this if you don't remember anything else I said today this is the question I want to resonate in your mind if we believe that God is all powerful if we believe that he is big in a mighty God that he cares for us that he loves us that he still works miracles that he still does all of these things if that's what we believe God I want to ask you this question if God said yes to everything you prayed in the last week how big a difference would it make you know the two most common prayers for the American church prays Barna do this big study like three or four years ago and they polled people and they didn't just ask Are you a Christian because still even in this room this country today like seventy percent of people identify as Christian when asked OK so they asked in a follow up of like fifteen or sixteen questions to like see OK Does you say you're Christian does your faith actually matter to you right and they went through all these things and so they established this criteria of how it goes and they ask those people one of the most common things you pray for you know what they are protection and Traveling Mercies we pray that God will keep us safe. And that God will keep us safe on the road. Two most common prayers from the American church I'm not saying you shouldn't pray for protection don't misunderstand what I'm saying I'm not saying you should not God If you save on the road is that as big as our prayer life is though is that the biggest things we're asking God If Jesus said yes to everything you ask for of him in the last week how big a difference would it make in this world. Or you only concerned about

yourself so the only thing you would make a difference in is your life I want you to understand as I was sitting in my office prepping for this thing the weight of conviction of that question landed heavily on my shoulders and it's not that I don't pray for big things I do but God stretch my faith even more. To pray even more to pray even bigger things because if I believe he is all powerful why would I stop. Asking for huge things if God said yes to everything you asked of him in the last week. How big a difference will it make pray big prayers. Dream big dreams. Ask God to do miraculous. You can ask God for help buying a new car but what else are you praying for do we really believe God is who he said he is can somebody go warn Rachele I'm about done. Thank you Larry we serve a huge God we serve a big guy he cares about you. Are you listening. When you approach God. Are you making sure your motives are right your relationships are right are you trying to align your will with his. Are you asking God for things beyond just making your life easier to just quiet our world and listen. Prayer is a big deal and I'm tired of seeing people walk away from their faith because of it because they're misunderstanding of what it's supposed to be all about let's make sure we align our will with God if you're in this place today this is how we end almost every every service. I mentioned it before we believe that Jesus came and he lived and he died. Because we needed a final sacrifice we just went through seven weeks of talking about the feasts and how clearly it's laid out that we needed a sacrifice for our sins and Jesus came he paid that price for us but he didn't just die. He rose from the dead and he conquered sin and death. He ushered in this new covenant where all we have to do is ask and believe and were made right with God I want to encourage you in this place to them going to ask in just a moment if there's anybody in here if you've never chosen this before and this morning you're ready I want to encourage you this is the best decision you could ever make. To receive Jesus to allow him to save us from our sins we are not capable of being good enough to earn salvation Jesus says it very clearly he said I am the way I am the truth I am the life no one comes to God except through me. Jesus said those words he is the only way. And I want to encourage you in this place if you never chosen that before to choose it. And maybe you've prayed that prayer before maybe you prayed for Jesus you've done this whole church thing. You've asked God you know to give you you've lived your life. But lately you know it has not been about. It has been about you has not been. For His glory it's been. For yours. And this morning you want to say I'm sorry I'm going to give you a chance to respond as well. When asked by has and close your eyes. We don't want anybody looking around we just want to make this real simple we're going to say a prayer I'm not going to call anybody up here I'm not going to make use do jumping jacks or stand up or anything crazy like that. Is there anybody out there you have never chosen Jesus before. With this morning you're ready is there anybody out there like you to raise your hand and I want to pray with you if that's you this morning I'm not going to wait long I don't like to motivate out of guilt or anything like that if you've never. Asked Jesus to forgive you and you're ready this morning I want to pray with you all right when will be the second question maybe your out there. And you know in your in your heart you know in your mind that your life lately has not been about you or has not been about God It's been about you and you have to be honest and say. I do things my own way I've been consumed with my own world I've been choosing my own path. And I know this morning I need to set things right and I need forgiveness for that because that's you this morning I'd like you to raise a hand I want to pray with you is there anybody out there that's you right we got hands up all over the place is there anybody else out there you can put your hands down is there anybody else that's you all right so here's what we're going to do I'd like you to go and look at me for a second I want to pray and I don't know where all of your faith is that who raise your hand so I pray I don't ask you to repeat after me all right. If you're out there and you've chosen Jesus before I'd like you to repeat after me as well if you're out there and you haven't chosen Jesus and you're not ready to this morning. We don't want to make you do this all right we're not going to try and manipulate you into this. As a matter of fact I would prefer you not promise something to Jesus that you have no intention of keeping so by all means you can sit and be quiet you don't have to pray in this morning but if you're in out there and you raise your hand or you've chosen Jesus I'd like you to repeat after me all right we're going to pray Jesus I'm sorry. I have not been doing what I should do I've been living for me. And it's time to

change forgive me. Help me to walk in line with your will. In your name I pray. A man. Those are awesome and simple moments and I want to encourage you. If you don't know next steps if you if you don't know what to do in your faith I want to talk to the person that brought you up nobody brought you were of the person that brought you doesn't know any more than you come and talk with me I love I love to talk with you as we close out this time in prayer though how I want to encourage you in this place to really evaluate what you've been praying for not going to ask you to stand up today or raise a hand or anything like that but I hope. That you do some honest evaluation you ask got a few just been praying selfishly God have I been completely ignoring anything about my own desires. Maybe maybe you have a relationship in your life that has been bad for a long time and you've just gotten used to it and so you figure God has to it's time to make things right I want to encourage you in this place to take responsibility for what you can take responsibility for and then trust God to do it only he can do some of you you've been praying too small and some of you have been praying too selfish. I know that because I do sometimes too has time to ask God for big things I want to want to pray in just a moment but I want to encourage you. With this little thing. Sometimes we make prayer heart and complicated right we think we're good at talking maybe somebody want to talk at people but you know how. Right. You know how to talk to somebody but you try to approach God and I know how to do this because you're a pastor pray or maybe you heard a church lady pray and King James and so you think that your prayers have to have a lot of these and dows and others and feathers to really be an effective prayer. Listen if you pray that way that's awesome one of my favorite ladies in the church in Montana she she's with Jesus now she prayed in Old English and any time that we split up into groups I always wanted to be in her group because I love listening to or pray and Shakespearean it was awesome Mary Jackson was her name she was amazing I'm not making fun of her it was awesome. You don't have to speak King James to pray one of my favorite prayers I've ever heard was from my daughter. We were walking through a park and she looked up and she said thanks for the show the sun's. Thanks for the sunshine today God talk to you later by some of my favorite prayers of all time. With faith like a child. Right you don't have to make prayer hard just talk to God let him do what only he can do pray big prayers. God you're good. And I thank you that you are an almighty creator who loves. Me You are an all knowing all powerful all able God. Who loves each one of us and God I know that your will is bigger than my small circle and I pray that you challenge me to trust you. With more. To ask more and I pray that you also help me to just sit. And be in awe of who you are to not just treat you like a genie to not expect you to obey me help me be your servant I'm going to hear and know your voice for those who are here today who are struggling. With whether or not you love them or whether or not they're good enough or whether or not God I pray. That you speak your truth into their life got to work yes it all in your name we want you to be glorified your name every. Day man.