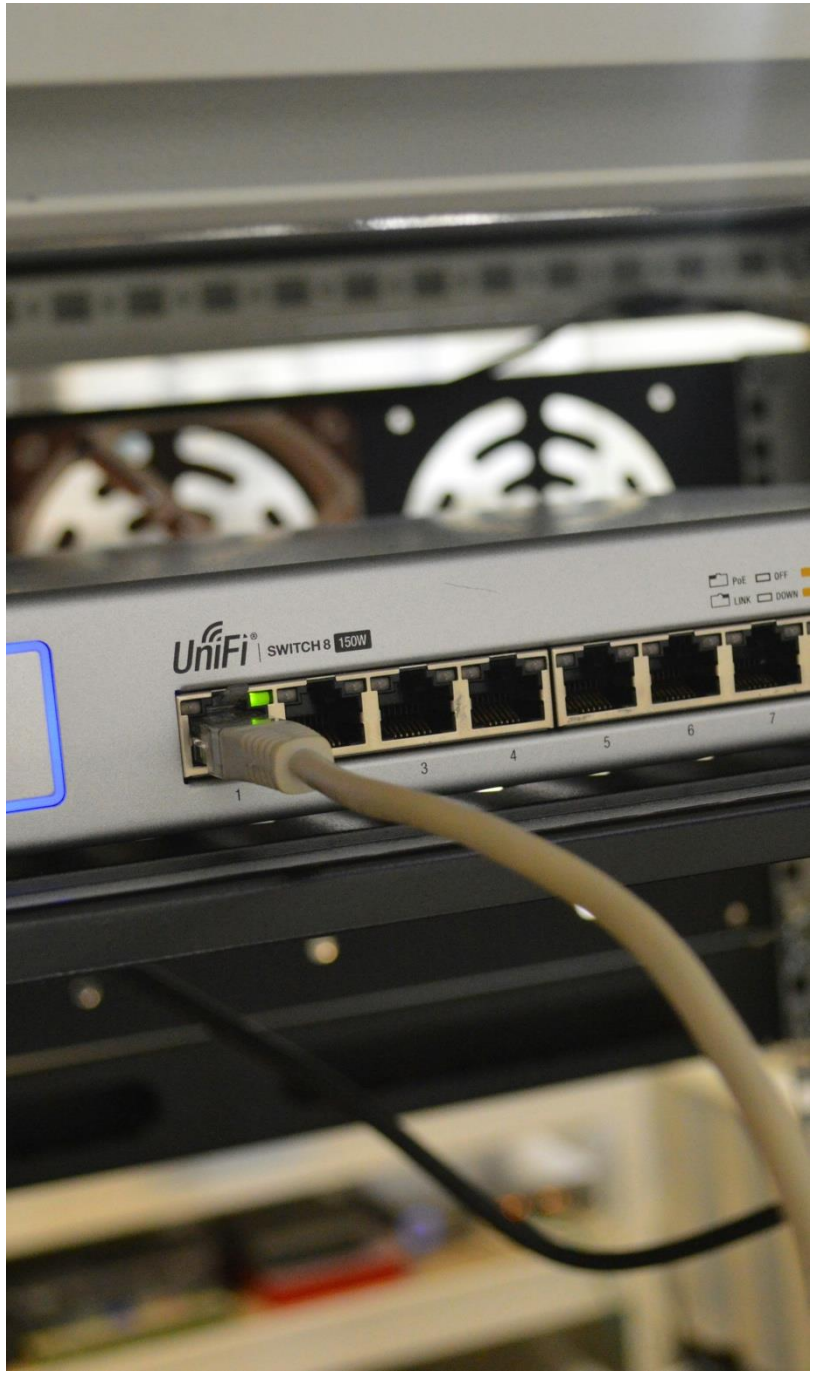
THE PRAYER PUZZLE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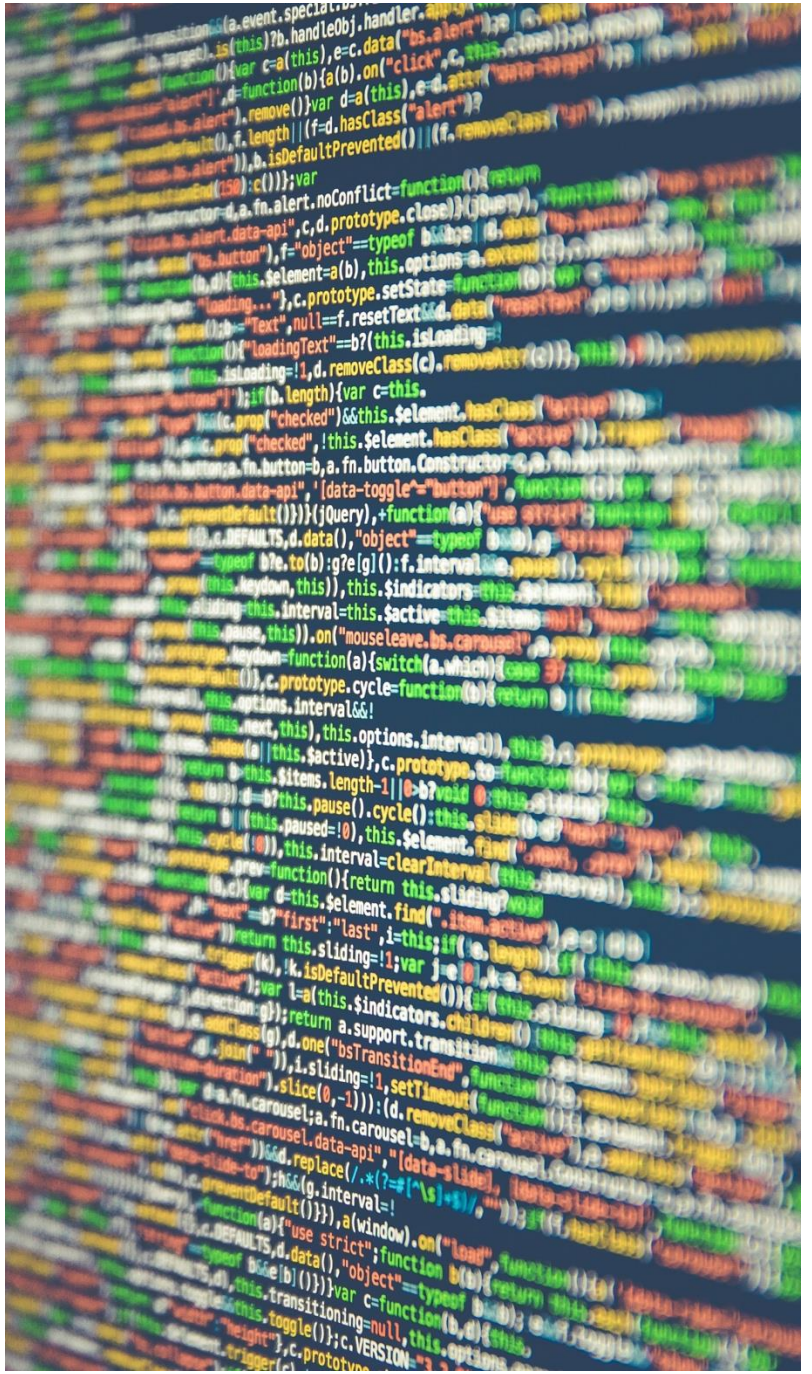

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Why Pray?

Big Idea

Pray because God works through prayer

7 Biblical Reasons to Pray

1. Pray because it is commanded by God

- “When you pray…” (Matt 6:5)
- “…Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up” (Luke 18:1)
- “Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion” (Eph 6:18)
- “Pray always” (1 Thess 5:16-18)
- “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people” (1 Tim 2:1)

2. Pray because it is modelled by biblical heroes

- **Elisha** – for the enemy to be blinded (2 Ki 6:15-18)
- **Hezekiah** - for Jerusalem's deliverance (2 Ki 19-20)
- **Daniel** – for Israel's return to the Land (Dan 9)
- **Jesus** – for the church (John 17)
- **The Apostle Paul** – for the spiritual growth of believers (Eph 1)

3. Pray because it is good for you

- **Good for you spiritually** (1 Jn 1:9)
- **Good for you emotionally** (1 Pet 5:7)
- **Good for you psychologically** (Phil 4:6-7)
- **Good for you physically** (Jms 5:14-16)

4. Pray because it accelerates your spiritual growth

Prayer should:

- **Align you with God's will**
  (Challenges focus)
- **Remind you of God's purposes**
  (Challenges priorities)
- **Remind you of your frailty and dependence**
  (Causes humility)
- **Remind you of the needs of others**
  (Challenges selfishness)

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5. Pray because it is how to combat the enemy

- **Pray against evil spiritual forces** (Eph 6)
- **Humble yourself to resist the devil** (Jms 4)
- **Prayer can keep the devil from devouring** (1 Pet 5)

6. Pray because it helps others come to faith

- **The thief prayed for salvation** (Lk 23:42)
- **Paul prayed for Israel's salvation** (Rom 10:1)
- **Pray for all to be saved** (1 Tim 2:1ff)

7. Pray because it helps others grow in their faith

- **Pray for God to send out workers for the Gospel** (Mt 9:38)
- **Pray for boldness to share the Gospel** (Acts 4:29)
- **Pray for the spiritual growth of believers** (Rom 12:12; Eph 1; 3; Col 1)
- **Pray for effectiveness in ministry** (Eph 6:19-20)

Pray ***because***
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through prayer