

A person is seen from behind, standing in shallow water that reflects the golden light of a setting or rising sun. The sun is positioned in the upper center of the frame, creating a starburst effect with rays of light. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

CONFORMING MY PRAYERS
TO THE WILL OF GOD

THE GOODNESS OF PRAYER

- We serve a God who is eager to hear us.
 - Psalm 86.1-8
- God repeatedly counsels us to pray to Him.
 - Matthew 6.6,9; Acts 8.22; 1 Thessalonians 5.17
- God counsels us on how to pray to Him.
 - Not every prayer is received by God.
 - The fault is not his — that fault is ours (Isaiah 59.1f).
 - Not every prayer is answered according to our wisdom (cf. Job; 2 Corinthians 12)



REORIENTING MY PRAYERS


- I must orient my prayers upward, not outward (Matthew 6.5-8).
 - God is rejecting an attitude, not a specific action.
 - Public prayers are not wrong (cf. Acts 16.25); our motivations must be pure.
 - Don't forget — our lives of godliness are to be noticeable (Matthew 5.16).
 - Repetition is not condemned — “meaningless [vain] repetition” (Mt. 6.7).



REORIENTING MY PRAYERS

- My prayers must embrace the will of God (Matthew 26.39,42,44).
- What is Jesus praying in this prayer?
 - Not to avoid death — He knows that is His purpose (John 2.19; 4.34; 5.30; 6.38).
 - His prayer concerns the method of His death — the anguish He faced (cf. Mt. 20.22; Ezek. 23.30ff).
 - His prayer was not a sudden repudiation of everything He had been building toward (Jn. 12.27).



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- It means casting all our care upon Him.
 - 1 Peter 5.7
 - It means praying while realizing our prayers may not be answered in the manner we think is best.
 - Matthew 7.9-11
 - 1 Corinthians 15.6; 1 Thessalonians 4.13
 - It means praying for time and opportunity, not that God will save those who persist in their sin.
 - 1 John 5.16; 2 Peter 3.14-17

EMBRACING GOD'S WILL IN PRAYER

REORIENTING MY PRAYERS

- My prayers must be accompanied by action (Matthew 6.12-15).
- What is Jesus praying in this prayer?
 - Not to avoid death — He knows that is His purpose (John 2.19; 4.34; 5.30; 6.38).
 - His prayer concerns the method of His death — the anguish He faced (cf. Mt. 20.22; Ezek. 23.30ff).
 - His prayer was not a sudden repudiation of everything He had been building toward (Jn. 12.27).



THE FIRST STEP IN MY PRAYER LIFE:

“‘A Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,’ declares the LORD.”

Isaiah 59.20

