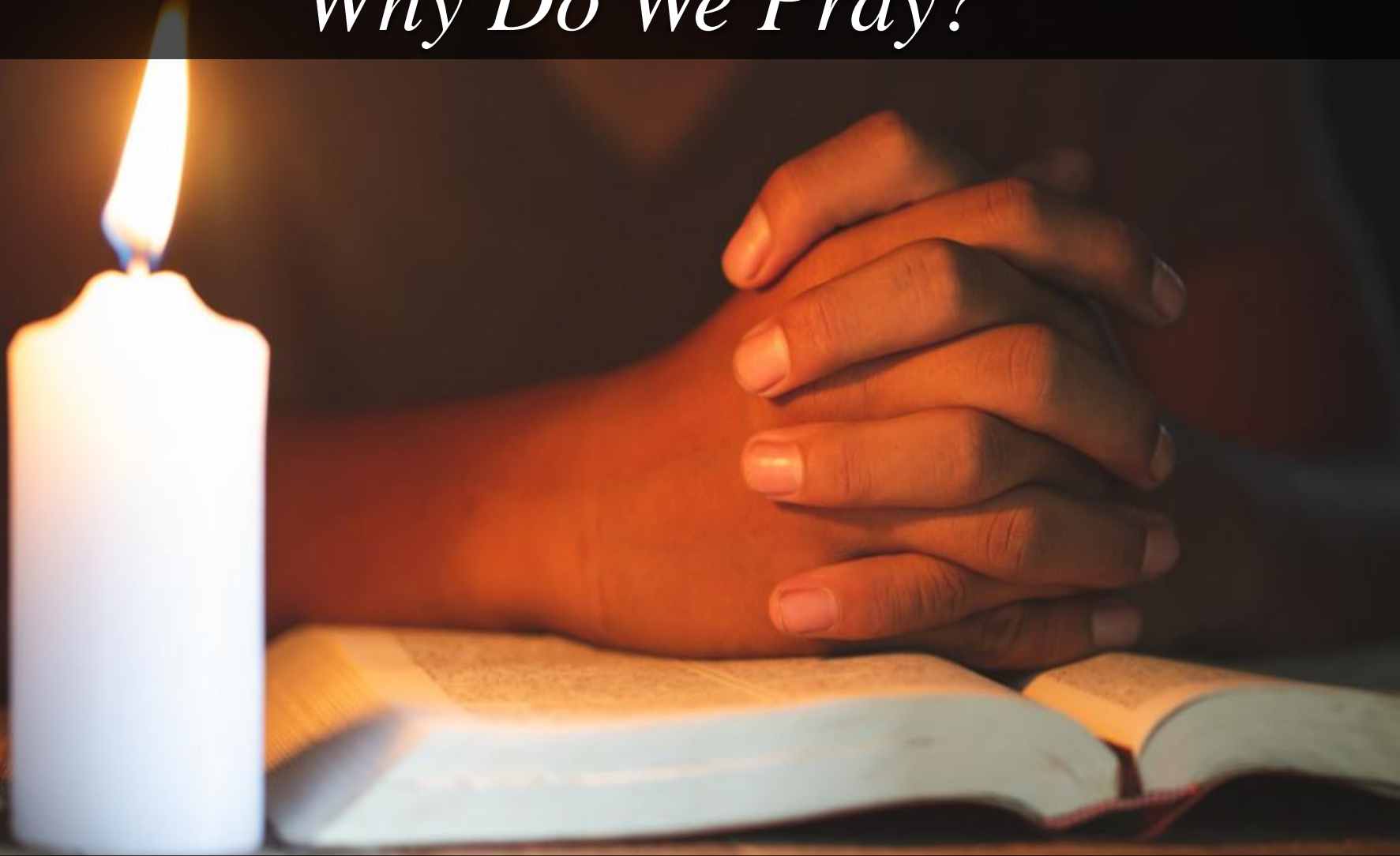


Why Do We Pray?



Genesis 20; James 5:13-16

March Sermon Series

March 3rd – Why do we pray?

March 10th – Why do we sing?

March 17th – Why do we assemble?

March 24th – Why do we take Communion?

March 31st – Why is the resurrection such a big deal?

Why Do We Pray?



Genesis 20; James 5:13-16

Genesis 20

From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar.
² And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. ³ But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him,

Genesis 20

“Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife.”⁴ Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, “Lord, will you kill an innocent people?⁵ Did he not himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.”

Genesis 20

⁶ Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. ⁷ Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”

Genesis 20

⁸ So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid. ⁹ Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.”

Genesis 20

¹⁰ And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What did you see, that you did this thing?”

¹¹ Abraham said, “I did it because I thought, ‘There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.’”

¹² Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife.

Genesis 20

¹³ And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, "He is my brother."'" ¹⁴ Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him.

Genesis 20

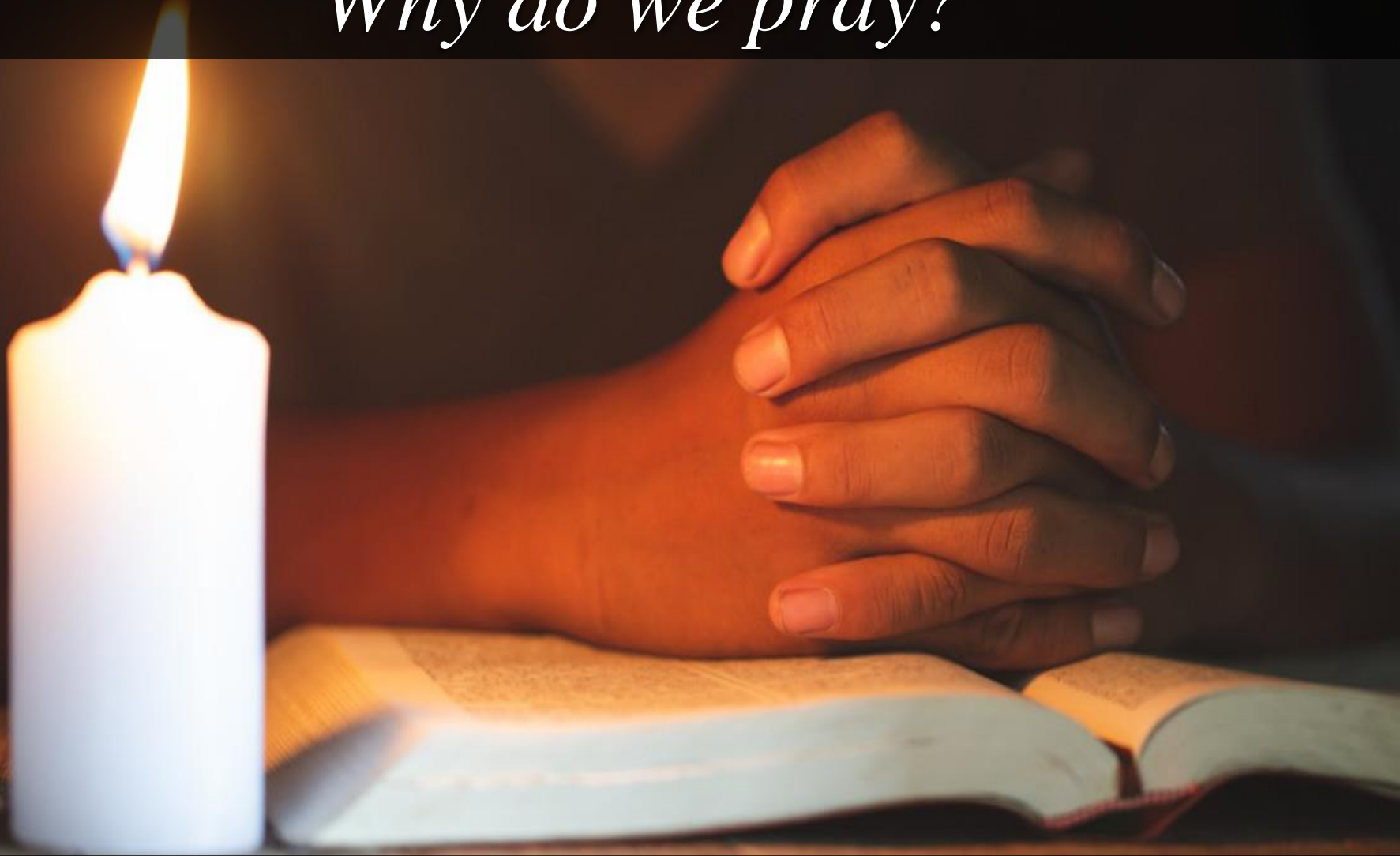
¹⁵ And Abimelech said, “Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you.”

¹⁶ To Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are indicated.”

Genesis 20

¹⁷ Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children. ¹⁸ For the LORD had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Why do we pray?



Genesis 20; James 5:13-16

Prayer works because God listens

James 5:13-16

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

James 5:13-16

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

We pray because prayer has power

James 5:16

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Prayer Training

When: Saturday, April 27th, 2-3 pm

Where: Church Fellowship Room

What to expect:

- A discussion on challenges to prayer
- Testimonies of working prayers
- Training in 4 methods of prayer