

Pursuing Intimacy with God

Growing in Prayer, pt. 1



Prayer

Prayer is two-way communication with God.

We speak to God

God speaks to us.

Prayer is the foundation of our experience of intimacy with God.

Prayer Life – Intimacy with God

Psalm 42:1-2 ¹ As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

Jeremiah 29:12–13 ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Prayer Life – Access through Christ

Hebrews 10:19–22

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Broadening our Understanding of Prayer

A.C.T.S. Model of prayer – different ways we address God in prayer.

Listening Prayer – learning to hear God speak; enjoying His presence.

A - Adoration

Psalm 146:1–2

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! ² I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Psalm 150:2

² Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!

C - Confession

Psalm 139:23–24²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! ²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

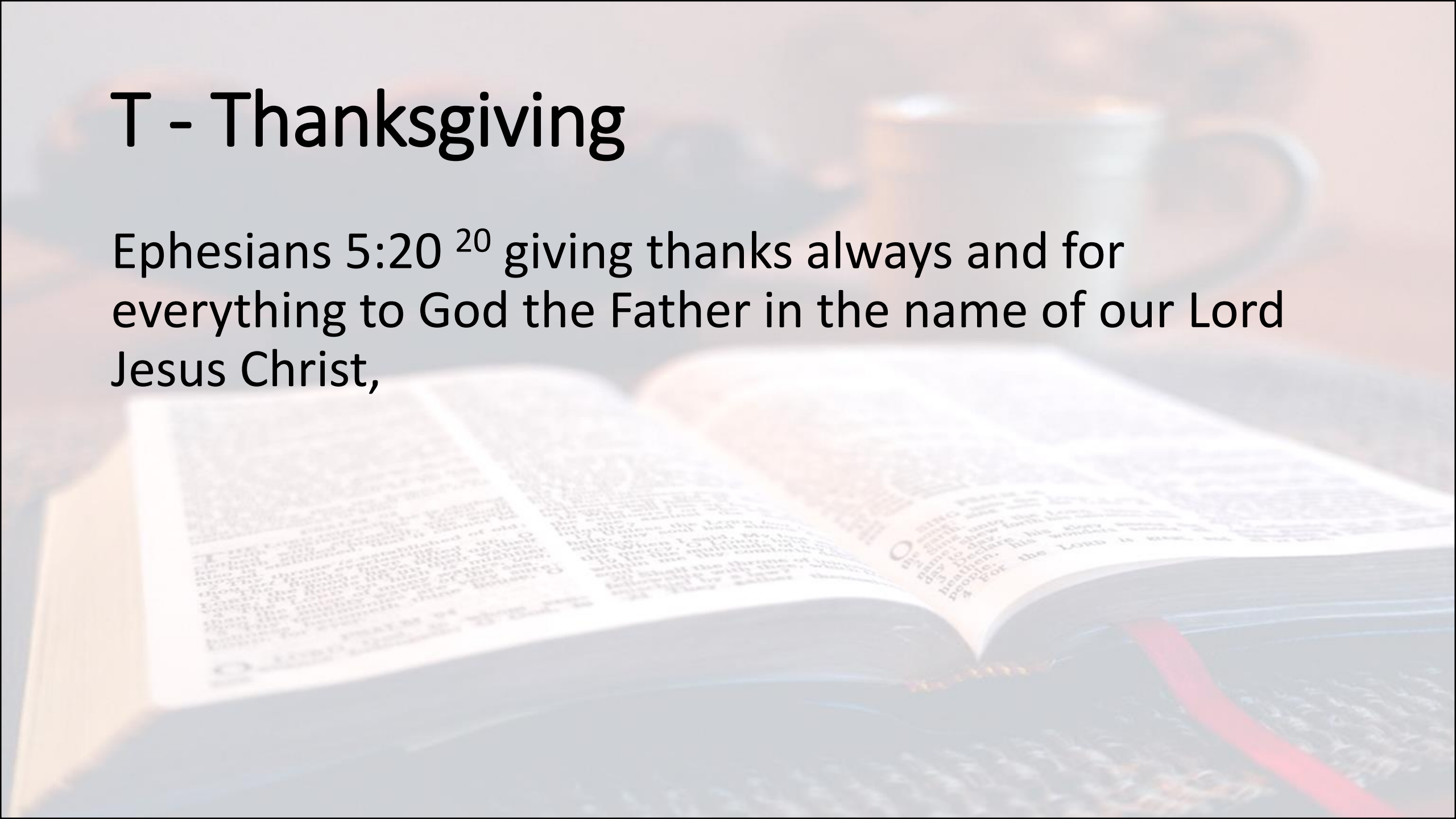
1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

T - Thanksgiving

Psalm 100 ¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! ² Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! ³ Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! ⁵ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

T - Thanksgiving

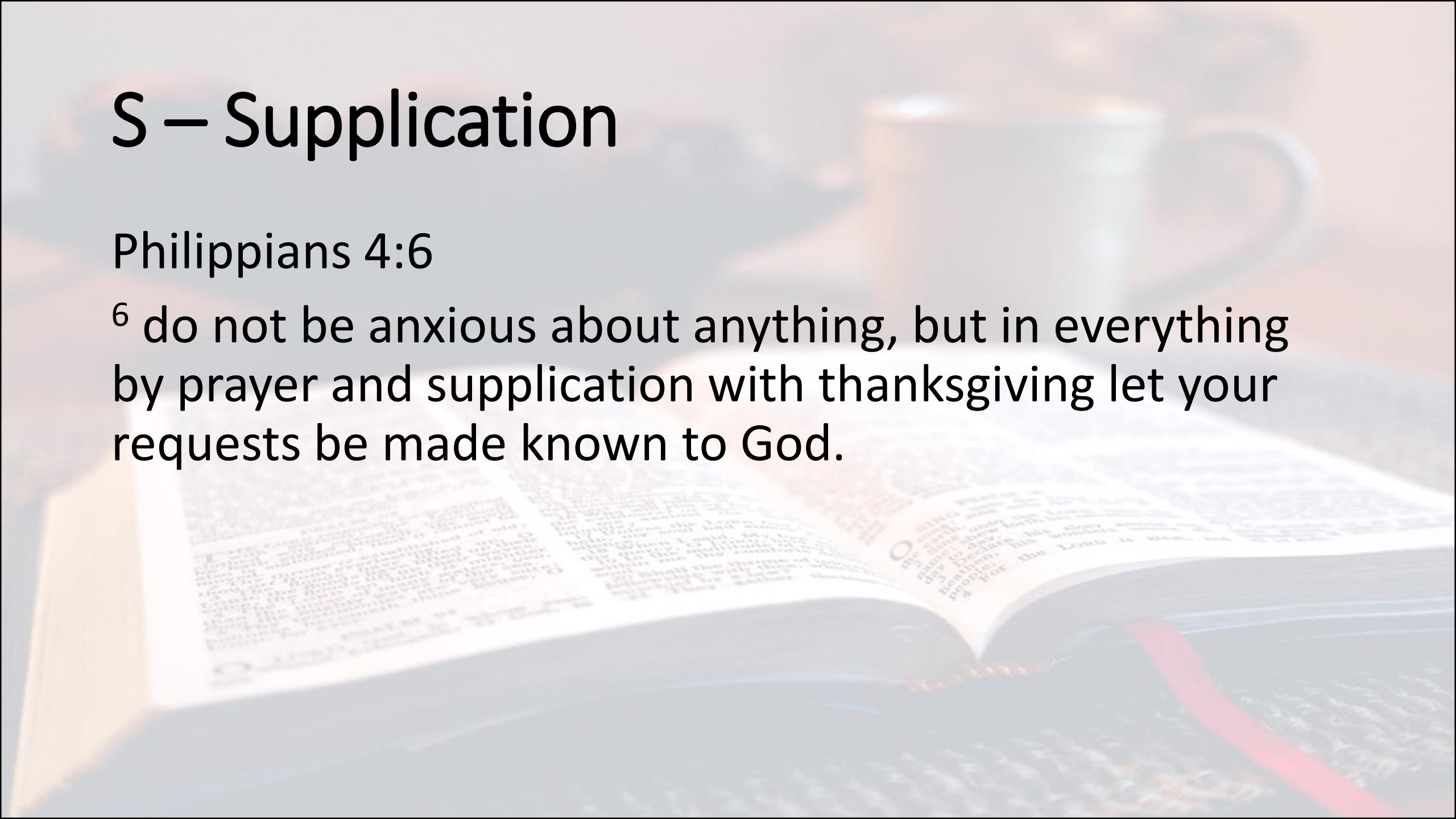
Ephesians 5:20 ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,



S – Supplication

Philippians 4:6

⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.



S – Supplication

Matthew 7:7–11 ⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

ACTS Prayer

A – Adoration

C – Confession

T – Thanksgiving

S – Supplication (petition, requests, intercession)

Where do you need to grow in how you address God in prayer?