

# Drawing Near in Prayer

Psalm 5, esp. 1-3



# Psalm 5:1-3

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;  
In the morning I will order my prayer  
to You and eagerly watch.

## Psalm 5:4-7

For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness;

No evil dwells with You.

The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes;

You hate all who do iniquity.

You destroy those who speak falsehood;

The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness

I will enter Your house,

At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.

## Psalm 5:8-10

O LORD, lead me in Your righteousness because of my foes;  
Make Your way straight before me.  
There is nothing reliable in what they say;  
Their inward part is destruction itself.  
Their throat is an open grave;  
They flatter with their tongue.  
Hold them guilty, O God;  
By their own devices let them fall!  
In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out,  
For they are rebellious against You.

## Psalm 5:11-12

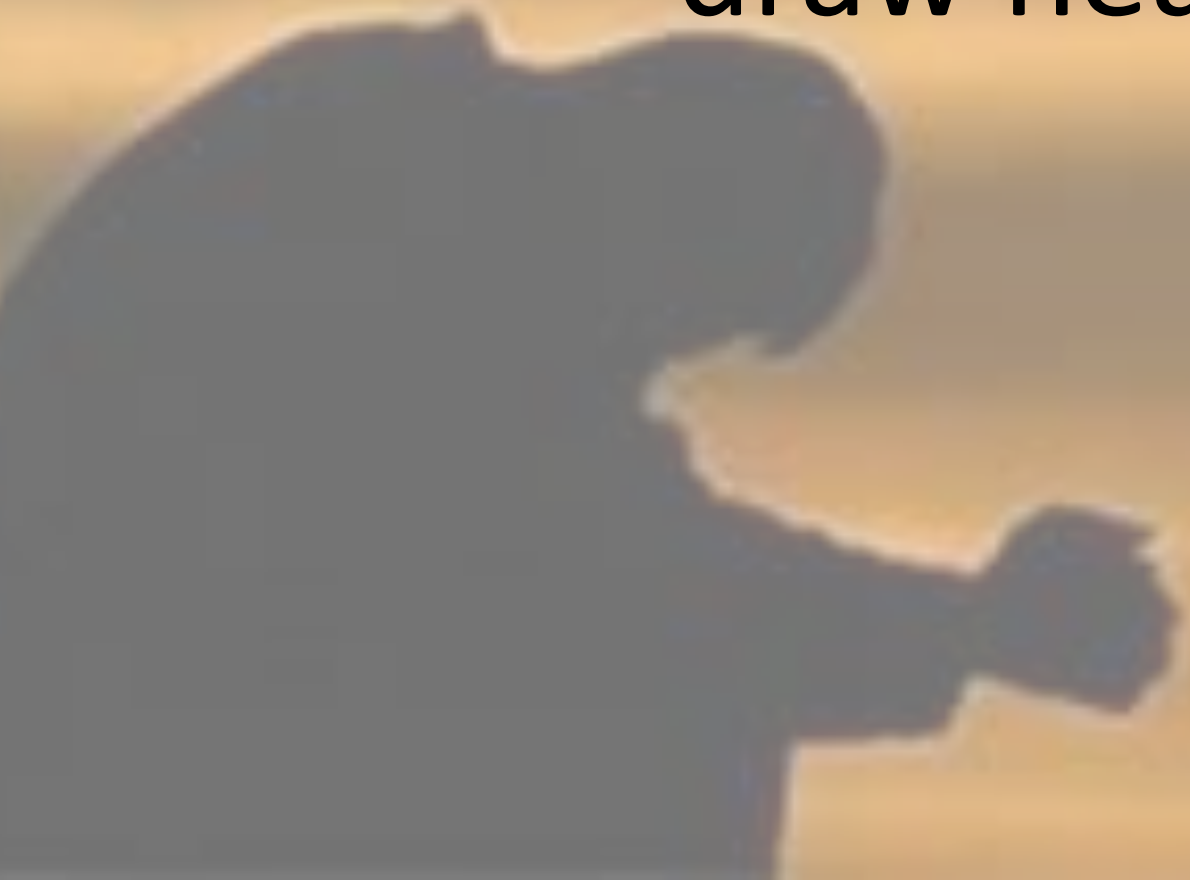
But let all who take refuge in You be glad,  
Let them ever sing for joy;  
And may You shelter them,  
That those who love Your name may exult in You.  
For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD,  
You surround him with favor as with a shield.

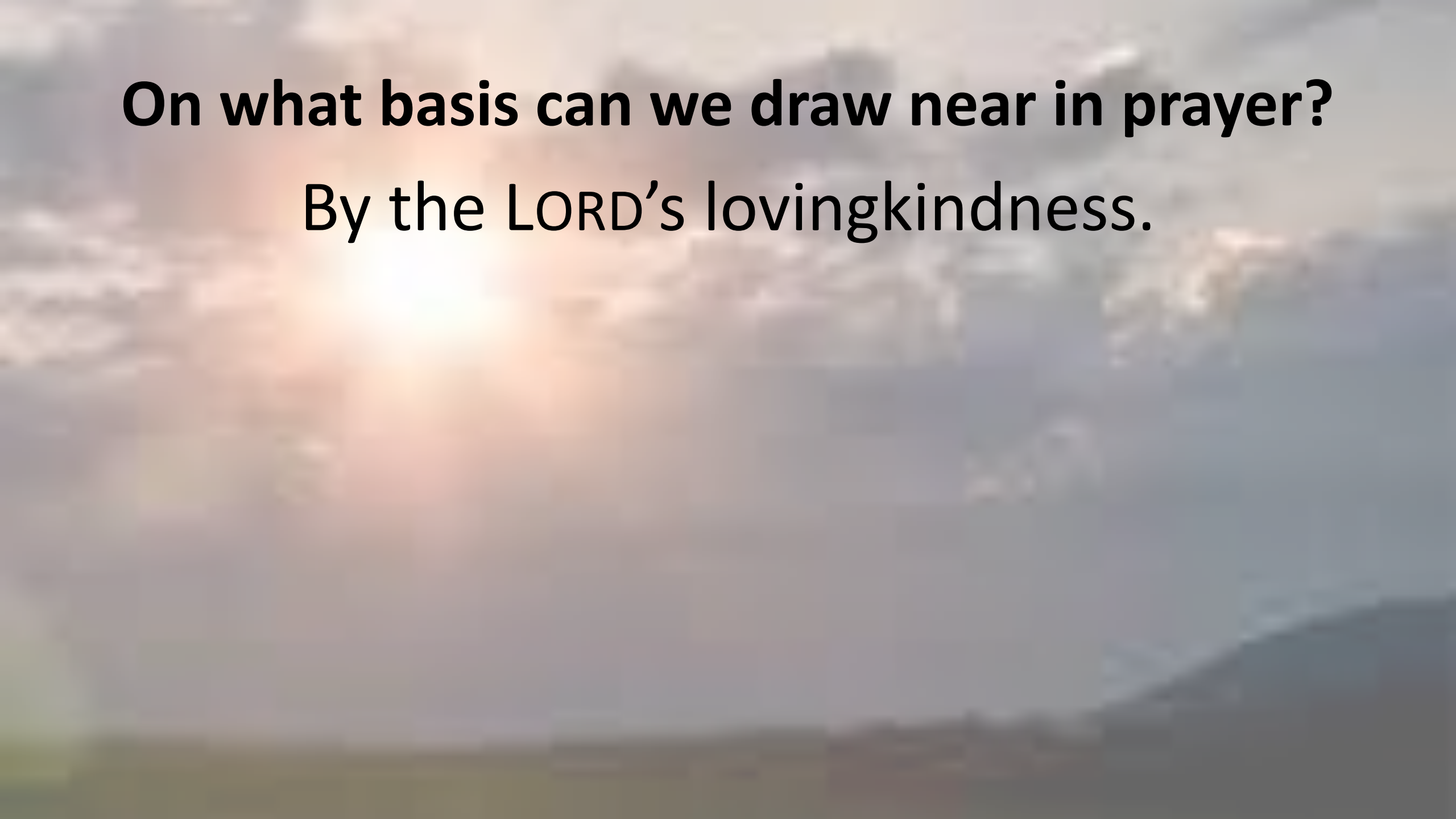
# Main Point

In His mercy and according to His lovingkindness, the LORD has summoned us into His presence and expects us to draw near in earnest, intimate, and expectant prayer.

# **Drawing Near in Prayer**

On what basis can we  
draw near in prayer?





**On what basis can we draw near in prayer?**

**By the LORD's lovingkindness.**



## **Psalm 5:4-7**

For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness;  
No evil dwells with You.

The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes;  
You hate all who do iniquity.

You destroy those who speak falsehood;  
The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness  
I will enter Your house,  
At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.

## Psalm 5:4-7

For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness;

No evil dwells with You.

The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes;

You hate all who do iniquity.

You destroy those who speak falsehood;

The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

But as for me, **by Your abundant lovingkindness**

**I will enter Your house,**

At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.

## **Psalm 69:13**

But as for me, my prayer is to You,  
O LORD, at an acceptable time;  
O God, in the greatness of Your lovingkindness,  
Answer me with Your saving truth.

## Psalm 69:13

But as for me, my prayer is to You,  
O LORD, at an acceptable time;

O God, **in the greatness of Your lovingkindness,**

Answer me with Your saving truth.

## Psalm 69:13

But as for me, my prayer is to You,  
O LORD, at an acceptable time;  
O God, in the greatness of Your lovingkindness,

**Answer me** with Your saving truth.

Not only are we able to confidently draw near due to His lovingkindness, but we are even able to boldly petition Him on that basis.

## **Psalm 5:1-2**

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

**Psalm 5:1-2**

**Give ear** to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.  
Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.



Psalm 5:1-2

**Give ear** to my words, O LORD,

**Consider** my groaning.

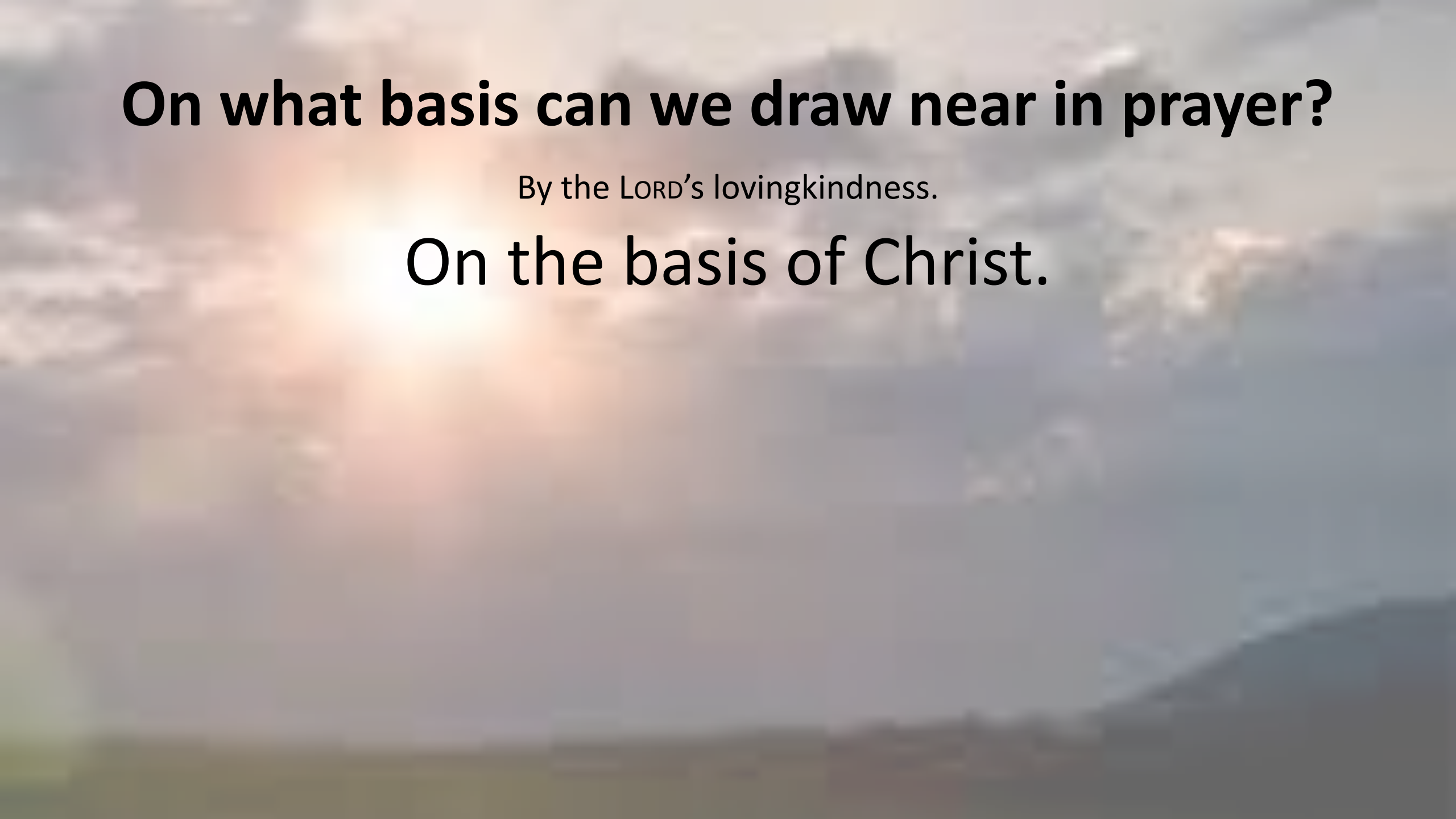
Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

Psalm 5:1-2

**Give ear** to my words, O LORD,

**Consider** my groaning.

**Heed** the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.



**On what basis can we draw near in prayer?**

By the LORD's lovingkindness.

**On the basis of Christ.**

Psalm 5:7

But as for me, **by Your abundant lovingkindness  
I will enter Your house,**

At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.

God's abundant lovingkindness is most clearly seen in the person and work of Jesus Christ, through whom we have received mercy and grace and by whom all the promises of redemption are fulfilled.

## **Hebrews 4:14-16**

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Therefore **let us draw near** with confidence

to the throne of grace, so **that we may receive mercy  
and find grace to help in time of need.**

## **Hebrews 10:19-22**

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh...let us draw near.

We can draw near to God in prayer because Jesus has gone before us and has opened the way to us by His blood.

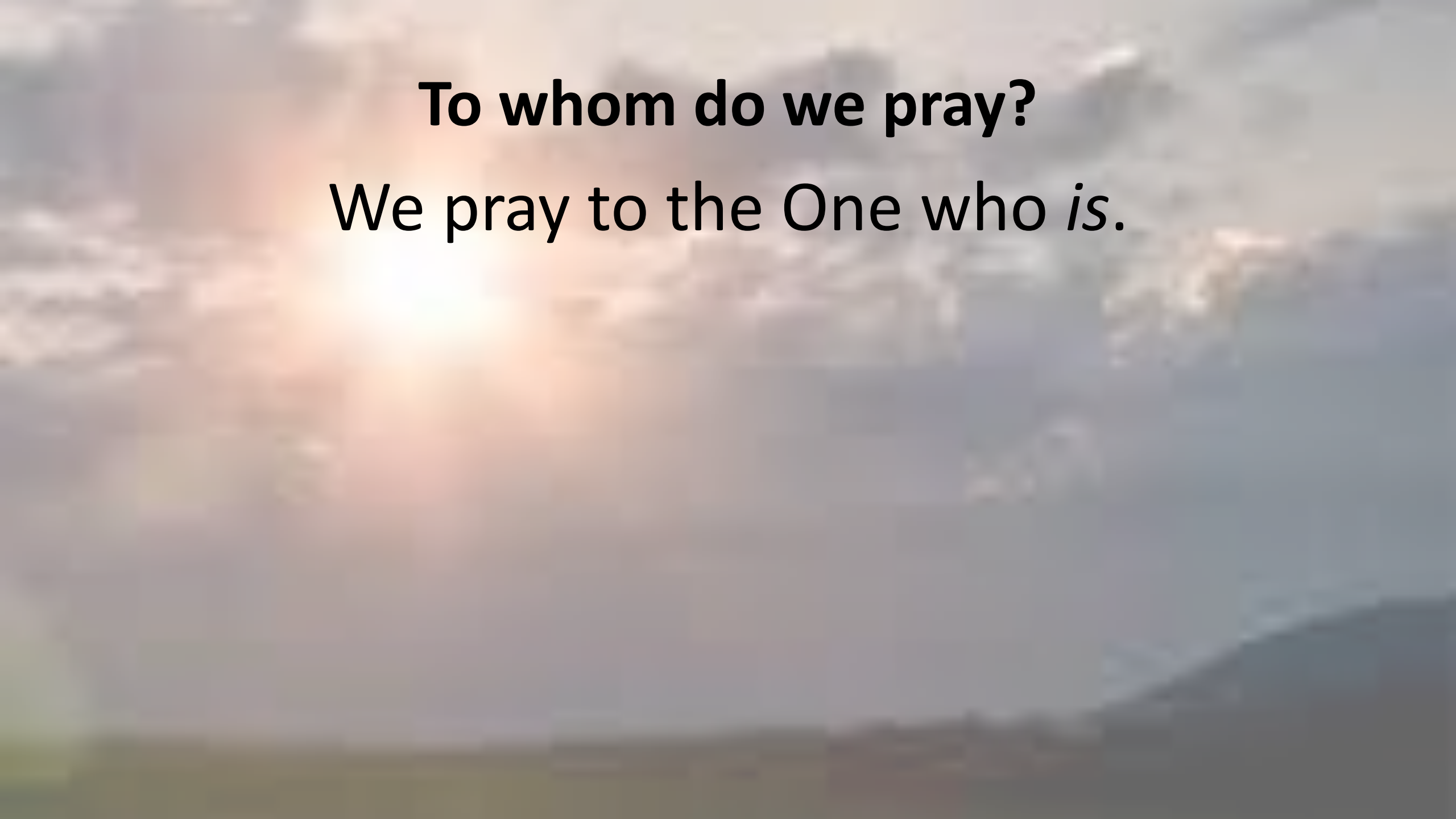
# Drawing Near in Prayer

On what basis can we draw near in prayer?

## To whom do we draw near to pray?







**To whom do we pray?**  
We pray to the One who *is*.

## **Psalm 5:1-2**

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

Psalm 5:1-2

**Give ear** to my words, **O LORD**,

Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,

my King and my God,

For to You I pray.

Psalm 5:1-2

**Give ear** to my words, **O Yahweh**,

Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,

my King and my God,

For to You I pray.

# Background

## Exodus 3:13-14

Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?”

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

## Exodus 3:13-14

Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?”

God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM**”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

## Exodus 3:13-14

Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?”

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel,

‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’

## Exodus 3:13-14

Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?”

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel,

**‘Yahweh** has sent me to you.’



Psalm 5:1-2

**Give ear** to my words, **O Yahweh,**

Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,

my King and my God,

For to You I pray.

Psalm 5:1-2

Give ear to my words, **O Yahweh,**

Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,

For **to You I pray.**

# To whom do we pray?

We pray to the One who is.

We pray to our King and our God.

## **Psalm 5:1-2**

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

**Psalm 5:1-2**

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

**Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.**

**Psalm 5:1-2**

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,

**my King** and my God,  
For to You I pray.

**Psalm 5:1-2**

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,

**my King** and my God,

For to You I pray.

**Psalm 5:1-2**

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,

my King **and my God,**

For to You I pray.



## Psalm 5:1-2

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,

For **to You I pray.**

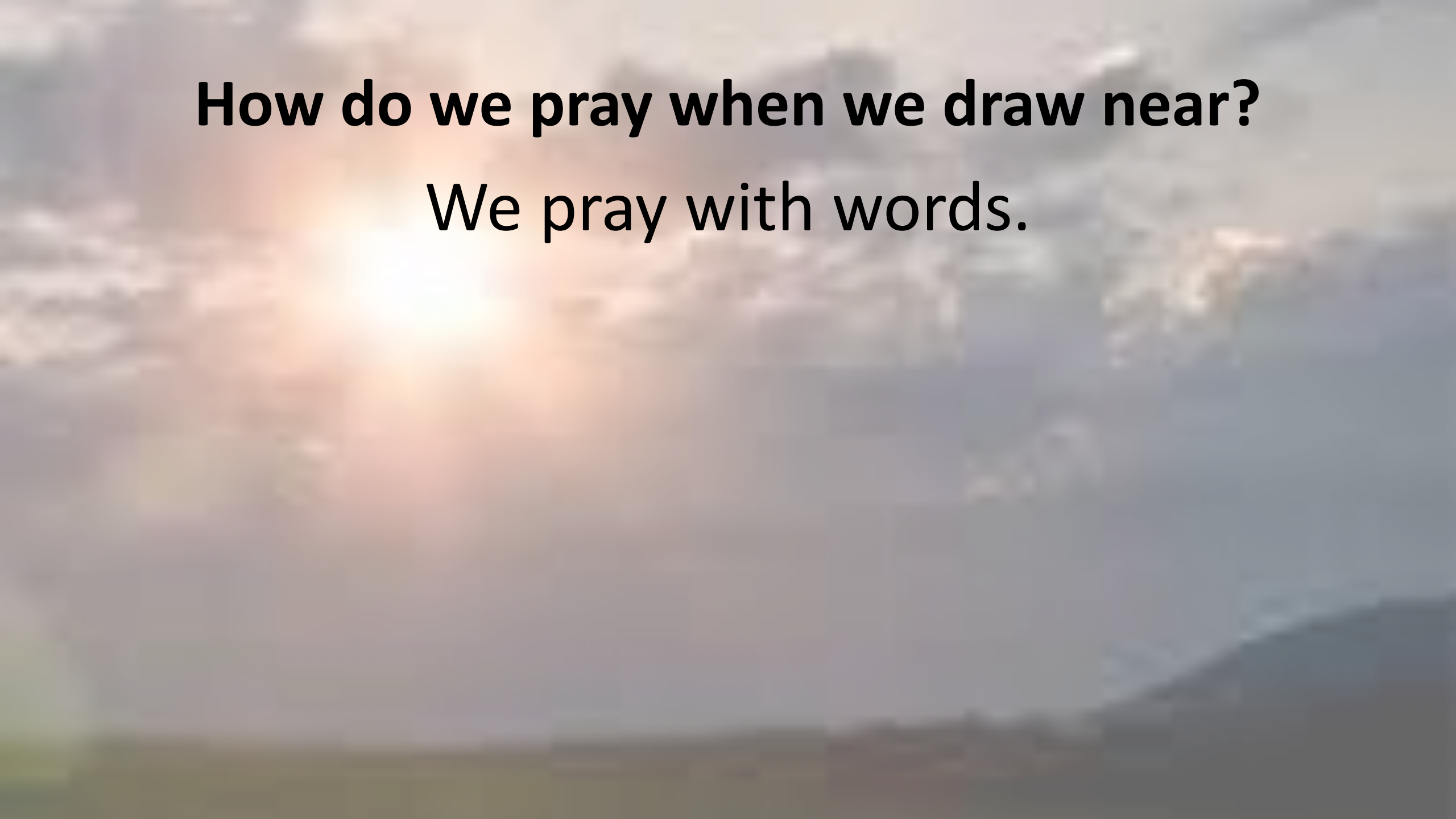
# Drawing Near in Prayer

On what basis can we draw near in prayer?

To whom do we draw near to pray?

How do we pray  
when we draw near?





**How do we pray when we draw near?**

**We pray with words.**

## **Psalm 5:1-3**

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;  
In the morning I will order my prayer  
to You and eagerly watch.

**Psalm 5:1-3**

**Give ear to my words**, O LORD,

Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,

For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;

In the morning I will order my prayer  
to You and eagerly watch.

Prayer is not a mystical experience  
but is a rational exercise that  
engages the mind and the heart  
and that is expressed in words.

**Psalm 5:1-3**

**Give ear to my words**, O LORD,

Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,

For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;

In the morning I will order my prayer  
to You and eagerly watch.

## Psalm 5:1-3

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.  
Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, **You will hear my voice;**

In the morning I will order my prayer  
to You and eagerly watch.



## **1 Samuel 1:12-13**

Now it came about, as *Hannah* continued praying before the LORD, that Eli was watching her mouth.

As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard.  
So Eli thought she was drunk.

## 1 Samuel 1:12-13

Now it came about, as *Hannah* continued praying before the LORD, that Eli was watching her mouth.

As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but **her voice was not heard.**  
So Eli thought she was drunk.

## 1 Samuel 1:12-13

Now it came about, as *Hannah* continued praying before the LORD, that Eli was watching her mouth.

As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but **her voice was not heard.**

**So Eli thought she was drunk.**

Though not required, speaking your prayers can be a great aid to your focus and intimacy in prayer.

# How do we pray when we draw near?

We pray with words.

**We pray with groans.**

**Psalm 5:1-3**

**Give ear to my words**, O LORD,

Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,

For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;

In the morning I will order my prayer  
to You and eagerly watch.

## **Psalm 5:1-3**

Give ear to my words, O LORD,

**Consider my groaning.**

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;  
In the morning I will order my prayer  
to You and eagerly watch.

## Romans 8:23 and 26

And not only this, but also we ourselves,  
having the first fruits of the Spirit,  
even **we ourselves groan within ourselves**,  
waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons,  
the redemption of our body.

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness;  
for we do not know how to pray as we should,  
but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us  
**with groanings** too deep for words.



Praying while we struggle even to know how or what to pray reminds us that God alone is omniscient and that He alone knows the deepest needs of our souls and that He cares for us and hears us.

# How do we pray when we draw near?

We pray with words.

We pray with groans.

**We pray with cries.**

## Psalm 5:1-3

Give ear to my words, O LORD,

**Consider my groaning.**

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;  
In the morning I will order my prayer  
to You and eagerly watch.

## **Psalm 5:1-3**

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

**Heed the sound of my cry for help,**

my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;  
In the morning I will order my prayer  
to You and eagerly watch.

## Psalm 18:6

In my distress I called upon the LORD,

**And cried to my God for help;**

He heard my voice out of His temple,

And my cry for help before Him came into His ears.

## **Psalm 18:6**

In my distress I called upon the LORD,  
And cried to my God for help;

**He heard my voice out of His temple,**

And my cry for help before Him came into His ears.

Frequent prayer serves to turn us away from self-reliance and reminds our souls that the Lord is our first and best recourse in times of need.

# How do we pray when we draw near?

We pray with words.

We pray with groans.

We pray with cries.

**We pray with care.**



## **Psalm 5:1-3**

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

**Heed the sound of my cry for help,**

my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;  
In the morning I will order my prayer  
to You and eagerly watch.

## **Psalm 5:1-3**

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;

**In the morning I will order my prayer  
to You** and eagerly watch.

## Psalm 5:1-3

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;

**In the morning** I will order my prayer  
to You and eagerly watch.

## Psalm 5:1-3

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;

In the morning **I will order my prayer**  
**to You** and eagerly watch.

## Psalm 5:1-3

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,

**my King** and my God,

For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;

In the morning **I will order my prayer**

**to You** and eagerly watch.

It is right to remember that we pray to “our Father,” but it is also right to remember that our Father is *King*, and it is right to come to a king prepared.

# How do we pray when we draw near?

We pray with words.

We pray with groans.

We pray with cries.

We pray with care.

**We pray with faith.**

## Psalm 5:1-3

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;

In the morning **I will order my prayer**  
**to You** and eagerly watch.



## Psalm 5:1-3

Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.

In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;

In the morning **I will order my prayer  
to You and eagerly watch.**

**Psalm 130:5**

I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait,  
And in His word do I hope.

Psalm 130:5

**I wait for the LORD**, my soul does wait,  
And in His word do I hope.

Psalm 130:5

**I wait for the LORD**, my soul does wait,  
And **in His word do I hope.**

Prayer should not be disconnected  
from God's word but should be  
directed and formed by it.

*Believing* prayer is prayer grounded in God's word to us – it is prayer that takes hold of His promises and eagerly waits with expectation on His faithfulness.

**Matthew 21:22**

“And all things you ask in prayer,  
**believing**, you will receive.”

# Conclusion

In mercy and by grace, God summons you into His presence to bless you.

Prayer is a chief way in which we take hold of God and His promises and exercise our faith.

Your prayers should be intimate, earnest, and expectant.