

## Before I Pray

### ☐ I Must Believe in God

In the Bible people prayed to God (Mt 26:39). No one ever prayed to an angel, or another person, living or dead.

### ☐ I Must Believe that God Hears My Prayer

It does little good to pray if a person does not think that God will hear them. *“For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer”* (1 Pet. 3:12).

### ☐ I Must Believe that God Cares Enough to do Something About My Prayer

Praying to a God who does not care is of no help. Over and over the Bible shows us how important we are to God (Mt. 10:31). Peter tells us, *“casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you”* (1 Pet. 5:7). It is not only that God cares, but God is able to do something for us. Jesus said, *“And everything you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive”* (Mt. 21:22).

### ☐ I Must Pray According to God’s Will

*“And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us”* (1 Jn. 5:14). It is not according to God’s will to work miracles today. It is not according to God’s will to save people in a different way than what the apostles taught. It is not God’s will to free us of our responsibilities. It is not God’s will to do evil to any person. Praying according to God’s will also involves asking with the right motives (Jas. 4:3).

*These things happen **before** I pray.*

*Roger Shouse*