

# ACTS

## Since God is Sovereign, Why Pray?

Acts 4:23-31

### The Context: A Crisis of Faithfulness

The prevailing culture sought to \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_.

But they knew God was using the power of the \_\_\_\_\_ to save many.

Which would prevail: The pressure to cower and shrink back or the desire to be faithful to King Jesus and His mission and continue speaking with boldness?

### Their response:

"... *they lifted their voices together to God ...*"

### Their prayer:

Affirmed God's \_\_\_\_\_ over everyone and everything

*The Old Testament continually reveals God's sovereignty in the history of \_\_\_\_\_.*

*The early church experienced and understood God's sovereignty in the death and resurrection of \_\_\_\_\_.*

*This conviction is \_\_\_\_\_. (Isa. 46:9-11, Dan. 4:35, Job 23:13, Psa. 103:19, Eph. 1:11)*

Requested God's \_\_\_\_\_

*Not to \_\_\_\_\_ persecution, but that they would be faithful \_\_\_\_ persecution so that God would continue his amazing work while they obediently \_\_\_\_\_.*

### Reasons we Pray to Our Sovereign God:

Because He is \_\_\_\_\_. Why pray to a God who does not possess the power to respond?

Because, in His sovereignty, God \_\_\_\_\_ some outcomes as a \_\_\_\_\_ to prayer. He is sovereign over both the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. His \_\_\_\_\_ includes our \_\_\_\_\_.

Because we are \_\_\_\_\_ to.

Because there are \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ from God we only access through prayer or lack because we don't pray.

Because prayer \_\_\_\_\_ with God's will in both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Because prayer is a primary means by which we \_\_\_\_\_ in God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Because prayer \_\_\_\_\_. (Humbling, strengthening, encouraging, assuring, etc.)

### My response:

*Dr. Paul Thompson  
Calvary Baptist Church  
March 27, 2022*

### Churchwide Meet & Greet with Patrick Lima, Prospective Worship Pastor

Friday, April 1 | 5-7pm | Parlor

Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Patrick will share his testimony and lead in Worship Sunday morning, April 3. At the conclusion of the service, the Personnel Committee will ask for a vote of affirmation toward the committee's decision to invite Patrick and Amanda to join Calvary's pastoral staff.

### Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions

Calvary's Goal: \$40,000

100% of your gifts to this offering go directly to the mission field to support more than 2,200 missionaries and their families in North America and enable hundreds of churches to be planted and thousands of disciples to be made.

### Deacon Nominations

We are requesting deacon nominations for the new church year that begins on July 1. Read Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13, to remind yourself of God's description for deacons as you pray about which men to nominate. Nomination cards are available on the Next Steps table. Our deacon selection committee will accept nominations through April 15. Drop your nomination cards in the offering boxes in the Fellowship Center, bring to the church office during the week, or email [carenc@calvarydothan.com](mailto:carenc@calvarydothan.com).

### Calvary Family Night

Sunday, March 27 | 5-7pm | Gym & ROC Parking Lot

Bring your families and lawn chairs out to enjoy some good fellowship, food, and fun together as a church family.

### Community Ministry Opportunity

With Easter coming up, we want to encourage the families at Wiregrass Hope group by donating Easter baskets. We've put together some ideas for things to fill the baskets with, and are asking that you bring them to Calvary no later than April 1. You can drop them off in the Preschool Building, Children's Building, and the ROC. For more details, pick up a flyer at those drop-off locations.

### Coffee & Connect

Sunday, April 3 | 3pm | Parlor

All ladies are invited to Coffee & Connect. Come enjoy light refreshments and sweet fellowship as we discuss the HOPE we have in God and ways to cultivate this hope in our own lives.

### Joy Prom

Sunday, May 1 | 5-7pm | Fellowship Center

Joy Prom is a full-scaled prom designed for people ages 13 and older with developmental or physical impairments. Registration is open. Go to [calvarydothan.com](http://calvarydothan.com) to download a registration form and mail it in or drop it by the church office.

### Vacation Bible School | June 13-17

Spark imagination and kick creativity into high gear at Spark Studios. This summer, kids will learn that God's creativity didn't stop in Genesis. The Master Artist is working to redeem, reclaim, and transform us—His creation—to the design He planned for us. Kids will see the beautiful truth that they are God's workmanship as they learn to use their talents to bring glory to Him.

Child registration will open in April. Volunteer registration is open now. Visit our website for more information and to get registered.

From Dr. Guy Richard:

One of the most common questions that people have in church is, "If God is sovereign, why should we pray?" The idea seems to be that if God is sovereign, knows everything, is all powerful, and is all wise then surely, he doesn't need our prayers. Although that is a difficult question, I think the more difficult question is, "If God is *not* sovereign, why should we pray?" If God is not sovereign, then there's no need for us to pray because we're praying to a God who is not able to do something about our situation. He is somehow limited in his power, his knowledge, and his ability to actually intervene in time and space and do something.

So why pray?

**First, God commands us to pray.** The bible is very clear that God wants us to be praying. In fact, we know several passages of scripture that tell us we are to be praying without ceasing. It's a question of obedience when we engage in the practice of praying.

**Second, as Christians, praying is an expression of life.** It's automatic that if there's new life within us, that new life finds expression in prayer. J.C. Ryle used to say that we know that physical life is there because we are breathing. In the same way, we know that spiritual life is there because we are praying.

**Third, we pray because God is a God of means.** God can. He is able to do whatever he wants to do, whenever he wants to do it, and however he wants to do it. He can work immediately, and he can work without means, but God only does that in extraordinary circumstances. More ordinarily, God works in and through the prayers and the actions of his people. So, we pray because God is changing us, he's changing things, and he's changing the course of events. It's amazing how many of the major events of the bible occur in response to prayer. We can think about the plagues in Egypt and how many of them either came or were lifted in response to the prayers of Moses. If you look at the scriptures you see over and over again that it's God using prayer as his vehicle and as his means to bring his purposes, which are perfect. He doesn't have to use our prayers to do that. He is all powerful, all wise, and all knowing but God is a God who uses the prayers and the actions of his people to bring his perfect purposes to pass.

In today's message, we'll see from the text the essential correlation between God's sovereign power and our faithful prayers. We'll see that a deep and abiding trust in His absolute control over all things is the best possible motivator for persistent powerful praying!

May God reveal Himself to you today and draw you ever closer to Him!

Pastor Paul

### I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

### My Decision Today:

- I trusted Jesus as Savior.
- I'd like to join Calvary Baptist Church.
- I believe God is calling me into ministry/mission.
- Please have a pastor or elder contact me.

If you would like to speak with someone about one of the items noted above, please visit the Next Steps Kiosk before you leave today.

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pastors & Prayer Team Only
- Churchwide

## Connect Card

March 27, 2022

Please complete this tab, tear it off and drop it in an offering plate.

- Please update my information
- Please contact me about membership

### I am a:

- First Time Guest
- Guest
- Member

Name

Address

City

State/Zip

Male  Female

Married  Single

Birthdate (mm/dd/yy)

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Spouse

Spouse's Birthdate (mm/dd/yy)

### Children:

Name / Date of Birth

*Please complete the additional information on the back of this tab, if applicable.*

March 27, 2022



### I'm New Here

To fill out a digital Connect Card or learn more about Calvary, please use your smartphone camera to scan the QR Code.

### How to Become a Christian

Want more information about how to become a Christian? Go to [calvarydothan.com/become-a-christian/](http://calvarydothan.com/become-a-christian/).

If you would like to view a pdf of today's sermon notes, go to [calvarydothan.com/podcast](http://calvarydothan.com/podcast) or use Calvary's MobileMission app.

[calvarydothan.com](http://calvarydothan.com)

[@calvarydothan](https://twitter.com/calvarydothan)

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Church Office 334.792.5159  
Weekday 334.793.9898

### FIRST TIME GUEST?

We're so glad you've joined us for worship today and would love to be able to share more with you about our church. Please fill out the Connect Card to the left and place it in one of the offering plates when they are passed. Be sure to stop by our Next Steps kiosk after the service for a gift from us!

### THE PEOPLE CAME...

#### March 20

Life Groups: 480  
10:00 Worship: 528  
Hispanic Church: 117  
Grace City Church (NY): 30

### THE PEOPLE GAVE...

#### General Fund

Given March 20: \$46,467  
January Budget  
Surplus (Deficit): \$17,036.65

### DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

#### Sunday, April 3:

Gen 40, Mk 10, Jb 6, Rom 10

#### Monday, April 4:

Gen 41, Mk 11, Jb 7, Rom 11

#### Tuesday, April 5:

Gen 42, Mk 12, Jb 8, Rom 12

#### Wednesday, April 6:

Gen 43, Mk 13, Jb 9, Rom 13

#### Thursday, April 7:

Gen 44, Mk 14, Jb 10, Rom 14

#### Friday, April 8:

Gen 45, Mk 15, Jb 11, Rom 15

#### Saturday, April 9:

Gen 46, Mk 16, Jb 12, Rom 16

### Midweek Schedule

5:15pm Midweek Meal, Fellowship Center  
6:00pm Midweek Worship, Sanctuary  
Preschool, Birth-K5, Preschool Building  
Children, Grades 1-5, ROC  
Students, Grades 6-12, Student Room  
7:00pm Adult Choir

### 4 Ways to Give

- Give online by using the MobileMission app for Apple or Android or go to [calvarydothan.com/GiveOnline](http://calvarydothan.com/GiveOnline).
- On Sundays, drop in the offering plate or in the collection boxes near the Fellowship Center exit doors
- Mail to 901 Montezuma Avenue, Dothan, AL 36303
- Bring to the church office, M-F, 8am-12noon & 1-4:30pm

### Ministry Staff

Paul Thompson.....Senior Pastor  
Charles Uptain.....Executive Pastor  
Dan Tankersley.....Discipleship  
Tommy Perry.....Community

### STAFF ON CALL

#### Sunday, March 27:

Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765

#### Saturday, April 2:

Randy Hunt | 334-791-7986

#### Sunday, April 3:

Randy Hunt | 334-791-7986

### SERMON SCHEDULE

#### Wednesday, March 30 | 6pm

Genesis: Where Grace Began

Message by Paul Thompson

#### Sunday, April 3 | 10:00am

Acts: The Fearful End of Fake 'Christians'

Acts 4:32-5:11

Message by Paul Thompson

#### Wednesday, April 6 | 6pm

Genesis: Where Grace Began

Message by Paul Thompson

#### Sunday, April 10 | 10:00am

Acts: Miracles: Descriptive or Prescriptive?

Acts 5:12-16

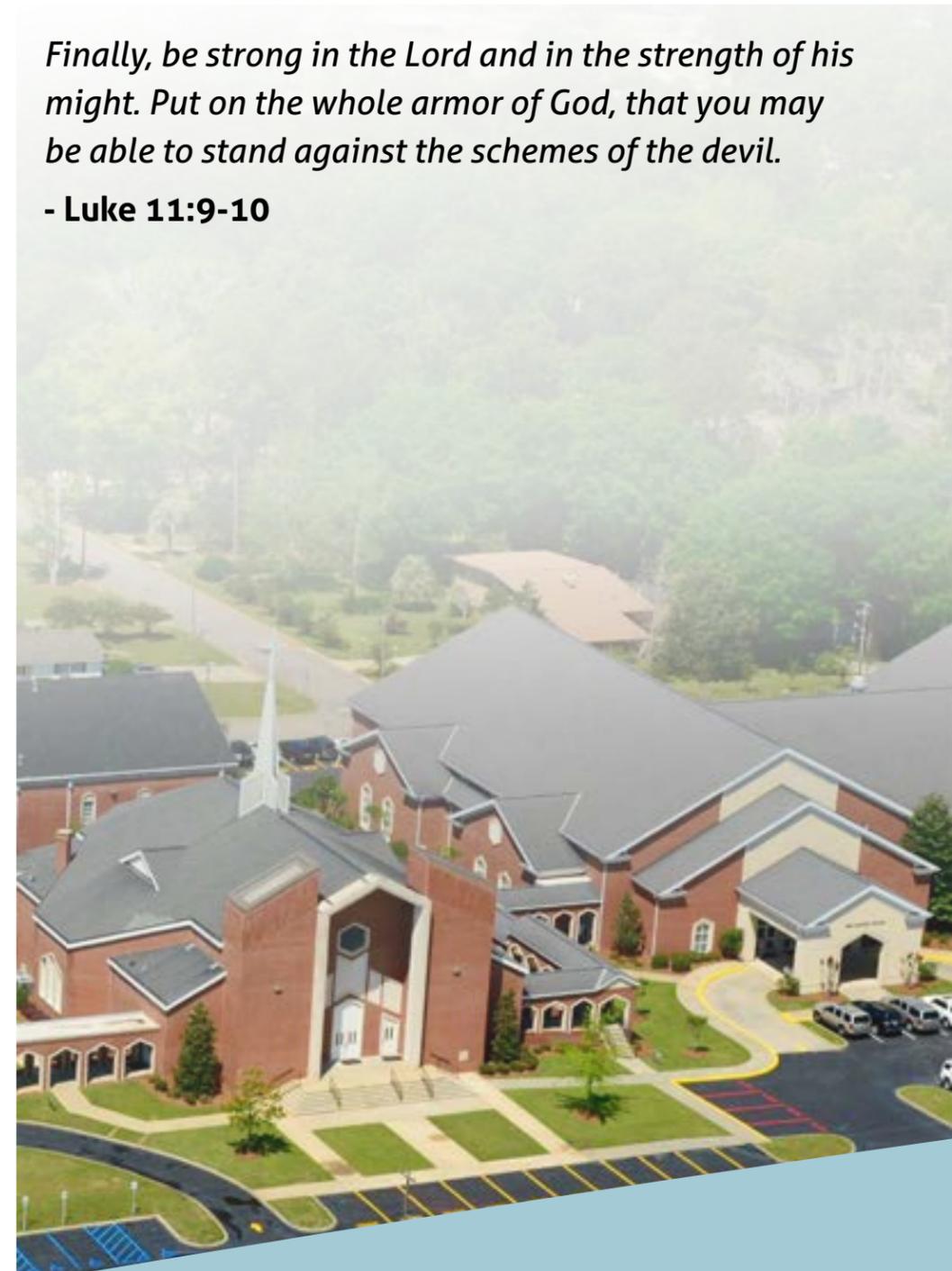
Message by Paul Thompson

### Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00am Call to Prayer, Sanctuary  
8:30am Life Group  
10:00am Worship, Fellowship Center  
Kid's Worship, Grades 1-5,  
Chapel (except 1st Sunday)  
11:00am Worship Broadcast on JoyFM  
94.3/96.1 with a 1 wk delay.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

- Luke 11:9-10



WELCOME TO  
**Calvary**  
BAPTIST CHURCH