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The Pentagon is the headquarters of the United States Department of Defense and its leadership. This immense five-sided facility is located in Arlington County, Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

In the same way that this five-sided facility is the center for our national defense, the five sided prayer pattern given by Jesus in Matthew 6:9-15; Luke 11:1-4 is our spiritual “command center.” It is a strategic plan to live life in all of its fullness and victory! (John 10:10)

### **PRAISE, THE FIRST THING FIRST**

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name.*

1. The very first step in living a victorious life is to develop a habit of going into God’s Presence... first. This honors God and our relationship is deepened as we learn to *stay* in His Presence as Joshua did (Exodus 33:11).
  - The essence of worship,... is not the physical prostration as much as the flattening of the human will which rises to assert its own dignity, ignorant all the while that our highest dignity is entering the Presence of the King with worship, thereby giving place for His glory to dwell in our midst. — Jack Hayford
2. To hallow His Name means to admire and love who He really is. We’re encouraged to praise the Lord using His Old Testament Names, but not everyone knows His Names. Scan the code which takes you to our blog article on God’s Names, their meanings, and Bible references.
3. The 10 Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21 explicitly begin with the Commandment, “You shall have no other gods before Me.” He must have pre-

eminence in our lives. This is not difficult when we truly understand that He delivered us from sin and death! (Romans 3:23, 6:23).

- The great Ephesian Church in Revelation 2:1-7 was rebuked for leaving their “first love” for Christ and focusing on things that were self fulfilling.
4. There are great benefits when our lives revolve around Him! A church who’s main focus is the Kingdom of God AND the King is truly blessed! Here are just a couple of examples.
- Provision -- Matthew 6:33 *But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*
  - Spiritual warfare -- 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 *...Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the (enemies); and they were defeated...*

**Action Step:** Look at your schedule and find at least a half hour daily to spend in His Presence without distraction. Calendar it as you would other important events.

**Note:** Each week we’ll study another “side” of our series on Christ’s strategic prayer pattern (Matthew 6:9-15):

- Two Kingdoms -- the powerful Kingdom of Light in the midst of the kingdom of darkness.
- Provision from a Supernatural Source.
- Forgiven and the power of forgiving.
- Victory from the inside out.