

# Cambridge Elements =

Elements in the Philosophy of Religion edited by Yujin Nagasawa University of Birmingham

## **GOD AND PRAYER**

Scott A. Davison

Morehead State University





## **CAMBRIDGE**UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108971430
DOI: 10.1017/9781108974967

© Scott A. Davison 2022

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-108-97143-0 Paperback ISSN 2399-5165 (online) ISSN 2515-9763 (print)

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.



#### **God and Prayer**

Elements in the Philosophy of Religion

DOI: 10.1017/9781108974967 First published online: February 2022

> Scott A. Davison Morehead State University

Author for correspondence: Scott A. Davison, s.davison@moreheadstate.edu

**Abstract:** Are there good reasons for offering petitionary prayers to God, if God exists? Could such prayers make a difference in the world? Could we ever have good reason to think that such prayers had been answered? In this Element, the author will carefully explore these questions with special attention to recent philosophical discussions.

**Keywords:** God, prayer, freedom, providence, religion

© Scott A. Davison 2022

ISBNs: 9781108971430 (PB), 9781108974967 (OC) ISSNs: 2399-5165 (online), 2515-9763 (print)



### **Contents**

1	Introduction	1
2	Preliminary Considerations	2
3	Answered Petitionary Prayer	12
4	A Survey of Defenses	16
5	Epistemology	24
6	Practical Considerations and Quasi-Petitionary Prayer	34
7	Conclusion	42
	References	43