

PRAYER

A Study of the Christian's Walk With God

Lesson Eleven

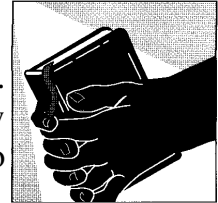
Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 12:27*

Lesson Verses: *Psalms 116:1,2*

*"I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.
Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as
long as I live." Psalm 116:1,2*

I. Introduction - How Important is *Prayer* in my Life?

- A. Someone once said a Christian is only as strong as his prayer life. Your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ cannot grow without this proper method of communication. You were created to talk with God in prayer!
- B. Leonard Ravenhill writes, "Poverty-stricken as the church is today in many things, she is most stricken here in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, but few prayers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, but few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. **Failing here, we fail everywhere.**"
- C. The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the believer with a powerful prayer life so he or she can effectively "_____ with God" (*Gen 6:9*).



II. Prayer Defined - *Hebrews 4:16*

- A. Prayer simply is walking and talking with Jesus, sometimes for brief moments, and sometimes for extended periods of time. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; when you pray, you speak directly to God.
- B. It is the soul of man offering up desires and burdens to God with humble confidence that we shall obtain the help we need because of Jesus (*Heb 4:16*)
- C. Prayer is also our *worship* addressed to the Father, in the authority of the name of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit (*Jn 16:23; Rom 8:26*).
- D. Finally, prayer is God's answer to *need!* By praying, we should know that we already have the answer to our need (*Mt 6:7,8; 1Jn 5:14,15*)!

III. The Challenge to Pray!

- A. Prayer is God's appointed way for Christians to get things (*James 4:2*). God already _____ what you need (*Matt 6:7,8*), but often waits for you to come to Him for those things, instead of just *expecting* things.
- B. God urgently commands prayer in the Bible (*Luke 18:1; 1 Thes 5:17; Philp 4:6; 1 Tim 2:1; Eph 6:18*).
- C. Prayer is part of the process that God uses to give Christians the fullness of _____ (*John 16:24*). Think of some reasons how this is true.
- D. Prayer is the Christian's way out of all trouble, and the cure for all worry and anxious care (*Philp 4:6,7; 1 Pet 5:7*).
- E. Prayer is the only way to get the power of the Holy Spirit in your life for God's work (*Acts 4:31; See also 2 Chron 7:14*).
- F. Prayer accomplishes **three** things:
 1. Through it, we fight the spiritual warfare (*Eph 6:11-18*)
 2. It is a spiritual watchdog against _____ (*Matt 26:41; 1Cor 10:13*)
 3. It _____ God (*Heb 11:6*).

IV. The Place of Prayer - Where Should a Christian Pray?

- A. **Everywhere** (1 Timothy 2:8). Don't limit your prayer life to the church house! Wherever you are, if you have a need, or are thankful, pray!
- B. Christians are *not to pray as a public show*, but rather in a "_____" (Mt 6:5,6). The principle is, have a special place of prayer in your home (the *closet* is as good as any), as well as everywhere you go, but not for show!
- C. **In church** (Acts 12:5), with other believers in the meetings.

V. How Does a Christian Pray?

- A. Like you were speaking *directly face to face* with your very best Friend (John 15:15,16)! There are three sides to prayer (Matt 7:7,8):
 1. *Asking* (not *demanding*; John 16:24; Matt 21:22). Never be afraid to ask God for things that you believe you need. Not with vain repetitions (Matt 6:7), or with prepared prayers - but from the heart!!!
 2. *Seeking* (Heb 11:6). Make sure that your request is not "flippant" (not being serious about it), but that you are fully persuaded that it is what you or someone needs (James 1:5-8).
 3. *Knocking* (2 Cor 12:7-9). If at first God does not seem to answer your request, keep "knocking" until either He answers the need, or has said NO, or tells you to wait.
- B. You pray *by* _____ (Heb 11:6), not by just "expectation," knowing that God hears you and **believing** that He will answer your requests - sometimes with a YES, sometimes with a NO, and sometimes with a WAIT.
- C. Pray *persistently* (Lk 11:1-13; 18:1-8) committed to getting what you need.
- D. Pray *constantly* (1 Thes 5:17) – at every opportunity. Have a mind to pray.
- E. Pray *humbly* (2 Chronicles 7:14), from the heart, not the head.
- F. Pray *honestly* - repent of sin in your life before asking (Psalm 51:1-4).
- G. Pray *specifically*. You want God to answer specifically don't you?
- H. Pray listening (1 Kings 19:11,12).
- I. Pray with the following ingredients:
 1. **Praise** – Start off with worship and adoration instead of selfishness, and demands (Ps 95:6; 34:1).
 2. **Repent**. Repent from every known sin (Ps 32:5). Make a list and agree with God (confess) them to Him alone!
 3. **Ask** - Supplication (1 Tim 2:1) - involves not just asking, but spending time *moving* God's heart toward your need, and other people's needs.
 4. **Yield** - accept God's will in the matters you have prayed about (Jam 4:13-15).
 5. And finally end with Thanksgiving (Philp 4:6) - Be thankful ahead of receiving your request. Trust that God is going to take care of the need!

P – Praise
R – Repent
A – Ask
Y – Yield

VI. What to Pray For

- A. Wisdom – ask for the ability to make right decisions (Jam 1:5).
- B. Pray for all people in authority over us (1Tim 2:1-3), that they obey God.
- C. For for Courage (Acts 4:23-32).
- D. For for people who are serving the Lord, that they would always be protected.
- E. Pray for every need (Philp 4:6; 1Pet 5:7; Ps 34:6; 55:22) – A Christian is someone who has discovered they are totally dependant upon the Lord for everything! There is nothing to big, or too small to pray about.
- F. Be aware that, NEVER did anyone pray for the gift of tongues!

VII. The Conditions for Answered Prayer

- A. You must ask according to God's _____, and not yours (**Matt 26:39**)
- B. You must make sure that you first _____ others their sins against you before you ask God for things (**Mark 11:25**).
- C. Pray in _____, believing (**Mark 11:24; Heb 11:6; James 1:6,7**) – not flippantly.
- D. You must make sure you are not in rebellion to God's commands and will for your life (**1 John 3:22; Ps 66:18**)
- E. _____ with Christ as opposed to only coming to God when you are in trouble or in desperate need (**John 15:7**).
- F. Make sure you pray to the Father, with the help of the Holy Spirit, in the _____ of Jesus Christ (**John 16:23,24**). You cannot approach God and make requests without *Authority* - **Jesus** is our Authority for getting every thing!

VIII. Hindrances to Answered Prayer - *Take This Spiritual Inventory*

- A. Are you saved (**Prov 15:29**)?
- B. How is your confidence in God's sufficiency - are you uncertain, or hesitant about what you are praying for (**James 1:6,7**)? If so, you are hindering it.
- C. Do you have an _____ attitude (**Mark 11:25,26**)?
- D. Is there any _____ (sin) in your life that you won't let go of (**Ps 66:18**)?
- E. Are you asking _____ (i.e., for the wrong things, **James 4:3**)? Do you have only selfish reasons for praying and not for others?
- F. Do you have improper relationships with others (**1 Pet 3:7; Eph 4:26**).
 1. Like being angry with your mate, children, co-workers, or your boss
 2. Like being out of fellowship with your pastor, or with other Christians
- G. Is your life over-scheduled - is your time prioritized, putting God first? If not, God feels no obligation to answer your prayers right away!
- H. Are you lazy? Not making the **effort**; and doing everything else but pray!

Will you right now make a promise to God that you will spend **at least 10 minutes** in heart-to-heart prayer **every day** before the throne of God, walking with Him, and depending upon Him for every need?

Yes

No

Signed _____ Date _____

<i>Date Lesson Completed</i> _____	<i>Discipler</i> _____
------------------------------------	------------------------