

L*esson*
7

Prayer

“How Important is Prayer in My Life?”



Someone once said that a Christian is only as strong as his prayer life. There is a great deal of truth in this because prayer is simply your direct communication with God. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; when you pray, you speak to God. Your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ cannot grow without proper communication.

LESSON 7

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint you with the basics of a proper prayer life so that the lines of communication between you and God can be open and effective in your life. If you have not done so already, at the onset of this lesson begin to keep a list of your prayer requests and answers to those prayers in your own “prayer book.”

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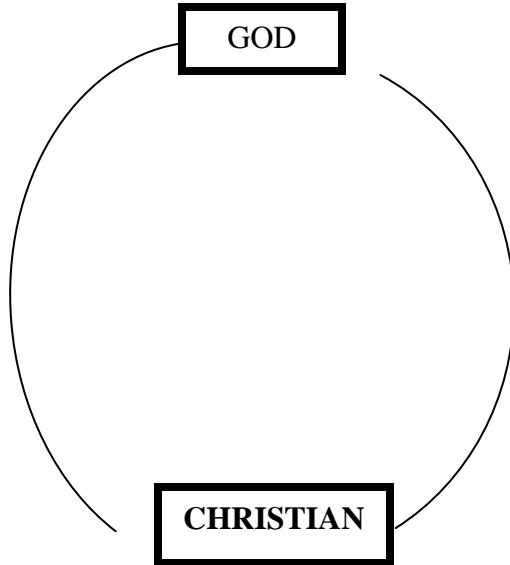
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INTRODUCTION

Christianity is a personal relationship with a holy and loving God. One of the important elements of any relationship is proper communication. Without proper communication a relationship cannot flourish. Thus, as Christians our communication with God is essential for our growth.

God has created a means in the New Testament whereby He can communicate with us and we can communicate with Him. The Word of God is God's method of speaking to you, and prayer is your means of communicating with God.



In order for us to develop an effective prayer life, it is important that we understand the principles of prayer that are given in the Word of God. As we work through this Bible Study on prayer, we need to learn the principles of prayer and begin to incorporate these guidelines into our life as a child of God.

THE INGREDIENTS OF PRAYER

In Matthew 6:5-15, Jesus gives instructions on the subject of prayer. This passage contains the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father in Heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your Kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom, and the power,
And the glory forever. Amen.

This prayer was never intended to be vainly repeated over and over. Jesus taught this in order that He might demonstrate the ingredients that should be in our prayers.

Note carefully the two main ingredients of prayer:

***Praise for God.**

Hallowed be Your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done...

***Petition for my needs.**

Give us...our daily bread
...forgive us our debts...
...do not lead us into temptation
etc..

Discipleship—Prayer

The first part of prayer should be an act of worship on our part. We should express our praise and worship for the character and work of God. Hallowed or holiness is one aspect of God's character.

2. List below some other characteristics of God for which you can praise Him.

As you think of His works, what has God done in your life since you have become a Christian for which you can praise Him? Take a moment to ponder and jot down some of those things on this page.

The first and foremost ingredient of prayer is our expression of praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us. This praise does two things:

1. Keeps us looking for what God is doing in our life.
2. Keeps God in the place of priority in our life.

In our prayer life we need to express our gratitude for God and His work in our life. If we can think of nothing else for which we can rejoice, we can always thank Him for the salvation He has given us.

Discipleship—Prayer

Look up the following verses:

Matthew 7:7-11
Philippians 4:6
Philippians 4:19
Hebrews 4:16

As you worked through this section on the ingredients of prayer, you should now recognize the importance of prayer in your life as a Christian and the basic ingredients in prayer.

Note: Prayer is not a RITUAL we perform as Christians; it is COMMUNICATION with our Heavenly Father. In essence, it is YOU talking to GOD.

THE TIME OF PRAYER

When should you pray?

Look up the following verses and see when those who wrote them prayed.

Psalm 5:1-3 _____

Psalm 55:16-17 _____

Psalm 63:1-5 _____

Isaiah 26:7-9 _____

Luke 18:1 _____

I Thessalonians 5:17 _____

Prayer is learning to talk to God at all times. It is best that you set aside time for God daily. What would suit you best?

- Morning
- Afternoon
- Evening

Work yourself into the daily habit of a devotional time when you read your Bible so God can speak to you, and pray so you can speak to God. The length of time is secondary to effective and meaningful communication between God and yourself.

THE BENEFITS OF PRAYER

Not only do Christians communicate with God through prayer, but they experience the blessing of God when they are obedient and do what God ask them to do.

1. What does Jeremiah 33:3 teach in relation to prayer?

2. According to Psalm 34:4, what took place in the life of David as a result of praying?

Discipleship—Prayer

3. Read Philippians 4:6-7. What benefits come from prayer?
 - a. In the place of worry or anxiety, what are you to do?
 - b. What has God promised in place of anxiety?

FOR WHOM SHOULD WE PRAY?

1. In I Timothy 2:1-4, we learn about praying for others.
 - a. In verse 1, for whom are we to pray?

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- b. Verse 2 mentions special people for prayer.
 - 1) Who are they?

 - 2) Why should we pray for them?

 - c. According to verse 4, why should we pray for others?
2. In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus tells us to pray for a special need.
- a. What is this need?

 - b. Why is it important?

Discipleship—Prayer

3. Ephesians 3:14-21 gives insight into the prayer life of the Apostle Paul. List some of the things you could pray for in your life and in the life of others.

CONCLUSION

1. Begin keeping a prayer list. Write down the things you should pray for. It should include:

Your Family
Your Pastors and Church
Missionaries
Government Officials
Friends Who Need Christ
Those Who Hurt You
Personal Needs

2. Remember, prayer is expressing to God what is on your heart. It is not a religious trial. It is you communicating with God.

Write down any questions you may have regarding this lesson.

Memory Verse ***Jeremiah 33:3***



