

LESSON 7

HOW TO PRAY

Memorize:

“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”
(Matthew 6:9-13)

INTRODUCTION

The most important thing we can do for God, ourselves, and for our world is PRAY. It is the most powerful force in the universe. Prayer releases the hand of God who spoke the world into existence to do the otherwise impossible. God longs to reveal Himself to man through answered prayer. In this lesson, we will learn the keys to answered prayer.

Prayer is communication with your Heavenly Father. As you know, communication is essential for a successful relationship; i.e., marriages, families, businesses, etc. When there is a communication breakdown, the relationship is doomed. If you want to be successful in your walk with God, you need to communicate with Him. We know that He is near and always accessible to us by His Word. *“That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us.”* **(Acts 17:27)**

Prayer is two-way communication between man and God. The Lord will speak back to you in one of three ways:

1. Through a *“still small voice.”* **(Isaiah 30:21; 1 Kings 19:12)**
2. Through reading His Word. **(2 Timothy 3:16-17)**
3. Through the anointed preaching of a minister. **(2 Timothy 4:2)**

WE HAVE AN INVITATION TO APPROACH GOD IN PRAYER

1. The scriptures tell us, *“...yet you have not, because you ask _____.”* **(James 4:2)**

2. What three things are we invited to do? (**Luke 11:9-10**)

A ___ ___
S ___ ___ ___
K ___ ___ ___ ___

What will be the results when we do them?

_____, _____, _____

3. What were the disciples instructed to do? (**John 16:24**) _____

What two things would happen if they would ask in His name? _____

IF WE ASK IN THE RIGHT MANNER, WE WILL RECEIVE

WE MUST PRAY WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

1. Prayer must be done in sincerity and simplicity. In **Matthew 15:8**, Jesus said that the hypocrites honored Him with their _____ but their _____ was far from Him.

2. **James 4:6** tells us how God responds to our attitude when coming to Him. He _____ the proud and gives _____ to the humble.

3. What attitude did the Pharisee display in **Luke 18:10-15**? _____

4. What attitude did the publican display in **Luke 18:10-15**? _____

5. The Lord is nigh unto them that call upon Him in _____ (**Psalm 145:18-19**)

What will He do for those who fear Him? _____

WE MUST PRAY WITH OUR WHOLE HEART

6. What will happen when we seek God with ALL of our heart? (**Jeremiah 29:13**)

WE MUST PRAY WITH FAITH

7. Whatever we ask in prayer will be ours if we _____ that we will receive it. (**Mark 11:24**)

PRAYERS FROM THE RIGHTEOUS ARE POWERFUL

8. What kind of a man is effective and powerful in his prayer life? (**James 5:16**)

What kind of prayer does he pray? _____

OBEDIENCE TO GOD CAUSES US TO RECEIVE ANSWERS TO OUR PRAYERS

9. God hears those who keep His _____. (**1 John 3:22**)

PRAYER MUST BE ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

10. If we ask according to the will of God, what will happen? (**1 John 5:14**)

PRAYER IS EFFECTIVE IF WE STAY CLOSE TO CHRIST AND HIS WORD

11. "If ye _____, and my words _____, ye shall ask what ye will, and _____ unto you." (**John 15:7**)

HINDRANCES THAT KEEP PRAYERS FROM BEING ANSWERED

PRAYERS WILL NOT BE ANSWERED...

IF WE HIDE SECRET SINS IN OUR HEART.

1. What happened to the Psalmist when he kept sin in his heart? (**Psalm 66:18, Isaiah 59:2**) _____

IF WE ARE INDIFFERENT TO GOD.

2. What two reasons will keep us from finding God and receiving an answer from Him? (**Proverbs 1:28-29**) _____ and _____

IF WE DESPISE GOD'S LAW.

3. If we refuse to hear God's law, our prayer becomes an _____ to God. (**Proverbs 28:9**)

IF WE NEGLECT MERCY.

4. What happens if we shut our ears to the cry of others? (**Proverbs 21:13**) _____

IF WE ARE NOT STABLE.

5. What are we likened to when we doubt? (**James 1:6-7**) _____

Will that man receive anything from the Lord? _____

IF WE HAVE WRONG MOTIVES.

6. What will happen if we ask for things with wrong motives? (**James 4:3**) _____

IF IT IS NOT THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR LIVES.

7. Read **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**. The Lord would not answer Paul's prayer because His _____ was sufficient. The reason God did not remove Paul's infirmity was because God knew when Paul was weak, the grace of God would take over and he would become _____.

IF WE HAVE AN IMPROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR SPOUSE.

8. What happens to our prayers when we don't treat our spouse properly? (**1 Peter 3:7**) _____

IF WE DO NOT FORGIVE

9. When you are praying and you harbor ill feelings against someone, what are you supposed to do? (**Mark 11:25-26**) _____

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL PRAYER

1. Jesus said, "If you shall ask anything in _____, I will do it." (**John 14:14**)
2. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall _____ themselves, and pray, and _____ my face, and _____ from their wicked ways, then will I _____ from heaven, and will _____ their sins, and will _____ their land." (**2 Chronicles 7:14**)
3. We need to be persistent in our prayers, Jesus told His disciples that they should always pray and not to _____. (**Luke 18:1-8**)

Jacob, after wrestling all night with a man (the Lord Himself), said to Him, “*I will not let thee go, except thou _____ me.*” (**Genesis 32:26**)

4. In **Matthew 6:9-13**, Jesus’ disciples asked Him to teach them to pray. Jesus gave them an outline to follow, which is commonly referred to as the “Lord’s Prayer.” The prayer has six different parts. Can you find them?

(Put a vertical line between each of the six parts.)

“...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

5. When we unite in prayer, there is a promise that anything we ask will be done. How many are necessary for this to happen? (**Matthew 18:19**) ____

Prayer meetings are a means of receiving special blessings. What special blessing did the people receive when they came together in one place in Jerusalem? (**Acts 2:1-4**) _____

In **Acts 12**, Peter was miraculously delivered from prison. In *verse 12*, it tells us that when he considered what took place, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John, where _____ people had gathered together and were praying.

6. When we pray, we must approach God with thanksgiving in our hearts. How often are we to give thanks to God? (**Ephesians 5:20**) _____
7. When we approach God with confidence, He hears and answers. What two things will we receive when we come boldly to the Lord in time of need? (**Hebrews 4:16**) _____ and _____

PRAYER IS THE MEANS GOD USES TO PROVIDE OUR NEEDS

God’s promises are like money in a bank – it doesn’t do any good unless it’s withdrawn, and prayer is the way we make our withdrawals.

The Bible tells us to pray specifically for:

1. _____ **1 Timothy 2:1-2**
2. _____ **Matthew 5:44**

- 3. _____ **Luke 10:2**
- 4. _____ **James 1:5**
- 5. _____ **Matthew 26:41**
- 6. _____ **James 5:16**

PRAYING WITH THE SPIRIT

When we pray with the spirit (praying in tongues), our spirit is speaking mysteries unto God.

1. When we pray with the spirit, our mind is _____. (**1 Corinthians 14:14-15**)

So we should do both; pray with our _____ (*unknown tongue/language*) and pray with our _____ (*known tongue/language*).

2. What two things can we do with our spirit? (**1 Corinthians 14:15**)
_____ and _____

2. Do we speak in tongues to communicate to man or to God? (**1 Corinthians 14:2**) _____

Can anyone understand when we pray in tongues unto God? _____

4. The scriptures tell us that we don't know how to pray as we ought. What does the Spirit do for us with groans that words cannot express? (**Romans 8:26**)

5. To help build yourselves up spiritually, how should you pray? (**Jude 20**)

PRAYER IS THE INFALLIBLE MARK OF A CHRISTIAN

To be a Christian is to be Christ-like. To be a man/woman of prayer is to be like Christ.

1. What time of day did Jesus pray in **Mark 1:35**? _____
2. How long did Jesus pray in **Luke 6:12**? _____

3. If we are to be like Christ, we must possess the same spirit of prayer He possessed, which will result in our praying whenever possible. According to **1 Thessalonians 5:17**, how often should we pray? _____

WHERE TO PRAY

1. Jesus said that when we pray we should enter into our “private”

2. Not only can we pray privately in seclusion, but when we read **Luke 1:10, Acts 2:1**, we can also pray as a group _____

SUMMARY

The mighty men and women of the Old and New Testament communicated freely with their Heavenly Father and greatly affected nations’ destinies. We, likewise, must have a consistent prayer life and keep the channel of communication open to Him. By praying, we maintain our spiritual well-being and a close relationship with God. Since prayer is such a powerful tool of the Christian, we should not permit it to be crowded out of our busy schedule and thus be neglected. It has been said that the Church of Jesus Christ moves forward on its knees. As you spend more time communicating with your Father, you will truly get to know Him better and understand His will, His ways, and His plans for your life.

“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.”

Psalm 5:3

NOTES: QUESTIONS/COMMENTS