# PRAYER

“How Important is Prayer in My Life ?”

“A Christian is only as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as their prayer life.” There is a great deal of truth in this statement because prayer is simply your direct communication to God. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; when you pray, you speak to God. Your personal relationship with Him cannot grow without proper communication.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the individual with the basics of a proper prayer life so that these lines of communication can be open and effective in their life.

1. What is the purpose of prayer?

 A. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to move God for your advantage or to change His mind; it is for you to be conformed to His will.

 B. A proper prayer life results in peace of heart and mind. - *Philippians 4:6-7*

 C. To draw you close to God so that He can prove His sufficiency for every need.

 1. God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in every detail of your life. He knows exactly what you need before you ask.

- *Matthew 6:8*

 2. God allows \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to come into your life so that He can draw you to Him to meet with Him.

- *Psalm 50:15*

 3. The most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ time in your life is when every single need is met, and you have need of nothing,

 Including God. - *Revelation 3:16-17*

 4. God uses those needs to draw you to a place where He can bless you and reveal to you that your only

 real need is simply the Lord Jesus Christ and His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The classic example of this tremendously

 important principle is Paul’s thorn in his flesh. - *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

 5. This is why it is absolutely essential to give thanks for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, including our needs and difficult

 times of your life. - *1 Thessalonians 5:18*

 6. That is also why it is absolutely essential to develop a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ prayer attitude where your

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reaction in a difficult moment is to go to God in prayer. - *1 Thessalonians 5:17*

2. How do I pray?

1. First, *Romans 8;26-27* makes it clear that we won’t always know how to pray or what to pray for. That is

why the Holy Spirit who lives inside you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for you in prayer.

 B. But there are some basic guidelines.

 1. Pray \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - develop a lifestyle of prayer. - *1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1*

 2. Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the same words over and over. - *Matthew 6:7*

 3. Talk to God as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He is your friend. - *John 15:13-14; Exodus 33:11; Proverbs 18:24*

4. Realize that you have direct \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God personally. You do not need to go through any man

 to talk to God. - *I Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 2:18*

C. Be sure to keep your basic relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ pure. For example...

 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sin. - *Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18*

 2. An \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ spirit. - *Matthew 6:14-15*

 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ towards your spouse (as well as towards others). - *1 Peter 3:7*

 4. Not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. - *James 4:2*

 5. Asking with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or other wrong motives. - *James 4:3; Proverbs 21:13*

 6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Word of God. - *Proverbs 28:9*

3. There are four basic types of prayer*. Timothy 2:1*

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - specific requests. Too many prayers are too general and not specific! *Philippians 4:6*

 E.g. “God please give me a blessing.” “Which one? How do you want me to bless you?”

 B. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - This is a summation term used to classify all communication with God.

 C. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – (pure motive) prayers for others. Gives us a heart toward others, not just ourselves.

 D. Giving of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - *Psalm 100:4* says we enter the presence of God through thanksgiving and praise.

4. Keep track of your prayer requests (Journalize).

1. Making a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will help you remember what you pray for. Otherwise your prayer life will not be

consistent.

B. Keeping a list of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ prayers reinforces our faith in God’s ability to answer prayer.

5. Basic questions.

 A. Does God answer all my prayers?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but not always in the way that you want Him to, or at the time you want Him to. As we learnt in lesson two, God is your Heavenly Father and all His ways are perfect. There will be times when in His infinite wisdom, the best answer to prayer will be “NO” or “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_.” In those times, simply trust Him.

 B. How important is it to prayer for others?

 1. Paul prayed for others \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, *(Romans 1:9) and requested prayer on all occasions.*

- *Hebrews 13:18; 2 Thessalonians 3:1*

2. Samuel said it was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against God not to pray for others. - *1 Samuel 12:23*

3. An example of effectual prayer for others is how a preacher from England named George Mueller prayed

 for the Salvation of several people for up to 60 years. When he died some were still unsaved. However, at

 his funeral and within a single year after that, many of those he had prayed for came to Salvation.

4. Keep at it. The full results of your prayers will never be known completely in this life.

**PRAYER**

**LESSON #6**

1. What is something prayer does NOT accomplish?

2. What is the result of a good prayer life?

3. Prayer keeps you close to God so He can prove His sufficiency for your every need. What do

 the following verses teach us about God and our needs ?

 A. *Matthew 6:8*

 B. *Psalm 50:15*

4. Give the situation that is most dangerous for the Christian to be in.

5. According to *1 Thessalonians 5:18*, we are to give thanks for everything. This includes the

 ............ and ........... ............. of our lives.

6. What should be your first reaction in a tough situation?

7. There are some primary principles concerning prayer. Briefly explain them from the following

 verses.

 A. *1 Thessalonians 5:17*

 B. *Matthew 6:7*

 C. *Exodus 33:11*

8. List the attitudes that will interfere with your prayer life.

 A.

 B.

 C.

 D.

 E.

 F.

9. What are two ways that help you keep your prayer requests in order?

 A.

 B.

10. God answers your prayers, but not always the way you expect. His answer will sometimes be

 ........... or ............

11. Man is instructed not to pray to idols or to other men. Explain *1Timothy 2:5* in light of this

 truth.

12. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key memory verses:

*1 Timothy 2:5; Psalm 66:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

NOTE: In many Churches today, some popular teaching are:

1. Man should pray to idols, saints or other men.

2. If you pray long enough or hard enough, God will change His mind and do what you

 want.

3. The best prayers are those who have been written by others and are just ‘said’ by you.

4. Prayer must be at a set time in a set format.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teachings are false, and why.

Write any question you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.