

Lesson 4 - Prayer

WHAT IS PRAYER, HOW IMPORTANT IS IT AND HOW DO I PRAY?

Prayer, in its simplest definition, is talking to God. Whether our prayers are happy, sad, angry or peaceful, whether we are kneeling, sitting or standing, God is always listening, and He wants to hear from us. Prayer is not like making a speech, it is like talking to a friend.

Christian prayer is not something new, it has a long tradition, one that has been in practice for nearly 2,000 years. Even though prayer has been around for a long time, it can still be a mystery, something that is difficult to get a handle on.

In this lesson we will explore what prayer is and what it isn't. We will look at how and why you should pray and try to clear up some of the confusion surrounding prayer.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thess 5:16-18

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb 4:16

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Many times, people are intimidated by the subject of prayer. They think that there is a procedure and if they do it wrong, they will get in trouble. Perhaps that is why some people do not participate in prayer as they should. Prayer is simply talking to our heavenly Father, you are speaking from your heart to a loving God who desires to hear from you. All effective prayer starts with God.

Someone once said that people of prayer are the only people who can represent God in this world. You will misrepresent Him if you don't talk to Him. Prayer can become one of the greatest assets in your life. Prayer is joining forces with God the Father.

We have a God who listens:

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. Ps 34:17

The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous. Prov 15:29

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 1 John 5:14

Lesson 4 - Prayer

We are all called to pray:

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Rom 12:12 - The Amplified Bible says: Be constant in prayer. Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; Col 4:2

...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. Eph 6:18

Prayer is the way we communicate with God and is the tool for accomplishing things in the Kingdom of God. Without prayer we are like a people without power. We must answer the call to pray.

If God is all knowing, why do we have to ask?

Asking releases our faith. God can only move through faith. God gave mankind authority over this earth and we must use that authority by asking of God. God will not intervene unless He is asked. We are not praying to get God to do something, we are praying so God **can** do something. He will never violate the freewill of mankind. God will allow whatever we allow. The choice is ours.

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; Deut 30:19

THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRAYERS

There are several different kinds of prayer. Prayer is much like the subject of sports. There are many different kinds of sports, each having its own rules that govern each game. There are many kinds of prayer, each having its own rules. Prayer is not meant to be clinical or legalistic. For teaching purposes, let's look at the different types of prayer, so that we can pray more effectively. Many times, you can even use different kinds of prayer at the same time, much like fingers on your hand they work together to get the job done.

1. Prayer of Commitment: Casting your cares upon the Lord. God doesn't want us to be burdened down with cares. In fact, carrying around cares and worries is a sin from which we need to repent. The Bible tells us that the cares of this life are like a trap that will weigh us down.

But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Luke 21:34-35

Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved. Ps 55:22

Lesson 4 - Prayer

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6-7

“Therefore, I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? “Therefore, do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Matt 6:25-34

This type of prayer is not a license to be irresponsible. If you effectively cast your cares, you won't have the thoughts. If you keep getting thoughts back, you are not doing something right. Look at these areas for help:

- a) Know that God loves you and that He cares about your situation. He has your best interests at heart.
- b) Know that He can do something about the situation. Remember that He is able!

2. Praise and Worship with Thanksgiving: This type of prayer will help you maintain your personal fellowship with the Lord. You can recognize people who pray a lot because they are always praising God. Worship holds your place in faith. Don't think it, thank Him!

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice! Phil 4:4

Do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers. Eph 1:16

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Ps 34:1

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. Ps 33:1

I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. Ps 22:22

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name. Ps 100:4

Lesson 4 - Prayer

The language of faith is praise. Prayer doesn't change things, it is faith that does. Things you can praise God about:

- a) Remembering what the Lord has done - *Forget not all his benefits. Ps 103.* Remembering rekindles your faith.
- b) Waiting on God - *For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him. Isa 64:4 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him...Ps 37:7*
- c) Fellowship with God - God is faithful. We are companions with Jesus. *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Cor 1:9*

3. United Prayer: This type of prayer is used four ways in the Bible. It was used in times of crisis, to seek mercy and forgiveness, for worship, and to seek guidance. For successful united prayer everyone must be in one accord having one heart, one mind, and be in full agreement. United prayer is not you thinking like me but rather our thinking like Jesus. We are not tuned into each other, but all tuned into Him. Much like an orchestra, we all play different notes and instruments, but we play the same music and follow the conductor.

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. Acts 1:14

And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So, when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them... Acts 4:23-24

It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi). And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. Chron 20:1-4

...indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud... 2 Chron 5:13

Lesson 4 - Prayer

4. Prayer of Consecration: Finish things! Finish your race! Don't develop an "almost" attitude. The way you make it from A to Z is by choosing. Choose the will of God for your life daily.

And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done." Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. Luke 22:41-43

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. Acts 20:24

Choose God's will over your own interests. God and His will are one. To reject His will is to reject a part of God. Finish your course with joy!

5. Intercessory Prayer: "Intercede" means to stand in the gap for someone else; strong requests; strong desires; much like supplication but can be more demonstrative.

Therefore, I exhort first that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 1 Tim 2:1-2

Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Rom 8:26-27

So, I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Ezek 22:30-31

We should not be looking for volume or demonstration. We are looking for substance and results. Love is the motivating factor to intercession. Intercession is directed toward the unsaved.

Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way." Matt 15:32

He had compassion on the multitudes and fed them. What motivated Him? Love.

And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?" Gen 18:17

Abraham, interceding for Sodom, was motivated by love for the people.

Lesson 4 - Prayer

6. Prayer of Supplication: Supplication means to make a strong request of God. Supplication is earnest prayer, a beseeching, an entreaty. Supplication is praying God's will in the earth. You make supplication for other believers.

...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. Eph 6:18

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isa 55:8-11

And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:13-14

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. John 15:7

When we see wrong things in others, we need to cover these people with love and prayer.

If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. 1 John 5:16

When people sin against you, take it as a prayer

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

7. Prayer of Agreement: It is a prayer of asking where one person must agree with another. You can agree with as few as one other person. Four things you should agree on when praying the prayer of agreement:

- a.) You have a right to ask - take care of any sin, and then you are in a place to ask without hindrances.
- b.) Agree on the scriptures - have scriptures that promise what you are asking for. Take care of this before you ask.
- c.) Must agree that the request is the will of God - be true to your own heart. Believe where you are at, not what you're supposed to believe for, but what you can believe for.

Lesson 4 - Prayer

- d.) Believe that the request will be granted - both parties must know that it is going to happen when you've finished praying. The more you base your prayers on the Word, the less you struggle in prayer.

Take more time to prepare than you do praying. Get some ground to stand on in prayer.

"Again, I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. Matt 18:19

Do two walks together unless they have agreed to do so? Amos 3:3

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. Eccl 4:9

How could one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, And the LORD had surrendered them? Deut 32:30

8. Prayer of Binding and Loosing: *Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matt 18:18*

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Matt 16:18-19

"Bind" means to tie or forbid, "loose" means to dissolve or permit. You bind demonic forces and loose the Holy Spirit to move.

9. Prayer of Faith: Praying a request directed toward God, which might include the prayer of supplication, agreement, and united prayer. It must be directed towards God, don't focus it toward people. You're not just airing your opinions, you are talking to God. By asking God you release faith; you are saying "I know You want to do it and I know You have the ability to do it."

To release our faith, we must have faith. *So, then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Rom 10:17*

When faith doesn't work, go back to the Word and build a foundation on which to pray. You must be in faith to pray in faith. Don't be so quick to pray. Don't practice wrong prayer, you might become good at it.

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. James 5:14-15

Lesson 4 - Prayer

For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. Mark 11:23-24

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, I believed and therefore I spoke, we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.

2 Cor 4:13-14

When you have prayed, believe that you have received. Believe that God has heard and responded. How can you be sure? Go back to the Word that you used for a prayer foundation. God's Word never fails or returns void.

10. Praying in other Tongues: Praying with our prayer language as the Holy Spirit enables us.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4

Purposes for praying in other tongues:

- a) **Edification:** The Bible says that you edify or build yourself up spiritually, much as you would charge a battery.

He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 1Cor 14:4

Speak in tongues (not mumble). Do it on purpose, do it according to the Word of God.

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Jude 20

Praying in tongues is not a cure-all, it doesn't take the place of reading the Word. Only God's Word can bring faith.

- b) **Reveals Mysteries:** Praying in other tongues enables you to pray about things of which you are not even aware. Your spirit man is praying out the plan and mind of God for your life.

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. 1Cor 14:2-3

Lesson 4 - Prayer

The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles are: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Col 1:26-27

- c) **Pray for others in other tongues:** When you don't know how to pray for others, you can still pray prayers of faith and pray in the Spirit for them.

Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Rom 8:26-27

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification. 1Cor 14:1-5

- d) **Praise in tongues:** When natural words run out and you cannot express your heart, your spirit man can speak out mysteries in prayer.

Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified. 1Cor 14:16-17

- e) **Praying in tongues with the Spirit against infirmities:** Ask the Holy Spirit to help you, He will work with you.

Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Rom 8:26.

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness.

- f) **Praying to get the interpretation:** When you get an interpretation, it is not necessarily word for word but rather thoughts that God wants to convey to you or to a group of people.

I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification. 1Cor 14:5

Lesson 4 - Prayer

Don't split hairs about the definition of prayers. Don't be so concerned that you are not praying the right kind of prayer. The main lesson to be learned about prayer is that you simply **DO IT!**

HOW CAN I BE EFFECTIVE IN PRAYER?

1. Decide what you want from God, get specific.

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. James1:6-8

2. Find scriptures that promise you what you are asking for.

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1John5:14-15

The will of God is the Word of God.

3. Go to God and ask Him for the things you want.

You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. James4:2

And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. John14:13-14

4. Believe that you receive what you ask for when you pray.

And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive. Matt21:22

Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. Mark 11:24

5. Get the confession of your mouth and the actions of your body in line with what you believe.

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak...2 Cor 4:13

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" that is, the word of faith which we preach: Rom 10:8

Lesson 4 - Prayer

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? James 2:14

6. Refuse to entertain doubt.

For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Mark 11:23

7. Meditate on the promise, not the problem.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. Phil 4:8

8. Give God praise and thanksgiving continually.

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Ps 34:1

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; Phil 4:6

WHAT ABOUT FASTING?

Fasting is simply a time of personal sacrifice, such as giving up food or personal pleasures for a season. During this time of fasting you should devote your time to prayer and the Word. This is not a spiritual ritual, but something led by the Spirit to increase spiritual growth and fellowship with God.

- Fasting was an expected discipline in both the Old and New Testaments. For example, Moses fasted and in the New Testament, Jesus fasted 40 days and spoke of fasting to His followers.
- Fasting and prayer can restore the loss of the "first love" for your Lord and result in a more intimate relationship with Christ.
- Fasting is a biblical way to truly humble yourself in the sight of God (Psalm 35:13; Ezra 8:21). King David said, "I humble myself through fasting."
- Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal your true spiritual condition, resulting in brokenness, repentance, and a transformed life.
- The Holy Spirit will quicken the Word of God in your heart and His truth will become more meaningful to you!
- Fasting can transform your prayer life into a richer and more personal experience.

Lesson 4 - Prayer

- Fasting can result in a dynamic personal revival in your own life and make you a channel of revival to others.

PRAYER HINTS

Don't pray to Jesus, pray to the Father in Jesus' name.

And in that day, you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:23-24

Always maintain your joy, praise, and thanksgiving.

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so, you will be My disciples. "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:7-11

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:24

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6-7

Pray the Word.

So, shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isa 55:11

Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted. Isa 43:26

He has given food to those who fear Him; He will ever be mindful of His covenant. Ps 111:5

Nevertheless, He regarded their affliction, When He heard their cry; And for their sake He remembered His Covenant And relented according to the multitude of His mercies. Ps 106:44-45

Lesson 4 - Prayer

Forgive when you pray.

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matt 6:14-15

Have confidence in the name of Jesus - we have the right to use His name.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb 4:16

Come humbly before God.

...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2 Chron 7:14

WHAT SHOULD WE INCLUDE IN OUR PRAYERS?

Although prayer cannot be reduced to a formula, certain basic elements should be included in our communication with God: *Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication* (ACTS).

A- Adoration - To adore God is to worship and praise Him, to honor and exalt Him in our hearts and minds and with our lips.

C- Confession - When our discipline of prayer begins with adoration, the Holy Spirit has opportunity to reveal any sins in our lives that need to be confessed.

T- Thanksgiving - An attitude of thanksgiving to God for who He is and for the benefits we enjoy because we belong to Him enable us to recognize that He controls all things - not just the blessings, but the problems and adversities as well. As we approach God with a thankful heart, He becomes strong on our behalf.

S- Supplication - Supplication includes petition for our own needs and intercession for others. Pray that your inner person may be renewed, always sensitive to and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Pray for others - your spouse, your children, your parents, neighbors, and friends; our nation and those in authority over us. Pray for the salvation of souls, for a daily opportunity to introduce others to Christ and to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Lesson 4 - Prayer

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

Prayer is not an exercise. It is the life of the saint. *Oswald Chambers*

Countless people pray far more than they know. Often, they have such a "stained-glass" image of prayer that they fail to recognize what they are experiencing as prayer and so condemn themselves for not praying. *Richard J. Foster*

Prayer is spiritual communication between man and God, a two-way relationship in which man should not only talk to God but also listen to Him. Prayer to God is like a child's conversation with his father. It is natural for a child to ask his father for the things he needs. Remember prison -- you can pray and know God hears! Avail yourself of the greatest privilege this side of heaven. Jesus Christ died to make this communion and communication with the Father possible. *Billy Graham*

Prayer is the most important activity a born-again Christian can perform. It should head your list of priorities, for certainly the world around us desperately needs prayer. Prayer will open the door for God to do a glorious work in these last days. Prayer will stem the tide of evil. *Chuck Smith*

When we become too glib in prayer we are most surely talking to ourselves. *A.W. Tozer*

POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PRAYER

- Prayers must be big & fancy to be heard by God.
- Unless I am on my knees, I am not praying correctly.
- My life must be perfect before I can pray.
- Sin doesn't hinder prayer life.

From this lesson you should know that these misconceptions are wrong, and why.

Recommended Books for further reading on this subject

Secrets to Powerful Prayer by Lynne Hammond/Patsy Cameneti

Prayer Power by Andrew Murray

Prayer – Your Foundations for Success by Kenneth Copeland

Power on High by Charles Finney

Lesson 4 - Prayer

The Weapon of Prayer by E.M. Bounds

Bible Prayer Study Course by Kenneth Hagin

Prevailing Prayer to Peace by Kenneth Hagin

A Common Sense Guide to Fasting by Kenneth Hagin

MEMORY VERSES

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thess 5:16-18

The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. Ps 145:18

And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." Matt 21:22

Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 8:26-27

I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting holy hands, without wrath and doubting; 1 Tim 2:8-9

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. James 5:16-17

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Matt 6:6

Lesson 4 - Prayer

QUESTIONS FROM THIS LESSON

Please answer the following questions:

1) Can you define what prayer is?

2) Can you name 3 kinds of prayer?

3) Can you name the 4 basic elements of prayer?

Lesson 4 - Prayer

NOTES ON THIS LESSON
