

Lesson Six ~ Prayer

“Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian weapon” – Martin Luther

You nourish your spiritual life through prayer. About 30 times in the New Testament the word *ask* is used to describe prayer. When you pray, you soar above mere mortal planes into the presence of God Himself. The ability to pray is within the grasp of every believer. When you are troubled, the door of prayer is always open. When you have a need, God is always there waiting to hear from you and to grant your request according to His will.

Every new disciple of Christ should set his or her heart and mind to learn how to pray. Great and wonderful blessings await you as you tap into the power of prayer.

I. What is Prayer?

A. Many believe that prayer is simply talking to God, but prayer is also asking. Look up the following verses and write down what God promises to those who ask:

1) *Matthew 7:7* _____

2) *Matthew 7:8* _____

3) *Matthew 7:11* _____

4) *Matthew 21:22* _____

5) *Luke 11:13* _____

6) *John 14:14* _____

7) *John 16:24* _____

B. Prayer is simply asking God for the things you need which he can supply.

II. How Should I Pray?

When many people think of prayer, they think of a position of the body. They think you must fold your hands and kneel. However, learning to pray has very little to do with the body, but a great deal to do with the attitude it is for your heart to be in a right relationship with God.

- 1) You must pray with God's _____ abiding in you (*John 15:7*).
- 2) You must pray in whose name (*John 14:14*)? _____
- 3) What do you need to do when you pray (*Mark 11:24*)?

- 4) How should you come before God's throne (*Hebrews 4:16*)?

- 5) When you bring your requests before God, you are to do it with what kind of attitude (*Philippians 4-6*)? _____
- 6) We should pray directly to whom (*1 Timothy 2:5*)?

How should you pray? You should pray by asking God boldly for the things you need in Jesus' name. You should believe that He will answer your prayer and thank Him for the answer before it comes.

III. Why Should I Pray?

- 1) **Because God commands it.** How often does God say to pray (*1 Thessalonians 5:17*)? _____
- 2) **Because your spiritual life depends on it.** Pray is essential in your fight against whom (*Ephesians 6:11-18*)? _____

IV. Where Should I Pray?

- 1) **God says you are to pray privately and He will reward you openly.** God says you should pray in your _____ (*Matthew 6:6*).
- 2) **Every Christian should have a “prayer closet”** – a special private place to meet alone with God every day and pray. Think of a place and a time you can be alone with God and make an appointment to meet Him on a daily basis.

V. When Should I Pray?

- 1) What times of the day does *Psalm 55:17* say you should pray?
_____ , _____ , _____
- 2) How often did Daniel pray (*Daniel 6:10*)? _____
- 3) How often does *Luke 18:1* say you should pray? _____

Every Christian should take any available opportunity to pray. You should pray every day alone with God. You should pray with other Christians at church, at meal times, as a family; anytime there is a need for prayer is the time to pray.

VI. Hindrances to Prayer

It is only fair that every Christian should know that certain things will hinder his prayers before God. Look up the following verses and write down what each verse says will stand in the way of getting answers to prayer.

- 1) *Psalm 66:18* _____
- 2) *Mark 11:25-26* _____
- 3) *James 4:3* _____
- 4) *Jeremiah 5:25* _____
- 5) *I Peter 3:7* _____

VII. Prayer Journal

A great way to keep track of your prayers is to start a Prayer Journal. When you have your daily time with God, write down some of your prayers requests and the date. When the prayer is answered, you can check that prayer request off and write the date that it was answered. This is a fantastic way to monitor your prayer progress. And you will feel great joy when you are able to check a request off on your list. It's like keeping a record of God's blessings on your life. (A sample is below.)

PRAYER JOURNAL

<i>Prayer Request</i>	<i>Date Asked</i>	<i>Date Answered</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Key Memory Verses:

Philippians 4:6; I Timothy 2:5; Psalm 66:18; I Thessalonians 5:18

Note: In many churches today, some popular teachings 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 which have been written by others and are just “said” by you.
4. Prayer must be a set time in a set format.

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

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