



# PRAYER

By Angela Wisdom

# Prayer

## LESSON 1

### WHAT IS PRAYER?

When we go to the Father in prayer we should believe that He is there and that He will hear us. Prayer is an act of faith. The writer of the book of Hebrews tells us that when we draw near to God in prayer we must believe that He is, and that He will reward the person who diligently seeks Him (Heb. 11:6).

Prayer to God should not be by rote (or formal ritual). While all of us may have particular times we like to pray (Daniel did ó Daniel 6:10), prayer should not be just a ritual we go through.

What is prayer? The apostle Paul tells us the four parts of prayer in I Tim. 2: 1 ó 2. They are:

1. SUPPLICATION ó Entreaty or request of God; asking for things we need.
2. PRAYER ó Communion with God; petitioning God and seeking help for the problems we have; addressing God earnestly about our needs.
3. INTERCESSION ó Asking God's help on behalf of others for either physical or spiritual problems.
4. THANKSGIVING ó Expressing our thankfulness and gratitude to God for all the blessings He gives us.

How long should our prayers be? They should be long enough to tell God our needs and desires. They may be short (Lk. 18: 13; Matt. 14:30), but there may also be times when we may need to spend long periods of time in prayer (Matt. 26: 36 ó 44; Lk. 6:12).

God expects us to pray without ceasing ( I Thess. 5:17). Prayer should be a part of our life that is practiced frequently. But it is not something we do only when we need to get out of trouble, or when something else we have tried has failed.

When we pray we should have the attitude of Solomon in I Kings 3: 7 ó *I am but a little child; I know not how to go out or come in...*". Solomon knew that only God could supply him with all the things that he needed. He needed to depend on the One who could provide the help, strength, and guidance he needed.

Our prayers should also have the attitude of our Lord as He prayed to the Father, *õThy will be done...*".

### WHOSE PRAYER DOES GOD HEAR?

When I pray to God, what must my relationship with Him be for Him to hear what I say? John 9:31 says that God does not hear sinners, but He hears the person who is a worshipper of God and does His will. James 5: 16 tells us that the prayer of a righteous man avails much. Prayer is a privilege of the person who is in a right relationship with God.

Peter said (I Pet. 3:12) that God hears the prayers of the righteous. When we keep God's commandments, and do what is pleasing to Him, He will answer our prayers ( I John 3:22). If we expect God to hear us, we must live a righteous life.

The exception to this is the saved man who has sinned against God. When a saved man sins, he must pray for forgiveness to restore his relationship with God (Acts 8: 9 ó 13, 18 ó 22). God pardons His erring child when he repents and seeks forgiveness.

There are some people who may say, "But didn't God hear the prayer of Cornelius and Saul? They prayed before they became Christians, yet God heard them."ö

It cannot be argued that God does "hear" the prayers of those who are not His children ó God is all-knowing and aware of everything that happens in His world. God may even respond somehow, but when God hears the prayer of a person like Cornelius He does not save him in direct answer to his prayer. God saves the unsaved person through their obedience to the gospel.

Cornelius prayed to God (Acts 10:4), yet his prayer did not save him (Acts 10:6; 11:14). God brought Cornelius together with someone who could teach him God's word -- teaching him what he must do to be saved.

Saul prayed (Acts 9:11), yet his prayer did not save him (Acts 22:16). Ananias was sent to Saul to teach him what to do to be saved.

If God hears a person like Saul or Cornelius it is to bring that person together with a Christian who can teach him the way to be pleasing to God. God saves through obedience to His word, not in direct answer to prayer.

#### WHAT PLACE SHOULD PRAYER HAVE IN OUR LIVES?

Jesus said that man "ought always to pray, and not to faint" ö (Luke 18:1). Many Christians fall away from God because they do not pray. *Thayer's* definition of "faint" is: to be afraid, to become discouraged. Many people become afraid and discouraged when they do not trust in God enough to have a relationship with Him in prayer.

Jesus said that we are to "ask, seek, and knock" (Matt. 7: 7 ó 8). When we do these things the Father hears and answers.

Paul said, "Pray without ceasing..."( I Thess. 5:17). We should never stop praying. Sometimes Christians stop praying because they are discouraged. They may think they don't have enough time to pray, or maybe they don't think that their prayers are answered in the way they want them to be answered. However, considering Jesus' teaching on prayer, won't we be sinning if we cease praying?

Jesus tells us of the persistence of the Canaanite woman in Matt. 15: 22 ó 28. She was not a Jew, but she wanted Jesus to help her daughter. She didn't give up, but persisted in asking Jesus until He helped her. How persistent are we in prayer? Are we like the Canaanite woman and continue asking for His help, or do we become discouraged and give up?

Jesus spent much time in prayer to the Father (Mk. 1:35; Lk. 6:12). Shouldn't we follow His example (I Pet 2:21)?

### QUESTIONS

1. Is prayer commanded? I Thess. 5:17; I Tim. 2:8; Lk. 18:1; Matt. 6: 9 -13 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How is God concerned with our wants and needs? Matt. 7: 9 -11; Luke 12: 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Does I Thess. 5: 17 suggest to you that our needs are occasional or constant? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the difference in praying by rote (or formal ritual), and praying out of habit? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. What is God's law of pardon for His erring child? Acts 8:22 \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. What kind of sacrifice does God require from us? Ps. 51: 17 \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. How did Jesus illustrate His point that men ought always to pray, and not to faint? Luke 18: 1 ó 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. Does Matt. 7:7 indicate a half-hearted attempt at praying? \_\_\_\_\_ What does it indicate? \_\_\_\_\_  
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9. Why does man need to pray? Jeremiah 10:23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What does man need when he prays? Heb. 11:6 \_\_\_\_\_

11. What did God promise in I Pet. 3:12? \_\_\_\_\_  
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12. Who has the privilege of prayer? John 9:31; James 5:16; I John 3:22 \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Prayer

## LESSON 2

### GOD IS ABLE TO ANSWER PRAYER

When we go to the Father in prayer do we believe that He is able to answer our prayers? If we are to have the kind of faith that believes He can answer our prayers, we must know that He is able to answer them.

Our God responds to our prayers and our needs. If we study the names He uses to reveal Himself we can understand a lot about God and how He carries out His plans.

#### OLD TESTAMENT NAMES

“*El*” and “*Elohim*” are names for God that carry the idea of power, authority, and strength. “*El*” is singular, carrying the idea of one God who is strong and mighty. “*Elohim*” is plural. Genesis 1: 1- 3, 26 uses the name *Elohim*. “*Elohim*”, a plurality of persons, (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost) created the world. They had the power to create, and they are in control.

“*Shaddai*” is a name for God that is translated ðAlmightyö. “*El Shaddai*” is translated ðGod Almightyö (Gen. 17:1). *El Shaddai* carries the idea of a most powerful God *who* had the might to do whatever He wants to do. *El Shaddai* is associated with the fulfillment of the promises made to Abraham (Gen. 12: 1 ó 7). God let the patriarchs of the Old Testament know that He possessed the might and power to keep and fulfill His covenant with them.

“*Jehovah of hosts*” refers to a God that is able to control the hosts of heaven, or the armies of men who will fight battles for Him. The word ðhostsö may refer to angels (Gen. 32:2; Psa. 148:2), or to the children of Israel (Ex. 12:41).

*Jehovah of hosts* gives the idea of a God of might, power and strength, who can answer the prayers of His children.

#### NEW TESTAMENT NAMES

The men who wrote the New Testament used different words to relate to us God’s power in carrying out His word and plan for mankind. One of these words is ð*dunatos*”. “*Dunatos*” means having the power, might and ability to do something. (Mk. 10:27 “...with God all things are possible”.)

Two other words used by the New Testament writers are ð*dunamis*”(noun), and “*dunamai*” (verb). “*Dunamis*” means being capable and able to do something (Matt. 3:9); and having miraculous power and strength to do (Rom. 1:16). These words help us see how God is in control as He accomplishes His plan.

“*God, the Almighty*” translated from the Greek word ð*pantokrator*” means a God who is omnipotent and all-powerful; ruler of all. “*God the Almighty*” can accomplish His purposes (II Cor. 6: 16 ó 18). He is ð*the*

*alpha and the omega*”, or the first and last (Rev. 1:8). He is the God of Judgments (Rev. 16:7) and a victorious God (Rev. 19: 15, 16).

Surely as we study *Elohim, El Shaddai, Jehovah of hosts, and God Almighty*, we can see that He is a God that can hear and answer the prayers of His children.

We must determine to know more about our God who gives lowly men the privilege of coming to Him in prayer, and answering their petitions.

James 5: 16 ó 18 tells us that the prayers of a righteous man can avail much. Our God has the power to answer our prayers TODAY! Does he answer us by using miracles? I Cor. 13: 8 ó 10 tells us that the day of miracles has ceased, so we must conclude that God answers our prayers without using miracles. He answers prayer through acts of Providence.

“Providence” is the working of God through natural and spiritual realms. It does not violate sovereign human will, divine law, or spiritual law, but works through the ordinary channels of God's established laws. God works through Providence, of that we can be sure. But, we cannot know specific acts of providence. When Paul spoke of Onesimus in Philemon 15 he said, “*For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever...*” . This passage indicates belief in God’s power to work, yet states that Paul didn’t know just when or how God acts.

We don’t know when God acts out of providence today, but we can be assured that He does indeed work by looking at examples in scripture (Gen. 50:20; I Sam. 1: 10 ó 20; James 5: 17 ó 18; I Kings 17, 18; Rom. 11: 25 ó 36). Matthew 6 emphasizes God’s providence ó how when we do things in the right manner with the right heart God WILL ANSWER! We need the faith of Peter that “*the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers...*” I Pet. 3:12.

## QUESTIONS

1. How do the names that God gives Himself give us the confidence that He will hear and answer our prayers? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Does God know what we need before we ask? Matt. 6:8, 32 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Then, why pray? Phil. 4:6; Matt. 6:11, 25 ó 34; I John 1:9; Acts 8:22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. How does knowing that God is “Almighty” give us confidence He can answer our prayers? Rev. 4:8; Eph. 3:20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What kind of things is our God able to do? Ps. 33:6; Heb. 11:3; Gen. 2:7; Dan. 3:27; Eph. 1:19 ó 20; Matt. 10: 28 \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Can our prayers alter the course of events God previously planned for the world? Gen. 18: 16 ó 33; Ex. 32: 9 -14 \_\_\_\_\_

7. Will God, through His providence, do things for His children that He would not do otherwise if they had not asked? Matt. 7: 7 -11; I John 5: 14 ó 15; John 15:7; Matt. 21:22; Heb. 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_

8. What can cause our prayers to go unanswered? James 1: 6 ó 7 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What 5 promises does *El Shaddai* make in II Cor. 6: 16, 18? \_\_\_\_\_

10. As all-powerful God, can He fulfill these promises? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What error had the Sadducees made concerning God? Matt. 22: 29 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Can we make the same error? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What is the power to us who believe? Eph. 1: 19 ó 23 \_\_\_\_\_

13. What does God's ability to do exceeding abundantly more than we ask depend on? Eph. 3: 20b \_\_\_\_\_

*Jesus asked the question, "...when the Son of man comes, shall He find faith on the earth?..." Luke 18:8. Should we ask ourselves this question? Do we ask God in His providence to change His plans and send us rain, to allow a brother or sister to live, to alter the course of our nation, to open doors to preach the gospel, etc.?*

*Let's be a people who pray and have faith that God is able and will answer our prayers!*

# Prayer

## LESSON 3

### “LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”

When one studies the life of Christ, one thing that impresses us is His manner of praying to the Father. His disciples were impressed by this. In Luke 11:1 one of His disciples said to Him, *“Lord, teach us to pray”*...

His disciples wanted to learn how to pray, indicating to us that we need instruction on how to pray to God. Luke 11: 2 ó 4 and Matthew 6: 9 ó 15 reveal to us a ðmodel prayerö given to Christ’s disciples. Christ indicated this was a model prayer by saying *“In this manner, therefore, pray...”* or (*“pray after this manner”*).

The model prayer that Jesus gave His disciples consists of two parts: (1) devotion to God; (2) the individual’s life and needs.

#### (1) DEVOTION TO GOD:

*“Our Father who art in heaven”* – Prayer starts with faith in God (Heb. 11:6). Addressing God as *“Our Father”* does away with doubt and unbelief. The one who worships God according to His will has the right as a child of God to address God as Father.

*“Hallowed by thy name”* – *“Hallowed”* means something pure and holy. To be *“Hallowed”* has to do with reverence and respect. We hold the Father’s name in reverence (Psalm 111:9). We don’t have the right to choose our own words in addressing the Father, but should use terms used by Jesus in showing respect and reverence.

*“Thy Kingdom come”* –When we pray we should express concern for Christ’s Kingdom. Christ’s Kingdom is synonymous with his reign. He is King and reigns over His subjects. (We do not pray for the Kingdom to come today because it has already come, or been established, in the days of the apostles).

*“Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”* –Jesus always sought the will of the Father (John 5: 30; 6:38). Doing the Father’s will determines our relationship with Him and with Christ (Matt. 12: 50). Acceptable prayer makes the Father’s will paramount! Our prayers should bring our will in harmony with His will.

#### (2) THE INDIVIDUAL’S LIFE AND NEEDS:

*“Give us this day our daily bread”* –When we pray we must realize that we depend upon God for all of our physical needs. We must also recognize that our physical needs come second to our spiritual needs (Matt. 4:4; Deut. 8:3). Physical food is a daily necessity, and man must have both physical food and spiritual food to survive. Men tend to worry over the physical necessities, however we are commanded not to be anxious over these things (Matt. 6: 25 ó 34; Phil. 4:6).

Does this mean that God will provide for us without us doing anything but praying? No ó we are not to worry about them, but God wants us to work to provide them (I Thess. 3: 10 ó 12; I Thess. 4: 10 ó 12).

*“And forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors”* – When we seek God’s forgiveness for our trespasses we should make sure we are forgiving people who have sinned against us (Mark 11:25; Lk. 17:3; Eph. 4:32). Our prayers should recognize our need for God’s forgiveness, and the need of forgiving others. We cannot have a right relationship with God if we don’t recognize the need for BOTH.

*“And bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”* –God will lead us in a way that will not deliver us into unnecessary trials, and He will give us an escape from the temptation to sin (I Cor. 10:13). God tests us, but He doesn’t tempt us to sin (James 1: 13 -18). The tests that God gives us works toward perfecting us ó if we let them (James 1: 2 ó 4).

*“In the name of Jesus”* – Our prayers are to be limited to the scope of God’s will. Asking our prayers *in the name of Jesus*” indicates that we want our prayer answered in harmony with His will, and that it will glorify Him ultimately (Col. 3: 17).

## QUESTIONS

1. Does praying properly come naturally? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What do our prayers express to God? Rom. 10:1 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Jesus seek always? Heb. 10:9; John 5:30; 6:38 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Our relationship with the Father is made possible by what? Matt. 12:50 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was wrong with the request of James, John and their mother? Matt. 20: 20 ó 23; Mk. 10: 37 - 38 \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. God’s blessings, in answer to our prayers, should make our lives free from what? Matt. 6: 25 ó 34; Phil. 4:6 \_\_\_\_\_
8. What was wrong with some of the Israelites going out to gather manna on the Sabbath (Ex. 16:4, 5, 27, 28, 29) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What do we stand constantly in need of ? I John 1: 8 ó 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? Eph. 4:32 \_\_\_\_\_
10. How do we need to approach God? Ps. 51:17 \_\_\_\_\_
11. What did Jeremiah realize that he needed from God? Jer. 10:23-24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. How does the Christian need to accept trials and temptations? James 1: 2 ó 4 \_\_\_\_\_

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13. When we pray we are to ask the Father in whose name (or authority)? John 15: 16 \_\_\_\_\_

14. When we go to the Father in prayer, what does the Son do? Heb. 7:25; 9:15, 24 \_\_\_\_\_

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15. What principle do we need to keep paramount in all we do, including prayer? Col.3: 17 \_\_\_\_\_

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# Prayer

## LESSON 4

### “PRAY WITHOUT CEASING”

A study of Christ reveals a life of prayer with the Father. At an early age Jesus began to teach others that He was here to do His Father's business (Lk. 2: 49). He came to earth, not to do His own will, but to do the will of the Father.

At His baptism Jesus was praying when He came up out of the water (Lk. 3: 21- 22), thus beginning His public ministry with prayer. Jesus began His days with prayer (Mk. 1: 35). Shouldn't we also? Prayer in the morning prepares us for whatever we may have to encounter during the day. If we know at the beginning of the day that God is with us, and that He will give us strength for whatever the day may bring, then we can face anything.

Jesus withdrew to be alone and pray to the Father at a time of apparent popularity (John 6: 15; Matt. 14: 22, 23). The people wanted to make Him a physical king, not understanding the kind of kingdom that He had come to establish. Perhaps times of popularity and success are when we need God the most. To keep pride and the temptation of depending on self from destroying us, we need to ask God for help.

Jesus prayed all night to the Father before choosing the twelve apostles (Lk. 6: 12, 13). How many times do we pray before making a big decision? When making decisions that can affect our soul and the souls of others, do we earnestly pray, perhaps spending hours or all night in prayer?

John 17 tells us that the Lord prayed an unselfish prayer. He told the Father about accomplishing the word that He had given him (17: 1 & 4). He prayed for the apostles who would carry forth His word, and He prayed for all who would believe His word (17:20) & that they would be one with the Father and see His glory. He prayed that they would be one with the Father as He is one with the Father (17:21). Do we pray that God's word have free reign and that we have unity?

How many times do we pray for others, giving no thought for ourselves and what we want, but only wanting what the Father wants? Are our prayers ones of submission to the Father? At Gethsemane Jesus prayed and was in total submission to the Father (Heb. 5: 7 & 9). Has there been a time in our lives when we totally submit ourselves to God and bring our physical life in subjection to what is spiritual? Or, do we pray with the thought of what *we* want?

Jesus prayed for His enemies (Lk. 23: 34). Do we? It is hard to feel ill will toward those who we remember to the Father in prayer.

Jesus prayed for Simon Peter's weakness (Lk. 22: 31 & 32). Have we prayed for our brethren's weaknesses that they might be strong in the Lord?

We need to pray for the courage to teach God's word in its fullness. Peter and John prayed that they would speak God's word with all boldness, even when they were commanded not to speak or teach in the

name of Jesus (Acts 4: 18, 29). Do our prayers contain petitions that pertain to the work of the church by God's servants? God will respond to prayers concerning His servants (Acts 12: 1 ó 12; 16:25; 13: 1 ó 3).

We need to be a people who pray without ceasing every day, every season, and every occasion. We have a lot to pray for.

### QUESTIONS

1. What were Jesus's feelings toward the people who were following Him in John 6? Mk. 6: 34; Matt. 14:14

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How many people were following Jesus? John 6:10 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Were the people ready to make Jesus their king? \_\_\_\_\_ On whose terms? John 6:15

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Jesus do instead of yielding to the popularity He enjoyed at that time? Matt. 14: 22 -23 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why should we pray at times of popularity and pride? I Cor. 10:12; Prov. 16:18; 18:12; Matt. 23:12 \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Why was Jesus's prayer in Luke 6: 12, 13 important enough to continue in prayer all night to God? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Does God know what is in man? John 2: 23 -25 \_\_\_\_\_

8. If Jesus, knowing man, spent all night in prayer (Lk. 6), what does this say about our prayers concerning important decisions we must make? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Summarize the three parts of Jesus's prayer in John 17:

(1) v. 1 - 8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(2) v. 9 - 19 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(3) v. 20 - 26 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Whose will did Jesus always seek to do? John 5:30; Gal. 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_

11. Who did Jesus pray for at the time of His crucifixion? Lk. 23:34 \_\_\_\_\_
12. For what did Peter and John pray in Acts 4:29? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Did God answer their prayer? Acts 4:31 \_\_\_\_\_
14. Does this need to be prayed for today? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. What did Jesus pray for Simon Peter? Luke 22:32 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. Is this a prayer we need to pray for our brethren? \_\_\_\_\_
17. How did the early church pray for Peter? Acts 12:5 \_\_\_\_\_
18. Did the Lord answer their prayers? Acts 12:17 \_\_\_\_\_
19. What was the occasion of prayer in Acts 20: 36, 17 ó 38 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Prayer

## LESSON 5

### WHO SHOULD I PRAY FOR?

An intercessory prayer is a prayer that is prayed on behalf of others. We pray that God will do for that person according to His will, not ours. And we pray that He will intercede and over-rule on their behalf.

Paul told Timothy (I Tim. 2:1-2) that prayer should be made for ðall menö ó poor or rich, high or lowly stature, and every race.

We pray for others so: (1) That we may lead a peaceful and quiet life that is godly and dignified in every way, and (2) Because God desires that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (I Tim. 2: 2 ó 4).

Our prayers for all men should include the rulers of our nation. When they rule in a manner that is compliant with God's laws the kingdom of God can grow and prosper. The rulers of our nation are ordained of God (Rom. 13:1).

Jesus prayed for His enemies (Lk. 23:34). Stephen did also (Acts 7: 60). Am I able to also? It is hard to pray for someone who means ill-will toward us, but we are commanded to pray for them (Matt. 5: 44 -45). We'll notice that when we do that it is difficult to have a bad attitude toward those we are remembering to the Father in prayer.

Do we pray for those lost in sin? We should pray for opportunities to teach them (Acts 4: 2 ó 4). Matthew 9: 38 says that we are to pray that God will send forth laborers into His harvest. Are WE ready to be the answer to that prayer? Are our prayers really praying, or are we just saying empty words to God?

Ephesians 6: 18 ó 20 tells us to make supplication for ðall the saintsö. Can I truly pray for ALL saints? Love for our brethren (Rom. 12: 10,15) will lead us to pray for them. We must pray for and love all the brethren, even those who may not be as loveable to us. This would even include the brother who errs (James 5: 19 ó 20).

When we pray for our brethren we may not know how our prayer will be answered, but God hears and answers. Sometimes when we pray for others the situation may be so intense that we cannot know what to pray for, or how to pray. It is during these times that the Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf (Rom. 8:26). This does not interfere with how Christ intercedes on our behalf (Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34) ó Christ sits at the right hand of God interceding. But the Holy Spirit does something on our behalf when ðwe don't know how to pray as we oughtö (Rom. 8:26). The Father knows what we have need of before we ask, and the Holy Spirit role assures that He does (Matt. 6:8).

## QUESTIONS

1. When was Jesus' intercessory prayer on the cross in Luke 23:34 answered? Acts 2: 37 ó 41 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the first intercessory prayer recorded in scripture? Gen. 18: 22 -33 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When did God answer this prayer? Gen. 19:29 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did God want Job to pray for his friends? Job 42: 7 -10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did Moses make intercessory prayer on behalf of Israel in Ex.32: 30 ó 32? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did Paul pray for the church at Ephesus? Eph. 1: 16 ó 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What did Paul pray for the church at Philippi? Phil. 1: 3-5, 9- 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What was Paul's concern for the church at Corinth? II Cor. 13: 7 ó 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who is intercessory prayer to be made for? I Tim. 2: 1 ó 4; Eph. 6: 18 ó 20  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Should our intercessory prayers be for specific persons and needs? \_\_\_\_\_

# Prayer

## LESSON 6

### PRAYING IN TIMES OF TROUBLE AND DANGER

When a Christian is in times of trouble his first thought should be of God. However, many Christians are in despair and terrified of what will happen. Some even turn away from God when they are faced with trouble or danger.

Ps. 50: 15 says, *“And call upon me in the day of trouble...”*. Every person will face trouble sometime in his life. God helps us in times of trouble, but He doesn't prevent trouble from happening. He has promised that He will hear us and help us in times of trouble.

Trouble is caused by the violation of God's natural or spiritual laws. Our own sins can bring us trouble and sorrow. Trouble can also be brought about by the actions of another.

It is good to look at scripture to see how God helps His people in times of trouble. He heard the prayers of David, Hannah, Jonah, Paul, Peter, and many others. In every instance of trouble God responded to His servants when they turned to Him in prayer.

Worry and being anxious is a problem for many people. But, worrying and being anxious is wrong (Phil. 4:6). Instead of worry, cast your cares upon God who will hear.

### QUESTIONS

1. What does God do for us in times of trouble? Isa. 41: 10,11,13 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What did Job say about trouble? Job 5: 7; 14: 1- 2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Ezekiel see in time of trouble for Israel (Ezek. 1: 4, 28)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Contrast  
what the people of Tyre saw (Ezek. 27: 36; 28: 18 ó 19) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did David realize about God? Psa. 139: 3,4, 7 ó 10 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What incident in David's life brought him to write Psa. 142? (I Sam. 22) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What incident in David's life brought him to write Psa. 51? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What troubles were in the life of Hannah as she prayed? I Sam. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. In what time of trouble did Jonah pray? Jonah 2: 1, 7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What trouble did Peter have that caused the church to pray for him? Acts 12: 1 ó 5 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What did Jesus say His saints should do in times of trouble? Luke 18: 1 ó 8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Will God avenge His elect? V. 7 -8 \_\_\_\_\_

11. What is God's promise in times of trouble? Ps. 50:15 \_\_\_\_\_

12. When God answers our prayers what are we to do? Ps. 50:15 \_\_\_\_\_

13. As Daniel prayed on behalf of his people in bondage, how did God respond? Dan. 9: 20 ó 27 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Prayer

## LESSON 7

### DOES GOD ALWAYS ANSWER OUR PRAYERS “YES”?

When prayers are not answered in the manner one wants or expects, many turn from God and say that He does not answer prayer. God is working out His eternal plan and we are but a small, however important, part of it. Many times prayers may be answered ðnoö or ðwaitö because God knows best how things will work out in the ðbig pictureö.

Sometimes prayers are answered ðnoö because of sin in the life or lives of those praying (Is. 59:1,2). If we hide sin in our hearts God will not hear us (Ps. 66:18). The person who prays must have *ðclean hands and a pure heart...ö* Ps. 24:4.

Those who are proud and self-righteous will not be heard by God (Lk. 18: 9 -14).

Our prayers will not be heard if we do not forgive a brother (Matt. 6:15; 18: 34,35). How can we expect God to forgive us when we are not willing to do the same for our brother?

Our prayers may be answered no because we don't ask in faith (James 1:5- 8). When we pray we need to believe that God will hear us.

Do we ever *ðask amissö* (James 4:3)? Our prayers should not be focused on what will gratify our physical desires, or pray with an impure motive. Our first priority is to what is spiritual in nature, and *ðall these things will be added to usö*.

When our marriage is not in accordance with God's will our prayers can be hindered (I Pet. 3:7). Are we in subjection to our husband (Col. 3: 18 ó 19)? Do we respect God's law concerning the marriage relationship ( I Cor. 7: 3 ó 5)?

Sometimes God may answer our prayers ðNoö because He has another plan for us ó something that may be even better than what we are praying for! God sees what we cannot see, and knows what we don't know.

God may answer ðwaitö to our prayers because we aren't mature enough, or our faith may need to be made stronger (Isa. 40:31). Waiting for God's answer may prepare us for even better things (Ps. 37:9). Our job when God says ðwaitö is to do so patiently. This may be hard to do at times, but ðwaiting on Godö may be for the benefit of us or others. We need to accept God's delay in answering our prayers with the faith that He will do what is best in answering our prayers.

Remember that when you pray God is wiser than we are (Isa. 55: 8- 10). But be assured of this ó if He does not hear our prayer, or answer our prayer, it is because of sin (John 9:31).

## QUESTIONS

1. What did Habakkuk complain about to God, and how did God answer Habakkuk? Hab. 1: 2 ó 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Was God's solution the thing that Habakkuk was looking for? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What stands in the way of God hearing our prayers? Isa. 59: 1 ó 2 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did God forbid that Jeremiah pray for Israel in Jer. 7: 16; 11:14; and 14:11? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who does God hear? John 9:31 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Why did God hear the publican in Lk. 18: 9 ó 14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. When we seek God's forgiveness what must we do first? Matt. 6: 14 ó 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What kind of prayers are *ðasked amissö*? James 4: 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How should we petition God? James 1: 5 ó 8; Heb. 11:6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Does the manner in which we petition God mean that His answer will always be *ðyesö*? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What problems in the marriage relationship hinder prayer? I Pet. 3: 7; Col. 3: 18 ó 19; I Cor. 7: 3 ó 5; I John 3:22 -23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Moses was told *ðNoö* by God when he requested to go into Canaan (Deut. 3: 23 ó 27). Did God's answer to Moses mean rejection or something better? Matt. 17: 1 - 3; Lk. 9: 28 ó 31; Rev. 15: 2 ó 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Why did God answer Paul's prayer *ðNoö*? II Cor. 12: 7 ó 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Did Job understand why God delayed His answer to him? Job 19:7; 30:20 \_\_\_\_\_

15. What did Job not know concerning his situation? Job 2: 4 ó 6; 42: 1- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. What did Job understand later because of his trials? Job 42: 5 ó 6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Prayer

## LESSON 8

### THE DAILY NEED FOR PRAYER

When we think about our prayers on a daily (or even hourly) basis, the best example to follow is our Lord. We have already studied how He began His earthly ministry with prayer (Lk. 3: 21 ó 23). He also ended His ministry with prayer (Lk. 23: 46).

Jesus lived day to day in prayer to the Father. He rose early in the morning and began His day with prayer (Mk. 1:35). When He ate a meal He blessed the food with prayer (Lk. 24:30). It was often that He withdrew to a private place to pray (Lk. 5:16; Matt. 14:23; Mk. 1: 35).

As we examine our own prayer habits we may see that our prayers indicate how spiritually mature we have become. Jesus lets us know in Matt. 6:6 that our prayers must be from the heart. Jesus thought prayer important enough to choose a place, and He purposed what to pray there. While we can pray anywhere (Lk. 18:1; I Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:18), we learn from Jesus that it is important to remove ourselves from the pressing demands of daily life and commune with our Father (Lk. 5:16; 6:12).

Do we take time to pray? Is our relationship with God such that we would rise early just so we can pray? Or, are our days so jam-packed with activity that we barely have time to pray before our head touches the pillow in sleep? How many blessings do we go without because we have not taken the time to pray?

Jesus had a lot of specific things to pray for. He prayed that God send the Holy Spirit to the apostles (John 14:16). He prayed that Simon Peter's faith fail not (Lk. 22: 31 ó 32). He prayed for Himself (John 17: 1 ó 5); He prayed for His apostles (John 17: 6 ó 19), and He prayed for all who would believe on Him through their word (John 17: 20 ó 21). He prayed before he chose His apostles (Lk. 6: 12- 13), before He walked on the sea (Matt. 14: 22 -33), and during the transfiguration (Lk. 9: 28 ó 36). He also prayed when He was faced with agony (Matt. 26: 39 ó 44; Lk. 22:41 ó 45).

If Jesus had a lot to pray for, doesn't that suggest that we do as well? How many times do we pray for specific things, and specific people? Praying in this manner takes time and thought.

John 21: 25 tells us that Jesus did so many things while here on earth that the world itself could not contain all the books that could be written concerning them. HE WAS BUSY! If Jesus could find the time to pray to the Father, shouldn't we?

### QUESTIONS

1. What did the Psalmist say about prayer? Ps. 55:17 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What can we learn from Acts 16:25 about prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What will God do for those who turn to Him in prayer?

Isa. 40:31 \_\_\_\_\_

Phil. 4: 5 ó 7 \_\_\_\_\_

James 5: 16 ó 17 \_\_\_\_\_

III John 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Matt. 6: 11, 25 ó 26, 33 \_\_\_\_\_

Heb. 4: 15 -16 \_\_\_\_\_

I Cor. 10 : 13 \_\_\_\_\_

II Cor. 1:4 ó 5 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who needs our daily prayers?

II Tim. 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_

I Thess. 5:25 \_\_\_\_\_

Eph. 6: 18 ó 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 10:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Matt. 5:44 \_\_\_\_\_

I Tim. 2: 1 ó 3 \_\_\_\_\_

James 5: 15 ó 16 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Does God expect us to ask for blessings? Matt. 7: 7 ó 11 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What are some distractions that can keep us from praying daily? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Prayer

## LESSON 9

### WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT FROM GOD WHEN I PRAY?

Many times when men pray to God they expect things that God never promised. As we pray we need to remember that God will not violate His own will in answer to our prayers, but that He answers them according to His physical and spiritual laws. We must remember that He knows all ó things we may not be aware of at all. (So it follows that a prayer for otherø salvation must involve Godø provision of having the gospel preached so that they must believe and obey.)

We need to pray in faith that Godø will be done, and He will act according to His Divine laws and provisions.

If we pray according to His will, what can we expect from God? We can expect that He will hear my prayers (I Pet. 3:12). God cares for us (I Pet. 5:7), and He will supply our needs (Eph. 3:20). God will give us only what is for our good (Matt. 7: 9 - 11), and He will act on our behalf. Through Godø divine providence He will do things for His children that He wouldnø do otherwise if they had not asked, and He is ready to give much more than we ask for ( Eph. 3:20).

Jesus came to this low land to live in the flesh and He understands what trials and temptations we go through in this life (Heb. 4: 14 ó 16). We can expect Him to deliver us from the temptations we face (I Cor. 10:13). We can expect that He will be with us and that we will never be alone. We can turn to Him for help, for rest and strength. When we are sick we can turn to Him for health, and we can turn to Him for the physical needs of this life.

God is ready to comfort His children (James 5:13), and to forgive them (I John 1:9). Other brethren can be aided when we go to the Father on their behalf (Rom. 15:30).

If we will just ask, God is ready to bless us and His full house of blessings will be open to us (Matt. 7: 7 - 11). How many times do we go without His blessings simply because we donø ask for them?

### QUESTIONS

1. What physical blessings can we expect from God if we are obedient to Him? Matt. 6: 25 ó 33 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. If God knows what we need before we pray, why pray? I John 5: 14 ó 15; John 15:7; Heb. 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the difference between needs and wants? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Does God promise to supply needs or wants? Matt. 6: 25 ó 33 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What does God want to give to His children? Matt. 7:9 ó 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did God accomplish with Elijah's prayer? James 5: 17 ó 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did God take care of Elijah after his prayer? I Kings 17: 1 ó 14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the result of turning our lives over to God in prayer? Phil. 4: 6 - 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What are we to do when we have turned all over to God? Ps. 27:14; Is. 40:31; Ps. 37:7; Ps. 62:5; Ps. 130:5  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What can we expect from God when we pray? Heb. 4: 15 ó 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What did Epaphras pray in Col. 4:12? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Prayer

## LESSON 10

### WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT FROM ME WHEN I PRAY?

It seems that this should be understood without saying, but the first thing that God expects from us when we pray is that we should believe in Him. In Matthew 21: 21 ó 22 Jesus told His disciples that they should pray ðbelievingö if they wanted to receive. Without belief in Him, or faith, it is impossible to please Him (Heb. 11:6).

The religious world would have us believe that faith or belief in God is all that is needed when we pray, however that is not what the scriptures teach. The Psalmist tells us that if we regard sin in our hearts God will not hear us (Psalm 66: 18). Our lives are to be pure, and God expects us to turn from sin in repentance when we pray ( II Chron. 7:14; I John 3:22). If we are living a worldly life our prayers will be hindered ( I Pet. 3:12).

We have already learned in our study on Prayer that God expects us to know *how* to pray (Lk. 11:1). However, we can pray in the right manner for the right things and our prayers can still not be acceptable. God expects our prayers to be free from selfish motives ( James 4: 3). Do we pray that God's will be done, or are our prayers simply what *we* want?

While our prayers are to be free from selfish motives, God does expect us to pray for particular benefits in our lives (Phil. 4:6): for food (Matt. 6:11); for protection and care (Matt. 24:20); for forgiveness (Matt. 6:12; Acts 8:22; I John 1:9); for deliverance from temptation (I Cor. 10:13). When He provides these benefits of physical and spiritual blessings He expects us to include our thanks for them (I Thess. 5:18; Phil. 4:6).

God expects our prayers to be an appeal for others (I Tim. 2:1). We should never be at a loss of knowing who to pray for: our brethren and erring brethren who have sinned, our rulers, alien sinners, the sick, our families, and our enemies.

Praying to be heard for our *ðmuch speakingö* (Matt. 6:7) is unacceptable to God. The hypocrite of Matthew 6 prayed just to be seen of men. The Pharisee of Luke 18 had a problem with self-righteousness, thanking God that he was *ðnot as other men areö*.

Prayers that God expect should have the attitude of the Publican in Luke 18. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat himself on the breast saying, *ðGod be merciful to me a sinnerö*. Oh, that we all can have this attitude, because without His mercy we are lost. Confession of our sins is something God expects ( I John 1:9).

Our God is ever concerned with us, and He expects us to turn to Him anytime and anywhere (Matt. 6:6; Luke 18:1; I Thess. 5:17). We can turn to Him in weakness and in strength, for rest, when we're sick, for our physical needs, when we're lonely and in times of sorrow.

## QUESTIONS

1. What did James say about the man who does not believe when he prays? James 1: 5 ó 7 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What kind of sins can hinder our prayers to God? Mk. 11: 24 ó 26; James 4:3; Matt. 6: 5 ó 7; Rom. 12: 18 ó 19; Lk. 18: 9 ó 14 \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Will secret sins hinder our prayers like overt (or public) sins? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What kind of life must I live to expect God to hear my prayers? I Pet. 3:12 \_\_\_\_\_

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