

Lessons on Prayer

Examples In Acts

Lesson #1

The Christians in the first century practiced prayer as part of their Christian experience. We use these Christians as examples of what God expects in matters of Salvation, Worship, Lifestyle, etc. The role of prayer is and was very important. Consider these examples:

After Ascension of Jesus

1:14 “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”

After First Gospel Sermon on the Day of Pentecost

2:42 “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Just before healing a man lame from birth

3:1 “Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.”

After being threatened not to preach Jesus anymore

4:24-30 “And when they heard that, they lifted up their voices to God with one accord, and said, “Lord thou are God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea and all that in them is: ...” (The prayer continued through verse 30)

(Vs. 31 “And when they had prayed the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and they spake the word of God with boldness.”)

Chapter 5 Prayer not mentioned – However (After being beaten for preaching Jesus Vs. 41-42 “And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer sham for his name. And daily in the temple and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”)

Appointed the Seven to Serve Tables

6:4 “Be we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”

6:6 “Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.”

Stoning of Stephen

7:59-60 “And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”

Simon The Sorcerer

8:15 “Who, when they were come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost.”

8:22 “Repent and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.”

8:24 “Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.”

Saul of Tarsus

9:11 “And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth.”

Dorcas / Tabitha Raised from the dead

9:40 “But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.”

Cornelius

10:2 “A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and **prayed** to God always.”

10:4 “And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy **prayers** and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.”

10:9 “On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to **pray** about the sixth hour (noon).”

10:30-31 “And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I **prayed** in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, And said, Cornelius, thy **prayer** is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.”

Peter retold the Cornelius story

11:5 “I was in the city of Joppa **praying**; and in a trance I saw a vision ...”

After killing James, Herod arrested Peter

12:5 “Peter therefore was kept in prison: but **prayer** was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.”

12:12 “And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together **praying**.”

Choosing Paul & Barnabas for Missionary Journey

13:3 “And when they had fasted and **prayed**, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.”

After establishing churches on first missionary journey

14:23 “And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had **prayed** with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.”

Chapter 15 No mention of Prayer but they had the Jerusalem conference and it would be hard to imagine none of them prayed about it!

Paul & Silas in Philippian Jail

16:25 “And at midnight Paul and Silas **prayed**, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.”

Chapter 17 No mention of Prayer but Paul preached at Berea and Athens

18 No mention of Prayer but Paul spent 18 months at Corinth and Aquila & Priscilla converted Apollos.

19 No mention of Prayer but Paul spent three years in Ephesus (two of them in the School of Tyrannus) and did “special miracles”.

After raising Eutychus at Troas, Paul Met Ephesian Elders at Miletus

20:36 “And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and **prayed** with them all.”

In Tyre, met disciples who warned Paul about going to Jerusalem

21:5 “And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and **prayed**.”

Paul retold his conversion in an appeal to the crowd

22:17 “And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I **prayed** in the temple, I was in a trance;”

23 No mention of prayer but Paul transferred from Jerusalem after life threatened

24 No mention of prayer but Paul spent Two years in prison being seen by Felix

25 No mention of prayer but Paul appeared before Festus

26 No mention of prayer but Paul appeared before Agrippa

During Shipwreck

27:35 “And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and **gave thanks to God** in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.”

Wrecked on Melita (Malta) and healed Publius’ father

28:8 “And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and **prayed**, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.”

Meeting brethren on the way to Rome

28:15 “And from thence, when they brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii Forum, and The Three Taverns: whom when Paul saw, **he thanked God**, and took courage.”

So, of the 28 Chapters in Acts, we find Prayer specifically mentioned in 19 of them and only 9 makes no specific mention but with what was going on in those chapters, it could be argued that there was a whole lot of praying going on too!

Jesus Prayed

Lesson #2

We are Christians. We follow the example of Jesus Christ. Prayer was a very important part of Jesus' life and ministry. Important lessons on prayer are learned from the prayers of Jesus Himself. We can see His attitude about prayer. Shouldn't our attitude be the same?

1. SERIOUS

Many Hours Spent In Prayer

(After hearing of John the Baptists' death and feeding the multitude He sent His disciples by ship to the other side of the sea;) **Matthew 14:22-23 & Mark 6:46**

“And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.” Then Jesus walked on the water in the “*Fourth Watch*” – (3 am – 6 am)

Luke 6:12 “And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.”

Mark 1:35 “And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”

At His Baptism

Luke 3:21-22 “Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.”

At The Mount of Transfiguration

Luke 9:28 “And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.” (*Transfiguration*)

2. SPECIFIC

Little Children

Matthew 19:13 “Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.”

Thanked God

Matthew 11:25-26 “At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.”

Thanked God Before Eating At Miraculous Feeding

Matthew 15:36 “And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.”

Thanked God Before He Raised Lazarus

John 11:41-42 “Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.” **Thanked God Before Instituting The Lord's Supper**

Matthew 26:27 “And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;”

Thanked God Before Eating After His Resurrection

Acts 27:35 “And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and **gave thanks** to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.”

Prayed For Peter

Luke 22:31-32 “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But **I have prayed for thee**, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”

For The Comforter To Come

John 14:16 “And **I will pray** the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;”

On The Cross

Luke 23:34 “Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them**; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.”

Luke 23:46 “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit**: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost..”

Specifics in Jesus' Prayer in John Chapter 17

HIMSELF

John 17:1-5 “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

HIS DISCIPLES

John 17:6-19 “I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. **I pray for them**: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.”

US

John 17:20-26 “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

3. **SURRENDER**

Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:39 “And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and **prayed**, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

Matthew 26:42 “He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.”

Could Have Called Angels But Did Not

Matthew 26:53 “Thinkest thou that I cannot now **pray to my Father**, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?”

Hebrews 5:7-9 “Who in the days of his flesh, when **he had offered up prayers** and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”

Lord, Teach Us To Pray

Lesson #3

After witnessing Jesus pray and seeing His intentional experience with prayer, His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray. We need to know Jesus' teaching on prayer!

1. JESUS' MODEL PRAYER (PRAISE & WORSHIP GOD)

Luke 11:2-4 (See also Matthew 6:9-13)

"And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

(GOD'S WILL)

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

We see this as part of Jesus' teaching in Matthew. It is God's Will for there to be a "harvest", but He expects us to pray for it.

Matthew 9:38 "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

(MAKE PHYSICAL REQUESTS)

Give us day by day our daily bread.

Jesus wants us to pray for physical necessities and for protection. Consider this example where Jesus told His disciples to pray protection when Jerusalem would be destroyed in A.D. 70.

Matthew 24:20 "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:"

(MAKE SPIRITUAL REQUESTS)

And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Jesus knew we are in a Spiritual War. Forgiveness is a spiritual need.

Forgiveness

Mark 11:25-26 "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."

Deliverance from Temptation & Evil

Luke 21:33-36 "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

2. THE FATHER ANSWERS PRAYER

The Father Answers Prayer Because of Our Persistence

Vs. 5-8 "And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth."

Luke 18:1-8 “And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”

The Father Answers Prayer Because of Parenthood

Luke 18:9-13 “And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

The Father Answers Prayer Because He Promised

Matthew 18:19 “Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”

John 14:13 “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

Mark 11:24 “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”

2. PRAY WITHOUT PRIDE

A. What NOT to DO:

Matthew 6:5-8 “And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”

Luke 18:9-14 “And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

B. What TO DO:

Matthew 5:44 “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”

Paul's Teaching On Prayer

Lesson #4

Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write over half of the New Testament! His teachings are the foundation of many of beliefs Christians hold today. Consider his teaching on prayer:

1. Pray Always

I Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

Ephesians 1:16 "Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;"

II Timothy 1:3 "I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;"

Romans 1:9 "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;"

Romans 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;"

Colossians 1:3 "We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,"

Colossians 1:9 "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;"

Colossians 4:2 "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;"

I Thessalonians 1:2 "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;"

I Thessalonians 3:10 "Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?"

Philippians 1:4 "Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,"

Philemon 1:4 "I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,"

2. Prayer For Everyone, For Everywhere, & For Everything

I Timothy 2:1 "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;"

I Timothy 2:8 "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

Philippians 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

3. Prayer For Others To Be Right With God

Romans 10:1 "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."

II Corinthians 13:7 "Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates."

Philippians 1:9 "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;"

Colossians 4:12 “Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”

I Thessalonians 5:23 “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

II Thessalonians 1:11 “Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:”

II Timothy 4:16 “At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.”

4. Prayer For Ourselves

Romans 1:10 “Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.”

Romans 15:30 “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;”

Philippians 1:19 “For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,”

II Corinthians 1:11 “Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.”

Colossians 4:3 “Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:”

Philemon 1:22 “But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.”

I Thessalonians 5:25 “Brethren, pray for us.”

II Thessalonians 3:1 “Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:”

Hebrews 13:18 “Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.”

5. Prayer With Proper Respect

I Corinthians 11:4-5 “Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.”

I Corinthians 14:13-15 “Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”

I Timothy 4:4-5 “For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”

I Timothy 5:5 “Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.”

Ephesians 6:18 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

6. Prayer At Dedicated Times

I Corinthians 7:5 “Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.”

7. Prayer With Intercession

Romans 8:26 “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

8. Prayer With Power

Ephesians 3:20 “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

What Hinders Our Prayers?

Lesson #5

Our prayers can be hindered. How? Consider this teaching on prayer to understand what can hinder our prayers. Some of these hinderances are beyond our control, but we can remove some hinderances!

These are some things that **H I N D E R S** our prayers:

1. **HATE** - **SATAN hates our prayers and will try to hinder them**

Daniel 10:2 - 14— READ and notice Daniel prayed for 21 days (3 weeks), but the answer was delayed due to spiritual warfare.

Ephesians 6:12 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

2. **INTENTIONS** - **ASK AMISS (Wrong MOTIVES – Our Will instead of God’s Will)**

James 4:3 “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

3. **NOT ASKING (Prayers) (Human ineffective & vain attempts fail!)**

James 4:2 “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.”!

4. **DOUBT**. (No Faith – Don’t Believe)

James 1:5-7“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord”

James 5:13-18 “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? 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 shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.”

5. **EXHIBITION** - **TO BE SEEN OF MEN / CEREMONIAL PRAYERS / PROUD**

Jesus’s Teaching in Matthew 6:5-8 “⁵ And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶ But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷ But when ye pray, use not **vain repetitions**, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

6. RIGHT - GENERAL SIN IN LIFE

I Peter 3:7 “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; **that your prayers be not hindered.**”

When we are outside God’s Will in a matter, our prayers can be hindered.

Job 42:8 “Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.”

God accepted Job’s prayers and rejected prayers of three friends because Job spoke right things concerning God.

7. STEP – GO FORWARD!

Exodus 14:15 “And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:”

God often has already answered the prayer, but he is WAITING FOR US TO “GO FORWARD!” Take action!!!!

Gideon prayed about the sheepskin to be wet and dry “O.K. but now GO!
We pray that God will help us with our sick, family, jobs, but now GO!
We pray for KNOWLEDGE; FAITH; SPIRITUALITY; Etc. but now GO!
We pray that God will bring loved one to Christ, but now GO!

Be Prayerful ... Prayer Full

Lesson #6

Sometimes we think we just aren't connecting with God through our prayers even though we have studied the teachings of the scriptures. Are we praying right? Are we praying hard enough? Are our prayers being hindered?

It is NOT how LONG & HARD our prayer is though we read Paul prayed LONG & HARD:

I Thessalonians 3:10 "*Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?*"

It is NOT our RIGHTEOUSNESS or GOODNESS that gets the results though James said:

James 5:16 "*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*"

AND we learned our prayers can be HINDERED if we are not RIGHT or GOOD.

It is NOT our POWER or STRENGTH that makes things happen though Paul said:

Ephesians 3:20 "*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*"

Then fundamentally WHAT IS it?

IT IS WHEN OUR PRAYERS MEET GOD'S TIMING & WILL:

1. **I Kings 18:1 & 18:41-46** – READ and notice God said He WILL send rain, yet the rain did not come right away. Elijah knew the rain was going to come! It was God's WILL, yet he prayed anyway. When his prayer met God's TIMING, the rain came!
2. **Ezekial 22:23-31**- READ and notice God WANTED to exercise His Mercy and forgive the people. He sought for ONE MAN PRAYING for them, but said, "I found none"! As a result, He exercised His Justice and punished them for their sin! One prayer would have made all the difference!
3. **Revelation 5:8 & 8:3-5** – READ and notice that the symbolism of the smoking bowl of incense represents our prayers. When God, in His TIMING & WILL, was ready to take ACTION on earth (seen by the voice, lightnings, thunder, and earthquake), that "fire" was mixed with our prayers! What if our "prayer bowl" is empty? Keep our "prayer bowl" full! Be PRAYER FULL!

IT IS NOT THE POWER OF PRAYER (long & hard prayers; our righteousness; our power)

IT IS THE PRESCENCE OF PRAYER

PRAYER FULL

Have Courage To Pray

Lesson #7

Could it be we are not praying as we should simply because we are afraid to approach Almighty God! When we think about His greatness and our weakness, we may become hesitant to pray at all!

1. God IS AWESOME! We should have deep respect for His POWER & MIGHT!

Too many times we DEVALUE God by referring to Him like: “The Man Upstairs” as if He were just another man with a slightly elevated status of our own!

We should **FEAR GOD!**

Revelation 14:7 “Saying with a loud voice, **Fear God**, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”

II Samuel 6:3-10 - READ and notice that David was AFRAID of the Lord and was unwilling to carry the Ark to Jerusalem after God killed Uzzah.

II Samuel 7 - READ and notice how David in **II Samuel 7:27** “*found courage to pray*”!

Though God did not allow David to build the Temple, He promised that David’s son, Solomon, would build it. He did!

I Kings 8:22-53 – READ and notice the HUMILITY Solomon had as he recognized he POWER & MIGHT of God during Solomon’s Prayer Dedicating the Temple.

2. GOD IS APPROACHABLE – Though we FEAR GOD, He wants us to approach Him in prayer!

GOD IS OUR FATHER!

John 10:30-36 – READ and notice that the Jews accused Jesus of blasphemy by referring to God as His “Father”. In their view, Jesus was declaring equality with God, which is blasphemy. Jesus used **Psalm 82:6** to defend Himself. He concluded that God does call His ministers “gods” and “His children”. He was not breaking the law by referring to Himself as the “Son of God”. (Of course Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, but that was for another truth on another day!)

It would have been a SURPRISE and even a FEARFUL thing to approach God in prayer by saying, “OUR FATHER who art in heaven”, but that is exactly what Jesus taught His disciples to do in **Matthew 6:9 & Luke 11:2!** Why? Because God IS our Father and therefore He is very much approachable!

Romans 8:15 “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”

Since we are the adopted children of God, He is our Father and has made Himself approachable!

Hebrews 10:22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Since we have been baptized into Christ for the remission of sins, added to the church, and have become children of God, we can **HAVE COURAGE TO PRAY!**

Let's Pray

Lesson #8

PRAYER TIPS

By Marcus A. Stanley

Thank God for three things before asking Him for one.

Keep praying even after God provides what you were praying for.

Spend as much time listening to God as talking.

Pray as much when life is good as when life is tough.

Pray every single day. If you miss one, don't miss two.

Pray for others more than you pray for yourself.

I John 5:14 "This is the confidence we have in approaching God, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us."

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Use these tools as a reminder while we are praying to prompt us in our prayers

- P PRAISE** Praise God for who He is: Protector, Way Maker, Promise Keeper, etc.
- R REPENT** "Forgive me for my sins, remove anything in my life that is not of You."
- A ASK** Ask according to scriptures
- Y YIELD** "Help me want what You want for my life."

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- A ADORATION** Give God adoration and praise
- C CONFESSION** Confess our sins and repent of them
- T THANKSGIVING** Be Thankful for all God has done for us
- S SUPPLICATION** Ask Him for special favors and blessings

The FIVE FINGERED PRAYER

- Thumb** Those closest to us - Family & Friends
- Pointer Finger** Those who point us in specific directions - Leaders, Parents, Teachers, Mentors, etc.
- Middle Finger** Those who are "Tall" - They have the Authority - Government, Police, Judges, etc.
- Ring Finger** Those who are weak - The sick, homeless, powerless, etc.
- Pinky Finger** Pray for OURSELVES! These are the "smallest" and the "least"

Another tool that could help us with our prayers:

Keep a "Prayer Journal" or something that will help keep our prayers focused.
Have a notebook where there will be space to write our prayers, thoughts, & ideas
(For Example)

Today's Prayer:

Holy God,
May our witness of You be bold,
May our love for You be deep, and
May our faith in You be true.

Amen

Prayer For Today:

Hold God, Listen to the voice of our
praise! May we glorify You in all that
we do and say. **Amen**

Today's Prayer:

Dear God, May you quiet my thoughts
when I start to worry about all the
stressors in my life. **Amen**

Today's Prayer:

Almighty God, Help us overcome our anxiety and fear by putting our trust and hope in You. **Amen**

Prayer for Today:

God, I am thankful that finding You does not require an 'app' on my phone! I'm grateful that following You is not a game! **Amen**

Today's Prayer:

O God, You know our troubles and worries. We trust in You for provision and protection. **Amen**

Today's Prayer:

O God, may we be devoted to You with our whole hearts and united to one another in love. **Amen**

These prayers were selected from the prayers that appear in the OKLAHOMAN newspaper each day.

If you were to write a prayer for each day of the next week, what would you write?

Suggestions:

Purchase a Prayer or Devotional Book with dedicated Space to record Dates and thoughts

Get a calendar with plenty of space to write a thought and/or prayer on each date

Have a spiral notebook or binder with lined pages to write thoughts and prayers