

Prayer and the Believer

Lesson # 7 Homework

Memorize: Philippians 4:6-7

"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 comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

The purpose of prayer is to express our submission to the sovereignty of God and our trust in His faithfulness. Prayer is the means by which we express all that is in our hearts to our loving and wise heavenly Father. Prayer is not to give God information, because God knows everything. Prayer brings us into reverent communion with God, worshipping Him and acknowledging Him as the Giver of all things.

I. The Nature of Prayer.

A. For the believer, prayer is a learning experience that must be developed into a spiritual discipline.

1. What did the disciples ask of Jesus (Luke 11:1)?

2. Read Romans 8:26.

- a. According to the Apostle Paul, who assists us in our prayers?

- b. In light of that, what should we do when we are not sure what to pray for?

B. Prayer is an exchange of intimacy with God. The Scripture tells us God is very interested in our personal struggles.

1. What does Psalm 34:15 say about the Lord?

2. What did David bring before God in prayer (Psalm 142:2)?

3. How are we encouraged to approach God (Hebrews 4:16)?

4. Though we have the privilege of access, what caution does Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 advise?

5. What comfort does 1 Peter 5:6-7 offer believers?

C. Prayer is effective. Prayer can change situations-- and people. We are encouraged to pray expecting results.

1. For whom did the church pray in Acts 12:5?

2. How did God answer their prayers (Acts 12:7)?

3. Besides answers, what else does God grant to those who pray (Philippians 4:6-7)?

James 5:16b

The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

The New American Standard Bible

II. The Practice of Prayer

A. Throughout the Bible, God encourages and commands believers to persevere in prayer.

1. In Luke 18:1, the disciples were taught that they should always pray, and not _____.
2. What is God's will for believers in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:17)?

3. When should believer's pray (Ephesians 6:18)?

B. The Bible is God's handbook on prayer. In it you will discover many guidelines to help you develop the practice of prayer.

1. What did Jesus teach His disciples to expect if they persisted in prayer (Luke 11:5-10)?

2. What does Jesus teach as a requirement for answered prayer (John 15:7)?

3. According to 1 John 5:14, what is our confidence as we pray?

Jesus' Pattern for Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13

Pray to God...	Our Father Who art in heaven
Exalt Him saying...	Hallowed be Thy name
Submit to Him praying...	Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
Look to Him seeking...	Our daily bread (sustenance)
Confess to Him pleading...	Forgive us our debts (sins)
Depend on Him asking...	Lead us not into temptation
Trust in Him requesting...	Deliver us from evil

- C. Look up the following verses and list some of the hindrances to answered prayer.

1. Psalm 66:18

2. James 4:3

3. 1 Peter 3:7

Four Important Areas of Prayer

A doration	<i>Reflect on God Himself. Praise Him for His attributes, His majesty, and His gift of Christ.</i>
C onfession	<i>Admit to God you have sinned. Be honest and humble. Remember he knows you and loves you.</i>
T hanksgiving	<i>Tell God how grateful you are for everything He has given you, even the unpleasant things. Your thankfulness will help you see His purposes.</i>
S upplication	<i>Make specific requests. Pray for others first, then for yourself.</i>

III. The Struggle of Prayer

A. Prayer can be hard work. That should not keep us from praying, even when it requires sacrifice.

1. How long did Jesus pray before He selected the twelve apostles (Luke 6:12)?

2. Describe the intensity of Jesus as He prayed in the garden (Luke 22:44).

3. What should believers be careful to do when we devote ourselves to prayer (Colossians 4:2)?

B. Even when we are frustrated or discouraged, we can still approach God in prayer.

1. Why was David discouraged (Psalm 13:1-2)?

2. What was David's complaint in Psalm 22:2?

C. Prayer is governed by God's sovereignty, and His purpose determines His answer to our prayers.

Building On The Foundation: *The Next Steps For Christian Growth.*

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

a. What did Paul pray for?

b. How many times did he pray for it?

c. Did he receive what he asked for? Why or why not?

2. Read Mark 14:35-36.

a. What did Jesus ask of the Father concerning His "hour" of suffering?

b. Yet, what was He willing to do?

IV. Application

Compose a simple prayer following the **ACTS** model on page 50.
