

People Builder's Network
Firm Foundation Series
Lesson Eight: **PRAYER**

The Bible has much to say on the subject of prayer and its importance to Christian Living. In this lesson we will briefly discuss how to pray effectively.

1. Prayer is a two way conversation between God and man. God spoke through Jeremiah saying "Call unto Me and I will _____ thee, and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not". Jeremiah 33:3 This is an open invitation to dialogue with God.

2. Learning to pray is the quest of every true disciple and the sign of deep spiritual hunger. "And it came to pass, that, as He was _____ in a certain place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said unto Him, Lord, _____ us to _____, as John also taught His disciples". Luke 11:1

3. Learning to pray usually happens by associating with "people of prayer", like with Jesus and His disciples. Proverbs 13:20 says, "He that _____ with wise men shall be _____: but a _____ of fools shall be _____".

4. Teaching the new believers to pray was a primary focus of early church leadership. "And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles _____ and _____, and in breaking bread and in _____". Acts 2:42

5. Corporate prayer gatherings were very much a part of the prayer ministry of the early church. "And when they had _____, the place was shaken where they were _____; and they were all _____ with The Holy Ghost, and they _____ The Word of God with _____". Acts 4:31 We see from this example of prayer, that great power was released upon the church for service.

6. Prayer was the means of bringing deliverance from the most difficult circumstances, as when Peter was imprisoned for preaching the Gospel. Acts 12:5 says, "Peter was therefore kept in _____, but _____ was made without _____ of the Church unto God for him". Read Acts 12: 1-19

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

7. The importance of prayer was emphasized by Paul to the Thessalonians when he told them, “_____ without _____”. 1 Thessalonians 5: 17

8. And to the Ephesians when they were encountering spiritual warfare. “_____ always with all prayer and _____ in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all _____ and supplication for all _____”. Ephesians 6:18

9. Jesus mentions to His readers that the answer to affliction is prayer. The word **affliction** actually means **trouble** or **vexation**. “Is any _____, let him _____”. James 5:13

10. Power for healing and miracles is released by the heartfelt prayers of righteous living people. “The effectual _____ prayer of a _____ man availeth much”. James 5: 16b The Amplified version actually says “makes much power available, dynamic in its working”.

KINDS OF PRAYER

PRAYER OF FAITH

11. Prayer alone is not sufficient, but the faith released in prayer is the key to answers. “And all things, _____ ye shall ask in prayer, _____, ye shall _____”. Matthew 21:22 What are we supposed to believe when we pray? We are to believe that God has said yes, and that the answer is ours NOW. Faith is the evidence or title deed to the answer.

12. Another example of the Prayer of faith is found in Mark 11:24, which says, “Therefore I say unto you, what things soever you desire _____ ye _____, _____ that ye _____ them, and ye shall have them”. The Greek word “**receive**” is lambano and means **to take by force**. So when we pray we are to take the answer and we shall have it. Taking it by faith (unseen) is required before “ye shall have it” (see it).

13. Receiving answers “by faith” or before they are realized in the material realm, is a necessary aspect of trusting God’s integrity. God wants us to learn to take Him at His Word, just like we would any honest person. “And this is the _____ that we have in Him, that if we _____ anything according to His _____, He heareth us; And if we _____ that He hear us, whatsoever we ask,

we _____ that we _____ (not see or feel) the petitions that we desired of Him". I John 5: 14-15

14. Faith that "receives" from God has some necessary helpers in the process. The first is thanksgiving. Philippians 4:6 says, "Be careful for _____; but in everything by prayer and supplication with _____ let your _____ be made known unto God". After you have asked God for the thing you desire of Him, **THANK** Him for the answer because it is done.

15. God requires us to believe that the prayer IS answered, before we see any proof in this natural realm. That is why He said that "faith is the _____ of things not seen". Hebrews 11:1 Another word for evidence is proof.

16. Faith also needs the "assistance" of "patience" to accomplish its work. "Cast not away therefore your _____ which hath great recompense of _____. For ye have need of _____ that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might _____ the _____". Hebrews 10: 35-36. After you have asked God and thanked Him for answering your prayer, then continue in faith. Another word for "patience" is actually "constancy" or "remaining the same under trial". You must continue to believe that God HAS ANSWERED your prayer.

17. A final helper to faith is "love". "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but _____ which worketh by _____". Galatians 5:6

18. Someone once said, "It is safe to say that where there is no forgiveness, there is no love". Forgiveness is love in action. "And when ye stand praying, _____, if ye have anything against anyone; that your Father in heaven may _____ you your _____". Mark 11: 25

PRAYER OF WORSHIP

19. One of the most important kinds of prayer is the Prayer of Worship. This type of prayer is not petitioning God for anything, but fellowshiping with Him through The Holy Spirit. The Prayer of Worship is the cry of a heart that is hungry for God, not just for something you can get from Him. Psalm 29: 1-2 says, "Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the

Lord the glory due unto His name; _____ the Lord in the beauty of _____”.

20. Approaching God’s Presence in prayer is a step by step process beginning with thanksgiving. “Enter into His _____ with _____, and into His _____ with _____”. Psalm 100: 4 Think of all the wonderful things God has done for us in Christ and you will have much to say thank you for.

21. After thanking Him for all things, we begin to rejoice before Him with singing. “O _____ unto the Lord a new _____; for He hath done marvelous things”. Psalm 98:1

22. When we have thanked and praised God, rejoicing before Him with singing, we then enter into His holy presence, where we commune intimately and wait for His voice as He speaks to our hearts.

“Truly my soul _____ upon God: from Him cometh my _____”. Psalm 62:1

23. The early church leaders knew the importance of waiting on God in times of intimate communion and worship to hear His voice. “As they _____ to the Lord and _____, The Holy Ghost **said**, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work where unto I have called them”. Acts 13:2 We will learn to hear God’s voice by following the example of these men of God.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

24. To “**intercede**” means to “**stand in behalf of another**”. Jesus Christ is our great example of intercession, He represents us before God’s throne.

“Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make _____ for them”. Hebrews 7:25

25. We are exhorted to be intercessors on the behalf of others. “I exhort therefore, that, first of all _____, _____, _____ and giving of _____, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in _____; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty”. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 Consider these results of intercessory prayer. Is it not a worthwhile investment of our time?

26. In Genesis 18: 27-28, we find the intercessory prayers of Abraham spared the lives of his relatives living in a wicked city about to be destroyed. “And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to _____ unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes: Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not _____ it”.

27. Daniel’s prayer of intercession for Israel’s backslidden condition (Read Daniel 9: 3-27), brought an angelic visitation with revelation of end time events. “Yea, while I was speaking in _____, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he _____ me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth, to give thee _____ and _____”. Daniel 9: 21-22

28. Intercessory prayer brings new births into the kingdom of God. “For as soon as Zion _____, she brought forth her _____”. Isaiah 66:8

29. Spiritual growth in believers is the result of intercessory prayer on their behalf. Paul prayed for the image of Jesus to be seen in the Galatian Christians. “My little children, of whom I _____ in _____, until Christ be _____ in you”. Galatians 4:19

30. Intercession is a spiritual exercise and can only produce eternal results with the help of The Holy Spirit. All believers must learn to depend on, and flow with The Spirit as He works through us in prayer. “Likewise the Spirit also _____ our _____: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit maketh _____ for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh _____ for the _____ according to the Will of God”. Romans 8: 26-27

Ask The Holy Spirit to be your guide in prayer and to teach you the art of intercession.

DISCIPLINE IN PRAYER

31. Having a daily time of prayer is vital to our spiritual health and growth. “Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the _____ of _____, being the ninth hour”. Acts 3:1

Stay sensitive to The Holy Spirit's drawing to prayer, and put your prayer time into your daily planning.

32. Private prayer is necessary to be able to meditate upon the Lord without distraction. Jesus told His disciples to find a place of solitude for intimate prayer.

“But when thou _____, enter into the _____, and when thou hast _____ the _____, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly”. Matthew 6:6