

STUDY #16

P Prayer

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

According to *Acts 2:42*, the young Christians, along with the older believers, “continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, AND IN PRAYERS.” These Christians had developed from the very beginning of their new life in Christ some definite habits – including prayer.

Through His Word, the Bible, God speaks to the Christian. In **prayer**, the Christian talks to God. Yet, in this busy, bustling world, both Bible study and prayer are neglected by so many.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Read over the previous study about prayer. [See: Lesson #4 Daily Walk]

- A. The word “pray” means “to _ _ _ .”
- B. Give a Scripture reference showing this to be so. _____
- C. According to *I John 5:14*, prayer is asking for _ _ _ _ _ according to His will.
- D. According to *Philippians 4:6*, prayer is asking for _ _ _ _ _ .

WHY SHOULD I PRAY?

The Bible teaches us that prayer is both a **COMMAND** and a **PRIVILEGE**.

- A. We Are Commanded To Pray.
 - 1. *Luke 18:1* – Men ought _ _ _ _ _ to pray.
 - 2. *Colossians 4:2* – _ _ _ _ _ in prayer.
 - 3. *I Thessalonians 5:17* – Pray without _ _ _ _ _ .
 - 4. *Matthew 7:7* – _ _ _ _ .

B. We Have The Privilege To Pray.

1. *John 16:24* — Prayer brings fulness of _____ .
2. *Hebrews 4:16* — We are invited to come _____ to the throne of grace.

HOW DO I PRAY?

In *Luke 11:1*, the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ asked of Him a noble thing when they said, “*Lord, teach us to pray.*” In response Jesus gave them the **Model Prayer** (commonly mis-named the “*Lord’s Prayer*”). You can read this in *Luke 11:2-4* and *Matthew 6:9-13*.

Below are some of the “essentials” in praying:

A. What Posture Should I Adopt When Praying?

1. *Mark 11:25* — We may _____ and pray.
2. *I Kings 8:54* — We may _____ and pray.
3. *Acts 16:13* — We may _____ and pray.
4. *Matthew 26:39* — We may fall on our _____ and pray.

From your study of these Scriptures, what do you conclude about the posture we should adopt when we pray? _____

B. To Whom Do I Address My Prayer?

Study: *Matthew 6:9; John 16:23; Acts 12:5; John 15:16.* I am to pray to _____ .

C. In Whose Name Do I Pray?

Study: *John 14:14* and *John 16:24.* I am to pray in _____ ’ Name.

D. In Whose Power Am I To Pray?

Read: *Ephesians 6:18* and *Jude 20.* I am to pray in (the power of) the _____ .

E. The Right Attitudes In Prayer.

Listed below are some key attitudes in praying. Study the Scripture passages given, then jot each reference down next to the “prayer attitude” they teach.

Psalm 62:8; Matthew 6:9; Matthew 6:10b; Luke 11:3; Luke 11:5-8; Luke 18:1-5; Romans 15:30; Philippians 4:6b; I Thessalonians 5:18; Hebrews 4:16; Hebrews 11:6; James 1:5-7; James 5:16d; I Peter 5:7; I John 5:14.

1. Reverence:
2. Boldness:
3. Faith:
4. Thanksgiving:
5. Persistence:
6. Dependence:
7. Earnestness:
8. Confidence:
9. Openness:

WHEN SHOULD I PRAY?

There are two Bible answers to this question:

- A. I Am To Pray _____ . *I Thessalonians 5:17*

This means that we are to be in the attitude of prayer, ready to pray ("on praying ground") at all times.

There is *NO TIME* when we cannot pray.

Read also: *Luke 18:1; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2; Ephesians 6:18.*

- B. I Am To Have Definite, Set Times Of Prayer.

1. Daniel prayed _____ times daily. *Daniel 6:10*

2. David prayed each _____ . *Psalms 5:3*

3. The Lord Jesus prayed in the _____ . *Mark 1:35*

4. The apostles kept set times of prayer. *Acts 3:1*

It is vital that you develop a pattern of regular prayer. Always begin the day with prayer. *Proverbs 8:17*

WHERE SHOULD I PRAY?

There are **three** kinds of prayer found in the Word of God. Each of them ought to be part of the Christian's prayer life:

A. Personal Prayer.

Read: *Matthew 6:6.*

1. Jesus calls the place for this kind of praying a C _ _ _ _ _ , which means we need to be where we can pray without interruption.
2. Jesus assures us God hears and answers our S _ _ _ _ _ prayers.

B. Public Prayer.

Read: *Acts 4:24; Acts 12:5,12* and *Ephesians 5:19,20.*

1. This kind of praying is usually done in church meetings and gatherings of believers.
2. In such meetings the public prayer is worded by one person at a time.
I Corinthians 14:23,40
3. When one leads the congregation in prayer, everyone participates in the prayer by saying *Amen* ("so be it") at its conclusion. *I Corinthians 14:16*
4. In mixed company, public prayers are offered by men. *I Corinthians 14:34, I Timothy 2:8*

C. Partnership Prayer.

Read: *Matthew 18:19,20.*

It will be a blessing in your life if you seek out another believer in the Church to become "prayer partners." Ask God to lead you to someone with whom you can spend time in prayer together.

WILL MY PRAYERS ALWAYS BE ANSWERED?

A. There Are Two Conditions For Prayer To Be Answered.

1. *I John 5:14* — "... according _ _ _ _ _ ..."
How do we know God's will? (See: *John 15:7.*) _____

2. *Matthew 21:22* — "... _ _ _ _ _ ..."

Why is it necessary to exercise faith when we pray? (See: Hebrews 11:6.)

B. God Always Answers Real Prayer, But In Three Possible Ways.

- YES – Psalm 84:11c – Good things
- NO – James 4:3 – Harmful things
- WAIT – Luke 11:8 – How much do you desire it?

WHAT ARE SOME HINDRANCES TO ANSWERED PRAYER?

- A. Unconfessed _ _ _ . Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:1,2
- B. S _ _ _ I S H motives. James 4:3
- C. Failure to _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ others. Mark 11:24,25
- D. Poor relationships in M _ _ _ _ _ . I Peter 3:7
- E. Failure to L _ _ _ _ _ to God's Word. Proverbs 28:9
- F. Lack of compassion. Proverbs 21:13
- G. Stubbornness. Zechariah 7:8-14

How do we get any hindrances removed? See: I John 1:9.

WHAT THINGS SHOULD I PRAY FOR?

- A. Look up: Romans 10:1.
 - 1. For whom was Paul concerned? _____
 - 2. What was his prayer for them? _____

- B. Look up: I Timothy 2:1-4.

List three groups of people we are to pray for:

 - 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

C. What does the Lord want us to pray for, according to *Matthew 9:37,38*? _____

D. According to *Ephesians 6:19,20*, what should we pray for those who serve the Lord in the Gospel ministry? _____

E. *Matthew 5:44* instructs us to pray for whom? _____

F. According to *I Samuel 12:23*, failure to pray for others is _ _ _ .

G. Look up the following Scriptures and make a "prayer list" of things we should ask for ourselves.

Matthew 6:11

James 1:5

Matthew 26:41

Psalms 19:14

Psalms 34:4

Psalms 37:5

Psalms 51:2,10

Psalms 119:18

Psalms 119:34

Psalms 119:133

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *John 16:24*.