

## A Study on Prayer : Lesson #1

Prayer along with the word of God is one of the most important things in the life of a saved person and in many cases it is the thing that we do the least of especially when life is good. When life is good we need prayer just as much as when life is bad. Note in **Job 1:5** that Job prayed in the good times and was therefore prepared when the terrible times came. This is a good lesson for us that if we would prepare in the good times for the bad times by prayer we might face them and make it through them much better.

What is a simple definition of prayer?

Prayer simply put is you communicating with God. Some people think that it is saying certain things over and over or using certain words in certain orders. The truth of the matter is that you can just simply talk to God just like you would talk to someone else. Now we must remember that real communication is both us talking to God and also us listening to hear what God has to say in response. This is what is so great about having the Lord Jesus Christ as our High Priest is that we need no intercessor other than the Lord Jesus Christ. According to **Hebrews 4:14-16** we have access to the throne of grace by Jesus Christ and we can both mercy and grace to help in time of need.

If part of prayer is listening to God then one might ask, how does God respond? God responds by speaking to us directly although not audibly and by speaking to us from the word of God. The more time we spend in prayer the easier it is for us to discern God's voice. Now many times God may answer us directly from the word of God, this is why daily Bible reading is so important. Discerning God's voice from the other spirit that the bible speaks of is not always easy that is why we must read God's word. The Holy Ghost of God will never lead you or tell you anything that is contrary to the Word of God. Therefore to truly get the full effect of prayer one must accompany prayer with Bible reading to both know the voice of God and to discern his will for your life.

We will list a few verse on how important it is to pray and why we should pray.

1) When should we pray? ALWAYS (**Luke 18:1-8**)

Here we see Jesus give an illustration on how God will answer our prayers. And according to verse 1 the illustration is give to show us to pray always and never to quit.

2) How should we pray? Without ceasing (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**)

Here we see a command to pray without ceasing. Now we know that we cannot pray 24 hours a day 7 days a week, but we can be in continual prayer in regards to the line of communication always being opened between us and God. Sin and lack of prayer breaks that fellowship with God and that is not what God wants. He wants us to communicate with him daily for all our needs and also for sweet fellowship.

3) Where should we pray? Everywhere (**1 Timothy 2:8**)

There is nowhere that we cannot pray. Always remember that. Even if they tell you that you cannot pray aloud you can always pray in your heart unto God. And you should pray everywhere at all times and in all situations.

When we discuss the subject of prayer there are some different types of prayer. Here are three different types of prayer. Now in each of these you will not pray exactly like you would in the other three but that does not mean that you are still not communicating with God just as we defined above.

1) **Private** – This is a time when you get alone with God and away from distractions and you personally talk with God. This is where you would confess sin in your life and seek direction from the Lord. There are also some other parts of our prayer that will be discussed later in this lesson.

2) **Family** – This is where you and your family pray together now I realize that if you have lost family members that this may not be possible but if you have saved family members this should be a must. Now this will consist of family devotion time, praying at meals, or just praying for needs that are present and important to the family.

3) **Public** – This is where you will be asked to pray in public situations. It could be at church or church related functions. It could be at restaurants or school. The possibilities are endless for public prayer. Now this is the one that scares most people and especially teenagers. But remember it is just you communicating with the Lord it is not about saying just the right words or being eloquent or sounding spiritual. It is talking with God and making your request known unto him.

**Four Basic parts to Prayer :**

1) Adoration (**Psalms 95:6**)

Adoration is the giving of praise to someone for something that they have done. Now we tell others thank you and that we love them or that we appreciate what they do. Why should we not tell God that we love and appreciate all that he has done for us? A large part of our prayer life should be giving glory to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for they truly are worthy. For an example in this read the Psalms.

2) Confession (**Psalms 32:1**)

According to **1 John 1:9** if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. Now another important part of prayer is confession. This is where we fess up to God and come clean about sin in our life. This is needful because having sin in our life breaks our fellowship with God and can destroy us spiritually. Remember when we sin the quicker we deal with it we will have less damage done in spiritual lives.

3) Thanksgiving (**Philippians 4:6**)

In the Old Testament they offered literal sacrifices. As saved people in the today we are to offer the sacrifice of praise which is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. We have so much to be thankful for and yet we say thank you so very little.

4) Supplication (**1 Timothy 2:1**)

This is what we want God to do for us whether it is personal request or a prayer request for others. Now in the grand scheme of things we should do this last as we have listed it last. But for most of us our prayer life consist mainly of supplications and very little adoration, confession, and thanksgiving. If we would concentrate on the first three then we might not have to worry so much about the last one.

