

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CENTER
PRAYER

TEACHER'S NOTE

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|-----------|--|
| LESSON 1 | INTRODUCTION |
| LESSON 2 | TRANSFORMING PRAYER FROM DESIRE, TO DISCIPLINE, TO DELIGHT |
| LESSON 3 | PRAISING THE LORD AND APPROPRIATING HIS PROMISES |
| LESSON 4 | ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING PRIORITIES |
| LESSON 5 | APPROPRIATING GOD'S PROVISION |
| LESSON 6 | HOW TO GET ALONG WITH EVERYBODY ALL THE TIME |
| LESSON 7 | CONSISTENTLY DEFEATING THE DEVIL |
| LESSON 8 | OBEYING THE WORD'S MOST DYNAMIC COMMANDMENT |
| LESSON 9 | EXPECTING ANSWERS TO PRAYERS |
| LESSON 10 | INTERCEDING IN PRAYER |
| LESSON 11 | LEARNING TO LISTEN IN PRAYER |
| LESSON 12 | PRAYING GOD'S WORD AND PROMISES |

LESSON 1 INTRODUCTION

TEXT : “MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED THE HOUSE OF PRAYER”

I. GOD WANTS US TO HEAR HIS VOICE DAILY. GOD SAID, “TODAY” (HEB. 3:7-8)

A. 2 Chron. 7:14.

1. Seek God diligently and earnestly.
2. God will respond and reveal Himself (**Heb. 11:6**).

B. Zech. 4:6.

1. Our works and efforts alone won't fulfill God's will.
2. Seeking God will bring about the moving of His Holy Spirit through willing vessels.

II. GOD IS CALLING HIS CHURCH TO PRAY (MATT. 21:12-16)

A. Prayer is a lost art in the church today.

1. Prayer is God's method, way and will.
2. The desire to pray must be birthed by the Holy Spirit.

B. God wants His church to be a house of prayer. (Matt. 21:13).

1. God desires His church to be a house of prayer.
2. Each member must become a house of prayer.

C. First, however, the house must become a house of purity.

1. First, we must let God purify us.
2. Then His Spirit can dwell within us (**Eph. 2:20-22**).

D. From a house of prayer, it will become a house of power (Matt. 21:14).

1. People will come to us when we become a house of prayer.
2. Their needs will be met by God through us.
 - a. God's power will be evidenced through our lives.
 - b. His very life will flow through us.

- E. **From a house of power, it will be transformed into a house of perfected praise (Matt. 21:15-16).**

The demonstration of God's power always brings praise.

III. PRAYER WAS A PRIORITY IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST

- A. Christ's life was moving from one place of prayer to another.
- B. At the beginning of His ministry He prayed (**Mark 1:35**).
 - 1. Jesus would get up early in the morning.
 - 2. He would go to a solitary place.
- C. At the middle of His ministry He prayed (**Matt. 14:23**).
 - 1. After the miraculous feeding of the 5,000, Jesus felt the need for renewal of strength and power.
 - 2. He got away from all the activity around Him.
- D. At the end of His ministry He prayed (**Luke 22:39-40**).
 - 1. It was Christ's habit to pray.
 - 2. Even on the cross He prayed.
- E. Today Jesus continues to pray.

IV. AS DISCIPLE OF CHRIST, PRAYER MUST BE CHARACTERISTIC OF OUR LIFE

- A. We always find Jesus where His disciples found Him.
- B. To be a disciple of Jesus, we must be a follower of Him.
 - 1. We will develop our spirits into spirits of prayer.
 - 2. We will discipline ourselves in a life of prayer.

V. AS EACH MEMBER BECOMES A DISCIPLE OF PRAYER, THE CHURCH WILL BECOME THE HOUSE OF PRAYER

LESSON 2 TRANSFORMING PRAYER FROM DESIRE, TO DISCIPLINE TO DELIGHT

TEXT : "TEACH US TO PRAY"

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT BIRTHS WITHIN US THE DESIRE TO PRAY

A. The desire is always born of God.

1. The flesh, being self-seeking, does not want to pray.
2. Anytime there is a thought to prayer, it is of the Spirit.

B. Though the desire is there, prayer does not always happen.

1. The flesh sometimes prevails.
2. We must pray for greater desire and let the Spirit control our flesh.

C. The Holy Spirit enables us to pray (Rom. 8:26-27).

1. He strengthens our spirit to control the flesh.
2. He intercedes through us.
3. He renews that desire within us.

II. DESIRE MOVES TO A PLACE OF HOLY DISCIPLINE

A. The root word of disciple is DISCIPLINE.

1. A disciple is a disciplined follower.
2. We will be a disciplined follower of Christ's life which itself was disciplined.

B. Christ's life was a disciplined prayer life.

1. He made it a priority.
2. He often sacrificed other things to maintain prayer, such as social fellowship, food, sleep, seemingly important visible ministry.

C. Other men of God developed special prayer habits.

1. Abraham - went to the "place where he stood before the Lord".
2. Daniel - prayed three times a day.
3. David - morning, noon, evening (**Ps. 55:17**).

D. We must discipline ourselves to form the habit of a consistent daily prayer time.

1. The habit will not just happen. The flesh does not want to pray. Satan does not want prayer.
2. There must be purposeful persistence (**1 Cor. 9:24-27**).
3. We must keep seeing prayer as a priority.

E. A daily prayer habit will bring positive results.

1. It will make us more like Jesus.
2. It will nourish our spirits.
3. It releases rivers of blessings to others.

F. Develop good prayer habits.

1. Learn to acknowledge God immediately upon rising (**Ps. 17:15**).
2. Make specific time for prayer daily. Select a prayer time that is free of distractions (**Mark 1:35, Matt. 14:23**).
3. The spirit of prayer should not end with our time spent in the closet of prayer (**1 Thess. 5:17**).

G. The “prayer closet” is a special place. (Matt. 6:6)

1. Where spiritual dependence on God is learned.
2. To intercede for lost souls (**Eze. 22:30**).
3. To be restored (**Gen. 21:33**).
4. To engage in inward spiritual activity (**Rom. 8:26-27**).
5. Where spiritual power is generated (**Zech. 4:6**).

H. Bad habits to avoid.

1. To allow feelings to dictate our prayers.
2. To substitute activity for prayer.
3. To be bound by legalism.

III. DISCIPLINE REQUIRES SOME KIND OF STRUCTURE OR ORDER

- A. Jesus gave structure and order in His model of prayer when the disciples asked Him to teach them to pray.

1. There are six topics found in Christ's model prayer:

- a. Praise for God
- b. Setting of priorities.
- c. Appropriation of God's provision.
- d. Maintain the right posture towards others.
- e. Protection against evil.
- f. Praise for God's Majesty.

B. We should bathe these topics in prayer daily.

1. Jesus said, "After this manner therefore pray ye" (**Matt. 6:9**).
2. It will affect our life throughout that day.
3. It will affect our future.
4. It will affect our family, our society, and the world.

C. Consistent, daily prayer life is a necessity.

1. It avails much (**James 5:16**).
2. It is necessary for the preservation and welfare of your family (**Lam. 2:19; Neh. 4:14**).
3. It is necessary for the church - the pastor, the leadership, the people and the spiritual harvest.
4. It is necessary for our country and world (**Eze. 22:30**).

IV. FROM DISCIPLINE PRAYER MOVES TO A LEVEL OF DELIGHT

A. We delight to do His will (Ps. 40:8).

1. The communion and fellowship with God enriches us.
2. We are submitting to His Lordship.

B. We rejoice in His daily presence in our lives (Ps. 37:4).

C. We rejoice because of His manifested power and provision.

V. THE PLACE OF TARRYING WITH THE LORD BECOMES POSSIBLE

- A. **Jesus wanted His disciples to tarry at least one hour (Matt. 26:40).**
- B. **Following Christ's plan makes praying longer, easier and natural.**
- C. **Something supernatural is sure to happen.**

VI. CONCLUSION

Prayer is coming into agreement with what God has already done in Jesus Christ and getting to a place where our petitions harmonize with what Jesus Himself is praying.

LESSON 3 PRAISING THE LORD AND APPROPRIATING HIS PROMISES

TEXT : "OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN. HALLOWED BE THY NAME."

I. WE BEGIN PRAYER BY PRAISING THE LORD (MATT. 6:9)

- A. Praise gives us liberty.
 - Praise replaces a spirit of heaviness (**Isa. 61:3**).
- B. Praise is a Scriptural beginning (**Ps. 100:2**).
- C. Praise is time of acknowledging God.

II. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE RIGHT WE HAVE TO APPROACH GOD

- A. "Our Father".
- B. We have a relationship because of the blood.
- C. We have the privilege of being a family member.

III. WE SET APART, PRAISE AND ADORE THE NAME OF GOD

- A. God is Omnipotent - All powerful.
- B. God is Omniscient - All knowing.
- C. God is Omnipresent - All present.
- D. God is Total Holiness.

IV. TEN COMPOUND NAMES OF GOD

- A. **Jehovah-Tsidkenu:** The Lord our righteousness.
1. Jesus was substituted for us (**Rom. 5:17-19**).
 2. We can appropriate God's forgiveness (**1 John 1:7-9**).
 3. We accept His righteousness.
 4. This is the promise of the forgiveness of sins.
- B. **Jehovah-Meqaddeshkem:** The Lord who sanctifies.
1. The blood of Jesus breaks the power of sin (**Rom. 6:17-18**).
 2. This is the promise of deliverance from sin's dominion.
- C. **Jehovah-Shalom:** The Lord my peace.
1. Christ's atonement provides reconciliation which is the basis of peace (**Col. 1:20-21**).
 2. We can come to God without fear (**Heb. 10:19**).
 3. This is the promise of satisfaction and contentment.
- D. **Jehovah-Shammah:** The Lord is there.
1. We are the living temple of God (**1 Cor. 3:16**).
 2. We are able to be filled with His Spirit.
 3. This is the promise of His Presence.
- E. **Jehovah-Ropheka:** The Lord my healer.
1. Sin has brought sickness and disorder.
 2. Christ's atonement provides healing (**Isa. 53:5**).
 3. Healing is a finished work (**1 Pet. 2:24**).
 4. Healing in body, soul and spirit.
 5. This is the promise of health and healing.
- F. **Jehovah-Jireh:** The Lord provides.
1. Man falls short in every area of life (**Rom. 3:23**) : morally, emotionally, financially, socially, spiritually, physically.
 2. Christ sets us free from the curse (**Gal. 3:11, 13-14**).

3. This is the promise of freedom from the curse.

G. **Jehovah-Tsaboath:** The Lord of Hosts.

1. Man is weak in himself.

2. God is our refuge and strength (**Rom. 8:31**).

3. This is the promise of His power.

H. **Jehovah-Nissi:** The Lord my victory banner.

1. Satan tries to defeat us but Christ makes us victorious (**Rom. 8:37**).

2. We are set free from the fear of death (**Heb. 2:15**).

3. This is the promise of completed victory.

I. **Jehovah-Rohi:** The Lord my Shepherd.

1. Jesus Christ brings purpose and direction into our lives.

2. This is the promise of continual guidance.

J. **Jehovah-Elyon:** The Lord Most High.

V. **JEHOVAH - "I AM THAT I AM" (EXO. 3:14)**

VI. **THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS ABOVE EVERY NAME (PHIL. 2:9-11)**

A. Each of the compound names of God are a facet of His divine nature and will for His children.

B. **The fullness of those names are in Jesus.**

1. Jesus came in His Father's Name (**John 5:43**).

2. The works Jesus did were in His Father's Name (**John 10:25**).

3. His Name is Emmanuel: God with us.

4. The fullness of the Godhead is in Christ (**Col. 2:9**).

VII. **WE ARE NOT TO TAKE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN**

A. By any unrighteousness in our lives (**2 Tim. 2:19**).

B. By not believing what He is to us.

- C. By living contrary to His character.

VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. Thank God for our relationship with Him.
- B. Praise the Names of God.
- C. Appropriate His promises through His Name.
- D. Repent for any area which is not submitted to His Lordship.
- E. Confess His Name and submit to Him.

LESSON 4 ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING PRIORITIES

TEXT : “THY KINGDOM COME; THY WILL BE DONE.”

I. YIELD YOUR WILL TO THE LORD

- A. We must want His will (Mark 14:36).**
- B. We must want His perfect “blueprint”.**
 - 1. That which is already planned in Heaven.
 - 2. That which will have the greatest effect in advancing His Kingdom.
 - 3. That which will benefit us spiritually.
- C. Let Him decide what is best for us.**

II. ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM IN YOUR LIFE (ROM. 14:17)

- A. Set your priorities by the Spirit.**
- B. Pray for His will for each day to be fulfilled.**
 - 1. In conversation.
 - 2. In every activity.
 - 3. In decisions and plans for that day and for the future.
- C. Pray for divine wisdom and revelation.**
 - 1. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you.
 - In ability, efficiency and might.
 - 2. Ask Jesus to rule your spirit, soul and body.
- D. Pray in the Spirit (Jude 20).**

III. ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM IN YOUR FAMILY

- A. If married, pray for your mate.**
 - 1. Declare God’s will in his/her life.
 - 2. Pray for needs in his/her life.
 - 3. Intercede for areas that need to be surrendered.
 - 4. Pray for a stronger marriage.
- B. If you have children, pray for them.**
 - 1. Declare God’s will in their lives.
 - 2. Pray for their mates, if married.
 - 3. Pray for their future mates, if not married.
 - 4. Ask for wisdom in raising your children.

5. Intercede for their future.

C. Pray for other family members.

1. Ask God to lay specific persons on your heart.
2. Pray until you feel a release.

IV. ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM IN THE CHURCH

A. Uphold the pastors before the Lord.

1. Ask for God's anointing on them.
2. Ask for God to lead and direct them.
3. Petition the Lord to impart wisdom.
4. Believe God to move by His power.

B. Uphold the leaders' names in prayer.

1. Pray for specific needs.
2. Pray for those doing the work of the ministry.
3. Ask God to make them more effective.

C. Pray for the faithfulness of the people.

1. To Jesus.
2. In their ministries and service.
3. To their families.
4. To the vision God has given the Church.
5. In their tithes, offerings and pledges.

D. Intercede for unity and love in the Body (John 17:21).

1. "That they may be one".
2. The demonstration of a living Christ.

E. Intercede for the harvest (Isa. 43:4-6).

1. Within the local church.

- a. Declare victory in specific regions.
- b. Pray for the salvation of souls.
- c. Pray for boldness within the members.

2. Throughout the world.

- a. Bind strongholds in specific cities.
- b. Intercede for pastors and workers.
- c. Pray for a greater vision in the church.
- d. Pray for more laborers.

V. ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM IN THE NATION

- A. Pray for the local towns, cities, State and their leadership
- B. Pray for government leaders.
- C. Pray for other churches.
- D. Lift up other Christian leaders in the nation
- E. Pray for revival.
- F. Pray for spiritual unity.

VI. PRAY FOR WISDOM AND HELP IN STRUCTURING YOUR TIME

VII. CONCLUSION

- A. Pray for God's will to be fulfilled in your life.
- B. Pray that each day His Kingdom will be established:
 - 1. In your life.
 - 2. In your family.
 - 3. In the church.
 - 4. In the nation.
 - 5. In the world.
- C. Pray for wisdom in planning your use of time.

LESSON 5 APPROPRIATING GOD'S PROVISION

TEXT : "GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD."

I. PRAY FOR DAILY NECESSITIES

- A. Spiritual needs.**
 - 1. Strength to persevere through trials and problems.
 - 2. Power to overcome sin and the evil one.
 - 3. Gifts of the Holy Spirit to meet every need and situation.

- B. Emotional needs.**
 - 1. Peace.
 - 2. Clarity of thought.

- C. Physical needs.**
 - 1. Vitality.
 - 2. Healing.

- D. Financial needs.**
 - 1. Personal.
 - 2. Family.
 - 3. Church commitments.
 - 4. Business.

- E. Social needs.**
 - 1. Have right attitude towards others.
 - 2. Have right behavior and conduct before others.

- F. Other personal needs.**

II. PRINCIPLES REGARDING PETITIONS

- A. Petition is God's gift.**

- B. Petition may be repeated (Matt. 7:7-8).**
 - 1. "Ask", "seek", "knock" imply continuity.
 - 2. The linear tense: Keep on.

III. HOW TO PRAY IN WHAT YOU NEED

- A. Be in the will of God.**
 - 1. Fellowship with Jesus
 - 2. Fellowship with one another.
 - 3. In seeking "first the Kingdom of God".

- B. Believe it is God's will to prosper you**
 - 1. Have faith in God's promises (Matt. 6:33).
 - 2. Be obedient to His conditions.

3. Accept His blessing.

C. Be specific.

1. “..... our daily bread”.
2. Appropriate His Word.
3. Declare the effect of answered prayer upon the Kingdom.

D. Resist the devil (James 4:7).

1. Satan tries to afflict.
2. Satan tries to stop God’s blessings (**Dan. 10:12-14**).

E. Persevere (Luke 18:1, 1 Thess. 5:17).

1. If you know God’s will, you will not quit.
2. If it benefits the Kingdom, you cannot quit.
3. Faith never quits (**Heb. 11:6**).

IV. PROCLAIM VICTORY FOR THAT DAY

- A. Establish that day for God.
- B. See the opportunities for the Kingdom.
- C. Let it be preparation for an even greater day.

V. SPEAK FORTH THE WORD OF GOD.

- A. It is Scripture-based prayer.
- B. It generates faith (**Rom. 10:17**).
- C. It produces power (**1 Thess. 1:5**).
- D. It reveals God’s nature.
- E. It is God Himself speaking (**1 Thess. 2:13**).

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. Pray for every aspect of our day.
- B. Pray for God to meet every need.
- C. Intercede and proclaim God’s victory for that day.

LESSON 6 HOW TO GET ALONG WITH EVERYBODY ALL THE TIME

TEXT : “FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.”

I. WALK IN HUMILITY

- A. The opposite of self-righteousness.
- B. The ability to recognize you are wrong.
- C. The ability and desire to forgive.
- D. Because we are forgiven by Jesus, we can forgive others.
 - 1. Part of the growth process (**Eph. 4:25, 32**).
 - 2. Unforgiveness kills a relationship.

II. ASK GOD TO FORGIVE YOU

- A. Confess known sins.
- B. Invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart (**Job 34:32**).
- C. Confess those hidden sins.
- D. Accept His cleansing (**1 John 1:9**).
 - 1. “Confess” - to speak the same thing.
 - 2. We must agree with what God says about our sin.
 - 3. We must be willing to turn away from it.
- E. Resist condemnation from Satan (**Rom. 8:1**).

III. FORGIVE AS OFTEN AS YOU WANT TO BE FORGIVEN

- A. Jesus said to forgive seventy times seven (**Matt. 18:21-22**).
 - 1. Forgive as many times as you are offended.
 - 2. That is how much God is willing to forgive.
- B. Our debt of sin against God is greater than any debt anyone will ever own us.
 - 1. Parable of forgiveness (**Matt. 18:23-35**).
 - 2. We are always indebted to God.
 - 3. We are to forgive at the same level as we are forgiven by God (**Matt. 18:33**).
 - 4. We must realize how much we have been forgiven by God.
 - a. We need a revelation of Calvary.

- b. A glimpse of the price Christ paid (**Isa. 53:4-6**).
- C. Ask God to develop mercy in us (**Ps. 103:8-12**).
- D. Ask God for His steadfast love (**Lam. 3:22-23**).

IV. MAINTAIN A RIGHT ATTITUDE TOWARDS OTHERS

- A. Towards our enemy
 - 1. Those watching critically.
 - 2. Those ready to point out our faults.
- B. The key is preparation.
 - 1. **Do not let conflict decide your reaction.**
 - 2. Pray before you decide your action.

- C. Forgiveness is an act of the will.
 - 1. It is not an emotion.
 - 2. It is not a feeling.
 - 3. It is a defiance of self.

- D. Every morning will to forgive.
 - 1. You will then be gentle and loving.
 - 2. You will be more concerned for others.
 - 3. It will keep your spirit free (**Pro. 4:23**).
 - a. Unforgiveness binds.
 - b. Unforgiveness robs your victory, joy and peace.

V. RESIST AND DESTROY THE SPIRIT OF ANGER, RESENTMENT AND UNFORGIVENESS

- A. Ask God to help you bless everyone (**Matt. 5:44**).

- B. Crucify self.
 - 1. Rid yourself of self-pity.
 - 2. Enlarge your heart with Christ.
 - 3. Let Jesus increase and self decrease.

VI. INTERCEDE TO BECOME A CHANNEL OF CHRIST'S LOVE

- A. Ask God to direct your paths (**Phil. 2:13**).

- B. To make you aware of His opportunities to show love.

- C. To help you to be an example of Christ.

VII. CONCLUSION

- A. Pray that God will help you to be humble.
- B. Ask God to cleanse you of all known sins.
- C. Ask God to reveal all hidden sins.
- D. Pray for forgiveness in those areas.
- E. Declare your choice to forgive.
- F. Deny yourself.
- G. Intercede for a spirit of gentleness and love.

LESSON 7 CONSISTENTLY DEFEATING THE DEVIL

TEXT : “AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL”

I. WE ARE INVOLVED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- A. Satanic powers come against God's kingdom.
 - 1. We are part of God's Kingdom.
 - 2. We are under attack.
 - 3. We must recognise the work of Satan (**Eph. 6:11-13**).
- B. Prayer is the way we attack satanic forces.
 - 1. We can loose the power of God.
 - 2. We strengthen and prepare ourselves for the day.
 - 3. We allow the Spirit to renew us.
- C. Prayer is our strongest ammunition.
 - 1. Prayer is going to the front lines of battle.
 - 2. Prayer is transcending the natural realm.
 - 3. Prayer prepares lost souls for salvation.
 - 4. Prayer involves working together with God.

II. TEMPTATION IS SATAN'S AMMUNITION (1 THESS. 3:5)

- A. The origin of temptation (**1 John 2:16**).
 - 1. The lust of the flesh: passions of the self.
 - 2. The lust of the eye: covetousness/greed.
 - 3. The pride of life: love of power, position, etc.
- B. Temptation is present during every trial.
 - 1. To cause us to quit.
 - 2. To cause us to choose self.
 - 3. To hinder our growth process.
- C. The purpose of trials
 - 1. To reveal our nature (**Deut. 8:2-3**).
 - 2. To teach us spiritual warfare (**Judges 3:1-2**).
 - 3. To prepare us for God's perfect will (**Exo. 23:29-30**).
 - 4. To purify us and to perfect our faith (**1 Pet. 1:6-7**).
 - 5. To enable God to gain victory over Satan.

III. GOD IS ALWAYS ABLE TO DELIVER (1 COR. 10:13)

- A. He promises to make a way of escape.
- B. He is always with us.

IV. THE REASONS FOR JESUS' WARNING

- A. To watch that we do not enter temptation through our own carelessness or disobedience.
- B. He knows that our spirit is willing, but our flesh is weak.

V. WE MUST PUT ON THE ARMOUR OF GOD

- A. The armour is the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1. “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ” (**Rom. 13:12, 14**).
 - 2. The armour of God (**Eph. 6:11-18**).
- B. What the armour does.
 - 1. “...loins girt about with truth...”.
Jesus is truth (**John 14:6**).
 - 2. “...having on the breastplate of righteousness...”.
Jesus is our righteousness (**2 Cor. 5:21**).
 - 3. “...feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace...”.
Jesus is our readiness (**Phil. 4:13**).
 - 4. “...taking the shield of faith...”.
Jesus is our faith (**2 Tim. 1:12**).
 - 5. “...take the helmet of salvation...”.
Jesus is our strength and victory.
 - 6. “...sword of the Spirit...”.
Jesus is the Word.

VI. Greatest Protection from Temptation is to be abiding in Christ Ps. 91:9-10,14

- A. In making Him our habitation.

- B. In setting our love upon Him.
- C. In knowing His Name (**Pro. 18:10**).

LESSON 8 OBEYING THE WORD'S MOST DYNAMIC COMMANDMENT

TEXT : “FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY FOREVER.”

I. PRAISE AND WORSHIP IS THE WORD'S MOST DYNAMIC COMMANDMENT

- A. Christ's list of topics in prayer begins and ends with praise.
- B. Always approach God in praise (**Ps. 100:4**).
- C. Continually offer Him praise (**Heb. 13:15**).
- D. Praise when our souls are at rest.
- E. Praise in the midst of trials.
- F. Praise when the trials are over.

II. SEVEN MODES OF PRAISE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- A. Towdah - (**Ps. 50:23**) : A sacrifice of praise or thanksgiving that is demonstrated with an extension of the hands cupped inwards in adoration and acceptance.
- B. Yadah - (**Ps. 142:7**) : The action of extending your hands in power as you confess praise or offer wholehearted thanks for the nature and work of God. To throw out the hands with rejoicing because you have been strengthened.
- C. Hallal - (**Ps. 113:1**) : To be clear (transparent), to shine, and to make a show, to boast, to rave, to celebrate.
- D. Barak - (**Ps. 72:15**) : To bless or bow down in a worshipful attitude. Literally, “to bend the knee”. It is a word for hope, to bless in adoration expecting to receive. To bless God, to kneel as an act of adoration.
- E. Zamar - (**Ps. 149:3**) : Literally, to “pluck the strings”, to touch with the fingers parts of a musical instrument, to sing with instruments.
- F. Tehillah - (**Ps. 40:3**) : To sing extemporaneously; halal in song, to sing in the spirit or from the spirit, an ode of the spirit, residual song of one’s spirit.
- G. Shabach - (**Ps. 47:1**) : To “glory” in the shout, proclaiming with a loud voice, unashamedly, the glory, triumph, power, mercy and love of God. To address in a loud tone.

III. THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HIS KINGDOM

- A. He is higher than any other.
- B. All things were made by Him.
- C. He is the Ruler of all love, righteousness and light.
- D. He has delivered us from the kingdom of satan.
- E. He makes us partakers of His nature.

IV. THE DECLARATION OF HIS POWER

- A. God is Omnipotent.
- B. He extends His power to us.
 - 1. He sets us free from the power of sin.
 - 2. He delivers us from the power of the curse.
- C. He gives us the authority to use His power (**Ps. 68:35**).
 - 1. Over sickness.
 - 2. Over satanic forces.
 - 3. Against man-made institutions.

V. THE DEMONSTRATION OF HIS GLORY

- A. He is the King of Glory (**Ps. 24:8**).
- B. He invites us to be a participant of His glory.
 - 1. We are changed into His image (**2 Cor. 3:18**).
 - 2. We are molded into His likeness.
- C. We must walk worthy of His glory (**1 Thess. 2:12**).
 - 1. We must reject vain glory.
 - 2. We give to Him what is His.

VII. THE PREOCCUPATION OF GOD HIMSELF: WORSHIP

- A. Not for what He has done.
- B. But for who He is (**Rev. 5:13**).

VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. Praise God for bringing you into His Kingdom.

- B. Praise Him for your participation in His Kingdom.
- C. Praise Him for His power in your life.
- D. Thank Him for the authority to use His power.

LESSON 9 EXPECTING ANSWERS TO PRAYERS

TEXT : “AND ALL THINGS YOU ASK IN PRAYER, BELIEVING YOU SHALL RECEIVE.”

I. PRAYER THROUGH PETITION

- A. Various forms of petition (asking).
 - 1. Petitions for emotional and physical needs.
 - 2. Petitions for spiritual needs.
 - 3. Petitions for God’s will to be done.
 - 4. Petitions for God’s word to be fulfilled.
- B. We should primarily petition for the needs of others.
 - 1. God’s will foremost.
 - 2. The needs of others.
- C. Petitions are God’s gift.
 - 1. Give us this day our daily bread.
 - 2. Are our petitions of eternal value?

II. UNANSWERED PRAYER

Text: “Ye ask and receive not because ye ask amiss.” (James 4:3).

- A. The problem of unanswered prayer.
 - 1. The importance of honesty.
 - 2. Some questions to ask:
Does the prayer glorify God?
Is it in God’s will to pray for such?
Will it contribute to the Kingdom of God?
- B. Reasons why we fail in prayer.
 - 1. A selfish purpose in prayer.
Change the subject from “me” to “God”.
 - 2. Misplaced faith.
 - a. The necessity of faith in God (**Heb. 11:6**)
 - b. The test of faith.
 - 3. A secret sympathy with sin (**Isa. 59:1-2**).
 - 4. Condemnation (**1 John 3:20-22**).
 - 5. An unforgiving spirit (**Mark 11:25-26**).
 - 6. A wrong marital relationship (**1 Pet. 3:7**).

8. Unbelief (**James 1:5-8**).
9. Satanic attacks (**Dan. 10:12-13**).
10. Idolatry (**Eze. 14:3**).

III. EXPECTING ANSWERS

A. The purpose of praying.

1. Prayer is not an end in itself. It is:
 - a. not just a therapeutic exercise.
 - b. not something we have done (finished).
 - c. not an act of performance.
 - d. not a routine or habit.

B. What do answers to prayer mean?

1. Answered prayer is the proof of our real praying.
 - a. It is the answer to prayer which makes praying a power for God and for man and makes praying real and divine.
 - b. It is the answer to prayer which brings things to pass, changes the natural trend of things, and orders all things according to the will of God.
2. Answer to prayer is the convincing proof of our right relations to God.
Examples:
 - a. Jesus' prayer at the grave of Lazarus, **John 11:41-42**. The answer of His prayer was the proof of His mission from God.
 - b. Elijah's prayer for the woman's son who died, **1 Kings 17:21-24**. Upon receiving her son raised from the dead, the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth."

3. Answer to prayer is the part of prayer which glorifies God.

It is not the act of praying which gives efficacy to prayer:

- a. not the postures of the body.
- b. not the diction nor the eloquence of tongue.
- c. not the length of time spent.
- d. not the manner prayer is offered.
- e. not the language used.

All these do not glorify God. ***It is the answers to prayer that glorify God!***

C. The Lord's teaching on prayer.

1. Jesus often declared and repeated the answers to prayer as an inducement to pray, and as an inevitable result of prayer.
 - a. Scripture texts: **John 14:13-14; John 15:7, 16; 16:23-24; Matt. 21:22; Mark 11:24.**
 - b. Jesus' use of the all-inclusive words of "whatever", "anything" and "all things", should move us to believe and pray.
 - c. Jesus pledged His Father's desire to give when He said, "He will give it to you" (**John 15:16; 16:23**). Such assuring promises await us who will pray and expect answers.
 2. Our Lord's invariable teaching was that we receive that for which we ask, and obtain that for which we seek, and have that door opened at which we knock.
 - a. Scripture texts: **Matt. 7:7-8.**
 - b. The above texts speak not only of perseverance in prayer, but of the progressive stages of intensity and efforts in the outlay of increasing spiritual force. Asking, seeking and knocking.
- D. The teaching of God's Fatherhood.
1. God is our Father.
 - a. Scripture text: **Matt. 7:9-11.**
 - b. Just as earthly parents hear and answer the cry of need of their children; so if our prayer is as needy and hungry as a child's cry for bread, how much more God, our Father in heaven, will answer us.
 2. God, our Father, is able.
 - a. He invites us to ask (**Ps. 2:8; Jer. 32:27; James 1:5**).
 - b. God thus places Himself under obligation to answer the prayer of him who truly prays and asks.
 3. God, our Father, is good.
 - a. Scripture texts: **James 1:17; Matt. 7:9-11.**
 - b. Our Father in heaven gives good gifts too, and His goodness does not change.
- E. The teaching of Paul.
1. To pray always (**1 Thess. 5:17**).
 2. To pray everywhere (**1 Tim. 2:8**).
 3. To pray in everything (**Phil. 4:6**).

Would Paul exhort us to do such if he did not know that God would answer? We can be assured that God will answer always, everywhere and in everything!

IV. CONCLUSION

God the Father and Jesus Christ, His Son, are both strongly committed by all the truth of their word and by the faithfulness of their Character, to answer prayer.

LESSON 10 INTERCEDING IN PRAYER

TEXT : "I SEARCHED FOR A MAN.....WHO SHOULD STAND IN THE GAP BEFORE ME."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Intercessory prayer means to plead with God for someone else who cannot plead for himself:
 - 1. Sinners or "heathens" (**Ps. 2:8**).
 - 2. Christians with spiritual problems.
 - 3. Backsliders.

- B. Root meaning of the word.
The Hebrew root word for intercessor or intercession is "paga" (paw-gah), meaning "*to come between, to assail, to cause to entreat*".

- C. Standing in the gap (**Eze. 22:30-31**).
 - 1. Jesus filled that gap: He became the Mediator between God and man by giving Himself as a sacrifice for sin.
 - 2. But believers should also see themselves as intercessors:
 - a. Standing between God and the person(s) for whom we are praying, pleading for God to intervene.
 - b. We also stand between satan and that person, battling and pushing back the powers of darkness.

II. THE CONCEPT OF INTERCESSION

- A. Invoking God's blessing on behalf of others.
 - 1. Abraham: Lot in Sodom & Gomorrah (**Gen. 18:22-32**).
 - 2. Moses: (**Exo. 32:11-14**).
 - 3. Stephen: (**Acts 7:60**).
 - 4. Peter: (**Acts 12:5, 17**).

- B. Gaining entry into the spiritual world.
 - 1. Leaving the natural and entering into the spiritual realm.
 - 2. It is getting into spiritual warfare in the spiritual realm.
Spiritual forces in the heavenly realm (**Eph. 6:12**).
There was war in heaven (**Rev. 12:7**).
 - 3. Moses: battle against the Amalekites - spiritual darkness (**Exo. 17:8-13**).

- C. A determined conquest involving personal sacrifice.
 - 1. It is a costly warfare (Moses' hand grew tired).
 - 2. This is not a quick prayer- but a taking time to cry out on another's behalf

III. INTERCESSION IS LOVE ON ITS KNEES

A. Prayer for others is one of the best ways of loving.

1. Jesus: love one another.

To love the brethren with a pure heart.
Love not with words and mouth but in action and truth.

2. Intercessory prayer is pure expression of love.

It is love on its knees.
Done in privacy, not to boast.
Done from the heart.

Andrew Murray states: "God's intense longing to bless seems in some sense to be graciously limited by His dependence on intercession. God regards intercession as the highest expression of His people's readiness to receive and to yield themselves wholly to the working of His Almighty Power."

V. INTERCESSION INVOLVES WORKING TOGETHER WITH GOD

A. Christ is the chief Intercessor (**Heb. 7:25**).

B. We are to be labourers together with God.

1. In service (**1 Cor. 3:9**).
2. In prayer (**Matt. 9:37-38**).
3. In intercession (**Rom. 8:26-27**).

VIII. CONCLUSION

Intercession is the unfinished work of Christ. Christ is still continually interceding for us. Christ is our Advocate.

LESSON 11 LEARNING TO LISTEN IN PRAYER

TEXT : "GUARD YOUR STEPS AS YOU GO TO THE HOUSE OF GOD, AND DRAW NEAR TO LISTEN...."

I. INTRODUCTION

To listen in prayer is to mentally absorb divine instructions from God concerning specific matters for that day. We should say, "Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth" but we usually say, "Hear, Lord for thy servant speaketh".

II. LISTENING IS THE QUIETENING OF THE SOUL

- A. Quietening of the total being. "Be still...." (Ps. 46:10).
In silence God will speak. To often our prayers are spent with us doing all the talking. We need to take time to listen to what God has to say to us.
- B. Being aware of God's presence by stilling our mind.
- C. Be in an attitude of waiting. Need discipline.

III. LISTENING IS A TIME OF RELEASE FROM THE WORLD

- A. Breaking from the fast pace.
 - 1. There are many voices from the world today that are competing for our attention: TV, advertisements, magazines, computer networks, religions, etc. They bring confusion.
 - 2. We must listen to God's voice which brings peace.
- B. Even Jesus Himself, when He was on earth, took time to be alone to commune with God (Mark 1:35).

IV. LISTENING IS THE BETTER HALF OF CONVERSATION

- A. If conversation is meaningful and important to both, each must listen.
- B. Illustration: when one is conversing with an expert of a certain field, often the expert is the one doing most of the talking. The expert would have much to say since he is supposed to know everything about that subject.
- C. God is the Expert of all experts.

He is the Expert concerning His will and purpose for our lives. So we should learn to listen to Him telling us what to do.

VII. LISTENING IS THE KEY TO CREATIVE PRAYER

- A. God reveals creative thoughts.

- B. David listened to God - pertaining to building of the temple (**1 Chron. 28:19**).
- C. Even in silent moments of prayer (**Jer. 33:3**). If there is no voice, do not poke yourself and start hearing voices which are not from God.

VIII. THE CONCEPT OF CONVERSATIONAL PRAYER

- A. Personal dialogue with God.
- B. Sharing secrets with God hearing the secrets God has to share with us
- C. Speaking in a relaxed language.
- D. We must learn to listen.
- E. Speaking should be as intimate friends.
- F. Biblical examples: Abraham (**Gen. 15; 17:1-22; 18:16-33**).
Moses (**Exo. 3:1-22; 19**).
Samuel (**1 Sam. 3:1-10, 19-21; 12:23**).

LESSON 12 PRAYING GOD'S WORD AND PROMISES

TEXT : "IF YOU ABIDE IN ME, AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, ASK WHATEVER YOU WISH, AND IT SHALL BE DONE FOR YOU."

I. WORD PRAYING

A. Introduction:

1. The relationship of the Word and prayer.
 - a. God provides the Word of God - the Sword of the Spirit as our primary weapon for confronting the enemy (**Eph. 6:10**).
 - b. The Word of God trains and equips us to be effective spiritual warriors.
2. The importance of using the Word in our prayer.
 - a. Jesus wielded this very same weapon to push back Satan's assault (**Luke 4:4-12**). We can do no less.
 - b. Praying the Scriptures and declaring God's Word against satanic attacks push back the powers of darkness and bring spiritual victory.
3. The importance of praying what God wants.
 - a. God's Word is truth, and the truth sets us free (**John 8:36; 3:20**).
 - b. God desires truth and when we pray and speak God's Word of truth, the devil trembles and flees.
 - c. Moreover, the Holy Spirit will work through the truth of Scriptures to correct us, to nourish our spirit and to strengthen our faith.
 - d. In abiding in God's truth, we learn to desire God's will and pray what God wants for us in our lives.
 - e. In praying what God wants, we receive and glorify God for His answer and supply.

B. God's Word in prayer is God Himself speaking (**John 1:1, 18; John 15:7**).

C. God's Word reveals His nature and power (**Ps. 103**).

D. God's Word is vital in prayer because it is life (**John 6:63**).

E. God's Word is vital in prayer because it builds faith (**Heb. 11:3; Rom. 10:8-9, 17**).

F. God's Word prepares and equips the prayer warrior for service (**Ps. 119:9, 11; Luke 4:1-14; Eph. 6:17-18**).

G. God has committed Himself to us by His Word in our praying (**John 14:13-14; 16:23**).

II. PRAYING GOD'S PROMISES

A. God has given to us exceeding great and precious promises but their realization, the possibility and condition of that realization are based on prayer (**2 Pet. 1:4**).

1. God's promises cover all things which pertain to life and godliness, which relate to body and soul, which have to do with time and eternity.
2. Prayer and the promises are interdependent.

The promises inspire and energize prayer, but prayers locate the promises, and give them realization and location.

3. Example:

a. The promise of blessings to Abraham and his descendants in **Gen. 22:15-18** was specific, clear and personal. But Rebekah through whom the promise was to flow was childless. Isaac prayed to the Lord (**Gen. 25:21**) and his praying opened the way for the fulfilment of God's promise.

b. God spoke to Jacob and made definite promises to him in **Gen. 31:3**.

Gen. 32:7 tells us that he was greatly afraid of Esau's unappeased vengeance against him. Jacob threw himself directly on God's promise by a night of prayer and wrestling (**Gen. 32:9-12; 24-30**). In **Gen. 33:1-17**, the promise of God to Jacob was fulfilled as Esau's whole attitude towards his brother was radically changed and love took the place of fear and hate and the brothers showed each other true brotherly affection. But it took that fearful night of wrestling on Jacob's part to make the promise sure and cause it to bear fruit.

B. Prayer is based directly and specifically upon God's revealed promises in Christ Jesus.

1. The converse of this proposition is also true. God's promises are dependent and conditional upon prayer to appropriate them and make them a conscious realization.

2. Example: the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Jesus' promise in **Luke 24:48-49; Acts 1:5, 8**.

Fulfillment took place only as the disciples obeyed and prayed for its realization (**Acts 1:14; 2:1-4**).

3. Spurgeon: Every promise of Scripture is a writing of God, which may be pleaded before Him with this reasonable request: "Do as Thou hast said".

C. It is God's highest pleasure to answer prayer to prove the reliability of His promises.

"Prove me now....." **Mal. 4:10**.

III. PRAYING WITH FAITH

- A. God, by promise, puts all things He possess into man's hands. Prayer and faith put man in possession of this boundless inheritance.

1. Prayer and faith are Siamese twins.
Faith is always praying; praying is always believing.
Prayer asks; faith lays its hands on the thing asked for.
2. Example: Elijah's prayer on Mount Carmel (**1 Kings. 18:20-40**).
3. When God's promise and man's praying are united by faith, then "nothing shall be impossible".

IV. KNOW YOUR SCRIPTURES

- A. Scriptures that will help us come to a place of faith and readiness so that our prayers can be truly powerful and effective.

1. **Rom. 13:11-14.**
"The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light....clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature."
2. **2 Cor. 10:3-4.**
"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."
3. **1 Tim. 6:12.**
"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses."
4. **Zech. 4:6.**
"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty.
5. **Mark 14:38.**
"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."
6. **Col. 4:2.**
"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."
7. **Heb. 12:1-2.**
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

8. **1 Pet. 1:13-15.**

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do....”

9. **1 Pet. 4:7.**

“The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.”

10. **Jude 1:20.**

“But you, dear friends, build yourselves up on your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.”

B. Christ’s authority given to believers.

1. **Luke 10:19.**

2. **Deut. 28:13.**

3. **Matt. 16:19.**

4. **John 15:16.**

5. **Eph. 6:10-11, 16.**

6. **Titus 2:15.**

7. **James 4:7.**

8. **Rev. 2:26-27.**

C. The power of the blood of Jesus.

1. **Heb. 9:14.**

2. **Eph. 1:4-5, 7-8.**

3. **Eph. 2:13.**

4. **Heb. 10:19-20, 22-23.**

5. **1 John 1:7.**

6. **Rev. 12:11.**

D. The power of the Word of God.

1. **Isa. 55:11.**

2. **Deut. 32:46-47.**

3. **Jer. 23:29.**

4. **Matt. 12:37.**

5. **Matt. 24:35.**

6. **Luke 1:37.**

7. **John 6:63.**

8. **John 15:7.**

9. **Rom. 10:17.**

10. **2 Pet. 3:8-9.**

E. The weapon of praise.

1. **Heb. 13:15.**

2. **Ps. 9:1-3.**
3. **Ps. 119:108, 175.**
4. **John 4:23-24.**
5. **Hab. 3:17-19.**
6. **Eph. 1:3.**
7. **Luke 1:46-47.**