

Lesson 2 – Understanding Prayer

Praying is “talking” with God. When you pray you should be frank and sincere, the same as the Bible recorded as how Jesus “talked” with God, and taught His disciples.

I. Why do we need to pray?

(1) This is God’s command:

“You should _____ pray.” (Luke 18:1)

“And pray in the Spirit, _____.” (Ephesians 6:18)

(2) This is your need:

(a) You can

(I Peter 5:7) _____

(b) Seek God’s leading:

“If you call upon Me, I will show you great and mighty things which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

(c) Receive mercy and find grace in your time of need

(Hebrews 4:16) _____

(3) What things do you need to pray for?

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in _____ by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your _____ to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

II. The content of prayer

Please draw a line between the verse and the correct description of prayer.

Content:

Verse:

1. praise: praise God’s nature	1 John 1:9
2. thanksgiving: thank God for his grace	Philippians. 4:6-7
3. ask: ask God to meet your own needs	Psalms 135:3
4. intercession: ask God to meet the needs of others	1 Thessalonians 5:18
5. confession: ask God to forgive you sins	1 Timothy 2:1

III. Three answers to prayer.

- Yes (green light), you can proceed.
- No (red light), you cannot proceed.
- Wait (yellow light), God does not respond, you must be patient.

The Will of God

- (1) What God has commanded us to do – This is what God has already determined; it can never be changed by what or how a person prays.
- (2) What God allows – Sometimes, because a person pleads with God, He will allow us to receive this, but we must take responsibility for what we receive.
- (3) What is pleasing to God – (Romans 12:2)

IV. New attitudes that result from prayer

<u>Attitude:</u>	<u>Verse:</u>
1. have faith.....	“But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt...” (James 1:6)
2. have motivation.....	“....You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives....” (James 4:2-3)
3. confession of sins.....	“If I cherish sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.” (Psalms 66:18)
4. asking according to His will.....	“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will , he hears us.” (1 John 5:14)
5. praying with a faithful heart.....	“.....they should always pray and not give up.” (Luke 18:1)

Hints for Effective Prayer:

1. Man needs to pray “in Jesus’ name” (John 14:13). Because only through Jesus can man come before God (John 14:6).
2. Ending our prayer with “amen” means praying with one’s true heart. Matthew 6:13.
3. Prayer has many parts: praise, thanksgiving, requests, intercession, confession.
4. Pray in natural understanding language, avoid babbling.
5. There is no limit on time and place of prayer. One can pray at any time of the day and at any place.

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