

Week Nine

# PRAYER

Today you begin your ninth week of our study. No doubt, prayer has become something very important to you, as it should be. Yet, even in this greatest of privileges you may have experienced struggles. Prayer is not natural, but like so many other facets of being a disciple of Jesus, it has to be learned. This week you will concentrate on prayer.



"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" James 5:16

## **Wednesday**     [Approach with Confidence](#)

1. Think of someone in your life whom you can go to with confidence in any type of situation. How does that make you feel?
2. Read **Ephesians 3:10-12** and **Hebrews 4:14-16**. These passages both use the word "confidence" to describe how we approach God. What does this mean to you? Of what can we be confident?
3. Why, as disciples of Jesus, are we able to come to God with such confidence?
4. When would be the only time that we could be confident in coming to God?
5. As you pray today, thank God for Jesus who has made it possible for us to come to God without fear.

## Thursday Jesus: Man of Prayer

1. No one will have a meaningful prayer life who does not appreciate the importance of prayer and perhaps nothing helps us see this importance more than the life of Jesus. Read **Luke 5:15-16; 6:12-13; 9:18; 11:1; Mark 1:32-36; and Hebrews 5:7-10.**

2. Because of these statements about Jesus. G. S. Thompson has written: "Prayer was the atmosphere in which he lived. It was the air he breathed." Robert Coleman commenting on the same scriptures has written: "**Prayer was indeed the sweat and tears of His ministry. The battle of the cross was fought and won on His knees.**" The same author also wrote: "Jesus never got behind in His work because He never got behind in prayer."

3. Write down what the example of Jesus means to you in relationship to your prayer life.

## Friday Surrender

There are certain things necessary for effective, joyful prayer. For the next several days, we want to concentrate on some of these.

- As a disciple what should be your main objective as you pray? Read carefully **Matthew 26:36-44** and **I John 5:14-15.**
- What is wrong if an attitude of surrender of God is not at the heart of our prayers?
- Why did **Hebrews 5:7** say that Jesus was heard by God? How can you tell if your prayers are unsubmitive prayers?
- What prayers of surrender do you need to pray today?

## Saturday Faith

1. Another key element in prayer is faith. Prayer alone without faith has no effect (read **Hebrews 11:6**).

2. Read Joshua 10:12-14. Faith carries our prayers to the ears of God. God listened to a man-Joshua - because he prayed believing, and the sun and moon stood still. Joshua asked for something that was impossible, yet he asked the God who makes "all things possible."

3. Read again Mark 11:22-24. What doubts have you had as you prayed? What situations seem impossible? Where do these doubts come from?

## **Sunday**      [" Teach Us to Pray"](#)

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. For the next two days we want to concentrate on some practical guidelines for prayer.

1. Read **Matthew 6:5-8** and **Luke 5:15-16**. What do these passages seem to be telling you about prayer?
2. As you look at your living situation, what arrangements must you make to have a time and place to be alone with God?

## **Monday**      [Pray Like This](#)

Read the prayer in **Matthew 6:7-13**.

1. List the several different elements that make up this prayer. Which of these do you focus on regularly? Which do you tend to neglect?
2. Many times our prayers are concentrated on asking for certain needs to be met. Jesus teaches us to first of all focus on God and give him the honor and praise he deserves.
3. Do you have difficulty praising God? If so, use the Book of Psalms to train you. Start out with **Psalms 24**. Read it aloud.

## **Tuesday**      [The Joy of Prayer](#)

1. If we are to pray powerfully we must not only see the importance of prayer and the need for surrender and faith in prayer, but we must appreciate the joy of prayer. Read **Phillippians 1:3-6, 4:4-7** and **I Thessalonians 5:16-18**.
2. Why should your prayer life bring you joy? Can it do this even in the midst of trials?
3. What are some possible things that are wrong if a Christian does not see prayer as a source of joy?
4. As you close this week of study on prayer, what patterns of prayer do you have in your life at this time? What changes do you want to make?
5. What do we do when God answers our prayers? Do we take time to appreciate Him or do we selfishly gloat for more things?