

# CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

## LESSON 6

### PRAYER

#### 1. WHAT PRAYER IS

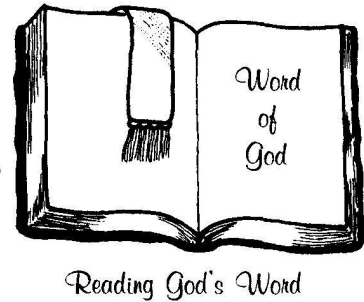
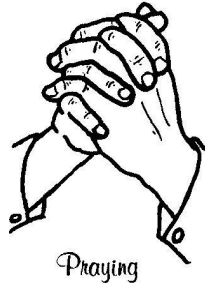
Prayer is talking with God, or having fellowship with Him.

#### 2. PRAYER IS IMPORTANT

Praying and reading God's Word are the two most important things in a Christian's life.

They are important because this is the way to have fellowship with God. Jesus showed us this by His life. He spent much time in prayer. It is by praying and reading God's Word that we have fellowship with God. By reading God's Word we begin to know God. When we pray we begin to do what God wants us to do.

*Important for Christians:*



Learning to pray is like learning to do any other thing. We often make mistakes and do not pray as we should. The more we pray, the more we will know how to pray. The more we pray, the more we want to pray about everything that happens in our life.

What is prayer?

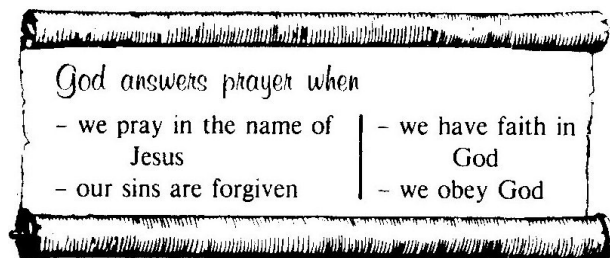
Why is prayer important?

#### 3. GOD WILL ANSWER OUR PRAYERS:

##### A. God answers when we pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

In order to pray to God we must pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Because of our sinful self we are not good enough to pray to God.

How can we pray to God? John 14:13,14



What did Christ do for us so that we can come

before God in prayer? Hebrews 10:19,20

There is no saint or person except Christ through whom we can pray, 1 Timothy 2:5. When we pray, we come to God through the name of Jesus. We can do this because Jesus shed His blood.

When will God answer our prayer?

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- When our sins are forgiven.
- When we have faith in God.
- When we obey God.

### **B. God answers when our sins are forgiven.**

Read 1 Peter 3:12. To whom does the Lord listen?

To whom does the Lord not listen?

When does the Lord not listen to us? Psalm 66:18

Sin is like grass and sticks in a fish net. Sin keeps us from getting God's blessing. Sin is like noise on a radio - it keeps God from hearing us. It also keeps us from hearing God.

1 Timothy 2:8 tells us three things about prayer. What are they?

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Our life must be clean. We must not doubt or be angry when we pray.

When will God answer our prayer?

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- When we have faith in God.
- When we obey God.

### **C. God answers when we have faith in God.**

What must we have if we want to receive anything from God?

Read Romans 4:19-21. What did Abraham show according to these verses?

We must have faith if we want to receive anything from God. If we doubt, God cannot answer us.

### **D. God answers when we obey Him.**

What must we do to receive the thing we ask of God? 1 John 3:22

Read Daniel chapter 3. We see here that the friends of Daniel obeyed God. God answered their prayer. God kept them safe in the big heater of fire.

When will God answer our prayer?

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## **4. REASONS FOR PRAYING**

### **A. The first reason for praying is to bring glory to God.**

Should we pray only for what we want? Or is there a far greater reason for praying?

Why does Jesus answer our prayers? John 14:13

As Christians we should have one great desire in our life. This desire should be to bring glory to God. We bring glory to God by helping people see how great He is. This is done by our life, in what we do and in what we say.

## **B. The second reason is that it keeps us in close fellowship with God.**

When we are in close fellowship with the Lord, we will know what He wants us to do. When we talk often with the Lord, He will show us what is good for us and what is not good for us. When we are not living close to the Lord, it is easy to ask for things that are not good for us.

Read 1 John 5:14. What kind of things should we ask for?

Read 1 John 5:15. What can we know that God will do?

Why should we pray?

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- We pray to bring glory to God and to have fellowship with God.

## **C. The third reason for praying is to help us remember that we need Someone to help us all the time.**

It is easy for us to become proud. Sometimes we feel strong and think we can take care of ourselves. When we pray, we learn that we can live the Christian life only by God's help.

Who helps us when we pray? Romans 8:26,27

Why should we pray?

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## **5. TIME FOR PRAYING**

### **A. Devotions.**

Devotions is sitting quietly when we read the Bible and pray. The most important time for prayer is during our devotions. We should have devotions at a certain time every day. It should be a time when we are not bothered by others.

What were the times David set aside for prayer? Psalm 55:17

How many times a day did Daniel pray? Daniel 6:10

When we have our devotions it is good to read a part of the Bible. Then we should pray that the Lord will show us what He wants to teach us from these verses. We ask Him to show how to use in our life what we have learned. Often we may read in the Bible the same things we want to pray about.

When should we pray by ourselves?

## **B. All the time.**

How can we find the Lord? Jeremiah 29:13

What does Paul say about prayer? 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Paul tells us to pray without ceasing. He means that we should be in such close fellowship with God that we would share everything with Him even as we would with our best friend. We can do this all day long.

## **C. With others.**

Four times in the book of Acts we read about people praying together.

How were they praying in Acts 1:14?

According to Matthew 18:19,20, what does God promise to those who pray together?

Do you remember when we should pray?

- We should pray alone morning, noon and evening.
- We should pray all the time.
- We should pray together with others.

## **6. KINDS OF PRAYER**

There are five different kinds of prayer. We can use all the kinds in one prayer or we may use only some of the kinds of prayer.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONFESSION</b> confess sin to God</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRAISE</b> tell God we love Him</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PETITION</b> ask God for what we need</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTERCESSION</b> pray for others</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THANKSGIVING</b> say thank you to God</p>

### **A. Confession.**

The first kind is confession. When we confess our sins, we tell God about the sins we have done. We ask Him to forgive us. We tell Him that we are too weak to live the spiritual life by ourselves. When our sins are forgiven, and we see our weakness, we can start to pray for other things. It is sin that hinders us from praying the way we should.

We read in 2 Chronicles 7:14, (KJV)

*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Read James 5:16. What are we to do before God will hear us?

What kind of a person can do much through prayer?

Therefore we should start our prayer with confessing our sin to God. A righteous man can do much through prayer.

### **B. Praise.**

The second kind of prayer is praise. This is when we really worship God. This is when we tell Him that we love Him. This is when we let Him know that we see Him as the High and Holy One and the great Creator. We thank God for His power and greatness.

What does Psalm 150 tell us to do?

Read Acts 16:25. What did Paul and Silas do in prison?

We already know two kinds of prayer. Write these two kinds.

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### C. Petition.

The third kind of prayer is petition. Petition is asking God for things we need. It is like a little child asking his daddy for something he needs. It shows us that we really need God to help us. We can do nothing by ourselves.

What will the Father give to them that ask Him? Matthew 7:11

What does God promise us when we ask Him? John 15:7

### D. Intercession.

- **What is intercession?**

Intercession is praying for others. It makes us happy to help others carry a load. It makes us happy to see God meet their needs, Philippians 1:4.

For whom did Paul pray in Colossians 1:9?

This is intercession.

- **For whom we should pray.**

We as Christians should be praying for **our children**, that they will be saved and that they will live for Christ. Hannah prayed for a boy, 1 Samuel 1:11. She promised to give him to the Lord. God answered her prayer. This boy was Samuel. Samuel lived for God. Job prayed for his children. He wanted them to be right with God, Job 1:5.

We should also pray for our **family and friends**. We want them to go to heaven, too. We know about their needs and can best pray for them.

Prayer can reach farther than ourselves, our family, our friends, and our **settlement**. Prayer can reach **all the way around the world**.

There are many stories of how missionaries' lives have been saved because someone thousands of miles away felt a need to pray for them.

One time a missionary wife was in a hospital 700 miles from home. She did not know that her husband was out fire-fighting. However, she felt that her husband was in real danger. She prayed most of the night and next day. Then suddenly in the afternoon of the second day she knew that what was going to happen, had happened. Three weeks later when her husband could write her, she found out that her husband and others with him were surrounded by fire. Also the very hour they were brought to safety, she had been at peace.

Praying for others in different countries helps us understand that they also need God's love. God loves every person in the world. As we pray for other people, we will also love them, 1 Timothy 2:4.

Who are we told to pray for in 2 Thessalonians 3:1,2?

The minister is not able to do a good work in his church unless the people of the church are praying for him. The missionary works among people who have never heard about Jesus Christ. He can not do a good work unless there are Christians praying for him.

Who are we to pray for in 1 Timothy 2:2?

Are we to pray for those who make it hard for us? Matthew 5:44

In 1956 five missionaries were killed by Indians in South America. The Christian people all over the world prayed for those Indians. Today many of those Indians know and love the Lord Jesus. They are telling other tribes about Jesus.

We should also pray for those who have problems.

Read Acts 12:7-15. What do you think the people were praying for?

We should pray for these people: our children, our relatives, our friends, people all over the world, preachers, missionaries, kings, those who rule over us, and those who have problems.

Now you know four kinds of prayer. Write all of them.

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### **E. Thanksgiving.**

This is when we say, "Thank you" to God for what He has done for us.

What are we to do when we ask for something? Philippians 4:6



Often we forget to thank God for the many things He has done for us, or given us. Not to be thankful is a great sin, Romans 1:21.

Now you know five kinds of prayer. Write all of them.

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## 7. HOW GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

There are three ways in which God usually answers prayer.

*God answers prayer  
"yes" – "no" – "wait"*

### A. Sometimes God answers "Yes".

He gives us a clear and definite answer by doing what we asked for. This answer is easiest for us to understand and accept.

### B. Sometimes God answers "No".

This answer we find hard to take. When we understand how little we know about what will happen, it is easier to take God's "no." When we understand that we don't know what is good for us, we can take this answer. Sometimes we ask for something and God shows us in our hearts that we should not ask for that. Sometimes He will not do what we ask.

### C. Sometimes God answers "Wait".

This answer is the hardest for us to understand.

What does Hebrews 10:35,36 tell us to do?

Some mothers have waited all their life to see their children come to Christ. Some have even died before their children came to Christ, but their children did come to Christ in answer to their prayers.

God promised Abraham a son, Genesis 17:15-17. Abraham waited until he was very old before God gave him a son by Sarah, Genesis 21:2.

God is never ahead of time, and He is never behind time in answering our prayers. The answer

comes when God knows it is the right time. We must learn to wait upon Him.

How does God answer when we pray?

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## **MEMORY VERSE**

**Memorize:** John 16:24

## **DO YOU REMEMBER?**

1. What is prayer?

2. Why is prayer important?

3. When will God answer our prayer?

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4. Why should we pray?

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5. When should we pray?

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6. Write the five kinds of prayer.

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7. How does God answer when we pray?

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## **WORDS TO LEARN**

1. according - as done by, or as said by.
2. without ceasing - without stopping, no end.
3. devotions - "quiet time", time spent in fellowship with God - reading the Bible and praying.
4. glory - the shining greatness of God.
5. glorify - to lift up someone or something for others to praise.
6. petition - to ask God for things needed.
7. praise - to tell God, "You are great and we love You".
8. prayer - talking with God.
9. proud - to think too much of ourselves.
10. intercession - prayer for others.