

WEEK 7: PRAYING  
DAY 1: TALKING AND LISTENING TO GOD

1. Last week our lessons were about the work of the Holy Spirit. We learned about bearing fruit, what to do about temptation, and what to do if we sinned. We also learned about becoming a man of God.

How can we grow in our spiritual life?

What is the mature Christian life like?

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2. We grow in our spiritual life when we put away the old life and put on the new life. A mature Christian life is holy and stable like Christ's life.

When Jesus was on earth, the people could talk with him face to face. They could ask him questions and he answered them. When they asked for help, he helped them. Now Jesus has returned to heaven, but we still can pray to him. He still speaks to us through the Word of God, the Bible.

Today we will learn that praying is two things:

- 1) Talking to God.
- 2) Listening to God.

Do you think this is an important part of following Jesus?

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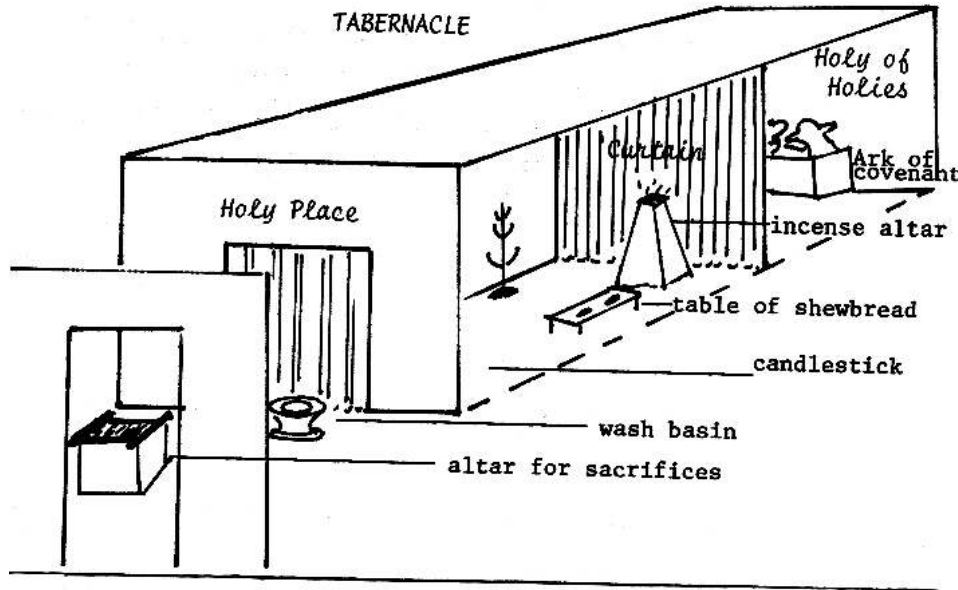
3. It is a very important part. Without this we will not continue following Jesus. We have seen that God wanted Adam and Eve to be his friends. He wants us to have fellowship with him. He wants us to tell him that we love him. He wants us to come to him for help and fellowship.

To whom are we talking when we pray?

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4. We talk to God through prayer. We can come directly (straight) to him. This has not always been true. In Old Testament times, a tent with two rooms was made for God. Every day the priests served God in the first room. The second room of this tent was closed with a curtain. Only the high priest could go into it once a year. He had to take the blood of

an animal with him. This blood covered the sins of the people. But now we have a better way. We can now come to God through the blood of Christ. We can talk to him at any time or place. Take your Bible now and read Hebrews 10:19 to 22.



What do we call it when we talk to God?

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5. We call it praying. If a chief or prime minister wants us to come and talk with him, it is a great honour. But God is greater than any man. He wants us to come and talk with him at any time.

Should we be in a special place to talk with him?

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6. We do not have to be in a special place. We do not have to pray at a special time. We do not have to bring sacrifices. Jesus has promised that God will hear us and will answer us.

John 16:23

*I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.*

Matthew 7:7-8

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and*

*the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*

What will God do when we pray in Jesus name?

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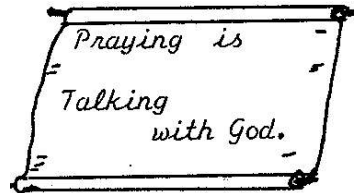
7. He will answer us. When we pray, we talk with God. We tell him about ourselves and ask him for things. But it is not enough to only talk to him. When we go to visit a friend, we both talk. We talk for awhile, and then we let our friend talk. What would our friend think if we talked all the time? He would not want us to come back again. But some people do that when they pray. They do all the talking. They do not let God speak to them through his Word. They do not listen to him.



What do we call it when we talk to God and listen to him?

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8. We call it praying. One day in school, a teacher asked the students, "What is prayer?" One student answered, "Praying is conversing with God." He was right. When we pray, we talk to God. But we must also do something else.

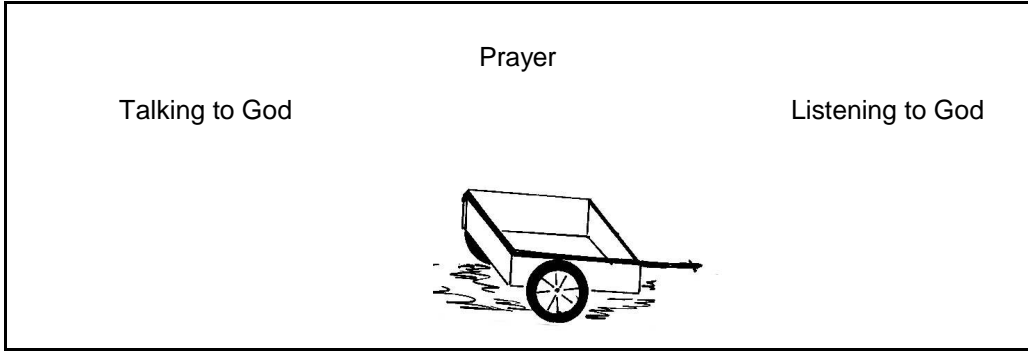


Besides talking to God when we pray, what else must we do?

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9. We must listen. We must let him talk to us. Many people get down on their knees. They spend all the time talking to God. When they are finished speaking, they say, "Amen." Then they go away to their work. They do not give God any time to talk to them through his Word. They do not treat God as kindly as they treat their friends.

Prayer is like a wagon with two wheels. When one wheel is broken, the wagon does not move along very well.



When you pray, do you spend more time talking to God or listening to him?

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10. We will talk about your answer in class.

The boy Samuel in the Bible learned to listen to God. His mother took him to the tabernacle (tent church) to help the priest. One night he heard a voice calling him. He went to Eli the priest. But Eli had not called Samuel. Three times Samuel heard the voice. Three times he went to Eli. But each time Eli said he had not called.



1 Samuel 3:8-9

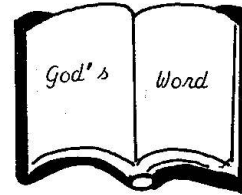
*The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'"*

*Samuel did this. God spoke to Samuel and showed him what he was going to do. These are good words for us to say too. When we pray we should say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."*

Then what should we do?

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11. We should listen to his Word. This is part of praying. We should often say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Then we should be quiet and wait for the Lord to show us things through his Word. God speaks to us through his Word, the Bible. We read this in Psalm 119:105.



Psalm 119:105

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

Some Christians do not listen to God. They are too busy to take time to read the Word of God. God cannot tell them what to do.

Luke 10:39

*She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.*

Listening is the second part of praying. What is the first part?

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12. The first part is talking to God. God invites us to come and talk to him.

Hebrews 4:16

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

Besides talking to God, what must we do when we pray?

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13. We must listen to the Word of God. It is good to have a special time to pray. But we can also pray at any time. The Bible says we should be praying all the time. We can pray quietly at any time while we are working.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

**Memorize these verses this week.**

What is praying?

1)

2)

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14. Praying is talking to God and listening to God. God has made this wonderful way for us to have fellowship with him. We should love to pray to him! We should love to listen to him as he speaks to us through his Word.

One day a man said to his helper, "I am going into my room to pray. Call me in half an hour." At the end of the time, the helper went to call him. Through the window, he could see his friend's face. He was looking towards him. He was smiling. The helper did not want to call him away from such joy.

One and a half hours passed. Finally the helper called the man. The man said, "That was a very short half hour." If we are talking with someone we love, the time passes quickly.

Do you enjoy praying, or do you find it hard to pray?

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15. We will talk about this in class.

What is prayer?

1)

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WEEK 7: PRAYING  
DAY 2: JESUS SHOWED US HOW TO PRAY

1. Yesterday we began to learn about prayer.

What is prayer?

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2. Prayer is talking to God and listening to God through his Word. When Jesus was in the world he showed us how important prayer is. Today we will learn about some of the times when Jesus prayed. Then we can do as Jesus did.

Jesus is the Son of God, yet he often needed to pray. He often talked with his Father. Jesus had no sin. He was wise and had power to do miracles. Yet he needed to spend time in fellowship with his Father. If Jesus needed to pray, how much more we need to pray!

Why do you think we should learn about the times when Jesus prayed?

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3. You could answer in different ways. You could say that we must see how Jesus needed to pray. You could say that we want to learn from him, or we want to do as he did. When Jesus was on earth, he had much work to do. People followed him all the time. Jesus prayed at any time. These are some of the times when he prayed.

1) He prayed early in the morning.

2) He prayed late at night.

3) Sometimes he prayed all night.

4) He prayed when he had to make decisions (choices).

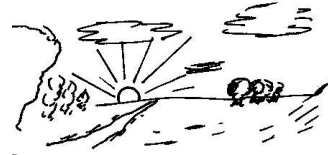
5) He prayed when he was very busy.

At the end of this lesson you will be asked to write three of these.

Take your Bible now and read Mark 1:32 to 35. When did Jesus pray in these verses?

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4. Jesus prayed early in the morning. The Bible says he went out a long time before daylight. Jesus had worked hard the day before. He must have been very tired. It would have been easy for him to sleep long in the morning. But Jesus knew that the next day would also be a busy one. He must do his Father's work, and he needed strength from his Father.



Isaiah 40:31

*. . . but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

If Jesus had not got up early, he would not have had time to pray. The people came early to find him.

Mark 1:36,37

*Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed (said): "Everyone is looking for you!"*

If we know we will be very busy during the day, when should we pray?

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5. We should pray early in the morning. We should also find other times to pray and read the Word of God. This can be difficult. But we need to have fellowship with Jesus.

People followed Jesus all the time. One time there were 5,000 men with him, besides women and children. They were far from their homes and needed food. Jesus fed them in a wonderful way. Then he sent them home. He must have felt like going to bed. But he wanted to talk with his Father more than he wanted to sleep.



Mark 6:46

*After leaving them, he went into the hills to pray.*

What did Jesus do instead of going to sleep?

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6. He prayed. He sent the people home. He sent the disciples away in a boat. Then he went to a quiet place to pray. He stayed there praying for a long time.

Besides praying in the early morning, when did Jesus pray?

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7. He prayed late at night. We read of another time when Jesus was going to have a very busy day. It was the day when he would choose his disciples. The night before, he did not go to bed at all. This is what he did.

Luke 6:12

*One of those days Jesus went out into the hills to pray, and spent the night praying to God.*

In this verse, when did Jesus pray?

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8. He prayed all night. Choosing the disciples was important work. These disciples would have to tell the world about him. They would have to carry on his work after he was gone. Jesus did not want to choose them by himself. He wanted God to help him make the choices.

Write the first three times Jesus prayed.

1)

2)

3)

4) He prayed when he had to make decisions (choices).

5) He prayed when he was very busy.

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9. Jesus prayed early in the morning. He prayed late at night. Sometimes he prayed all night.

What important things did Jesus pray about?

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10. Jesus prayed about the big decisions he had to make. So we have seen four times when Jesus prayed. He prayed early in the morning and late at night. He sometimes prayed all night. He prayed when he had to make decisions. Jesus also prayed when he was very busy.

Luke 5:15,16

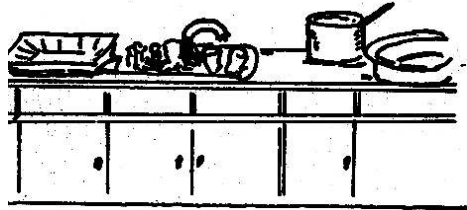
*Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*

There was much work to be done. Many people wanted Jesus to help them. But this time Jesus left them. Perhaps they were angry because he left them.

What is sometimes more important than being busy?

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11. Sometimes it is more important to pray than to be busy. Many of us are very busy. We have to care for people. We have church work to do. But Jesus teaches us that sometimes we must leave our work to go and pray. If we do not take time to talk with our Father, our work will be useless. We must have God's help. We must have his power.



Jesus prayed early in the morning and late at night. He sometimes prayed all night. He prayed when he had to make decisions.

At what other time did he pray?

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12. Jesus prayed when he was very busy. He went away to a special place.

Mark 1:35

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary (quiet) place, where he prayed.*

Mark 6:31,32

*Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest. So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary (quiet) place."*

To what kind of place did Jesus go to pray?

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13. He went to a quiet place. He could be quiet there. He could talk to God and he could listen to God. He would not hear other people talking. He would not hear other noises. He would not have to think about other things. The Lord Jesus has shown us how to pray. The time we spend with God is very important. We must pray to God often. We should plan for time to talk with him every day. We should find a place where we can be quiet and talk with God.

Write three different times when Jesus prayed.

1)

2)

3)

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14. Jesus prayed early in the morning. He prayed late at night. Sometimes he prayed all night. He prayed when he had to make decisions. He prayed when he was very busy.

To what kind of place did Jesus go to pray?



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15. Jesus went to a quiet place to pray. Sometimes it is hard to find a place like this. When I was in Africa, I visited some Christians there. I found that some of them had built prayer huts (little cabins). These were little huts away from their houses. They went there before sunrise to pray and read their Bibles. They kept candles in the little huts. They had to work hard all day, so they got up early to talk with God. It was noisy in their houses. But in the prayer huts they could be quiet. These Christians found a good time and place to pray.

Now I want you to take time and think about your prayer time. You need to choose a time to talk with God and read his Word each day. You need a quiet place where people will not come and talk to you. If you have found these two things you have done well. If you do not have a special time and place to pray and read the Word of God, choose them now. Then write them down here.



I will try to pray and read the Word of God each day at this time:

I will try to pray and read the Word of God each day in this place:

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16. Write three different times when Jesus prayed.

1)

2)

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To what kind of place did Jesus go to pray?

Are you memorizing 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18?

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WEEK 7: PRAYING  
DAY 3: SIN AND WRONG DESIRES STOP ANSWERS TO PRAYER

1. We are learning much about prayer. God has promised to do many things for us through prayer. But sometimes we do not receive the things we ask for. Today we will learn why this is so.

Write three different times when Jesus prayed.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

To what kind of place did Jesus go to pray?

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2. Jesus prayed early in the morning. He prayed late at night. Sometimes he prayed all night. He prayed when he had to make decisions. He prayed when he was very busy. Jesus went to a quiet place when he wanted to pray.

God always answered the prayers of Jesus. But there are some things which keep our prayers from being answered. Today we will learn two of these things which stop answers to prayer. They are:

- 1) sin.
- 2) wrong desires

Psalm 66:18

*If I had cherished (enjoyed) sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.*

What keeps God from answering our prayers?

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3. David said that sin keeps God from answering our prayers. The prophet Isaiah said the same thing. The people of Israel were blaming God because their prayers were not answered. Some were saying, "God is deaf." Others were saying, "God is too weak to help us." But look what Isaiah said.

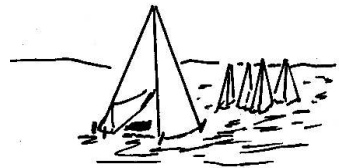
Isaiah 59:1,2

*Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities (sins) have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*

If we have sinned, whose fault is it that our prayers are not answered?

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4. It is our fault. It is our sins which keep God from hearing us. The book of Joshua tells of a time when God would not answer prayer. The children of Israel had tried to take the city of Ai, but they were defeated. Many of their men had been killed. Joshua blamed God for the defeat.



Take your Bible now and read Joshua 7:6 to 11. Why did God not answer their prayer and give them the victory?

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5. The people of Israel had sinned. God said he would not be with them. He would not hear them unless they got rid of the things they had stolen.

When I was a boy, I found out what happens when we hide sin. One day I went into someone's garden and stole fruit. I ate all of it before I arrived home. So my parents didn't know about it. But when I tried to pray that night, God seemed far away. I felt he was not looking at me or listening to me. As I lay in my bed, I felt separated from God.



At last I confessed my sin to God. I asked for forgiveness. Then I knew that he was listening to my prayers again. God forgave me and I had peace. He also helped me to go to the owner of the garden and pay for the fruit.

What happens to our prayers if we keep sin in our hearts?

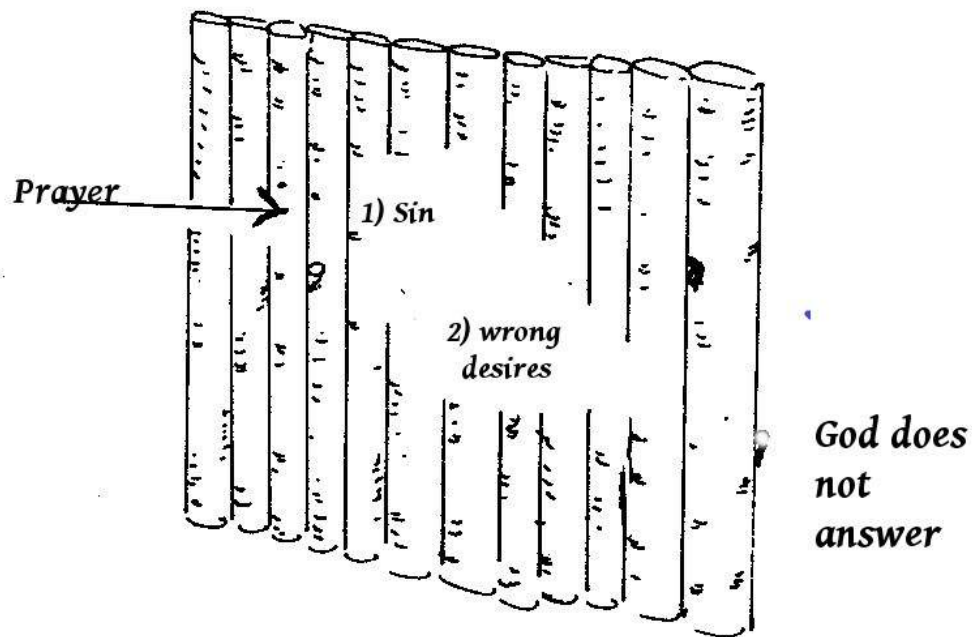
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6. You can answer in different ways. You can say that God does not hear them. Or you can say that our prayers are stopped. Or you may say they are not answered.

What is the first thing which stops our prayers from being answered?

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7. Sin and wrong desires are like a wall or fence. They stop our prayers. They keep God from answering us. Sin is the first thing which stops answers to our prayer. But wrong desires also stop them. This does not mean that the things we ask for are wrong. But we may be asking for things for ourselves just so we can live easy lives. James wrote to some people who were not getting answers to their prayers.



James 4:3,4

*When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives (desires), that you may spend what you get on your*

*pleasures. You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*

Does God want us to ask for selfish things like people who are not Christians?

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8. God does not want us to ask selfishly. This is what people do who are not Christians. They want to have a good time and live an easy life. They want to satisfy their bodies. If we are like this, then we are friends of the world and enemies of God.

When we ask for things to please ourselves, how are we asking?

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9. We are asking selfishly. We are asking with the wrong desires. We should not ask for things just to please ourselves. James says that when we ask for these things we are not faithful to God. We are loving the world instead. As Christians we are the bride, or wife of Christ. But some are like a wife who loves another man more than her husband. They love the things of the world more than they love Christ. Then they come to Jesus and ask for gifts.

Let us say that a wife has left her husband and gone to live with another man. Then she came to her husband and asked for money to buy shoes. Do you think the husband would gladly give her the money?

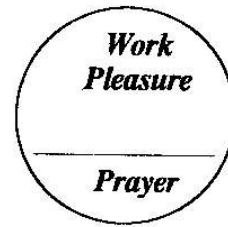
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10. He would probably refuse. This is what God does. God answers prayer, but he does not answer that kind of prayer. Many Christians today love the things of the world more than they love Jesus. They read sinful books. They go to see pictures which show adultery and murder. They wear clothes which tempt other people. They want much money so they can buy more and more things. Sometimes they pray and ask God for things. But remember what James said.



James 4:4

*You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*



Sin stops answers to prayer. What else keeps prayers from being answered?

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11. Our prayers are not answered when we ask with wrong desires. There are many things to pray about. Sometimes our prayers are only asking for things. We ask for things to please ourselves. But this is not the right way to pray.

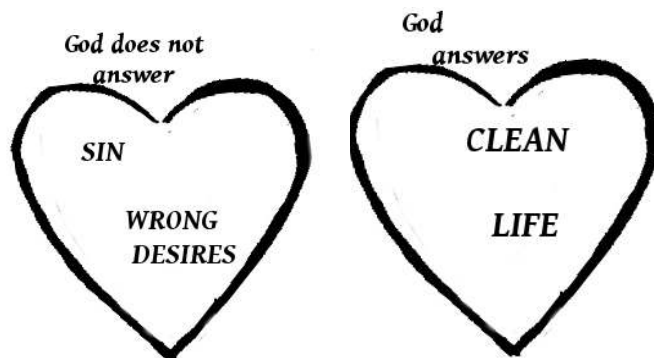
Wrong desires is the second thing which stops answers to prayer. What is the first thing?

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12. God will not answer our prayers if we have sin in our hearts. But if our hearts are clean he will do wonderful things for us.

John 14:13,14

*And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*



What two things keep our prayers from being answered?

1)

2)

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13. The things which stop answers to prayer are **sin** and **asking with**

**the wrong desires.** Jesus said that we should ask in his name. But we cannot ask in his name if our hearts are not right. We cannot ask in his name for things which are not pleasing to him.

The Bible tells us what to do if our prayers are not being answered. This is what we will learn tomorrow.

Take your Bible now and read 2 Chronicles 7:14. Think about this verse to prepare yourself for tomorrow's lesson.

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14. What two things keep our prayers from being answered?

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2)

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15. Write out your memory verses. Check with your Bible to see if they are correct.

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WEEK 7: PRAYING  
DAY 4: HOW TO GET ANSWERS TO PRAYER

1. Yesterday we learned two things which stop answers to prayer. Today we will learn how to put away these things. We will learn how to get answers to our prayers.

What two things keep our prayers from being answered?

1)

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2. The things which stop answers to prayer are sin and wrong desires. Remember that God stopped Joshua when he was praying. He told him that someone had sinned. God would not answer until this sin was put away. Today we will learn that sin must be confessed. Then God will answer our prayers.

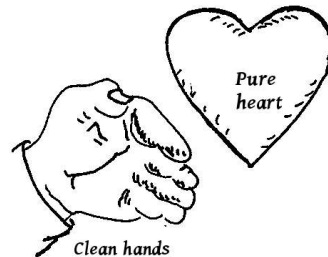
David wrote about those who can come to God. Take your Bible now and read Psalm 24:3 to 5.

If a person has clean hands and a pure heart, what will he receive?

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3. He will receive blessing from God. He will receive help. But what does it mean to have clean hands and a pure heart? Clean hands mean that you have not sinned. A pure heart means that you are right with God.

James wrote that if our hands and hearts are not clean, we must be cleansed. God will do this as we confess our sin to him.



James 4:8

*Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify (make clean) your hearts, you double-minded.*

What should we do if we have sinned?

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4. We must confess this sin and be cleansed. We must put away sin which stops answers to prayer. We must be clean before we can come to God and ask for things. John tells us how this cleansing can take place.



1 John 1:9

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

What must we do with sin that stops answers to prayer?

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5. We must confess it. We confess sin to God and those we sinned against. God promises that he will cleanse us.

2 Corinthians 7:1

*Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates (makes unclean) body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence (respect) for God.*

Matthew 5:23

*Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.*

Will God answer our prayers if we have trouble with someone and have not tried to make it right?

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6. God will not answer our prayers if we are like this. We must go to the person. We must confess what we have done wrong. We must forgive if they have done wrong to us.

A certain church had become very weak spiritually. The members were not serving God. No people were being born again. The leader of the church was troubled. He asked the people to come and pray in the church each day until God showed them what was wrong.

They prayed daily for six weeks. Then one of the elders stood up. He said, "I want to tell you that I am the man who is stopping God's work here. I was asked to sell some cows for a widow in the church. I sold them, but I kept part of the money. Tomorrow I will give her the money."

As soon as this sin was confessed, the Holy Spirit began to work. Other leaders confessed sins as well. The church came to life again. In the following year, 3,000 people were born again.

What must we do with sin which stops answers to prayer?

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7. We must confess it to God. We must confess it to men. We must fix up the wrong things we have done to people. In another church, an elder had many debts, and did not try to pay them. The people to whom he owed money said the church was not good. The church could not grow. But when the elder saw his sin, he confessed it and he paid the money. Then God could work.

When we lie, steal or fight in the church, what will God not hear?

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8. Sin keeps God from hearing our prayers. If we are hiding sins of any kind, we cannot ask God for anything. He will not answer us.

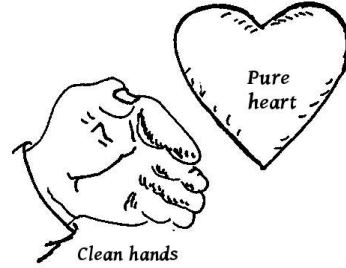
What must we do with sin which keeps our prayers from being answered?

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9. We must confess it. We must have clean hands and a clean heart. We also must have something else.

Mark 11:24

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*



From this verse, what must we believe about God when we pray?

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10. We must believe that God will give us what we have asked for. We must believe that he answers prayer. If we doubt, our prayers will not be answered.

James 1:6-8

*But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*

When we pray, what must we have in order for God to answer?

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11. We must believe God will answer our prayer. We must have faith. But sometimes our faith is small. Then we should use the small faith which we have. We can ask God for more faith. At one time the disciples felt their faith was small.



Luke 17:5,6

*The apostles (disciples) said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."*

What can we ask God to do to our faith?

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12. We can ask him to increase our faith. Think about the great

promises of God. Let him work in your heart. Remember the great things which he has done. This will increase your faith.

What must we do with sin which keeps our prayers from being answered?

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13. We must confess sin and make things right with other people. Then God will hear us.

When we pray, what must we have for God to answer?

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14. We must have faith. Then God will do wonderful things for us. He wants to work in our lives and through our lives. He will do this if our lives are clean and pure. The Word of God says:

Psalm 66:18-20

*If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!*

Perhaps your church is not as strong as you would like it to be. Do your people need to learn more about prayer.

**Prepare a sermon** to preach about the things you have learned this week. Write on a paper the things you want to say. Bring your paper to class.

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15. Maybe you would like to spend more time learning about prayer. You can do so. There is a book like this one called Talking with God. Ask your teacher to help you get it.



What must we do with sin which keeps our prayers from being answered?

When we pray, what must we have for God to answer?

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16. Were you able to write your memory verse correctly yesterday?

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Questions from Week 6.

6. What is fruit?

Fruit is that part of the plant

1)

2)

Who produces the fruit of the Spirit in us?

What does the fruit of the Spirit in us, bring to Jesus?

1)

2)

7. How can the Holy Spirit work through us?

1)

2)

8. What are the three things we must do about temptation?

1) We must \_\_\_\_\_ the evil desires of youth, sexual immorality, the desires for riches and idol worship.

2) We must \_\_\_\_\_ that we will not give in to temptation.

3) We must \_\_\_\_\_ the devil:

(a) with

(b) with

9. Why do we sin?

What should we do when we sin?

10. Write out John 14:23.

11. How can we grow in our spiritual life?

What is the mature Christian life like?

Questions from Week 7.

12. What is prayer?

1)

2)

13. Write three different times when Jesus prayed.

1)

2)

3)

14. What two things keep our prayers from being answered?

1)

2)

15. What must we do with sin which keeps our prayers from being answered?

16. When we pray, what must we have for God to answer?

17. Write out 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

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When you can answer all of these questions, go back to the review beginning on week 5, Lesson 1. With your hand, cover the answers which you have written. Try to answer all the questions.

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