

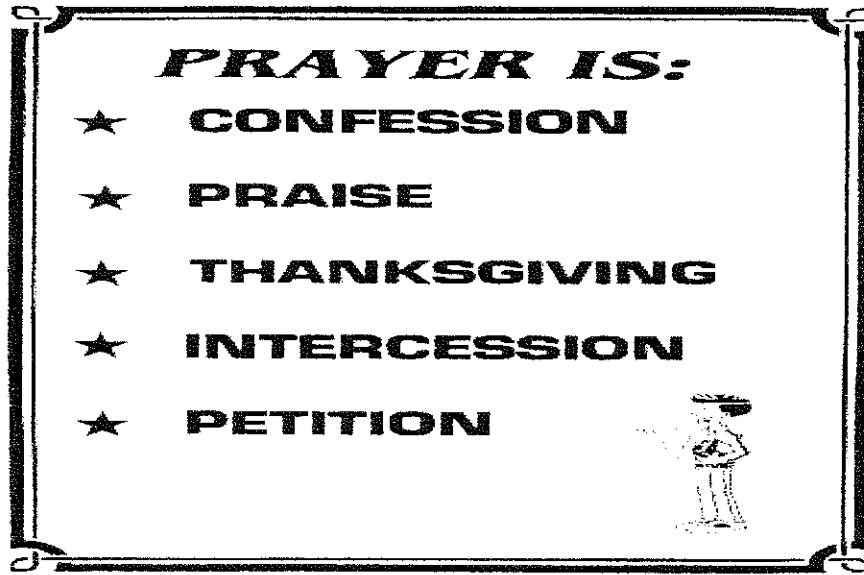
# "Discipleship Training Program"

## Christianity 101 - Lesson Five

### Prayer

#### Memory Text Scripture

I Timothy 2:1 "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;"



The Bible shows the necessity of prayer.

- II Chronicles 7:14 "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."

#### Why Should Believers Pray?

- Prayer is not an option
  - Isaiah 56:7 "Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."
- We are to pray without ceasing
  - I Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."
  - Romans 1:9 "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;"
- All men everywhere are to pray
  - I Timothy 2:8 "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

#### Who Is The Greatest Example Of Prayer?

The Lord Jesus

- Luke 3:21 "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,"

- **Luke 5:15-16** *“But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. <sup>16</sup>And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, **and prayed.**”*

If Jesus, the Son of God, needed to pray, how much more do we? Jesus was a man of prayer.

- **Mark 1:35** *“And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, **and there prayed.**”*

## What Is Prayer?

- Prayer is a **discipline**
- It is a **bending** of the will of man before God to admit his need
  - **II Chronicles 7:14** *“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.”*
  - **Matthew 6:9-10** *“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. <sup>10</sup>Thy kingdom come. **Thy will** be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”*
- Prayer is **rendering** homage to an all-wise and benevolent heavenly Father.
  - **Psalm 108:5** *“Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth;”*
- Prayer is spending time in **conversation** with God. Conversation is a two-way communication.

## What Should Be Our Attitude Of Prayer?

- We should pray in **faith**
  - **Hebrews 11:6** *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*
- We should pray without **wavering**
  - **James 1:6-8** *“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. <sup>7</sup>For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. <sup>8</sup>A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”*
  - **Mark 11:24** *“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*
- We should pray according to God’s **will**
  - **I John 5:14-16** *“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: <sup>15</sup>And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. <sup>16</sup>If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.”*
  - **God’s Word is His will and His will is His Word**
  - **When we know God’s will and add, “if it be Your will,” this validates our prayer.**
- We should come to the Father through Jesus Christ, our **Intercessor**
  - **Hebrews 7:25** *“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”*

## What Are Hindrances To Prayer?

- Asking **amiss**
  - **James 4:1-4** "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? <sup>2</sup>Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. <sup>3</sup>Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. <sup>4</sup>Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."
- Wrong **motives**
  - **Matthew 6:5-8** "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. <sup>6</sup>But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. <sup>7</sup>But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. <sup>8</sup>Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."
- **Pride**
  - **Psalm 138:6** "Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off."
- **Iniquity**
  - **Isaiah 59:1-3** "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. <sup>2</sup>But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. <sup>3</sup>For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness."
  - **Proverbs 28:13** "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."
- An **unforgiving** spirit
  - **Matthew 5:23-24** "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; <sup>24</sup>Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."
  - **Matthew 18:21-35** "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? <sup>22</sup>Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. <sup>23</sup>Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. <sup>24</sup>And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. <sup>27</sup>Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. <sup>29</sup>And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. <sup>30</sup>And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: <sup>33</sup>Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? <sup>34</sup>And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. <sup>35</sup>So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."
- **Bitterness**
  - **Hebrews 12:15-17** "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; <sup>16</sup>Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. <sup>17</sup>For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."

- **II Peter 2:21-22** "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. <sup>22</sup>But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."
- **Heart** Idols (Covetousness)
  - **Ezekiel 14:3** "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them?"
- **Stinginess**
  - **Proverbs 21:13** "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard."
- **Doubts**
  - **James 1:5-7** "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. <sup>6</sup>But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. <sup>7</sup>For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."
- Wrong **relationships**
  - **I Peter 3:7** "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

## What Are Various Types Of Prayer?

- **Persevering** prayer
  - **Philippians 4:6** "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."
  - **Luke 11:5-13** "And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; <sup>6</sup>For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? <sup>7</sup>And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. <sup>8</sup>I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. <sup>9</sup>And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. <sup>10</sup>For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. <sup>11</sup>If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? <sup>12</sup>Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"
- **Intercessory** prayer
  - **Romans 8:26-27** "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. <sup>27</sup>And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."
- In the **Spirit**
  - **I Corinthians 14:14** "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful."
  - **Ephesians 6:18** "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"
  - **Jude 20** "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,"
- **Supplication**

- **I Timothy 2:1-2** "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; <sup>2</sup>For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."
- Giving **thanks**
  - **I Timothy 2:1-2** "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; <sup>2</sup>For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."
  - **Philippians 4:6** "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

## Who Can Be Involved In Prayer?

- **Individuals**
  - **Matthew 6:5-7** "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. <sup>6</sup>But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. <sup>7</sup>But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."
- Two or **three**
  - **Matthew 18:19-20** "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
- A whole **church**
  - **Acts 2:42** "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."
  - **Acts 4:24** "And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:"

When the church comes together, it is scriptural for all to lift up their voice in one **accord** in prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

- **Psalms 64:1** "Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy."
- **Psalms 66:19** "But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer."
- **Psalms 18:6** "In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears."
- **II Chronicles 7:14** "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."