

[NEW BELIEVER'S]

Bible Study #8

PRAYER

In a previous lesson, we learned the power we have through the Holy Spirit. Now that we have the Holy Spirit inside us, we can communicate to God whenever we desire. We do this by prayer. The Bible tells us just how we should pray, and how God answers our prayers.

Let's begin by memorizing Philippians 4:6–7:

BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION, WITH THANKSGIVING, LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN TO GOD; AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING, WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS.

Jesus set an example for us in His prayers. The disciples saw that His prayers were intimate, as if He were talking with a close friend. They wanted to have the same close relationship with the Father that Jesus did, so they asked Him to teach them how to pray.

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. — Luke 11:1

When you answer these questions, do not simply copy the verse, but use your own words.

In this lesson, you will learn:

- Why your prayers might not be answered.
- How to be sure your prayers are answered.
- What the different types of prayer are.

1. Why would God not give us what we ask Him for? (Give two reasons).

(James 4:1–3) _____

Iniquity means “sin or wickedness.”

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.” (Psalm 66:18).

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.” (Isaiah 59:2).

2. From these two Bible verses, do you think God hears our prayers when we continue to disobey His Word? _____

3. If there is sin in our lives, what should we do before bringing our requests to the Father?
(1 John 1:9) _____

Read about the prayer of the tax collector in Luke 18:9–14.

4. What is one reason that the Lord wants to give us what we pray for?
(John 16:24–27) _____

5. When we have needs to be met, what should our attitude be when we come to God in prayer?
(Hebrews 12:5–8) _____

6. How can we pray so that we will be sure God will answer our prayers?
(1 John 5:14–15) _____

7. To intercede means “to ask on someone’s behalf” or “plead.” When we don’t know what God’s will is or how we should pray about something, who will intercede for us?
(Romans 8:26–27) _____

8. What three words describe what we need to do to receive good gifts from our Heavenly Father?
(Matthew 7:7–12) _____

Verse 7 could be better translated “keep seeking, keep knocking, and keep asking.” In other words, be persistent! For an example of persistence, read the parable about persistence in Luke 18:1–8.

Sometimes God answers prayer by saying, “Wait!” If we believe our prayers are in accordance with God’s will and He doesn’t answer with a definite “yes” or “no,” we should be patient and wait for His answer. Keep asking! The Lord not only has the perfect answer for us, He has the perfect time to give us His answer.

9. What happens when we pray for something in the will of God, in the name of Jesus?

(Matthew 7:7–12) _____

10. Why do we pray in the name of Jesus?

(1 Timothy 2:5) _____

To “ask in the name of Jesus” means to come to the Father based on the goodness of Jesus, not our own goodness or merits.

Abide means “to remain in one place and not change.” A good example of something that abides is a tree. To abide in Christ means to follow His teaching and not wander from it.

Read John 15:1–17 to help you understand what it means to abide.

11. What promise does Jesus give us if we will abide or remain in Him?

(John 15:7) _____

12. What two things should we do to be sure the Lord hears us?

(Mark 11:24–25) _____

Amen comes from the Hebrew word for “true” or “faithful.” When we use it in prayer it is our way of saying we believe the Lord will answer our prayers.

13. Who is glorified when our prayers are answered?

(John 14:13) _____

14. What are the different types of prayer?

(1 Timothy 2:1) _____

- A prayer of supplication, petition, or request asks God to supply our needs.
- Intercession is a prayer for others, such as for their healing or salvation.
- Praying with thanksgiving and praise is giving God the glory He deserves for what He has done and for who He is. This is part of worship.
- Prayer is talking with God, not just to Him.

15. When is a good time to pray?

(1 Thessalonians 5:17) _____

For more about prayer, read *Matthew 6:5–15* to see what Jesus has to say.

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 1.

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