

Quick Review of Lesson 1 on How to Understand the Bible

Note: The six principles God gives us to understand the Bible:

- We must be humble and teachable
- Let the Bible interpret itself
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide us
- We must really want to know truth
- We must really search for truth
- We must follow what we already know to be truth



Lesson 2

HOW TO PRAY



Introduction: More Important than any rule or law is our love relationship with Jesus Christ, which is developed through spending time in Bible study, prayer, and witnessing. When we study the Bible, God speaks to us. When we pray, we speak to Him. And when we witness, we speak to others about Him. In this lesson we will discover the secrets of prayer and how we can enjoy this privilege.

Presented by:
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1. Prayer is talking to God from the heart as to a friend. How do we know that God will always answer our prayers in the best way? Rom. 8:32 [The Further-study verses are Psalms 102:17; 147:3-6]

- *Romans 8:32*

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Psalms 102:17

17 He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.

Psalms 147:3-6

- *3 He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.*
- *4 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.*
- *5 Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.*
- *6 The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.*



2. How should we pray in these solemn times? 1 Peter 4:7 [Luke 21:34-36]

- *1 Peter 4:7*

7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

- *Luke 21:34-36*

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.



3. What did the disciples want Jesus to teach them? Luke 11:1. In response, what did Jesus say should be included in our prayers, Verses 2-4. And finally, what principle did Jesus give for obtaining answers to prayer? Verses 5-9.

- *Luke 11:1*

11 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

- *Luke 11:2-4*

2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Luke 11:9,10

- *9 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.*

- *10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

[Note: In verses 2-4, Jesus was not giving a formal prayer to recite but was answering the disciples' request, "Teach us to pray." Here He taught us what type of things to pray about and how we should persist in prayer. Matt. 6:9-13; 7:7-11; Luke 18:1-7; 1 Thess. 5:17 Pray without ceasing.]



4. In Luke 11:2, above, Jesus taught us to pray to the Father. In whose name, or by whose authority, should we address the Father?
John 15:16

- *John 15:16*

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

[Note: We pray in Jesus' name because He is our mediator and Savior. Through His merits we gain access to the very throne of the universe. John 14:12-15; 16:23, 24; 1 Tim. 2:5]



5. When especially should we pray? Ps. 5:3 [Mark 1:35; Ps. 55:16, 17].

- *Psalm 5:3*

3 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

- *Mark 1:35*

35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

- *Psalm 55:16, 17*

16 As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me.

17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.



**Daniel prayed three
times a day.
Morning, noon and
night.**



6. What kind of prayers should these morning prayers be?

Matt. 6:5-8

- Matthew 6:5-8

5 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.

6 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.

7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

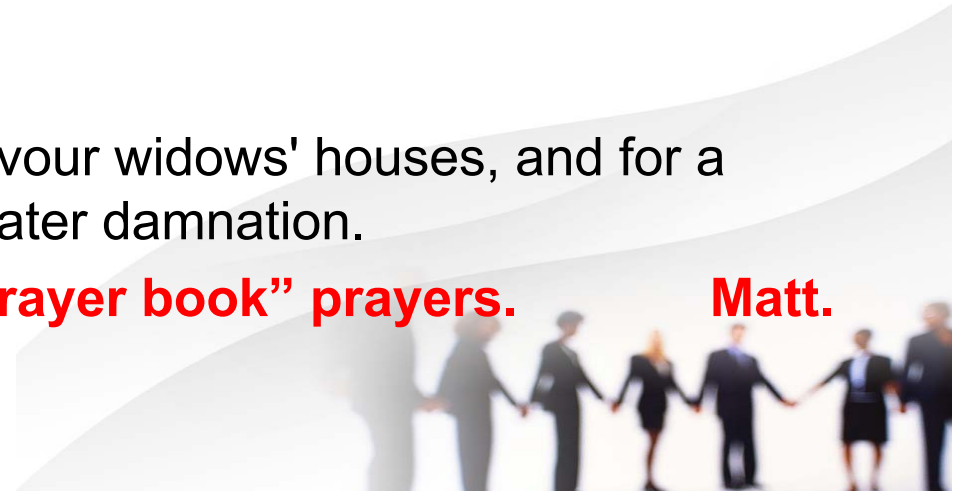
Matthew 23:14

14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

[Answer: Personal, private prayers rather than formal, “prayer book” prayers. Matt. 23:14]

Matt.

23:14]



7. Besides our private prayers, is there also a place for public prayer? Matt. 18:19, 20 [Acts 1:14; 2:1]

- Matthew 18:19, 20

19 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.

20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

- Acts 1:14

14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

- Acts 2:1

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.



8. What attitude toward God should we exhibit in our prayers? Ps. 95:6, 7

- *Psalm 95:6,7*

6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

- *Phil. 2:9-10*
- Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
- ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

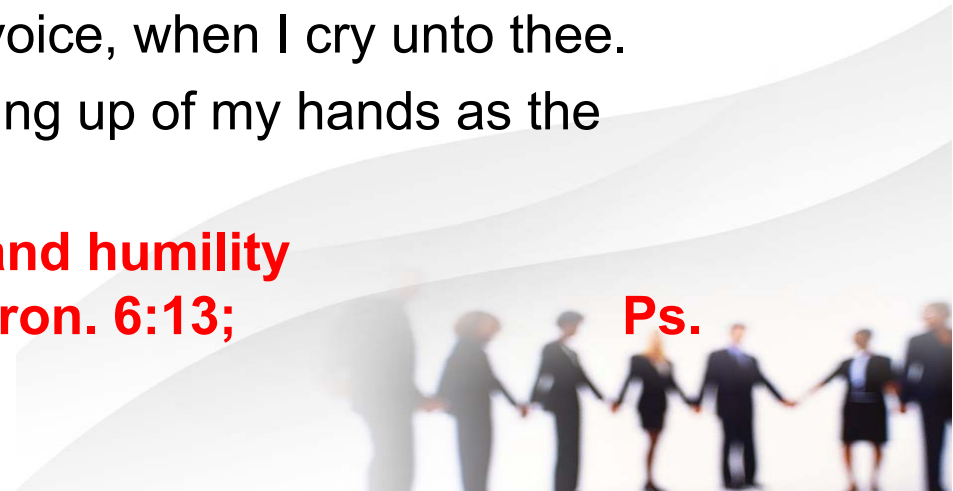
Psalm 141:1,2

¹ Lord, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee.

² Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Answer: Reverence such as is shown by kneeling in awe and humility when possible. Isaiah 45:23; Phil 2:9, 10; Daniel 6:10; 2 Chron. 6:13; 141:1, 2]

Ps.



9. On what specific occasions did Jesus and the apostles pray? Acts 27:35

- *Acts 27:35*

35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

[Answer: At meal times. Luke 24:30] Thus far we have noted four things that will make our prayers effective. We might call these conditions, or principles, of prayer. The four principles we have noted are: (1) being persistent, (2) praying with Jesus' authority, (3) being personal, and (4) having reverence. Now let us look at five more principles of prayer. See if you can remember all nine when we have completed the lesson.



When God's Children Pray, Something Happens!!!



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10. What is a fifth condition? Ps. 37:5

- Psalm 37:5

5 Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

[Answer: We must trust God. James 1:5-7; Heb. 11:6; Mark 11:24]



11. What is a sixth condition? 1 John 5:14

- *1 John 5:14*

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

[Answer: We must want God's will to be done. This is a matter of faith. If we really believe God's way is best, we will want His will to be done. Matt. 26:39; James 4:3; Rom. 8:26-28]



12. What is a seventh condition? Prov. 28:9

- *Proverbs 28:9*

9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

[Answer: We must listen to God and obey Him. Why should we expect God to hear us, if we will not hear Him? And why should we expect Him to do what we ask, if we will not do what He asks? 1 John 3:22; Luke 6:46; John 14:12-15]



13. What is an eighth condition? Phil. 4:6

- *Philippians 4:6*

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

[Answer: We should praise God and be thankful for His goodness. Col. 4:2; Ps. 34:1]



14. What is a ninth condition? Mark 11:25, 26

- *Mark 11:25*

25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

[Answer: We should be willing to forgive others as we expect God to forgive us. Matt. 6:14, 15; 18:21-35]



The Nine Prayer Conditions

- *Be persistent*
- *With Jesus' authority and in His name*
- *Being personal and there is time for public prayers*
- *Having reverence*
- *We must trust God*
- *We must want God's will to be done*
- *We must listen to God and obey Him*
- *We must praise God and be thankful for His goodness*
- *We should be willing to forgive others as we expect God to forgive us*



Enter the day with Prayer

- When you rise in the morning, kneel at your bedside, and ask God to give you strength to fulfill the duties of the day, and to meet its temptations. Ask Him to help you to bring into your work Christ's sweetness of character. SD of God, page 199
- Ask Him to help you speak words that will inspire those around you with hope and courage, and draw you nearer to the Saviour.
- Remember, "A family that prays together stays together".



Matthew 21:13

¹³ And Jesus said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer;



- ***Commitment: Will you plan to become better acquainted with Jesus by setting apart some time every morning to talk with Him in personal, private prayer?***

