

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

PART V: DAILY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING: Eph. 6:18; Philip. 4:6-7; 1 Thes. 5:17; John 15:7; Matt. 6: 5-15; James 5:15-18

MEMORY VERSE: Philip. 4:6-7

PURPOSE: To enable us to understand what prayer is; the importance of prayer and to learn how to pray effectively or how to pray and get results. Get Your Prayers answered.

LESSON: Someone as said, "PRAYER CHANGES THINGS". Prayer really does change things. Prayer changes people, circumstances, situations; it has changed the course of history and the out come of world wars; it has changed governments and has influenced whole nations for Christ. Prayer is the most powerful FORCE in the WHOLE WORLD. IT IS YOURS FOR THE USING.

I. WHAT IS PRAYER?:

A. There are several Greek words, which are translated by our one English word "prayer". The meaning of these words are as follows: "a request"; "supplication"; "entreaty"; "asking"; "beseech"; "a wanting"; "a need"; "to desire"; "intercession".

1. All of this very simply means, "talking to God". Making our request, desires, and needs known to HIM. But it means more than that. It is "talking with God". It is carrying on a conversation with GOD. It is more than our just talking all the time. It also means we LISTEN. HE also has some request, needs and desires. Real prayer will keep us in tune with HIM.

2. Prayer also implies a DEPENDENCE upon GOD; a looking away from ourselves, others and possible answers and looking UNTO HIM. HE ALONE ANSWERS PRAYER. Dependence is an ATTITUDE.

3. Our dependence upon HIM is to be as a little CHILD depends upon its parents. Dependence implies TRUST. HE is MY/YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER. We can trust HIM.

4. TRUST is FAITH. So that when we pray if we have TRUST or FAITH in HIM we know that HE will supply our needs and/or answer our request. While we are praying we THEN thank HIM for the answers.

5. We should pray about matters that concern us and HIM UNTIL we sense by faith a release in our spirits or our trust is released. We then THANK HIM in all CONFIDENCE. This is the PRAYER OF FAITH.

II. VARIOUS KINDS OF PRAYER AND PRAYING:

A. SECRET PRAYER is prayer that is made "in the closet". (Matt. 6:5-6) This can mean a literal closet or it could mean a prayer from within one's heart that is not shared with anyone else but GOD. (Example is HANNAH. 1 Samuel 1:4-18.)

B. COMMUNION PRAYING is my favorite because it is ceaseless prayer. This is where we maintain an attitude of prayer as we fellowship with JESUS during the day and discuss WITH HIM many things. (John 15:7 & 1 Thes. 5:17)

C. PRAYING FROM A NEED point of view is praying when problems and circumstances arise through which the enemy attempts to cause worry and fear to fill our minds. It is in such times as these that we must not give in to doubt, worry and fear but to cast all that concerns us upon HIM and absolutely refuse to WORRY. (Phil. 4:4-6; 1 Pet. 5:7)

D. PRAYER FOR THE SICK is the privilege, responsibility and the duty of every Christian. We have God's promise that the prayer of FAITH will save the sick and the LORD shall raise him up. So we can pray expecting the sick to be healed. This of course also includes ourselves. (James 5:14-15)

E. PRAYING TO CHANGE CIRCUMSTANCES, ours or someone else's is prayer that believes that God can do anything. As the scriptures say, "WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE". With the child of God there are no problems only opportunities to see God do some amazing things. Our bible passage indicates that a man who is just like us in every way prayed for it not to rain and his pray SHUT UP THE HEAVENS for over three (3) years. If this tells us anything it tells us that God can and will do amazing things with circumstances when we PRAY. (James 5:15-18).

F. PRAYER WARFARE is praying to defeat our common enemy, Satan and his devices. Since the Christians battle or struggle is not with flesh and blood i.e. "things seen" but against "master spirit forces or wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere" i.e. "things not seen.", we must ever be in prayer. To pray for people, countries, governments etc. and to pray the prayer of faith in such cases is to release God's angels and His Spirit to stop the enemy in the spiritual realm and to see circumstances changed in our own lives, in others lives and in the world. (Eph. 6:18; Eph. 6:12; James 4:7)

G. THE PRAYER OF AGREEMENT is when two or more Christians agree together i.e. to unite their hearts and voices in harmony to BIND and to LOOSE in the spiritual (supernatural) realm. This type or kind of praying is the most powerful force in all the world. There is absolutely no limit to what GOD can and will do when Christians band together in prayer and expect an answer. (Matt. 18:19)

H. PRAYER THAT IS NOT PRAYER is when we merely say or speak words and do not believe that God will answer our request. It is begging God to change His mind. It is insincere unconcerned prayer. It is going through the motions of prayer while our hearts and minds are preoccupied with other matters and things. It is public prayer which is spoken with more concern with the people who are listening than with the GOD who is listening.

III. WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT PRAYER:

A. JUDE: "but you, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, PRAYING IN THE HOLY GHOST."

B. GEORGE WHITFIELD: "Whole days and WEEKS have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer."

C. SAID OF TERSTEEGEN: "It seems to me as if he had gone straight into heaven, and lost himself in God; but often when he had done praying he was as white as the wall."

D. E. M. BOUNDS: "Our praying, however, needs to be pressed and pursued with an energy that never tires, a persistency which will not be denied, and a courage which never fails." MATTHEW HENRY: "When God intends great mercy for His people, the first thing He does is set them a-praying."

E. JOHN CLIMACUS: "We know the utility of prayer from the efforts of the wicked spirits to distract us during the divine office; and we experience the fruit of prayer in the defeat of our enemies."

F. R. SIBBES: "When we go to God by prayer, the devil knows we go to fetch strength against him, and therefore he opposeth us all he can."

G. CHARLES G. FINNEY: "I used to spend a great deal of time in prayer; sometimes, I thought, literally praying without ceasing. I also found it very profitable and felt very much inclined to hold frequent days of private fasting. On these days I would seek to be entirely alone with God, and would generally wander off into the woods, or get into the meetinghouse, or somewhere away entirely by myself."

H. UNKNOWN: "To arouse ONE man or woman to the tremendous power of prayer for others is worth more than the combined activity of a score of average Christians."

I. UNKNOWN: "The hidden life, a life whose days are spent in communion with God in trying to reach the Source of Power is the life that moves the world."

J. CHARLES G. FINNEY: "The spirit of prayer that prevailed in those revivals was a very marked feature of them. It was common for young converts to be greatly exercised in prayer; and in some instances, so much so that they were constrained to pray for whole nights, and until their bodily strength was quite exhausted, for the conversion of souls around them. There was a great pressure of the Holy Spirit upon the minds of Christians; and they seemed to bear about with them the burden of immortal souls. They manifested the greatest solemnity of mind and the greatest watchfulness in all their words and actions. It was very common to find Christians whenever they met in any place, instead of engaging in conversation, to fall on their knees in prayer."

IV. QUESTIONS:

- A. How is your prayer life? GOOD____BAD____ NEEDS IMPROVEMENT_____
- B. Can YOU say for certain that GOD has ever answered one of your prayers? YES____NO____ Name one such instance_____
- C. Has God answered a prayer for you recently? YES_____ NO_____
- D. Do you ever pray with the belief that your prayers will change someone's life or circumstances? YES_____
NO____ Don't you get excited and happy when you see God answer your prayers?
- E. Do you pray for your church?____ Your pastor?____ Your church members?____ The lost in your community?_____
- F. How much time would you say that you spent in prayer each week_____, Each day_____, two (2) hours, less than ten (10) minutes, what?
- G. Have you ever united with someone else and prayed a warfare prayer?____ Did you see any results?_____.
- H. Do you ever pray for the sick? _____ Have you ever seen someone healed as a results of your prayers?_____.
- I. How important is prayer to YOU? What do your actions indicate about the importance of prayer in your daily life? Daily prayer?____ Attend prayer meetings?____ Maintain a prayer list?_____.

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS YOU!

ISN'T JESUS WONDERFUL!