

Prayer Seminar

Dr. J. Gordon Henry

"I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem which shall never hold their peace day nor night."

ISAIAH 62:6

PARTICIPANT'S NAME: _____

Seminar Date: _____

Place: _____

I WANT MY CHURCH TO BE A PRAYING CHURCH!

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BE A LIGHTHOUSE OF PRAYER FOR YOUR FAMILY, YOUR NEIGHBORS, YOUR CITY, YOUR NATION!
TELL A FRIEND!



SESSION ONE	SESSION TWO	SESSION THREE	SESSION FOUR	SESSION FIVE	SESSION SIX	SESSION SEVEN	SESSION EIGHT	SESSION NINE
What is Prayer?	Bible Examples of Prayer	Praying In The Name Of Jesus	The Holy Spirit and Prayer	Sin of Prayerlessness	Getting Ready to Pray	A-C-T-S: Personal praying	Hindrances in Prayer	The Prayer Chapel

“Lord, teach us to pray...”

LUKE 11:1

LESSONS:

1. Don't wait until others are interested in prayer.
2. God often begins mighty works with one person.
Principle: Starting fire with kindling wood.

ANALYSIS:

1. An acknowledgment of the importance of prayer.
2. A desire to know how to pray.
3. A willingness to be taught to pray.

I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus///

Though no one join me, still I will follow///

The world behind me, the cross before me///

No turning back, no turning back

THE WORD OF GOD AND PRAYER

**YOU WILL NEVER DEVELOP A MEANINGFUL, SUSTAINED
PRAYER LIFE APART FROM THE WORD OF GOD!**



“Stirreth Himself” - Movement, Effort, Discipline, Work



Ephesians 2:8,9
Hebrews 11:6



Potential
Ephesians 2:10
James 2:20

FAITH

WORK



24. Jeremiah 33.3 - *“Call upon Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.”*



THIS IS A _____ Either _____ Or _____

Disobedience is _____ And _____

Matthew 9:35-38
Luke 10:2
John 4:35

240 +Countries/Territories
7.8 billion people
2 of 3 have never heard the name
“Jesus” in saving sense one time!

B. NEW TESTAMENT

1. **Matthew 5:44** - *“Pray for them which despitefully use you.”*
2. **Matthew 6:6** - *“Pray to thy Father which is in secret.”*
3. **Matthew 6:7** - *“When ye pray use not vain repetitions.”*
4. **Matthew 6:9** - *“After this manner, therefore, pray ye.”*
5. **Matthew 9:38** - *“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest.”*
6. **Mark 13:33** - *“Watch and pray; for ye know not.”*
7. **Luke 18:1** - *“Men ought always to pray, and not faint.”*
8. **Acts 1:24** - *“And when they prayed.”*
9. **Acts 2:42** - *“And in breaking of bread and in prayers.”*

10. _____ - *“You have not because you ask not.”*

11. _____ - *“You ask, but no answer. You ask amiss.”*

Amiss = wrong motive

Right motive is that God will get glory.

12. _____ - *“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*
vv.17, 18: *Elijah prayed prayers of inconvenience.*

C. List five great prayer experiences recorded in the Bible that come to your memory as you continue to think about the BIBLE RECORD REGARDING PRAYER. List the Bible references as an exercise in using your Bible.

		Bible Reference
#1	<u>Moses</u>	<u>Exodus 32:11- 14</u>
#2	<u>Elijah</u>	<u>I Kings 18:36-37</u>
#3	<u>Hannah</u>	<u>I Samuel 1:8ff</u>
#4	<u>Daniel</u>	<u>Chapters 9-10</u>
#5	_____	_____

DANIEL

Chapter 9 - Praying for Nation confessing Specific sins

Chapter 10 - Spiritual Warfare

1. Daniel prayed.
2. God sent answer immediately.
3. Answer hindered for 21 days.
4. By Prince of Persia

**SATAN IS NOT OMNISICENT, OMNIPRESENT
OMNIPOTENT, BUT ORGANIZED.**

II. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

It is obvious that if we read certain "familiar passages" of Scripture that contain PRAYER PROMISES made by Jesus for the very first time, we would marvel at the truly amazing statements regarding what happens when we pray. Most PRAYER PROMISES are from the Savior! THAT S INCREDIBLE! Familiarity has dulled us to the impact of these teachings. There is a lesson to be learned from the story of UZZAH. (**2 Samuel 6:2-8**).



It is awfully easy to become overly familiar with the Holy.

The time has come for a clarion call to the individual Christian and to the Church to reconsider the role of prayer. As a part of meeting this great need, the Lord has raised up the prayer seminar ministry.

Real prayer is the basic essential need in the life of each believer. In turn, prayer pays the largest dividend of all investments. God has no favorites and is no respecter of persons. If anyone will conform to the conditions God has set, we can be sure that He will assuredly fulfill His promises. The results will be profound in the ministry of a local church including the salvation of precious souls. Most church services are cold and unappealing. **WHEN HAVE YOU SEEN A CHURCH SERVICE BROKEN UP BY WEEPING AND CONFESSING OF SINS?** Aren't you hungry to see God move?

As an individual, we need to face the issue of prayer. Do I really believe prayer is power? Do I believe that it is the greatest power on earth? Do God's PRAYER COMMANDS really concern me? Do His promises hold good? If God answered the words we repeated on our knees this morning, would we recognize the answer? Do we even remember what we asked? How long has it been since you prayed a definite prayer that you saw answered? Prayer is the power source almost untapped by most Christians - a privilege almost totally neglected.

If no one on earth prayed for the salvation of sinners more fervently or frequently than I do, how many would be converted through prayer? Do I "stir" myself (**Isaiah 64:7**) daily to lay hold on God? Remember key words that translate "stirreth himself" in today's language are _____, _____, _____ and _____ !

Do you have family members, close friends, acquaintances who are unsaved or who are not now living for the Lord? **If you don't pray for them, who will?**

WE BECOME EXCITED ABOUT "matters of importance" THAT ARE IN THE LONG RUN MEANINGLESS. These matters require our time, energy, and resources but it won't matter twenty- four hours later if we did them or not. As a result of our emphases, we have constantly to invent ways to (1) keep people interested in the work of the church and (2) attract the world to what we have to say.

Joel 2:28 indicates that one of the characteristics of the age when the Holy Spirit has come to earth is that "supplications" will be made. The majority of Christians who pray today to a living God know very little about real, prevailing prayers of supplication and intercession. Since **ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS**, we can conclude few Christians consider prayer worthwhile. We may do much that is **NOBLE, RESPECTABLE AND HUMANITARIAN**, but without prayer it will eventually fizzle and come to naught!

The failure of the church is the failure of prayer; the failure of the individual Christian is the failure of prayer! Defeats, Discouragements! Disheartenedness! Fruitlessness! Coldness (even in services)! In fact, there are many believers so empty, cold, and worldly that they stay away from church services (**Hebrews 10:25** encourages us to assemble). Others become hypercritical and live in a negative case. A host even doubt their salvation. The result is spiritual inertia on every hand. The wheels of Zion bog down as folks **PLAY CHURCH**. Power has been absent so long that the Holy Spirit could remove Himself and churches would not miss Him and still continue their **BUSINESS AS USUAL**. What a mire of indifference and inactivity we can get ourselves in when we don't pray!

Isn't it time that we who easily trust the word of our fellowmen would begin to trust our Lord and His Word? A major truth to learn is where we are when we are praying. The problem of mind wandering and loss of concentration can easily be dissolved by knowing where we are as we pray. You see prayer is not bringing God down to get in on what we are up to at all; it is not even going into the garden where the dew is still on the roses!

THRONE ROOM PRAYING

KEY PASSAGE: Revelation 4:1-2

What did John see? _____

What did John hear? _____

What did the voice say? _____

In Heaven, there is occupied throne. There is a THRONE ROOM.

Where is Jesus in the Throne Room? _____

Hebrews 4.16 - *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

Hebrews 10.19 - *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.”*

SUMMARY: Prayer is entering into God’s THRONE ROOM at any hour of the day or night. You don't have to have prior appointment since God is always there. He doesn't keep office hours. He not only wants you to come, you can stay as long as you want to stay when you get there. There is no time limit!

Seminar Parameters

1. My purpose in being here is to ENCOURAGE, NOT DISCOURAGE.
2. To build you and your church up, not tear you down.
3. To be a stepping stone, not a stumbling block.

OH, ME!

THEN

AMEN!

ISAIAH 6

A PASSAGE EVERY BELIEVER SHOULD MASTER: JOHN 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

This key passage contains the last words of Jesus before He left the earth—final words of instruction to the disciples, a farewell message. You can imagine how important these words are.

I. Holy Spirit (See pages 13 & 20)

II. Prayer. Sevenfold invitation to Pray "In My Name" (See page 14). Here’s homework:

Look up the references and write out the invitations to pray in your own words.

1. John 14.13 Jesus promises to do what we ask in His name _____

2. John 14:14 _____

3. John 15:6-8 _____

4. John 15:14 A true friend will obey His commands in all things _____

5. John 15:16 _____

6. John 16:23,24 _____

7. John 16:26 _____

III. GENERAL REMARKS ABOUT PRAYER

REMEMBER: Maintaining a daily consistent prayer life is HARD WORK!

1. If prayer is anything, prayer is everything!
2. Everything depends on prayer.
3. We are in desperate need to return to personal, prevailing prayer.
4. One meeting with God can wield more influence than a marching army.
5. We are never so high as when we are on our knees.
6. Satan trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on his knees.
7. When it is hardest to pray, pray the hardest.
8. All real growth in the spiritual life (victory over temptation, confidence and peace in the presence of difficulties and dangers: repose of spirit in times of disappointment and loss) depends on the practice of secret prayer.
9. Nothing is beyond the scope of prayer that is not beyond the will of God.
10. Success in spiritual work is dependent on prayer.
11. One cannot live wrong and pray right.
12. Failure in prayer is often due to a heart out of tune with the Lord. The *"pure in heart"* can see God. **2 Timothy 2:22.** *"call on God out of a pure heart."*
13. It is NOT EASY TO PRAY. It is easier to be a preacher, be a deacon, be a youth worker, be a Sunday school teacher, be a visitor. (**Romans 8:7** "mind of flesh is enmity against God").
14. Prayer is reporting to duty!
15. Satan can't counterfeit genuine prayer!
16. Prayer is the gymnasium of the soul.
17. "A privilege"—Humble subject coming into the presence of a Sovereign.
18. Prayer connects us with the power.
- 19.
- 20.

S.D. Gordon: "You can do more than pray after you've prayed, but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed."

IV. DEFINITIONS

1. All elements of prayer PRESUPPOSE A SENSE OF NEED.
The words translated prayer essentially mean to want something, to feel the need of something, to desire something so much that you can't be satisfied with anything else until this desire is granted. So, in a sense, prayer is HUNGERING AND THIRSTING AFTER GOD who alone can meet our needs.

Matthew 5:6 _____

John 7:37 _____

2. To pray is to let JESUS COME INTO OUR NEEDS. **Revelation 3:20** reveals that He needs access.

3. Prayer is the bridge between two worlds: a means while we are on earth to get in touch with heaven.
4. Prayer pleases God.
5. Prayer places us in touch with God's viewpoint.
6. Prayer is a request to God in the name of Christ by the Spirit's help.
7. Intercessory prayer is praying to God the Father, in the name of Jesus the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit, for someone or some circumstance.
8. Prayer is the key that unlocks the door of God's treasure house. God's great storehouse is full of blessings. Only prayer can unlock the door to that storehouse. Prayer is the key and faith both turns the key and opens the door to claim the blessing.
9. Prayer is the moment when heaven and earth kiss each other.

James Montgomery.

11. Prayer is putting ourselves at God's disposal. God is always on our side, but we are not always on His side.
12. Prayer is deeper than words. It is a heart and mind attitude that recognizes and bows before God. It is expressing to God our helplessness while at the same time expressing our faith in Him.
13. When a person has enough faith to turn to God, that is all the faith required.
14. Prayer is the breath of the soul.
15. Prayer is the passage from spiritual thirst to spiritual refreshing.
16. Prayer is that which moves the Hand that moves the world.
17. Prayer is the business in life of every child of God.
18. Prayer is asking God in faith for what we want that He wants us to have.
19. Although prayer is asking things from God, it is much more than merely expecting God to run our errands for us. It is a higher thing than a beggar merely knocking at the rich man's door.
20. The word really means "a wish directed toward" God in the sense of **Psalm 25:1**: "Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul." BEAUTIFUL!
21. A school boy in Edinburgh, Scotland, replied to Mr. Moody's inquiry, "What is prayer?" as follows:

Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgements of His mercies.

22. _____
23. _____
24. _____

SUMMARY: WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is the talking part of a relationship.

Everyone knows that Verbal communication is necessary for healthy relationships.

Let's check it out:

Some earthly relationships:

H.W Marriage

P.C Home

E.E Business

When there is no verbal communication, will

Go wrong

Fall apart

Go bankrupt

Some Biblical relationships:

John 15:15 Friend

Colossians 3:24 Servant

Romans 7:4 Bride

What is prayer?

Friend talking to friend

Servant...to Master

Bride...Bridegroom

DEFINITE ACTIONS OBEYING THE COMMANDS OF JESUS ARE REQUIRED:

Three great commands: pray ye, do ye, go ye.

Without obedience to the "pray ye," it is of little or no use to "do" or "go."

- V. **The Nature of Prayer.** Understanding the three worlds prayer touches will help us understand prayer. There are literally three directions prayer looks.

A HEAVEN

GOD

WORSHIP

KEY VERSE: **Daniel 11:32** *"But the people who know their God shall be strong and do exploits".*

Prayer is the means whereby we can come to KNOW God. As we talk "with" God, not just "to" Him, we will develop a warm fellowship. In fact, we can be sure that we can never know any person, unless we spend time with that person.

Although prayer is a means to touch people and circumstances, it is also designed to let us know God. There is an element of our prayer time when we should "seek His face" and not just "His hand." In fact, we can attest that the highest result of prayer is not deliverance from evil or securing some desired thing; it is KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

John 17:3 *"And this is life eternal, that they should know Thee, the only true God."*

Prayer discovers more of God and that is the soul's greatest discovery. The kneeling Christian always "finds" Him and is found of Him. Brother Lawrence once said, *"Prayer is nothing else than a sense of God's presence."*

As we worship Him, we gaze upon Him in adoration. Adoration is just looking at God and loving Him. There should be a time in our prayer that we seek the Giver, rather than the gift!

R.A. Torrey testified that when he learned to go to God just to be with Him and not ask for anything, his total life changed!

Worship is the Anglo-Saxon word from which we get our Worship. Worship is the recognition of the worthiness of God and acknowledging it with words. This is a time to think about God—who He is—His attributes, His character, His essence, This is a time to ponder, marvel, a time to realize the majesty and the glory of the God whom we are approaching. This is a time for MEDITATION.

Isaiah 6:3 *"Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."*

Luke 2:14 *"Glory to God in the highest."*

By prayer we enter into God's holy temple, and penetrate at once to the throne of grace. Prayer is not only the shortest distance to God's mighty throne, it is the only way in. To think that this supreme wonder could take place so suddenly with one bold, blood-bought step! There we see the Lord Jesus ever living to pray for us, and ready to give us of His own praying by His Spirit. Glorious discovery. HE IS ONLY A PRAYER AWAY! The veil of sense and space that hides Him within His temple-universe is suddenly removed as we pray. We enter silently into His temple, and lo, suddenly we are before His throne. Priests, before our great High Priest. There, too, we are suddenly in the presence of angels and archangels, and with all the company of Heaven we worship and adore Him. Only there do we discover the wonder of worship, that worship is before work, and that all His works are done in the spirit of worship. There are many churchgoers, but few worshipers, because there are few pray-ers!"

Armin R. Gesswein in Seven Wonders of Prayer.

John 14:12-14: *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also, and GREATER WORKS THAN THESE;...because I go to My Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; IF YE SHALL ASK ANYTHING IN MY NAME, I WILL DO IT.”*

Contrary to the thinking of most Christians, PRAYER IS NEITHER

PREFIX - _____

NOR

SUFFIX - _____

- ✓ The Sovereign God has ordained prayer as the tool to get His work done.
- ✓ God works only in concert with the praying of His people.

Great men of God have known this:

John Wesley _____

Charles Spurgeon _____

Oswald Chambers: *“Prayer does not fit us for greater works: prayer is the greater work.”*

Much of the work we are doing has little of the ring of a work with God. It may be a work “for” God, but is surely not a work “with” God. Prayer is working “WITH” Him, not just “for” Him.

Prayer is work , and without prayer there is no work.

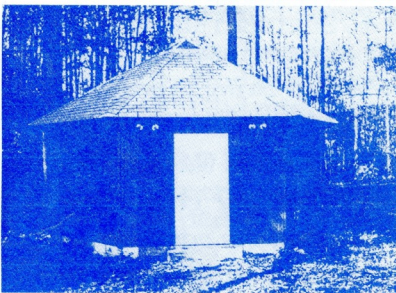
E. M. Bounds: “Prayer is not the foe of work; it does not paralyze activity. It works mightily; prayer itself is the greatest work.”

John 5:17-19 Jesus noted that He was only doing what God was doing. He knew what God was up to and got in on it because He frequently communicated with the Father in prayer.

“To the work” — when we are praying, we are doing the main work of the ministry.

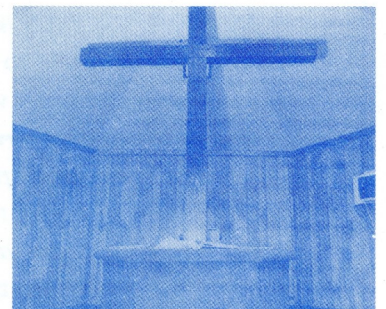
“Striving in prayer” — means TO THE POINT OF EXHAUSTION. **Romans 15:30; Col. 2:1-2; Col. 4:12.**

Acts 12:5 - Intense prayer was made by the church for Peter “without ceasing.” Dr. R.A. Torrey translates “without ceasing” as literally meaning “*stretched-out-ed-ly.*” This represents the soul on the stretch of earnest and intense desire. THAT IS WORK.



The Virginia Prayer Chapel Ministry (see page 30)

There is no need to attempt a corporate Prayer Ministry in a local church until there is a REVIVAL OF PRAYER IN THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS.



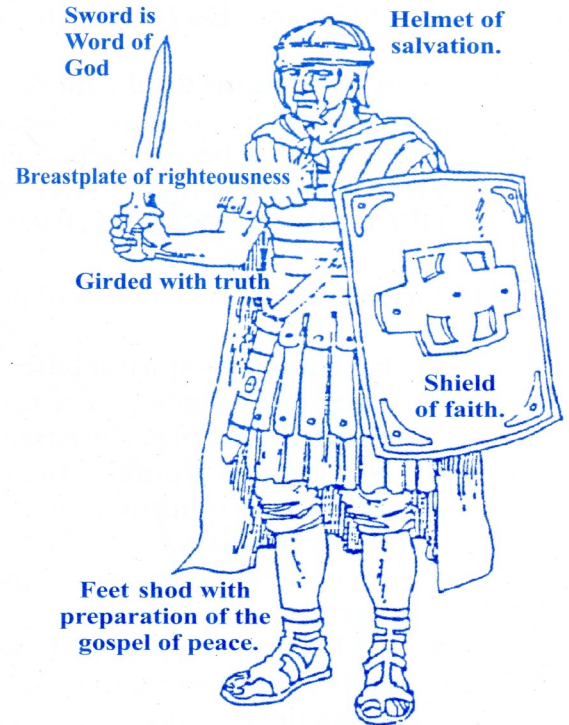
WATCHMAN NEE - *“Let us understand that the church’s noblest work, the greatest task she could ever undertake, is to be the outlet of God’s will. For the church to be the outlet of God’s will is for her to pray.”*

Key Truth: *"I will never win the war if I don't know where the battle is being fought."*

Key Passage: **Ephesians 6:10-18**

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Understand that when you engage in prayer you are involved in warfare. Master **Ephesians 6:10-18. YOU WILL NEVER WIN THE WAR IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHERE THE BATTLE IS BEING FOUGHT.** The first activity mentioned in v. 18—after you get your armor on—is PRAYER, Expect Satan to put you on his hit list when you become a prayer warrior; he will. However, remember that we are victorious through Christ! The battle has already been won if we will simply enter the battle.



Satanic Hierarchy of Organization



- v. 10 Be strong in the Lord
- v. 11 "Wiles" a military term meaning strategems.
- v. 12 A spiritual hierarchy of organization is given.
- vv. 13-17 Put the whole armor on
Only part not covered is _____ ; thus, God doesn't intend for us to turn and run!
- v. 18 The verse that tells us WHERE the battle is. It is

"I WILL NEVER WIN THE WAR IF I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE BATTLE IS BEING FOUGHT."

S. D. Gordon: "The greatest agency put into man's hand is prayer. And to define prayer one must use the language of war. Peace language is not equal to the situation. The earth is in a state of war and is being hotly besieged. Thus one must use war talk to grasp the fact with which prayer is concerned. Prayer from God's side is communication between Himself and His allies in the enemy country. True prayer moves in a circle. It begins with the heart of God and sweeps down into the human heart on earth, so intersecting the circle of the earth, which is the battlefield of prayer, and then goes back again to its starting point, having accomplished its purpose on the downward swing."

Prayer is giving God a foothold in the battlefield. Prayer throws the battle to the Lord with the victory already won at Calvary. THE PERSON WHO ESPOUSES TO BECOME A PERSON OF PRAYER NEEDS TO BE AWARE THAT HE WILL BE PUT ON SATAN'S HIT LIST.

VI. CONCLUSION.

- A. All our past failure, inefficiency, insufficiency – all our past unfruitfulness in service – can be banished now, once for all, if we will only give prayer its proper place. NOW is the starting time. Don't wait for a more convenient time.
- B. Let's start on our knees letting the Holy Spirit use the Word to search us through and through. Am I sincere? Do I really desire to do God's will? Do I believe His promises?
- C. Mere resolutions to take more time to pray and to conquer our reluctance to pray will require living Spirit-filled lives, which means absolute surrender to the Lordship of Christ. If that step is not taken, you will never become a prayer warrior. A certainty: God wants me to pray and God wants you to pray. The question is, **ARE WE WILLING TO YIELD TO THE HOLY SPIRIT SO WE CAN BECOME PRAYER WARRIORS?**
- D. Jack Taylor's seven points of perspective:
1. No believer's spiritual life will ever rise to stay above the level of his praying. Prayer marks the level of your genuine Christian life. You are what you are on your knees, nothing more. The effectiveness of a Christian's life is gauged by his prayer life.
 2. No church's ultimate effectiveness will rise to stay above the level of its corporate prayer life—the praying of its members. No part of a church's ministry will rise to stay above the level of its prayer ministry.
 3. No church's corporate prayer life will be greater than the personal prayer lives of those who make up its constituency.
 4. No believer's prayer life will rise to stay above the level of his or her own personal, regular, daily time of worship with God.
 5. No believer's practice of prayer will rise to stay above his view of prayer—thus the need to constantly keep a proper perspective on prayer.
 6. Praise is an indispensable factor in the prayer life—both private & public.
 7. The only way to learn to pray is to pray.
- E. What kind of praying church we have depends on the kind of praying people we have. If every member prayed like me, what kind of praying church would we be?
- F. What will your decision be? You will never have a consistent prayer life until you make up your mind that prayer is important. Actions are a reflection of our beliefs. Think this issue through. It might be helpful if you would get alone and make a list of reasons why you should become a prayer warrior based on the Holy Spirit's work in you during this session. Let me help you get started. I SHOULD PRAY BECAUSE:

1. Relationships that don't talk don't grow.

2. I have been commanded to pray. See Matthew 5:44; 6:6; 9:38; 26:41

3. Christ's own example is unavoidable.

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

GOD HELP US TO AWAKEN!

Luke 12:49 - JESUS : "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?"

SESSION TWO
BIBLE EXAMPLES OF PRAYER

Note: GOD'S WORD ABOUND WITH ✓ COMMANDS ✓ EXAMPLES ✓ PROMISES
✓ ENCOURAGEMENTS TO PRAY

I. Commands in the Bible to Pray

A. Moses commanded Israel to pray

1. **Deut. 26:5** - "Thou shalt speak and say before the Lord."
2. **1 Chronicles 16:11** - "Seek the Lord and His strength".

B. Jesus commanded prayer.

1. **Luke 10:2** - "Therefore said He unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest."
2. **Mark 14:38** -
3. **Mark 9:29** -

4.

C. Paul commanded prayer

1. **Ephesians 1:16-17** - "Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."
2. **1 Thess 5:17-18** - "Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."
3. **Romans 12:12** -

4.

5.

II. Notice many things about Bible prayers as you study. There is adoration, confession, restitution, thanksgiving, forgiveness, faith, unity, supplication, submission, confidence, persistence, and some other attributes according to the person praying and the nature of the petition.

III. Bible Examples of Prayer. 650 recorded prayers in the Bible other than the Psalms: 450 have recorded answers.

PETITION

PRAYING FOR SELF

IV. JABEZ... an EXAMPLE OF PRAYER. A MAN ALMOST NOBODY KNOWS.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 - "And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that Thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that Thine hand might be with me, and that Thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me. And God granted him that which he requested."

A. Introduction

1. Name tucked away amid 500 names.
2. Compulsion to explain this man above all others.
3. Fewer than 80 words - yet it speaks volumes.
4. Simple facts stated, but no need to further explain.

THREE QUESTIONS

- #1 If God listed our names, would He need to explain any one of us?

<p>B. OBSERVE THE PROMINENCE THAT DESCRIBED HIM.</p> <p>1. More honorable than his brethren.</p>	<p>#2 What if no one else is interested, in prayer, would I be?</p>
<p>C. OBSERVE THE PAIN THAT DESIGNATED HIM</p> <p>His name means "pain."</p>	<p>#3 What if there's pain involved?</p>
<p>D. THE PRAYING THAT DISTINGUISHED HIM.</p> <p>1. <i>"And Jabez called upon the God of Israel".</i> A man is known for what he does the most. To be recognized, he must do more of what he is known for than others.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The <u>certainty</u> of his praying. b. The <u>consistency</u> of his praying. c. The <u>content</u> of his praying. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>"Oh, that Thou wouldest bless me indeed;"</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Urgent (b) Personal (c) Daring 2) <i>"AND ENLARGE MY COAST;"</i> 3) <i>"And that Thine hand might be with me;"</i> 4) <i>"And that Thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it might not grieve me."</i> 	
<p>2. <i>"And God granted him that which he requested."</i></p>	

V. JESUS

PRAYER: A TOP PRIORITY OF JESUS

To **prioritize** is to order according to importance.

I. CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

Luke 5:16
Luke 6:12
Matthew 14:23



Mark 1:35 alerts us in the opening verses of his book to the power behind Jesus' ministry: regular, unhurried times for prayer. If Jesus, "Who is the image of the invisible God" (**Col. 1:15**), often felt the need to linger long in prayer, can you and I hope to face the challenges of a day with anything else?

II. CHRIST'S EXPECTATION

Matthew 6:5 Not "If"
6:6 but
6:7 "when"

Our Lord knew prayer is the only answer to our daily confrontations with the enemy. Jesus prayed constantly!

III. CHRIST'S EXPLANATION

A. Sermon on Mount
Matthew 5,6,7 - 10%
 on "how to" "how not to" pray

B. Model Prayer

1. "Our Father"
2. Note the pronouns
 ½ "Thy" ½ "us...our"

C. Parables
Luke 11:5-8



1. Shamelessly knocking
2. Be specific
3. Persistence

IV. CHRIST'S EXHORTATION

To exhort is to

Plead earnestly

V. JESUS - Praying for us Now

1. **John 14:16** PRAY = ASK (God's hand to move)
 PARACLETE / COMFORTER / COUNSELOR / HELPER

2. **Hebrews 7:25**

3. **Hebrews 9:24**

4. **1 John 2:1**
 ADVOCATE - PARACLETE

5. **Romans 8:34**

"If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference; He is praying for me."

- Robert Murray McCheyne
 Scottish missionary/teacher

SESSION THREE

PRAYING IN THE NAME OF JESUS

On September 25, 1982, I was driving from New Jersey to speak at a missionary conference in Mahopac Falls, New York. While crossing over the Hudson River on the Tappan Zee Bridge, I saw a bumper sticker that defines a major problem for many as we approach the Word of God.

The bumper sticker said: "THE BIBLE SAYS IT. I BELIEVE IT. THAT SETTLES IT."

Had I had opportunity to speak personally with those in the car, I would have told them that their sticker was wrong. To be correct, it should have said "THE BIBLE SAYS IT. THAT SETTLES IT."

How very humanistic we have become. Whether "I believe it" or not has nothing to do with the truths of God's Word.

When we come to discuss PRAYING IN THE NAME OF JESUS, one's personal belief often influences his thoughts and actions. How tolerant we become and how unwilling to take a firm stand on what the Word of God says!

Let's look at some Scriptures that are but samples of PRAYING IN THE NAME OF JESUS. (Remember the Sevenfold Invitation of Jesus mentioned in Session I on page 4.)

JOHN 14:13,14 - *"And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it."*

JOHN 16:23, 24, 26 - *"And in that day ye shall ask Me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. At that day ye shall ask in My name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you."*

JOHN 14:6 - *"I am the Way the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."*

ACCESS: Jesus Christ

We should be conscious as Christians that there is only one access to God. You cannot come into the presence of God apart from Christ Himself. A person comes into the presence of God only if and when he breathes the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, a basic and essential prerequisite for effective prayer is for us to say something like this: "Thank you for Jesus Christ and in Him, in His Name I approach You, Father."

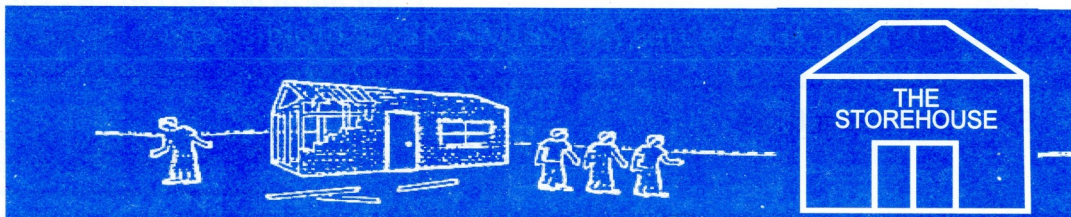
A practical suggestion

We customarily attach "In Jesus" Name" as a suffix to our praying. I have learned that it is a blessing, to acknowledge Jesus immediately as we begin to pray.

"Father, I have come to you in the name of Your Son, Jesus. I know that He is my access to You. I have not come in my own merit or name—only in His wonderful Name."

Don't you know that this will please the Father? It will really help your praying. Try it for yourself.

There is no other approach to God except through Christ. Prayer rises or falls with one's concept of Jesus Christ. The person who holds a light view of the Lord Jesus Christ cannot have a meaningful prayer life, The Scripture is clear!



I. “IN MY NAME” / “IN JESUS” NAME / “IN HIS NAME”

Prayer in the name of Jesus is an appeal to His authority. The name of Jesus is the authority that opens the door into God's presence and gives us the right to be heard.

Only those persons can enter the presence of God who accept the teaching of the Bible concerning the blood of Christ. “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus” (**Hebrews 10:19**).

In the Bible, the name stands for the person. We must pray only for things that are consistent with His name and character. He entrusts us with His name and gives us the signet ring of God so that what we ask in His name becomes divinely authoritative.

Acts 2:36 - “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, Whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 1:11,12 “Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy His calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of faith with power: **THAT THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD MAY BE GLORIFIED IN YOU, AND YE IN HIM, ACCORDING TO THE GRACE OF OUR GOD AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**”

Prayer in the name of Christ has power with God. To pray in Christ's name is to pray in union and communion with Christ Himself. It is not simply using a magical formula to get what we want. It is a means of honoring and glorifying Him.

TO PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS is to ask for things that the Blood of Jesus has secured (purchased) for us. We have “boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.” (**Hebrews 10:19**). There is entrance by no other way.

II. JESUS IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST/OUR MEDIATOR

Under the directions Moses received from God, provision was made for the High Priest to enter the Most Holy Place once a year, and there make an Atonement for the sins of the people, by sprinkling the blood of the unblemished lamb upon the Mercy Seat. And in all matters, pertaining to the spiritual life of God's people, the High Priest became the mediator between God and man. See **Leviticus 16**.

It is quite obvious to every consistent student of the Word of God that the High Priest of the Old Testament was the archetype of Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest. Notice the confirmation of this by the writer of the Hebrews:

*“For we have not an High Priest which can not be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” **Hebrews 4:15-16.***

*“But this Man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood; Wherefore He is able to save them unto the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them” **Hebrews 7:24-25.***

The particular significance of this brief study of the High Priest is that only through Christ may one reach God and have dealings with Him. To be specific, the ascent of prayer into the presence of God is through the name of Christ and through that Name alone.

III. A WORD OF CAUTION BEFORE WE CONTINUE Study **James 4:3**. Note that it is possible to “ASK AMISS.” What does this mean?

SESION FOUR

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PRAYER

FACT. There can be no true prayer without the aid of the Holy Spirit. See **Romans 8:26**. The Holy Spirit helps our **infirmities**. You will be surprised in a very pleasant manner at the role the Holy Spirit plays in our praying. The red thread running through all we have said about prayer that binds together everything in a unified whole is the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:26-27 – “Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searches the hearts knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

Note subject of each verse.

Romans 8:26 _____

Romans 8:27 _____

1. Searches the hearts
2. Knows mind of the Spirit
3. Makes intercession for the saints

AMAZING!

**THE VERY MOMENT WE BEGIN
TO PRAY BOTH JESUS AND THE
HOLY SPIRIT JOIN US.**

Paul urges us to great living and praying in these words found in **Ephesians 6:17, 18**:

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

AND IN JUDE WE READ: “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.” **v.20.**

PRAYING TO GOD IN THE SPIRIT IS PRAYING TO GOD UNDER GOD’S CONTROL. TREMENDOUS!

REQUIREMENTS FOR PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

1. In order to pray in the Spirit, one must be born of the Spirit. A sinner cannot pray in the Spirit, He can call upon the Lord for salvation. The promises of prayer are for believers.
2. To be able to pray in the Spirit, one must be filled with the Spirit. SPIRIT-FILLED is SPIRIT-CONTROLLED!

Ephesians 5:18 _____

3. A third requirement is time. It takes time to pray God’s way because, it takes time to get to know God. In a prayer testimony, Bernie Todd stressed that the reason for prayer is getting to know God. It takes time to know any person—time spent with him—just talking. It takes time to know God and one cannot love God in the truest sense without knowing Him.

Prayer is loving God. It is not so much a ritual as a relationship. Hurry is the death of prayer. We inevitably desire to spend much time with those whom we love the most!

John Bunyan (Prayer): “It is the easiest thing in a hundred to fall from power to form, but it is the hardest thing of many to keep in the life, spirit and power of any one duty, especially prayer; that is such a work that a man without the help of the Spirit cannot so much as pray once, much less continue without, in a sweet praying frame, and in praying, so to pray as to have his prayer ascend unto the ears of the Lord of the Sabaoth.”

Prayer was not provided to be carried on alone.

SESSION FIVE

THE SIN OF PRAYERLESSNESS

A DEFINITION OF PRAYERLESSNESS

Prayerlessness characterizes the life of many believers. It is that state in which one prays less than he ought, less than the Father desires, and less than that one himself knows that he should. Some studies have indicated that many Christians pray less than four minutes a day, if at all.

During this session we want to determine how it is possible for a believer to be prayerless as a part of his lifestyle. We will primarily look at prayerlessness as a sin and as a stronghold. Hopefully, a believer will be able to understand what it takes to become a person of prayer when he understands who he is as a person.

PRAYERLESSNESS—A SIN

It is quite easy to look upon prayerlessness as simply an area of neglect. "It would be nice if I prayed more" is the mind-set of many who don't understand that prayerlessness is a sin.

Let's look at two primary verses:

1 Samuel 12:23

James 4:2b

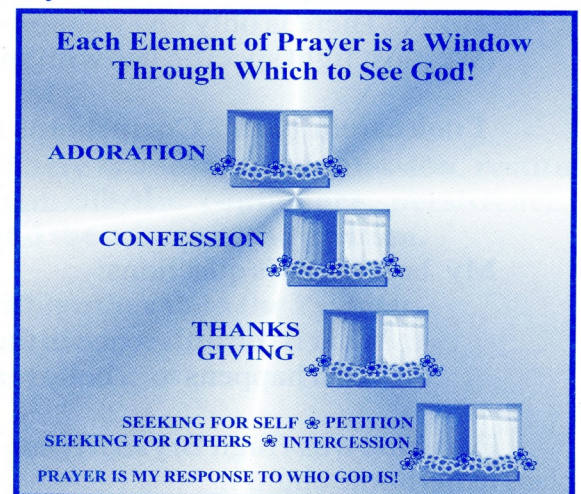
God has **COMMANDED** that we pray. Remember **Jeremiah 33:3?**

When God has given us a command, we have two choices only. We can _____ or _____ . Disobedience is rebellion against God!

Prayerlessness is a sin against Who God is.

Prayerlessness is a sin against the

- ✓ THE PERSON OF GOD
- ✓ THE PROVISION OF GOD
- ✓ THE PURPOSE AND PLAN OF GOD
- ✓ THE PLEASURE OF GOD
- ✓ THE POWER OF GOD
- ✓ THE PROMISE OF GOD



So, you see prayerlessness is more than an area of neglect or an area of regret. It is a sin. If I don't talk to God, then it is an indication that He is really playing a secondary role in my life and as a result of this I will never be the person God wants me to be.

Prayerlessness is costly. It costs the individual who isn't praying because prayer is what God has provided to help us grow along with the Word of God, Through the Word of God, God speaks to us. Through prayer, we speak to God. Prayerlessness also costs God because this is His ordained way to get His work done. Finally, prayerlessness costs others who do not benefit from prayers that are not prayed.

Remember our definition of prayer in Session I? "Prayer is the talking part of a relationship. You know that verbal communication is very necessary to relationships; so therefore, when you are praying you are developing your relationship with the Lord. You will never know God if you don't spend time in His presence."

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT A BORN-AGAIN PERSON BE PRAYERLESS?

PRAYERLESSNESS – A STRONGHOLD

Key verse: *“The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”* **2 Corinthians 10:4,5**

STRONGHOLD: A stronghold is a system of thought or an area of bondage within the mind or body that encourages the devil to attack. In military language, it would refer to any area where the military is entrenched—a “fortress.” It is an area over which the Christian does not have control.

Repeating an incident of behavior enough times produces a habit. Once a habit is formed, the person proceeds without thinking because whatever it is has become a part of his lifestyle.

Note the following from Dr. Charles Stanley’s **HANDLE WITH PRAYER** (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1982, p. 118):

“A stronghold is an area of sin that has become part of our lifestyle. It may be a harmful habit (drugs, fornication, smoking), or it may be an attitude (rejection, loneliness, worry, doubt)... Satan pumps us full of lies which secure these strongholds. They may sound like this, 'There’s really nothing wrong with this music. I don’t listen to the words any way! Or, 'I just drink a little when I get nervous.' And haven’t we all said, 'The police won’t pull me over for going 60 mph, so it’s OK?’”

Our responsibility as Christians is to tear down these strongholds through Spirit-filled prayers. How? There is only one weapon—the sword of the Spirit. We must fight these lies with God’s Word. We must fight specific lies with specific truths.

Look carefully at **2 Corinthians 10:4, 5**. In what part of a person is the stronghold developed?

In the _____

My best friend’s questions:

1. What is the difference in the Bible between spirit, soul and heart?
2. What happens to a believer when he dies?

His name was Hugh Bryan Mylam. He lived in southside Virginia and was teaching a senior citizens’ class in his home church.

Basically Hugh Bryan’s question was “WHO IS A PERSON?”

We found a key verse that answers this question.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 _____

List the three parts of a person according to this verse:

See **Genesis 2:7**

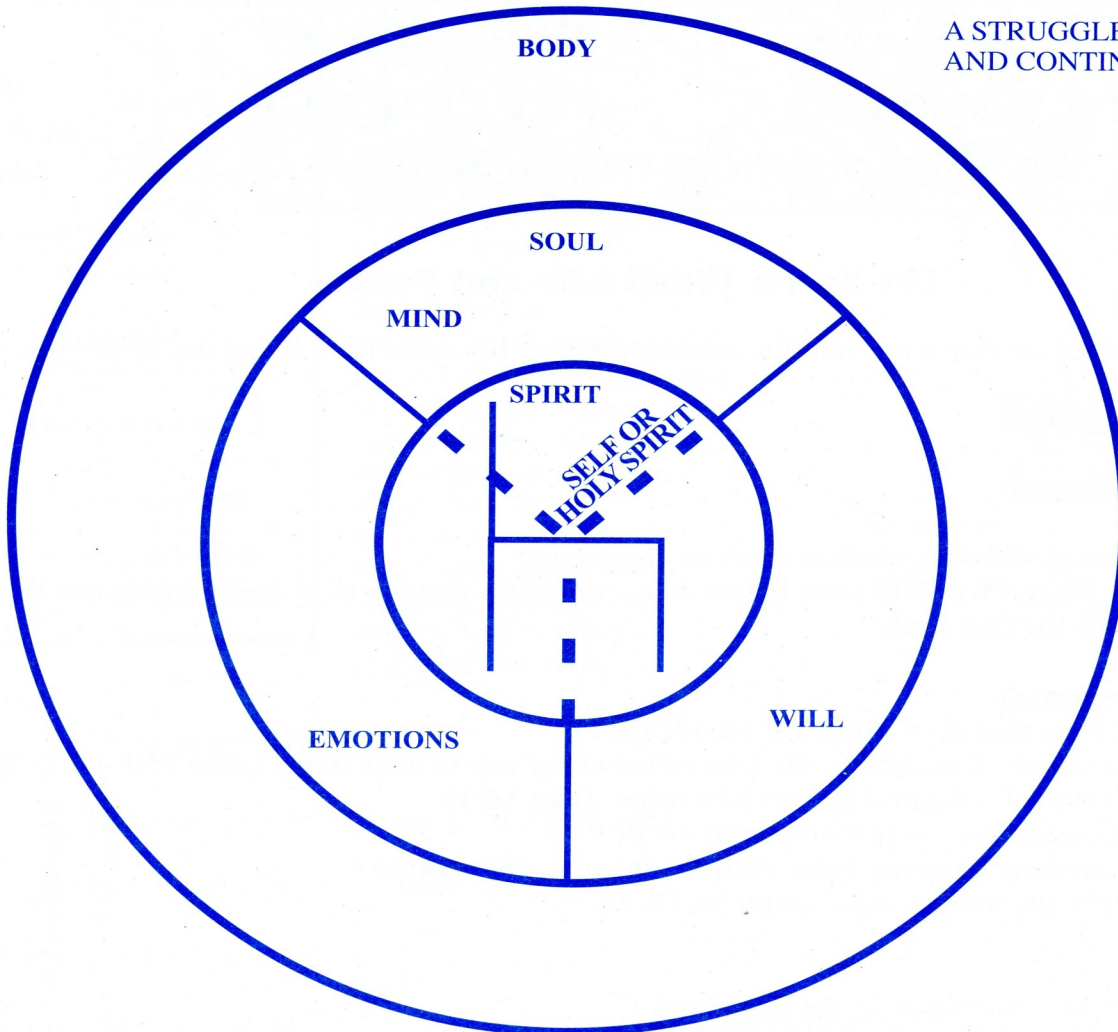
WHO IS A PERSON ?

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MIND
EMOTIONS
WILL
BODY

NOT
BORN
AGAIN

A STRUGGLE BEGINS
AND CONTINUES



You remember that God told Adam that he would die the day he ate the forbidden fruit in the garden (**Genesis. 3**). Did he die? _____ How? _____

What kind of a new birth did Jesus tell Nicodemus that he had to have in order to be saved and go to heaven in **John 3**? _____

Because of Adam's sin, the spirit of man died to God. Every person born since Adam has been born dead to God. When a person receives Christ as Savior, his spirit is quickened (made alive) by the Holy Spirit. He is born again!

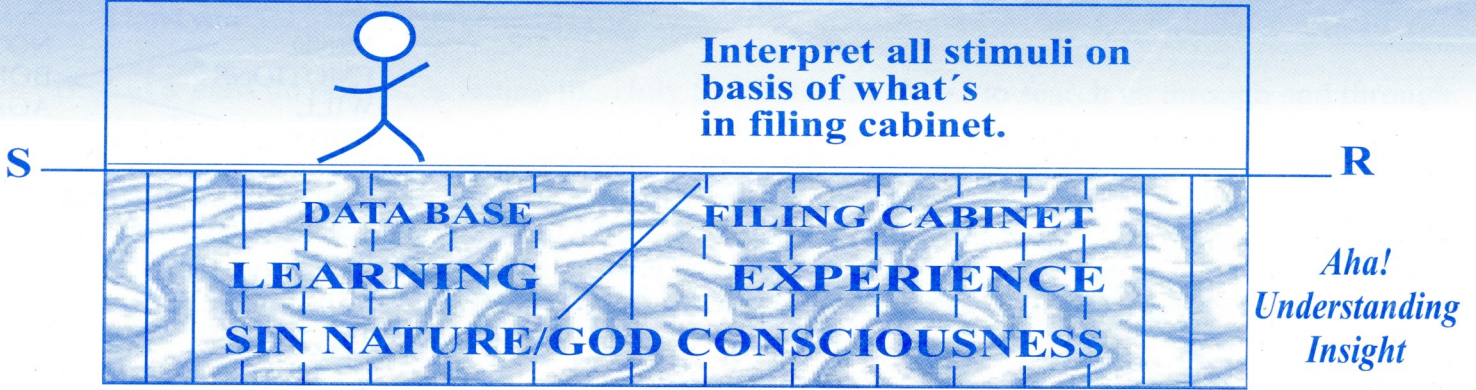
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON RECEIVES CHRIST AS SAVIOR? (BORN AGAIN)

1. Name written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
2. Holy Spirit comes to live in the person.
3. Holy Spirit places the person into the Body of Christ.
4. Holy Spirit gives at least one spiritual (charisma) gift.
- 5.

The Holy Spirit becomes resident, but that does not mean that He becomes president!

A LOOK AT THE MIND

OSCULATION



The Spirit-Filled Life and Prayer

You will never develop a meaningful, sustained prayer life apart from living the Spirit-filled life.

I. The Holy Spirit

A. Old Testament

1. Residence - Heaven, came to earth on assignment
2. **Joel 2:28,29**. Over 800 years before Jesus, prophecy that the Holy Spirit would one day be available for "all flesh."

B. New Testament

1. Basic information in **John 13, 14, 15, 16, 17**

- A. Paraclete - Comforter - the One called along side to help. **John 14:16** THE HELPER.
- B. "Another" - means One just like Jesus. **John 14:16**
- C. "Comfortless" - orphans. **John 14:18**
- D. Functions: Convict, **John 16:8-11**; Instruct. **John 14:26**
- E. Calls attention to Jesus. **John 16:13, 14**

2. Acts

(Peter uses the "keys" to the Kingdom)

- A. Chapter 2 - Pentecost - Believing Jews - Jerusalem
 1. Sound of rushing wind
 2. Fire
 3. Language / Dialect
- B. Chapter 8
Samaritans - Half Jews / Half Gentiles
- C. Chapter 10
Gentiles - Caesarea - Cornelius
- D. Chapter 19 -
Asia Minor - Ephesus - Turkey
12 men.
Only knew teaching of John the Baptist

Supporting verses:
John 14:17: "in you"
Romans 8:9: Unsaved without Holy Spirit.
1 Corinthians 3:16: Body is temple
1 John 4:13: Assurance of salvation.

II. Spirit Baptism

Key verse: **1 Corinthians 12:13** *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*

"All" Corinthian Believers were Spirit-baptized

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| A. Occurs only once in each believer's life | A. Carnal Christians | B. Gifts of the Spirit |
| B. Never happened before Pentecost | Paul wanted to give meat, but had to give milk. | Chapters 12,13, 14 -charisma |
| C. True of all believers | 1. Factions 1 Cor. 3 | 1. Not all had each gift. |
| D. Can't be undone | 2. Immorality 1 Cor 5 | 2. All were Spirit baptized. |
| E. Occurs when we believe in Christ | 3. Lawsuits 1 Cor. 6 | |
| F. No prerequisite except faith in Christ | 4. Disorders at the Lord's Table 1 Cor. 11 | |

III. Spirit Filled.

Key Verse : **Ephesians 5:18**

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: Love and eight other qualities. Galatians 5:22-23

A CARNAL Christian is a Christian where SELF is in control, not the Holy Spirit

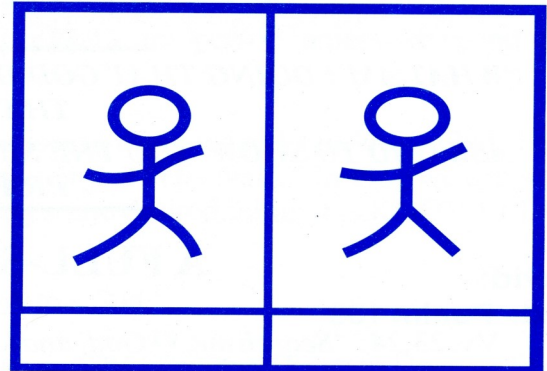
And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit."

- A. A repeated experience.
- B. Occurred in Old Testament days.
- C. Not necessarily experienced by all believers.
- D. Can be lost.
- E. Results in power in a believer's life.
- F. Occurs throughout Christian life.

Why the analogy of drunk?

Why are Christians carnal?

- Don't know:
1. how to be clean
 2. how to be Spirit-filled



Idea is control!!
Walk changes. Talk changes.

To be Spirit-filled is to be _____

S i n

God says that there are some things that He does not want in the lives of His children. Then there are some things that He wants in the lives of all of His children.

Through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, I realize that there are things wrong in my life. I must deal with them specifically.

Two aspects:

See page 22

1. Doing of Forbidden Things.
Be specific
2. Failing to do Expected Things.
Be specific.

The difference in confessing retail and wholesale is the difference in running the lawn mower over the weed and leaving the root in the ground. It will come out again.

How to be Filled with the Spirit

I. Dealing with Sin. *Confess and Forsake Known Sin.*

- A. Conviction - *Conscious of sin, Holy Spirit uses the word of God.*
- B. Repentance - *Change of mind based on new evidence.*
- C. Confession - *"to agree with;" "say the same thing as."*

BE SPECIFIC!

D. Forgiveness and cleansing - *Lift and remove heavy load / Cleanse - remove*

1 John 1:9.

E. Changed Direction - *Result of being cleansed.*

II. Surrender/yield to the Holy Spirit

SESSION SIX GETTING READY TO PRAY

**"WHAT AM I DOING THAT GOD DOES NOT WANT ME TO DO ? WHAT AM I NOT DOING THAT HE WANTS ME TO DO ?
ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU THE SINS IN YOUR LIFE, WHEN HE DOES, MAKE A SIN LIST!
PRAY A PRAYER LIKE THIS!"**

David:

A FULL-SCALE INVESTIGATION

Text: **Psalm 139**

Vv. 23,24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me, in the way everlasting."

Psalm 66:18: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me"

Isaiah 59:1-2: "Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened that He cannot save; neither is His ear heavy that He cannot hear, but your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins have hid His face from you so that He cannot hear."

In preparation for personal prayer, there needs to be a life free from sin for prayer to take place. Take your Bible and read slowly and deliberately **Psalm 139**. Then, with, your Bible still open beside you to **Psalm 139**, slowly re-read this section.

INVESTIGATION COMMON TODAY. Our nation will stand for many years in the tragic shadow of the findings of the Watergate investigations. This debacle seemed to touch off a chain reaction of investigations in America. Though the findings proved embarrassing in many instances, we do well to note the unpublicized results of such investigations; the cleansing of the system, the condemnation of the guilty, the clearing of the just, and confirmation of justice.

It is important to re-read the entire Psalm. Do it now.

Who among us does not need often to have a full-scale investigation in our lives? **Psalm 139** sets forth the qualities of a proper investigation.

I. THERE MUST BE A CONFIDENCE IN THE INVESTIGATOR.

- A. The reaches of His intelligence (vv. 1-6)
 - 1. Past knowledge (v. 1)
 - 2. Present positions and locations (vv. 2,3)
 - 3. Word and thoughts (vv. 2-4)
- B. The realms of His influence (vv. 7-12)
 - 1. Heaven and hell (v. 8)
 - 2. Remote isles of the sea (vv. 9,10)
 - 3. Darkness (vv. 11,12)
- C. The rightness of His intentions (vv. 13-20)
 - 1. God presided over my birth (v. 13)
 - 2. God purposes my life (vv. 14-18)
 - 3. God punishes the wicked (vv. 19,20)

PRINCIPLES IN GETTING RIGHT WITH OTHERS

- I. Be sure you need to go
 - A) Go to God first
 - B) "If I" situations are out
 - C) "Tearing Down" principle
- II. Approach: God has really been working in my life.
I'm not the same person. Forgive me for: (Be specific)
- III. Don't write it
- IV. Be cautious!

II. THERE MUST BE A CALL TO BE INVESTIGATED.

- A. A personal commitment against the wickedness (vv. 21,22)
- B. A personal investigation called for (v. 23)
- C. A pervasive investigation called for (know my heart and thoughts) v. 23
- D. A purposeful investigation called for (To see if there be any wicked way in me) v.24

III. THERE MUST BE A COMMITMENT TO ABIDE BY THE INVESTIGATION'S FINDINGS.

- A. A personal commitment (Lead me) v. 24b
- B. A permanent commitment (In the way everlasting) v.24



SESSION SEVEN

A-C-T-S: PERSONAL PRAYING

Acts 1-8 could well be described as SATURATION EVANGELISM IN JERUSALEM. Many believe that the population of Jerusalem was approximately 250,000 during this time. At the close of **Acts 8**, most believe that 100,000 to 125,000 were members of the Jerusalem church. WHAT IS THE EXPLANATION OF SUCH GROWTH? If we can spot the secret, can we not assume that if we will replicate this ingredient(s) that we can see growth today? GOD HAS NOT CHANGED!

5 Emphases of the Early Church:

1. Doctrine Word of God
2. Spirit-filled
3. Prayer
4. Witnessing Psalm 126:5-6
5. Stewardship

I. LET US PRAY

Enroll as a serious student in Jesus' School of Prayer.

THE MAIN THING IS TO

KEEP THE MAIN THING

THE MAIN THING!

PRIORITY DISCIPLINE

A. IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

PURPOSE OF CHRISTIAN FAITH is that we might have a meaningful encounter with the true and living God. PRAYER IS THE WAY GOD GIVES US HIS CHOICEST BLESSINGS; a way whereby His work grows and prospers.

James 4:2 "Ye have not because ye ask not"

B. SOME BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES as we learn to pray.

1. **ESTABLISH A TIME TO MEET THE LORD.** Set an appointment. Keep the appointment.
 - a. Begin by giving a few minutes a day for prayer. AS THESE MOMENTS ARE BLESSED, IT WILL NOT BE LONG UNTIL YOU ARE SCHEDULING MORE TIME FOR PRAYER. There must be a beginning, however. MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD AND KEEP THE APPOINTMENT!
 - b. **EARLY MORNING PRAYING.** Mind fresher, problems of day are out before us, and we need His strength; He got up "a great while before day" (**Mark 1:35**). The watch of the night was 3-6 A.M.
 - (1) Example of Jesus.
 - (2) Explanation of Jesus.
 - (3) Principle: Get God in on the beginning!

Don't wait until you've messed up your day and then bring the pieces for Him to put back together.

2. **ESTABLISH A PLACE TO MEET THE LORD.** As free from interruptions as possible.

CLOSET PRAYING

 - A. Set place
 - b. Shut place
 - c. Secluded place

Psychological set will work for you!

II. A - C - T - S HOW TO PRAY

THEME: "How Great Thou Art."

A-ffirm God's presence

Isaiah 40:31 _____

Psalms 46:10-11 _____

James 4:8 _____

Psalms 37:7 _____

FIRST STEP: Merely to be quiet and REMIND OURSELVES THAT GOD IS WITH US. Empty bodies, minds, souls and become absorbed in the thought that "He is." Wait and you will sense an invisible change taking place.

USE SCRIPTURES

Exodus 14:13 _____

"TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES MOSES. YOU ARE ON HOLY GROUND" ATTITUDE

READ BIBLE FIRST !

PRAYER IS A GREAT DISCIPLINE, AND ITS EXERCISE CONTRIBUTES VERY GREATLY TO THE WORK OF PERFECTING WHICH THE SPIRIT IS CARRYING ON IN THE SOUL. IT'S THE LEAST SENSATIONAL, AND LEAST OBSTRUCTIVE OF OUR SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES: BUT IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT AND THE MOST POTENT.

- ALEXANDER WHYTE

A QUOTATION FROM DR. SIDLOW BAXTER

"I care not what black spiritual crisis we may come through or what delightful spiritual Canaans we may enter, no blessing of the Christian life becomes continuously possessed unless we are men and women of regular, daily, unhurried, secret lingerings with God. None can be retained apart from a meaningful prayer life."

A-dore Him

Praise God for Who He Is. Seek His face.

Adoration is glory we give GOD FOR WHO HE IS HIMSELF. Contemplation of the glorious nature of God. PRAISE for what He is in Himself. His essence. His character.

WHAT IS THE BASIC PURPOSE OF MAN?

To honor God and glorify Him forever.

Isaiah 43:7

Focus on His majesty and glory.

There is something about the nature of God that demands Praise.

NOT THANKSGIVING, which is the glory we give to God FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US. Not seeking His hand, but His face.

Chief occupation in heaven is to praise the Lord.

Revelation 5:11-14; 7:9-12

Recall His character
Recall His attributes
Recall His essence:

- ...His love
- ...His splendor
- ...His power
- ...His beauty
- ...His wisdom
- ...His holiness

WHO GOD IS ?

USE LETTERS OF ALPHABET TO REMEMBER WHO GOD IS IN YOUR PRAISING:

- A** = Almighty, All sufficient, Alpha.
- B** = Beginning, Bread, Beautiful.
- C** = Creator, Comforter, Changeless.
- D** = Deliverer
- E** = Eternal
- F** = Faithful, Father, Friend
- G** = Good, Gracious, Glorious.
- H** = Holy
- I** = Immutable, Invincible
- J** = Jealous, Just, Judge, Joyous
- K** = King, Knowing, Kind
- L** = Loving, Loyal, Life
- M** = Merciful, Master, Mighty
- N** = Near
- O** = OMNISCIENT
OMNIPOTENT
OMNIPRESENT
OMEGA

- P** = Pure, Patient, Prince of Peace
- Q** = Quiet
- R** = Righteous, Radiant, Ruler
- S** = Sovereign, Secure, Spotless
- T** = Truth, Tender, Trustworthy
- U** = Understanding, Universal
- V** = Victorious
- W** = Wise, Wonderful
- X** = Xcellent
- Y** = Yearn
- Z** = Zealous

- REMEMBER DANIEL 11:32?**
- Psalm 50:23
- Hebrews 13:15
- Psalm 33:1
- Psalm 34:1
- Psalm 40:3
- Psalm 48:1
- Psalm 57:8-9
- Psalm 107:8-9

WHO IS GOD?

God has revealed Himself Through His names. Learn them and PRAISE HIM FOR WHO HE IS!

1. ELOHIM - *reveals His eternal strength and creative power.*
2. EL SHADDAI - *almighty, able to nourish*
3. ADONAI - *ownership and lordship*
4. JEHOVAH - *self-existent & self-sufficient*

He is:

- JEHOVAH - JIREH: - *God Who Provides.*
- JEHOVAH - ROPHE: - *God Who Heals.*
- JEHOVAH - NISSI: - *God our Banner.*
- JEHOVAH - ROHI: - *God our Shepherd.*
- JEHOVAH - SHALOM: - *God our Peace.*
- JEHOVAH - TISIDKENU: - *God our Righteousness.*
- JEHOVAH - SHAMMAH: - *God Who is Present.*
- JEHOVAH - M'KADDESH - *Lord Who makes us holy.*

Let's praise the Lord!

Matthew 21:28-30 “And afterward he repented and went.” First Son.

REPENT = _____

Literally - “a turning around.”– Not so much physical, but mental.

Isaiah 59:1-2 _____

What separates us from God?

If we are to find a fresh, personal relationship with God in prayer–IF WE ARE TO ENJOY UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP – sins that are barriers to our fellowship with Him must be FORGIVEN, CLEANSED, AND REMOVED.

1 John 1:9 _____

I. **MAKE CONFESSION PERSONAL**

Deal with specific acts of transgression

PERSONAL CHECKLIST could be made listing sins.

SUMMARY: 1. Doing of forbidden things. “What exactly did I do?”
2. Failure to do expected things. “What exactly did I not do?”

A. **ACTIONS AGAINST GOD**

Psalm 51:4 - _____

B. **SINS OF TEMPERAMENT**

Selfishness, pride, stinginess, fear, worry, anxiety, cowardice, jealousy, anger, bad temper, impatience, irritability, complacency, vindictiveness, peevishness, lust.

C. **SINS AGAINST MY FELLOWMAN**

Unkind words and deeds, critical spirit, deceit, lack of forgiveness, spite, malice, hatred, enmity, grudges, unwillingness to be reconciled, dislike or hatred of some, prejudice, failure to be honest and true in personal feeling, indifference to the needs of others, failure to use my influence for God’s good

D. **SINS OF NEGLECT.** Not taking time to do. . .

Bible study, prayer, witnessing _____

2. **THE PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS** (1 John 1:9)

T-hanksqiving.

Luke 17:17 *“Were there not ten cleansed, where are the Nine?”* **EXTENT OF INGRATITUDE?**

THEME: “PRAISE THE LORD!”

Ingratitude is one of our most serious shortcomings. He pours out blessings, we fail to say “THANKS.”

I. THE BIBLE AND THANKSGIVING.

Psalm 103:2-5 _____

Psalm 118:1 _____

Lamentations 3:22-23 _____

JESUS GAVE THANKS

Matthew 14:19 - fed 5,000.

John 11:41,42 _____

Before He raised Lazarus.

PAUL GAVE THANKS.

2 Cor. 9:15 _____

Colossians 3:12-17

v.15 *“Be thankful.”*

v.17 *“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

2. BE SPECIFIC

To be thankful for EVERYTHING may lead us be thankful FOR NOTHING. “Count...name one by one.”

- a. My creation
- b. Privilege of being alive in God’s beautiful world
- c. Forgiveness of Sin
- d. New Life in Christ
- e. God’s constant presence
- f. God’s patience
- g. Health and strength: Mental, Physical, Emotional
- h. Abounding material gifts
- i. Privilege of prayer and answers
- j. Victories in life through God’s power
- k. God’s leadership
- l. God’s discipline
- m. Home (strength, security and love)
- n. Blessed fellowship of a local church
- o. Christian friends
- p. Glorious hope of everlasting life in heaven.
- q.

A VERY PRACTICAL IDEA IS TO THANK GOD FOR ONE OF HIS BENEFITS IN THE VARIOUS AREAS OF LIFE AND TELL HIM WHY YOU ARE THANKFUL!

- 1. PHYSICAL
- 2. MATERIAL
- 3. SPIRITUAL
- 4. PEOPLE

3. IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

1 Thes 5:18 _____

“I have a headache, but praise the Lord I still have a head to ache.”

S-eeking for self. **PETITION**

Psalm 119:117 " Uphold me that I may be safe, That I may have regard for Thy statutes continually ".



THEME: " PRAISE GOD, I NEED YOU "

Philippians 4:6 (Living Bible) - " Don't worry about anything. Instead pray about everything. Tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. "

S - EEKING THROUGH PRAYER, FIRST FOR OURSELVES - PETITION

1. WHY DO WE HAVE TO ASK?

God does give us many things without our asking. IF WE ONLY HAD TODAY WHAT WE ASKED FOR IN PRAYER, MOST OF US WOULD BE MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL PAUPERS.

PRAYER IS THE EXPERIENCE WHEREBY WE BRING OUR LIVES INTO HARMONY WITH GOD'S WILL SO THAT HE CAN BESTOW HIS HIGHEST BLESSINGS UPON US.

...God feeds the birds but He does not put the worms into nests.

...We have to pick up a fork and eat; He does not feed us directly.



2. ASKING FOR OURSELVES.

Remember Jabez (**1 Chronicles 4:9-10**)

God is our Father. Talk to Him as children talk with human fathers.

John 14:14 _____

We need assurance God is with us - HIS SPIRIT EMPOWERING ME/LEADING ME. Begin each day by asking the Lord to come afresh in my life.

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22,23 Fruit of the Spirit is LOVE. From love, eight other qualities.

3. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR.

Ephesians 6:12 _____

"Lord, I am putting on the _____

e.g., "Helmet of salvation - protect my mind from any attack of the devil,"

4. CRUCIFYING THE FLESH.

Day by day crucify that old fleshly nature with all its power to pull us down.

Galatians 5:24 _____

Galatians 2:20 _____

1 Corinthians 15:31 _____

Luke 9:23 _____

MOST PRAYERS ARE FULL OF PETITIONS FOR OUR PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS, THIS IS TO BE EXPECTED; HOWEVER, THE BULK OF OUR PRAYING SHOULD NOT BE PETITION PRAYING, HERE IS A GUIDELINE: WHAT IS IT THAT I NEED TO HELP ME BE WHAT GOD WANTS ME TO BE AND TO DO WHAT GOD WANTS ME TO DO? PRAY ABOUT IT!

Seeking for others INTERCESSION

PRAY DAILY FOR LABORERS



Make a prayer list with specific requests for each day. Don't forget to record God's answers. Keep the running journal as a constant reminder that the God you serve is a prayer-answering God!

Can ask for specific things.

Moses intercedes. See **Exodus 32:32**: _____

The Early Church. **Acts 12:5**: _____

God answered and sent an angel who broke the chains and opened the prison doors to set Peter free. GOD IS A MIRACLE-WORKING GOD. All His resources are available to us.

1. **FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE. INTERCESSION.**
Focus the power of God on another person or on a specific situation.
2. **HOW TO BEGIN.**
 - a. Start with a prayer list.
 - b. Be definite and systematic.
3. **ORGANIZE YOUR PRAYING.**
ONE WAY IS ACCORDING TO THE DAYS OF THE WEEK

DAILY. Family / Pastor and his family / Peace of Jerusalem
SUNDAY. Saints (fellow believers since few Christians are prayed for regularly by anyone).
MONDAY. Missionaries. DO YOU HAVE THE WORLD ON YOUR HEART?

240 + Countries/Territories
 7.8 billion people
 2 of 3 have never heard the name
 "Jesus" in a saving sense one time!



TUESDAY. Teachers. 90% of children of evangelical parents are in public schools.
WEDNESDAY. Workmates. White House, Washington D.C. (Governments: all levels)
THURSDAY. Troubled people.
FRIDAY. Friends / Family who are not prayed for daily.
SATURDAY. Sinners / Seekers.
 Master **1 John 5:14-15** before you begin praying for the lost. Believe it!

PRAY FOR THE PERSON BY NAME

1. God's will is for each person to be saved. **2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:3,4.**
2. Satan has blinded the lost person's mind. **2 Corinthians 4:4.** Ask God to bind Satan.
3. Pray for conviction. **John 16:8-11.**
4. Pray for a laborer to share the Gospel. **Luke 10:2.**
5. Pray for a decision. **2 Corinthians 6:2.**

Surrender

Close prayer with a fresh commitment of everything in our lives to God and affirm that He has already begun to manifest great victories in answer to our prayers.

SESSION 8

HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

That your prayers be not hindered. 1 Peter 3:7

INTRODUCTION: We again turn to **Psalm 139** as a starting point in our discussion of prayer. "Search me, O God, and see." Is there anything in me that is **HINDERING** God's blessing for me in this life and God using me to bless others? Our desire is for every believer to get a glimpse of his own heart. We are slow to see how our lives hinder our prayers. We need to face **ELEMENTARY FACTS** taught in the Word of God. Most **HINDRANCES** are our own making. Prayer, is a tool only for the child of God who is living as a child of God should.

1. **SIN GRIEVES GOD AND HINDERS THE PRAYERS OF HIS CHILDREN.**

2. **DOUBT/UNBELIEF HINDERS PRAYER.**

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 rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

3. **Self-will. Self-is the root of all sin**

Pride prevents prayer because prayer in essence is a very humbling admission. **1 Corinthians 4:7**: "What hast that thou didst not receive?"

4. **Impure Motive.** Purity of heart, motive, desires is required.

James 4:3 - "Ye ask and receive not, because you ask amiss that you may consume it to your own lusts." i.e., that ye may spend it in your own pleasures or for your own gratification.

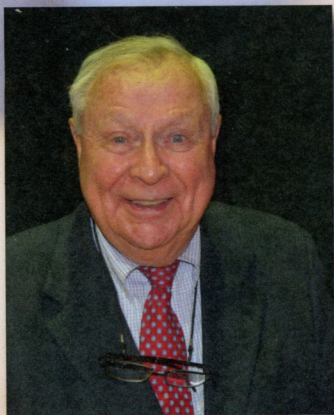
5. **Unlove.** A loving spirit is a condition of believing prayer.

6. **Unforgiving spirit.** If a person harbors an unforgiving spirit, it is almost wasted time to pray until this is resolved. Holding grudges/enmity toward others nullifies and hinders our prayers.

SESSION 9

THE PRAYER CHAPEL

"The greatest work that any of us can do for another, whether young or old, is to teach the soul to draw its water from the wells of God." - F.B. Meyer. SEE PAGE 8.



1. TWENTY - FOUR HOUR PRAYER MINISTRY.
2. 168 PEOPLE NEEDED TO PRAY ONE HOUR EACH WEEK. IN ADDITION TO A FEW SUBSTITUTES.
3. ROLODEX WITH NAMES OF ALL MEMBERS ON A CARD.
4. PRAY AT LEAST FIFTEEN MINUTES FOR MEMBERS BY NAME.
5. PRAY THE SCRIPTURES ON THE CHECK-IN SHEET.



*I'm glad you were in the seminar!
Let us know the results of what
you have learned in your own prayer
life!
Yours in Calvary love,
J. Gordon Henry
Zechariah 8:21b*