
PRAYER

LESSON EIGHT

Prayer is both enjoying a friendship with God and asking Him to supply our daily needs -- it is, simply put, talking to God. Through the Bible, God's written revelation, God talks to us. By means of prayer, we talk to God. And so fellowship with God is a two-way street. John, writing about this fact, stated as his purpose: "*...that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ*" (1 John 1:3). Someone has described the intimacy of fellowship as "two fellows in a ship." God desires to be the "other fellow" in our ship!

Prayer is one of the means by which we fellowship with God. Great emphasis is placed upon prayer in the Bible. Jesus said, "*...men ought always to pray, and not to faint (grow weak)*" (Luke 18:1). Again Jesus taught, "*...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*" (Matt. 6:6). Christ Himself set an example of prayer by frequently going alone to a mountain or garden to pray. If the Son of God needed that personal contact and fellowship with the Father, how much more do we!

The disciples on one occasion said, "*Lord, teach us to pray*" (Luke 11:1). Notice they did not say teach us HOW to pray. No great knowledge or special wisdom is needed. But we do need to learn just to pray. In other words, prayer or talking to God must become as common or normal for the Christian as talking to a friend or loved one -- because for us, Jesus Christ is both a Friend and Loved One.

Some principles to follow are these: (1) Make it a practice to begin and end your day with prayer; (2) Consciously ask God's Help or forgiveness any time you face a decision or difficult problem; (3) Pray together as a family; (4) Pray and ask God's guidance as you study His Word; and (5) Pray for others about whom you are concerned. God is pleased when we make our requests known unto Him; and He has promised that if we ask anything according to His will, He will hear us. So make prayer one of the regular practices of your spiritual life.

TRUTH IN REVIEW: (Look up verses)

Prayer is simply talking to God (Matt. 6:9-13—a pattern for prayer).

Prayer is one means of having personal fellowship with God (Ps. 5:3).

Prayer should be a normal experience for every Christian (1 Thess. 5:17).

God is available to hear us whenever we seek His face in prayer (Jer. 33:3).

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

1. God talks to us through the Bible. We talk to God through _____.
2. Jesus often went alone into the mountains to _____.
3. Prayer ought to be a n_____ experience for every Christian.
4. Every Christian ought to pray at least t_____ a day.
5. We need to pray in order to make the right de_____ in life.
6. How can we be sure that God hears our prayers (John 9:31)? _____

7. What does Christ ask us in order for Him to honor our requests (John 15:7)? _____

8. What ultimate goal should be kept in mind as we pray (John 14:13)? _____

OTHER PASSAGES:

Job 22:27; Psalm 39:12; Matt. 21:22; Acts 6:4; Rom. 12:12; Philippians 4:6,7; Col. 4:2; 1 Tim. 4:5.

ANSWERS:

Lesson 8: 1. Prayer 2. Pray 3. Normal 4. Twice 5. Decisions 6. Worship God and Do His Will 7. Abide in Him 8. Glorify God

	Prayer Request	Date Asked	Date Answered
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____