

**LESSON PLAN FOR THE PRAYER SERIES**  
**SERIES NO. 417**

<u>LESSON NO.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
1	What Is Prayer?
2	Why Does God Want Us To Pray?
3	Who Should Pray?
4	How Should We Pray?
5	What Should We Pray About?

It is possible that some of these lessons may take more than just one class period to complete. When you are teaching these lessons be sure and flow with the speed of the class. Some classes will need extra time for questions and answers, others may fully understand and you can progress rapidly. Don't worry about having to complete any lesson in just one sitting if extra, relevant, discussions arise.

Remember...your only purpose in teaching the Word of God to others is to help them to become strong disciples of Jesus Christ and to share His Spirit and Truth with others.

## I. WHAT IS PRAYER?

Pray - to speak to God in worship; to enter into spiritual communion with God;  
to ask earnestly from God, to entreat or beseech

Prayer - the act of praying; the thing prayed for; a form of worship

## II. WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO PRAY?

- A. The prayer of the upright delights God. Prov. 15:8
- B. Prayer is as incense and an offering to God. Psalms 141:2; Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4
- C. God gets glory by answering prayer. Numbers 14:14-21; 2 Chronicles 6:32; Psalm 109: 26-27;  
John 11:41-42; 12:28; 14:13; 15:7-8
- D. We can praise God through prayer. 1 Samuel 2:1; Jeremiah 32:16-19; Habakkuk 3:1; Acts 16:25
- E. Prayer brings us God's peace and power. Matthew 14:23; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:18; Acts 2:42;  
Philippians 4:6
- F. Prayer brings us God's joy. Isaiah 56:7; John 16:23-24
- G. Prayer strengthens us in times of temptation. Matthew 26:41; Luke 22:46
- H. God speaks to us supernaturally through prayer. 1 Samuel 8:6; 2 Kings 19:20;  
2 Chronicles 7:12-15; Isaiah 38:5; 56:7; Daniel 9:21; Luke 1:10-13; 2:37; Acts 10:2-6; 11:5;  
Acts 13:3; 22:17
- I. Praying is being obedient to God's Word. Isaiah 55:6; Matthew 7:7-8; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2;  
1 Thessalonians 5:17
- J. Jesus Christ, our example, prayed often and taught us to pray. Matthew 5:44; 6:9-13;  
Matthew 14:23; 19:13-15; 26:39-44; Mark 11:24-26; 12:40; 14:32; Luke 3:21; 5:16;  
Luke 6:12; 9:18; 11:1-4; 18:1, 10-14; 22:32, 41; 44; John 5:30; 8:26-29; 11:41-43;  
John 14:16; 17:9, 15, 20

## III. WHO SHOULD PRAY?

- A. God hears the prayers of the righteous, His children. Psalm 34:15, 17; 66:19-20; 91:15;  
Psalm 102:17; 145:18-19; Proverbs 15:29; Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 18:10-14; John 9:31; 15:7;  
John 16:23-24; James 5:16; 1 Peter 3:12
- B. The righteous have right attitudes in prayer.
  - 1. Matthew 5:44 - pray for enemies
  - 2. Matthew 6:6 - pray in secret to the Father
  - 3. Mark 11:24 - believe in order to receive
  - 4. Mark 11:25 - forgive others
  - 5. John 15:7 - abide in Jesus' words
  - 6. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - in everything give thanks
  - 7. Hebrews 5:7 - have Christlike submission to the Father
  - 8. Hebrews 10:19 - have boldness by the blood of Jesus
  - 9. Matthew 21:21-22 - ask in faith, not doubting
  - 10. 1 Peter 3:7 - husbands treat wives with godly care
  - 11. 1 Peter 4:7 - are sober and watchful
  - 12. 1 John 3:21-22 - have confidence toward God to receive from Him

- C. God does not hear (answer) the prayers of the righteous. Psalms 34:16; 66:18; Proverbs 1:28; 15:29; Isaiah 59:1-2; Lamentations 3:8; Luke 18:10-14; John 9:31
- D. The unrighteous have wrong attitudes in prayer.
  - 1. Matthew 6:5,7 - hypocrites want men to see them; heathen use vain repetition
  - 2. Mark 12:40 - hypocrites make a show of long prayers
  - 3. Luke 18:10-14 - hypocrite exalts himself, is not humble but proud
  - 4. James 1:5-8 - double-minded man is doubtful, not in faith
  - 5. James 4:3 - asks amiss to consume on lusts

#### IV. HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

- A. The body can be in any position during prayer.
  - 1. Standing - 1 Samuel 1:10, 27; 1 Kings 8:22; 2 Chronicles 30:27; Mark 11:25
  - 2. Sitting - 2 Samuel 7:27; Nehemiah 1:4
  - 3. Prostrate - Deuteronomy 9:20; Ezra 10:1; Matthew 26:39
  - 4. Kneeling - 1 Kings 8:54; 2 Chronicles 6:19; Daniel 6:10; Luke 22:41; Acts 9:40; Acts 20:36
  - 5. Hands raised - 1 Kings 8:22; 2 Chronicles 6:19, 29; Psalm 141:2
  - 6. Eyes towards heaven - John 17:1; 11:41
  - 7. From bed - 2 Kings 20:2; Psalm 6:6
- B. Prayer can be audible or inaudible.
  - 1. Silent- 1 Samuel 1:12; Nehemiah 2:4
  - 2. Aloud - Psalm 55:17; Luke 3:21; 11:1
  - 3. Loud voice - Jonah 2:1; Luke 24:46; Hebrews 5:7
  - 4. Weeping - 1 Samuel 1:10; 2 Kings 20:2; Nehemiah 1:4; Psalm 6:6; 39:12; Hebrews 5:7
  - 5. Mourning - 2 Samuel 12:16; Nehemiah 1:4; Daniel 9:4
  - 6. Confessing - 1 Samuel 7:5; 2 Chronicles 6:24; Ezra 10:1; Daniel 9:20-22; James 5:16
  - 7. Rejoicing - 1 Samuel 2:1
  - 8. Singing - Acts 16:25; 1 Corinthians 14:15
- C. We can pray in the Holy Spirit (in unknown tongue).
  - 1. Romans 8:26 - The Holy Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God.
  - 2. 1 Corinthians 14:2 - Our spirit speaks mysteries to God.
  - 3. 1 Corinthians 14:4 - We are edified by prayer in the Spirit.
  - 4. 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 - We should pray and sing in the Spirit.
  - 5. Ephesians 6:18 - We should always pray in the Spirit in supplication for the saints.
  - 6. Jude 20 - Praying in the Spirit builds up our faith.
- D. We can pray alone. Matthew 14:23; Luke 5:16; 9:18; 22:41
- E. We can pray "in one accord" with other saints. (This often brought supernatural demonstrations of God's power in the N.T. church). Matthew 18:19; Acts 1:14; 2:1-4; 4:24-31; 12:5-12; 16:25-26
- F. We can pray with laying on of hands. Matthew 19:13; Acts 6:6; 8:15; 9:11; 13:3; 19:6; Matthew 28:8
- G. We can pray with fasting. Deuteronomy 9:18; 1 Samuel 7:5; Daniel 9:4; Luke 2:37; Acts 13:3; Acts 14:23; 1 Corinthians 7:5
- H. We can pray and anoint with oil. James 5:14
- I. God wants us to pray persistently. 1 Samuel 12:23; 1 Chronicles 16:11; Psalm 88:1; Luke 18:1-8; 22:44; Colossians 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 3:10; 5:17; 1 Timothy 5:5

## V. WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY ABOUT?

- A. To ask God to hear and respond - 2 Kings 19:16; 2 Chron. 6:20, 32; 40; Psa. 39:12; Psa. 55:1; 61:1; 84:8; 88:2; 102:1; 143:1; Dan. 9:17
- B. To confess and repent of sin - 1 Sam. 7:5; 2 Chron. 7:14; 1 John 1:9
- C. To ask God to forgive sin - Dan. 9:19-20; Acts 8:22
- D. To ask for God's mercy - Psa. 4:1; 6:9; 86:6; Luke 18:13
- E. To receive salvation through Christ - Rom. 10:9-10
- F. To receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit - Luke 11:11-13; Acts 2:4; 4:31; 8:15; Acts 19:6
- G. To receive Wisdom and understanding - Col. 1:9; James 1:5; Eph. 1:15-18
- H. To receive God's guidance - Psa. 5:3
- I. To receive God's blessing - 2 Sam. 7:27; 1 Kings 8:54; 2 Chron. 30:27
- J. To receive strength - 1 Chron. 16:11; Psa. 105:4
- K. To have favor with men - Neh. 1:11; 2:4
- L. To gain victory in battle - 2 Chron. 6:34-35
- M. To receive deliverance from enemies - 1 Sam. 7:5; 2 Kings 19:15; Psa. 25:1-2; 64:1
- N. For deliverance from affliction - Num. 11:2; 21:7; 2 Cor. 11:7-10; James 5:13
- O. For deliverance from death - Jonah 2:1, 7; Matt. 26:39-44
- P. To receive physical healing- 1 Sam. 1:10-12; 2 Kings 20:1-6; John 11:41-43; Acts 28:8; James 5:14-16
- Q. For miracles - 2 Kings 6:17-18; John 11:41-43; Acts 9:40; James 5:17-18
- R. For consecration - 1 Kings 8:28-33; 2 Chron. 6:19; 1 Tim. 4:5
- S. To give thanksgiving - 1 Sam. 1:27; 2:1; Neh. 11:17; Dan. 6:10; Col. 1:3; Eph. 1:16; Phil. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:18
- T. To interpret message in tongues - 1 Cor. 14:13
- U. Intercession for:
  - 1. Sinners -Num. 14:19; Deut. 20:26; 1 Sam. 12:19; Neh. 1:6; Job 42:10; Dan. 9:4; 18, 20; Luke 23:34; Acts 8:24
  - 2. Saints - Luke 22:32; John 17:9, 15, 20; Acts 12:5-12; Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:11; 2 Cor. 13:7; Eph. 1:16; 6:18; Col. 1:3-11; 4:3; 12; 1 Thess. 1:2; 3:10; 5:25; 2 Tim. 1:3; Philemon 4
  - 3. Governmental authorities - Ezra 6:10; 1 Tim. 2:1-2
  - 4. Spiritual leaders - Acts 6:4-6; 14:23; 20:36
  - 5. Children - Matt.19:13

This study gives us a biblical framework for understanding the basics of prayer. It is not meant to be exhaustive; hundreds, if not thousands, of books have been written on this subject. As with everything else when dealing with the Lord, the key to a successful prayer life is in maintaining our own personal freedom from sin, through Jesus Christ, and in our desire to walk with God in obedience and holiness. Without this, we can pray very fervently, very often and very long but without receiving the results God promises in his Word.