

LESSON 4

PRAYER LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN

Introduction: Prayer is probably the most important part of the Christian's life. It is the power which moves God to respond to our needs and to the needs of others. Praying directly to God is the priestly privilege of every believer.

A. The Purpose of Prayer:

1. To worship and praise God. **Ephesians 6:18; John 4:23; Hebrews 13:15**
2. To supply our needs. **Phillippians 4:6; James 4:2**
3. To fellowship with God, our heavenly Father. **I John 1:3-9**
4. To help others. This is called intercessory praying. **II Thessalonians 3:1; I Timothy 2:1-4; Colossians 4:3; Matthew 9:38**
5. To be obedient. **I Thessalonians 5:17**
6. To protect ourselves from temptations. **Matthew 26:41**

B. The Proper Way to Pray:

1. As priests, praying directly to God. **I Peter 2:9; Psalm 5:2; I Thessalonians 1:2**
2. Asking or praying in the name of Jesus. **John 14:13,14; John 16:23**
3. Praying in the will of God. **I John 5:14,15**
4. Knowing and trusting our intercessors:
 - a. Jesus Christ as our intercessor. **I Timothy 2:5**
 - b. Holy Spirit as our intercessor. **Romans 8:26,27**
5. Praying sincerely and simply. **Matthew 6:7**
6. Praying with thanksgiving. **Colossians 4:2; Philippians 4:6**

C. The Place and Practice of Prayer:

1. Anywhere and any time. **Luke 18:1; Nehemiah 2:4**
2. Definite Times:
 - a. Personally. **Matthew 6:6; Psalm 5:3; Daniel 6:10**
 - b. Family. **Ephesians 5:25,26; 6:4**
 - c. Publicly. **I Corinthians 14:15**

D. The Problems that Hinder Prayer.

1. Personal sin. **Isaiah 59:2; Psalm 66:18**
2. Poor marital relationships. **I Peter 3:1-7**
3. Improper motives. **James 4:2**
4. Unforgiving spirit. **Matthew 6:14,15**
5. Lack of fellowship with Christ and lack of devotion to the Bible. **John 15:7**
6. Not supplying the needs of others. **Philippians 4:17-19; II Corinthians 9:6; Proverbs 21:13**
7. Not giving God our best. **Malachi 1:7-9**

-1-

E. The Promise of Prayer:

1. Immediate answers. **Isaiah 65:24, Daniel 9:20-23, Either:**
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

- c. Wait
- d. I've got something better
- 2. Abundant answers. **Ephesians 3:20**
- 3. Joyful life. **John 16:23**
- 4. Peace. **Philippians 4:6,7**

-2-

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 4

1. Some of the purposes of prayer are to _____ God, to _____ our needs, and to _____ with God our heavenly Father.
2. The ministry of praying for others to meet their needs is called _____ praying.

3. Finally, the last two purposes of prayer is to help us to be _____ and to protect ourselves from _____.
4. Three things concerning the proper way to pray to get answers to prayer is first of all, to pray _____ to God, asking in the name of _____, and praying in the _____ of God.
5. The Christian is to know and trust the two intercessors that pray for him who are _____ and the _____.
6. Last of all, two other things to consider in the proper ways to pray are praying _____ and _____ and praying with _____.
7. The Bible teaches that we may pray _____ and at any _____.
8. The problems that hinder prayer are personal _____, poor _____ relationships, improper _____, _____ spirit, and not giving God our _____.
9. The Bible teaches us that the promises of prayer are that we will receive _____ answers and _____ answers.
10. Two of the greatest results of prayer are a _____ life and _____.