

# **Prayer and Personal Bible Study**

**Student Manual**

# **Prayer and Personal Bible Study Contents**

## **Part 1 – Prayer**

**Lesson 1 – The Importance of Prayer.....3-8**

**Lesson 2 – How to Pray.....9-11**

**Lesson 3-4 – Prayer Models.....12-21**

**Lesson 5 – Activities of Prayer.....22-26**

**Lesson 6 – Praying the Gets Results.....27-31**

**Lesson 7 – The Voice of Prayer.....32-33**

**Lesson 8 – Prayer and Fasting.....34-38**

## **Part 2 – Bible Study**

**Lesson 9 – Our Daily Bread.....39-41**

**Lesson 10 – Reading the Bible.....42-45**

**Lesson 11 – Bridging the Gaps.....46-51**

**Lesson 12 – Interpreting the Bible.....52-54**

# Lesson 1

## The Importance of Prayer

### I. **Everyone agrees that prayer is important to the spiritual life of the believer.**

A. Some of the things that have been said about prayer.

*God does nothing on earth save in answer to believing prayer.* –John Wesley

*We are living in dangerous times and if there was ever a time when we need to pray, it is now. More can be done by prayer than anything else, prayer is our greatest weapon.* –Billy Graham

*Prayer is invading the impossible. It is essentially a partnership of the redeemed child of God working hand in hand with God toward the realization of His redemptive purposes on earth.* –Jack Hayford

*If I could impress my heart on every syllable and baptize every word with my tears, I could not too earnestly entreat you to be above all things earnest in prayer.*  
–Charles H. Spurgeon

*All the Christian virtues are locked up in the word “prayer.”* –Charles H. Spurgeon

*Your growth and mine into the likeness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be in exact proportion to the time and to the heart we put into prayer.* –R.A. Torrey

*Those who have left the deepest impression on this sin-cursed earth have been men and women of prayer. You will find that prayer has been the mighty power that had moved not only God, but man.* –Dwight L. Moody

*When the Church shuts herself up to the power of the inner chamber, and the soldiers of the Lord have received on their knees “power from on high,” then the powers of darkness will be shaken and souls will be delivered.* –Andrew Murray

*Prayer does not fit us for the greater works; prayer is the greater work.*  
–Oswald Chambers

*I am so busy now that if I did not spend two or three hours each day in prayer, I would not get through the day.* –Martin Luther

*I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day.* –Abraham Lincoln

*Neglect of prayer is a guarantee that we will not be victors.* –Richard Roberts

*Prayer is weakness leaning on omnipotence.* –W.S. Bowden

*For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.* –God, Isaiah 56:7c

*Men always ought to pray and not lose heart.* –Jesus, Luke 18:1b

## **B. Prayer Defined**

- Prayer is trusting God.
- Prayer is going for a walk with God in the woods.
- Prayer is sharing your needs with God.
- Prayer is opening yourself up to God.
- Prayer is opening your eyes to all that you are and depending on God.
- Prayer is washing yourself of the world and immersing yourself in God.
- Prayer is agreement with others that God is able.
- Prayer is calling out to one who cares.
- Prayer is listening.
- Prayer is not just listening, but hearing.
- Prayer is the linking of two spirits about things that count.
- Prayer is reaching out your hand.
- Prayer is the finite calling upon the infinite.
- Prayer is a tiny hand placed in a great hand.
- Prayer is communion with the ruler of the universe.
- Prayer is calling into action all of the forces of the universe.

--Excerpted from an unpublished document by Dick Andrew

## **C. Prayerlessness Defined**

- Prayerlessness is saying I'm too busy for God.
- Prayerlessness is walking in the dark blindfolded.
- Prayerlessness is the fool saying in his heart there is no God.
- Prayerlessness is wasting time you think you are saving.
- Prayerlessness is seeing only with the natural eyes.
- Prayerlessness is presuming upon God's grace and mercy.
- Prayerlessness is a car with no petrol.
- Prayerlessness is trusting in your own strength.
- Prayerlessness is the pride of life.
- Prayerlessness is counting on someone else to do the praying.
- Prayerlessness is going into battle without armor or weapons.
- Prayerlessness is laziness.
- Prayerlessness is giving into self.

--Excerpted from an unpublished document by Dave Newquest

## II. God promises to respond to the prayers of His people.

Note some of the key verses in the Bible relative to prayer:

*If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. II Chronicles 7:14*

*The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.*  
Psalm 34:15

*Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation. Psalm 91:14-16*

*The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.*  
Psalm 145:18

*The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.*  
Proverbs 15:29

*It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. Isaiah 65:24*

*Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:12-13*

*Thus says the LORD who made it, the LORD who formed it to establish it (the LORD is His name): "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jeremiah 33:2-3*

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! Matthew 7:7-11*

*Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. Mark 11:24*

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:12-14*

*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. John 15:7*

*And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:23-24*

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. James 1:5-8*

*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16b*

*And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. John 3:22*

*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. I John 5:14-15*

### **III. Jesus gave us an example of prayer and dependence on the Father.**

- A. Jesus often withdrew from the multitudes to \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father (Mt. 14:23; 6:46; Luke 5:16).
- B. Jesus liked to pray \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 1:35).
- C. At times Jesus spent \_\_\_\_\_ in prayer especially when He had important decisions to make (Luke 6:12-13).
- D. Jesus' prayer life aroused the \_\_\_\_\_ among the disciples (Luke 11:1).
- E. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ in key times of prayer (Luke 9:28).

F. Jesus prayed on key occasions.

1. In the context of His baptism (Luke 3:21).
2. On the mount of transfiguration (Luke 9:28).
3. Prior to his leaving the earth (John 17)
4. In the garden of Gethsemane (Mt. 26:36-46).
5. On the cross (Mt. 27:46; Luke 23:46).

G. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ was marked by prayer (Heb. 5:7-8).

#### **IV. Prayer was a vital part of the Early Church and its success.**

A. The Early Church \_\_\_\_\_ in prayer (Acts 2:42).

1. To continue steadfastly is “to persevere; to give \_\_\_\_\_ to a thing; to adhere to; be devoted to; not to faint; to show oneself courageous; to be in constant readiness for; to wait on continually.”
2. The apostles knew that they had a responsibility before God to fulfill their \_\_\_\_\_ and give themselves to prayer (Acts 6:4).

B. They prayed on a \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:42; 3:1; 6:4; 10:2, 4; 12:5; 16:13).

C. They prayed in \_\_\_\_\_.

1. In selecting leadership (Acts 1:24)
2. In setting in leaders (Acts 6:6)
3. In sending out ministries (Acts 13:3)
4. In ordaining elders (Acts 14:23)
5. In departing from friends (Acts 20:26; 21:15)

D. They prayed for \_\_\_\_\_ and needs.

1. For boldness (Acts 4:31)
2. To receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15)
3. To raise the dead (Acts 9:40)
4. Peter’s release (Acts 12:12)
5. The mind of the Lord (Acts 16:16)
6. Deliverance (Acts 16:25)
7. Healing (Acts 28:8)

E. The Church in the New Testament was \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:14).

**V. If we want similar success to that of Jesus and the Early Church we must be a people of prayer and follow the instructions of Hosea.**

*Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the LORD, till He comes and rains righteousness on you. Hosea 10:12*

- A. Break up
- B. Your fallow ground
- C. For it is time
- D. To seek the Lord
- E. Until
- F. He comes and rains righteousness.



## Lesson 2

### How to Pray

#### I. **There are many reasons why people do not pray as they know they should.**

- A. There may be a lot of reasons why people neglect prayer based on \_\_\_\_\_ in their lives. These reasons include:
1. Lukewarmness in their relationship to the Lord.
  2. Lack of forgiveness toward others.
  3. A disobedient lifestyle that hides from God.
  4. Over confidence in self.
  5. Etc.
- B. There are primarily \_\_\_\_\_ structural problems that we all face when seeking to bring order to our prayer life.
1. We struggle with issues related to the pitch and \_\_\_\_\_ of modern life.
    - a. We have difficulty in finding a daily period of time that is immune to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. We have difficulty \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. We struggle with the issue that the disciples had of “\_\_\_\_\_.”

#### II. **There are ways to deal with the pitch and tempo of life.**

Three things are necessary in dealing with the pitch and tempo of life.

- A. A \_\_\_\_\_
1. For Jesus it was the wilderness (Luke 5:15-16), a mountain (Luke 6:12-13) or \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 1:35).
  2. For the men of old it was \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. Noah had his altar (Gen. 8:20).
    - b. Abraham had his altar (Gen. 22:9-14).
    - c. Jacob had his altars (Gen. 28:16-19; 33:20; 35:7).
    - d. Moses had his altar (Ex. 17:15).
    - e. Joshua had his altar (Josh. 8:30).
    - f. Gideon had his altar (Judg. 6:24).

- g. Samuel had his altar (I Sam. 7:12).
- h. David had his altar (II Sam. 24:24-25).
- i. Solomon had his altar (II Chr. 6:13).
- j. Elijah had his altar on Mount Carmel (I Kgs. 18:30-40).

3. As believers who have a passion for prayer and communion with the Lord we need to have our secret \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 6:6).

B. A \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Jesus prayed early in the \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 1:35).
- 2. The Psalmist encouraged an \_\_\_\_\_ encounter with God (Ps. 5:3; 55:17; 88:13; 119:147).
- 3. The important thing is to develop a \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer.

C. A \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 131)

*LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me. 2 Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. 3 O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forever.*

### III. There are four things that can help us learn how to pray.

A. Understanding what prayer \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1. Prayer is not a \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 19:13-16).
- 2. Prayer is not vain or empty \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 6:7).
- 3. Prayer is not wearing God down with \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 6:7; 23:14).
- 4. Prayer is not a \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 11:9-13).
- 5. Prayer is not a \_\_\_\_\_ or show (Luke 18:9-14).

6. Prayer is not dictating to God but \_\_\_\_\_ to His will and purpose (Heb. 5:7).

*During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. –NIV*

B. Understanding what prayer \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_.

As such prayer is communicating with God in much the same way that you would communicate to \_\_\_\_\_. When you communicate or fellowship with another person there are certain areas that are commonly covered.

- a. You tell them what you \_\_\_\_\_ about them.
- b. You acknowledge their \_\_\_\_\_ to your life.
- c. You make them aware of your \_\_\_\_\_ and the needs of those close to you.
- d. You make sure that you settle any \_\_\_\_\_ that may affect your relationship with them.
- e. You share your personal \_\_\_\_\_ with them and seek their input.
- f. You \_\_\_\_\_ to what they may want to say to you.

2. Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_.

C. Understanding the key \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer.

Based on the above understanding of prayer, it is easy to see the most common components of prayer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ for Who He is (Ps. 150:2; Ps. 145:1-3).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ for what He has done (I Th. 5:18; Ps. 100:4-5).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ for things that we need (Phil. 4:6).

4. \_\_\_\_\_ to God and asking for His mercy (Ps. 32:5-6; I John 1:9).
5. \_\_\_\_\_ with God concerning our destiny and our innermost desires (Ps. 27:4).

D. Understanding various \_\_\_\_\_.

## Lesson 3-4

### Prayer Models

#### I. There are several biblical models for prayer.

A. Praying the \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4).

*In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. Matthew 6:9-13*

1. In His discussion on prayer, Jesus taught several important aspects of prayer.

a. He taught that our prayers should be addressed to \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven (Mt. 6:9; Luke 11:2).

Jesus is the One Who opened a way unto the Father. Now we have free access to come to the Father as His dear children. (John 14:6; Eph. 2:18; Heb. 10:19-22).

b. He taught that our prayers should be a \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 6:11; Luke 11:3).

c. He taught that our prayers should be \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 11:2).

2. In this prayer Jesus taught the basic ingredients of prayer.

a. Our Approach: “*Our Father in heaven...*”

When we come to God we come to Him as our Heavenly Father. We come to Him as our source, our provider, our protector and our friend. We come to Him with the understanding that we have the privilege and the right to do so based on the fact that we have been adopted into God’s family through faith in Jesus Christ and that God the Father sees us as valuable as the price paid for our redemption. Therefore, we can come boldly before Him without fear or intimidation.

A major focus of this prayer should a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ for what has been accomplished for us in Christ and \_\_\_\_\_ that we have before God that was made possible by His redemptive work.

b. Our Praise: “*Hallowed be Your name*”

When we pray this prayer we are acknowledging the \_\_\_\_\_ as our father. He is holy, He is all-powerful, He is everywhere present, He is all wise, He has all knowledge, He is love, He is merciful, He is faithful, He is true, He is righteous and just in all that He does. This is a time for us to thank Him for all that He is to us as represented in these divine qualities. A major focus of this prayer should be \_\_\_\_\_ for all that God is for us.

c. Our Perspective: *“Your kingdom come”*

When we pray this prayer we are acknowledging that our Father is above all, His kingdom rules over all (Ps. 103:19) and His kingdom extends from everlasting to everlasting (Ps. 145:13). We are also acknowledging that He is the king or ruler over our \_\_\_\_\_. We are bringing ourselves in placement before God as subjects of the king and His kingdom. We are acknowledging Him as the Lord of our lives, the lives of our family and every other aspect of our lives including our job, our relationships, our lifestyle and our schedule.

When we pray this prayer we are inviting \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives. We are giving Him permission to establish His kingdom first and foremost in us—“in this earth.”

We are also acknowledging \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s authority in our lives. We freshly place ourselves in right relationship to parents, employers, civil authorities, spouses and church leaders. We realize afresh that these human authorities are extensions of God’s authority and that God will use them in our lives for His purposes. For this reason we pray for kings and all those who are in authority (I Tim. 2:2).

d. Our Alignment: *“Your will be done”*

When we pray this prayer we are making God’s \_\_\_\_\_ very personal. We are aligning ourselves personally and posturing ourselves in a place of personal \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s plan for our individual lives. We are declaring to God that we prefer His will over our will, the will of others and the will of Satan’s for our lives.

e. Our Provision: *“Give us our daily bread”*

When we pray this prayer we are acknowledging our \_\_\_\_\_ upon God. We need natural provision, but more than that we need spiritual provision. We need food for our souls. We need daily “manna from heaven.” We need sustenance from the source of our strength. We are asking for God to speak to us and give us “meat in due season.” We are asking for something fresh for our souls. We are asking for a fresh filling

of the Holy Spirit which is the fuel that keeps our spiritual motor running (Eph. 5:18).

f. Our Relationships: *“Forgive us...as we forgive others”*

Here we acknowledge that even though we are God’s children, we still sin and are in need of \_\_\_\_\_ and reconciliation not only in our relationship to God, but also in our relationships with other people. We are confessing to God that we are concerned about the sin issue because we know that it separates us from both God and man. We are asking for God’s grace so that we can to extend the same forgiveness to others that He has so graciously extended to us. We are asking for God’s help in being more understanding of and patient with others who are sinners just like us.

g. Our Warfare: *“Lead us not into temptation”*

As we pray this prayer we are acknowledging that we are all prone to wander and \_\_\_\_\_ from God’s pathway. We are admitting that we have a human nature to deal with including lusts of the flesh which war against our spirit man. We are confessing that we are vulnerable and we need God’s help in overcoming the flesh. At this point it is good to put on \_\_\_\_\_ that God has provided for His people (Eph. 6:13-18).

- The Belt of Truth...Pray, “Lord I covenant to walk in your truth.”
- The Breastplate of Righteousness...Pray, “Lord I commit myself to the way of righteousness and will guard my heart.”
- The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace...Pray, “Lord, I am ready to be an ambassador of your peace and a minister of reconciliation to the world.”
- The Shield of Faith...Pray, “Lord, I will do battle today to defend myself against every dart that the enemy throws my way.”
- The Helmet of Salvation...Pray, “Lord, I will guard my mind and I dedicate my thought life to you today.”
- The Sword of the Spirit...Pray, “Lord, I will hide your word in my heart and use it as a sword to defeat the works of darkness.”

h. Our Protection: *“Deliver us from evil”*

Here we acknowledge that we have a \_\_\_\_\_ enemy—the evil one. We desperately need God’s assistance to defeat him. As we pray, we are reminding ourselves that we also need to do our part by fleeing from sin, resisting the devil, being sober, being vigilant and fighting the good fight of

faith. In addition, we are realizing the importance of staying in the place of God's promised protection (Ps. 91).

- i. Our Profession: *"Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever."*

In this prayer we remind ourselves that our life is all about God's purpose and the extension of \_\_\_\_\_. We remind ourselves that He alone is the one who has the \_\_\_\_\_ to accomplish His purpose and in the end all of the \_\_\_\_\_ will go to Him alone.

- j. Our Affirmation: *"Amen!"*

The final word of this prayer is "Amen!" This word means "let it be" or "so be it." It is a final affirmation of all that we have prayed. Now we are ready for the day!

3. Not everyone can pray this prayer.

The following is taken from *Praying the Lord's Prayer for Spiritual Breakthrough* by Elmer Towns, page 141.

### ***Those Who Can't Prayer the Lord's Prayer***

If you don't know Christ...you can't pray, "Our Father."

If you glorify yourself...you can't pray, "Hallowed by Thy name."

If you reject His rules...you can't pray, "Thy kingdom come."

If you won't submit...you can't pray, "Thy will be done."

If your life is for the here and now...you can't pray, "On earth as it is in heaven."

If you are self-sufficient...you can't pray, "Give us our daily bread."

If you won't forgive...you can't pray, "Forgive us our debts."

If you seek sin...you can't pray, "Lead us not into temptation."

If you are a friend of evil...you can't pray, "Deliver us from evil."

If you build your own kingdom...you can't pray, "Thine is the kingdom."

If you want power...you can't pray, "Thine is the power."

If you always take credit...you can't pray, "Thine is the glory."



B. Praying the \_\_\_\_\_

Another prayer model is praying the names of God. The names of God tell us so much about God and His relationship to us. These prayers can be incorporated into the praying of the Lord's Prayer or they can stand on their own. When prayed on their own, the focus is especially on the praise, worship and adoration of God for Who He is.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ names of God

It is most common for people to pray the Jehovah names of God. Most lists include these nine names.

- a. Jehovah Jireh (Gen. 22:13-14) – The Lord my \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Jehovah Rapha (Ex. 16:26) – The Lord my \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Jehovah Nissi (Ex. 17:15) – The Lord my \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Jehovah M'Kaddesh (Ex. 31:13) – The Lord my \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Jehovah Shalom (Judg. 6:24) – The Lord my \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Jehovah Rohi (Ps. 23:1) – The Lord my \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Jehovah Sabbaoth (Is. 6:3) – The Lord of Hosts or \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Jehovah Tsidkenu (Jer. 23:6) – The Lord my \_\_\_\_\_
- i. Jehovah Shammah (Ezek. 48:35) – The Lord Who is Ever \_\_\_\_\_

2. Other \_\_\_\_\_ of God

The following list is taken from unpublished notes by Wendell Smith, The City Church, Seattle, Washington, USA

- Elohim (God) – Genesis 1:1
- El Elohe Israel – God the God of Israel – Genesis 33:18 –20
- El Elyon – Most High God – Genesis 14:17 –20
- El Olam – Everlasting God – Isaiah 40:28 –31
- El Roi – The One who sees – Genesis 16:12
- El Shaddai – God Almighty, the All sufficient One – Genesis 17:1
- Abba Father – Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6
- Adonai (Lord) – Malachi 1:6

- Advocate – I John 2:1
- Almighty – Revelation 1:8
- Alpha and Omega – Revelation 1:8
- Amen – Revelation 3:14
- Ancient of Days – Daniel 7:13
- Author and Finisher of our Faith – Hebrews 12:2
- Balm of Gilead – Jeremiah 8:22
- Beginning and the End – Revelation 1:8
- Bishop of our souls I Peter 2:25
- Bright and Morning Star – Revelation 22:16
- Captain of our Salvation – Hebrews 2:10
- Chief Cornerstone – Matthew 21:42
- Comforter – Isaiah 9:6; John 14
- Commander of the Lord's Hosts – Joshua 5:14
- Creator of the ends of the earth – Isaiah 40:28
- Day Star – II Peter 1:19
- Dayspring from on high – Luke 1:78
- Defender of widows – Psalm 68:5
- Deliverer – Romans 11:26
- Desire of all nations – Haggai 2:7
- Emmanuel – God with us – Isaiah 9:6
- Everlasting Father – Isaiah 9:6
- Father of Mercies – II Corinthians 1:3
- Father of the fatherless – Psalm 68:5
- Finisher of our Faith – Hebrews 12:2
- First and the Last – Revelation 1:11, 22:13
- Firstborn among many brethren – Romans 8:29
- Forerunner Hebrews 6:20
- Fountain of Living waters – Jeremiah 2:13; 17:13
- Friend of Sinners – Matthew 11:19
- God of Recompense – Jeremiah 51:56
- Good Shepherd – John 10:11, 14
- Governor – Matthew 2:6
- Great King above all gods – Psalm 95:3
- Great King over all the earth. – Psalm 47:2
- Great Shepherd – Hebrews 13:20
- Habitation of Justice – Jeremiah 50:7
- Head of the Church – Colossians 1:18
- Heavenly Father – Matthew 7:11
- Heir of all things – Hebrews 1:2
- Helper – Hebrews 13:6
- High Priest – Hebrews 3:1; 7:1
- Holy One of Israel – Isaiah 41:14; 54:5
- Hope of Israel – Jeremiah 14:8

- Horn of my salvation – Psalm 18:2
- Judge of the Earth – Psalm 94:2
- Just One – Acts 7:52; 22:14
- Keeper – Psalm 121:4 –5
- King of all the Earth – Psalm 47:7
- King of Glory – Psalm 24:8,10
- King of Kings – Revelation 19:16
- Lamb of God – John 1:29, 36
- Life Giving Spirit – I Corinthians 15:45
- Light of the world – John 9:5
- Lily of the Valleys – Song of Solomon 2:1
- Lion of the Tribe of Judah – Revelation 5:5
- Lord of Lords – Revelation 19:16
- Lord of the Harvest – Matthew 9:38
- Lord of the Sabbath – Luke 6:5; Matthew 12:8
- Lord of the whole earth – Psalm 97:5
- Lord on High – Psalm 93:4
- Lord our God – Psalm 123:2
- LORD our Maker – Psalm 95:3 –7
- LORD who created you – Isaiah 43:1
- LORD who dwells between the cherubim – I Chronicles 13:6
- LORD who has mercy on you – Isaiah 54:10
- LORD who is faithful – Isaiah 49:7
- LORD who made heaven and earth – Psalm 134:3
- LORD who makes a way in the sea – Isaiah 43:16
- LORD who makes all things – Isaiah 44:24
- LORD who sanctifies – Exodus 31:13; Leviticus 20:8; 22:32
- LORD who strikes – Ezekiel 7:9
- Man of War – Exodus 15:3
- Master – Matthew 8:19; 10:24; 23:8; Luke 5:5
- Mediator – I Timothy 2:5
- Messiah – Daniel 9:25; John 1:41; John 4:25
- Mighty Awesome One – Jeremiah 20:11
- Mighty God – Isaiah 9:6; 63:1
- Most High over all the earth – Psalm 83:18
- My Defense – Psalm 59:17
- My Deliverer – Psalm 18:2
- My Fortress – Psalm 18:2
- My Glory and the Lifter of my head – Psalm 3:3
- My God of mercy – Psalm 59:10,17
- My hiding place – Psalm 119:114
- My Light and my Salvation – Psalm 27:1
- My Portion forever – Psalm 73:26
- My Redeemer – Psalm 19:15

- My Refuge – Psalm 62:7
- My Shield – Psalm 119:114; Psalm 18:2
- My strength – Psalm 18:2
- My stronghold – Psalm 18:2
- My Trust from my youth – Psalm 71:5
- My Well-beloved – Isaiah 5:1
- Potter – Psalm 64:8
- Prince of Peace – Isaiah 9:6
- Promise of the Father – Acts 1:4
- Purifier – Malachi 3:3
- Reaper – Revelation 14:15
- Redeemer – Isaiah 59:20; 60:16
- Rewarder – Hebrews 11:6
- Righteous Judge – II Timothy 4:8
- Rock of my strength – Psalm 62:7
- Root and Offspring of David – Revelation 22:16
- Rose of Sharon – Song of Solomon 2:1
- Savior in time of trouble – Jeremiah 14:8
- Savior of the World – John 4:42
- Scepter – Numbers 24:17
- Seed of Abraham – Galatians 3:16, 19
- Shade at your right hand – Psalm 121:4 –5
- Shepherd of Israel – Psalm 80:1
- Son of Abraham – Matthew 1:1
- Son of David – Matthew 15:22; 20:30; 21:9; 9:27
- Son of God – Luke 1:35; Matthew 16:16
- Son of Man – Matthew 18:11; Mark 10:33
- Son of the Father – II John 1:3
- Son of the Highest – Luke 1:32
- Spirit of Revelation – Ephesians 1:17
- Spirit of the living God – II Corinthians 3:3
- Spirit of Truth – John 14:17
- Spirit of wisdom and understanding – Isaiah 11:2
- Stone which the Builders rejected – I Peter 2:6 –7
- Strength of my heart – Psalm 73:26
- Sun and Shield – Psalm 84:11
- Sure Foundation – Isaiah 28:16
- True God – I John 5:20; Jeremiah 10:10
- True Light – John 1:9
- True vine – John 15:1
- Very present help in time of trouble – Psalm 46:1
- Wall of Fire – Zechariah 2:5
- Wonderful Counselor – Isaiah 9:6
- Word made flesh – John 1:14

- Who is, Who was, and Who is to come – Revelation 1:8

C. Praying the \_\_\_\_\_ (I Chr. 4:9-10)

*Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, “Because I bore him in pain.” And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!” So God granted him what he requested.*

There are several aspect of this prayer that can serve a prayer guides for us.

1. *“Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers”*

Jabez was asking or coming before the Lord from a position of an \_\_\_\_\_.

2. *“Oh, that You would bless me indeed”*

Jabez asked for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord on His life (Pro. 10:22; Gen. 32:26).

3. *“And enlarge my territory”*

Jabez desired an enlargement of his \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut. 28:13; Is. 54:2-3).

4. *“That Your hand would be with me”*

Jabez desired God to play an active role and be present in His \_\_\_\_\_.

5. *“And that You would keep me from evil”*

Jabez asked God to preserve him from evil and \_\_\_\_\_ that would lead to pain for him and others.

6. *“That I may not cause pain”*

Jabez asked God to help him to be a \_\_\_\_\_ to others and not a \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 12:1-3).

7. *“So God granted him what he requested”*

D. Praying \_\_\_\_\_

II Timothy 1:1-7

*“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God...”*

Prayer: Lord, I am thankful that you have a will and purpose for each one of our lives. I am thankful that we can know that will. I desire to do your will and I need your help to do it.

*“according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus”*

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for the life that we have in Jesus. Thank you for the new life that you have extended to me. Thank you for your precious promises of life that you have given to me, to my family and to so many of my friends. Let me live today in your promised land.

*“to Timothy, a beloved son”*

Prayer: Lord, I see the relationship that Paul had with Timothy. I see him refer to Timothy as a beloved son. I want to be a son of your love. I want to be a son that pleases you in every way so that you can see me as your beloved son in whom you find pleasure.

## **II. There are other biblical instructions that assist us in understanding how to pray.**

- A. Understanding different \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 6:18).
1. Petition or \_\_\_\_\_ (Phil. 4:6-7)
  2. Thanksgiving or \_\_\_\_\_ (Phil. 4:6; I Tim. 2:1; Ps. 100:4-6)
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ (Phil. 4:6; I Tim. 2:1)
  4. \_\_\_\_\_ (I Tim. 2:1)
  5. \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 11:4; I John 1:9)
  6. \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 119:15-16, 147-148)
  7. \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 5:3)
  8. Prayer in the Spirit—\_\_\_\_\_ (I Cor. 14:14-15; Jude 20)
  9. \_\_\_\_\_ (Col. 3:16; Acts 16:25; I Cor. 14:14-15)

10. Prayer of \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt.18:19; Eccl. 4:9)

B. Understanding the biblical \_\_\_\_\_ for prayer.

1. We are to pray \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 6:9; John 15:16; 16:23-27; I Pet. 1:17).

2. We are to pray \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus (Eph. 5:20; Col. 3:17; John 14:13-14).

3. We are to pray in or through \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit (Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:15-17, 26).

## Lesson 5 Activities of Prayer

### I. What are some activities that can be incorporated into one's personal prayer life?

#### A. Prayer Lists (Rom. 1:9; Eph. 1:15-16; I Th. 1:2)

1. The purpose of a prayer list
  - a. A prayer list helps you to be more \_\_\_\_\_ in prayer requests made.
  - b. A prayer list helps you to \_\_\_\_\_ important prayer needs.
  - c. A prayer list helps you to make good on personal prayer \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. A prayer list helps you to be \_\_\_\_\_ in your prayers.
  - e. A prayer list helps you to document \_\_\_\_\_ prayer.
  - f. A prayer list can stimulate \_\_\_\_\_ for future prayers.
  
2. The format of a prayer list
  - a. Get a small note pad or binder that is convenient to keep with your Bible.
  - b. Divide the notebook into sections representing categories such as: family, church, work, salvations, healings, guidance, etc.
  - c. Put your entries into chart form to record the date entered and the date answered.
  - d. When the prayer is answered, cross out the request with a highlighter.

Date Entered	The Prayer Need	Promise Claimed	Date Answered

3. The entries in the prayer list
  - a. Pray for the \_\_\_\_\_ of all men (I Tim. 2:4; John 17:21, 23; Rom. 10:1).



- b. Pray for your \_\_\_\_\_ and those who misuse you (Mt. 5:44; Luke 6:27-28).
- c. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ leaders (I Tim. 2:1-3; Rom. 13:1-7).
- d. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ or the Body of Christ (Col. 1:9; I Th. 2:1; 5:23; II Th. 1:11; Rom. 1:9).
- For the unity of God's people (John 17:20-21).
  - For the purposes of God to be realized (Eph. 3:9-11).
  - For those who are suffering persecution (Acts 12:5; Phil. 1:19; Phile. 22).
  - For laborers to reap the harvest (Luke 10:2).
- e. Pray for individual \_\_\_\_\_ (Jam. 5:16).
- For their spiritual well-being (John 14:16).
  - That they might be healed (Acts 9:40; Jam. 5:15-16).
  - That they might live in honesty and sincerity (Phil. 1:10).
  - That they might be full of the fruit of the Spirit (Phil. 1:11).
  - That they might know the will of God (Col. 1:9; 4:12).
  - That they might walk worthy of the Lord (Col. 1:10).
  - That they might increase in the knowledge of God (Col. 1:10).
  - That they might be strengthened with all might (Col. 1:11).
  - That the patience of Christ might be worked in them (Col. 1:11).
  - That they might fulfill God's call on their life (II Th. 1:11).
  - That they might bring glory to God's name (II Th. 1:12).
  - That they might know the power of God on their life (Eph. 1:19).
  - That they might effectively communicate their faith to others (Phile. 4-6).
- f. Pray for local church \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 13:7; I Th. 5:25).
- g. Pray for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the local church and those who lead them.
- h. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ and other outreaches of the local church (II Cor. 1:11).

*He will rescue us because you are helping by praying for us. As a result, many will give thanks to God because so many people's prayers for our safety have been answered. –NLT*

- That the word of God would have free course (II Th. 3:1).
- That the work would not be hindered by evil men (II Th. 3:2).
- That God would open doors of utterance (Col. 4:3; Eph. 6:19).
- That their ministry would be received (Rom. 15:30-31).

- i. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ local churches in your city.
- j. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 18:13; 22:40, 46; Mt. 26:41).
  - For forgiveness and the ability to forgive others (Mark 11:25).
  - For the mercy and the grace of God.
  - For personal growth and change.
  - For preservation from the evils of the day.
  - For boldness to share Christ and His Word to others.
- k. Pray for everyone for whom \_\_\_\_\_ to pray.

## B. Journaling

A prayer journal is a \_\_\_\_\_ in which you write down your personal thoughts gleaned in your time of communion with the Lord. While this method of recording your thoughts in a personal journal is not specifically mentioned in the Scripture, writing down what God has said or is saying is mentioned (Deut. 17:18-20; Jer. 30:2).

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of your spiritual diary. Here you can record some of the following thoughts:
  - a. What you prayed for on that day.
  - b. What verses you read on that day and the insights that you gained.
  - c. What you feel the Lord impressed upon you that day.
  - d. What spiritual decisions you have made on that day.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of your spiritual diary.
  - a. It forces us to \_\_\_\_\_ while we are praying.
  - b. It helps us to measure our own spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ over time.
  - c. It helps us to \_\_\_\_\_ the things that the Lord has said.
  - d. It helps us to be \_\_\_\_\_ to ourselves for what the Lord has said.
  - e. It helps us to be \_\_\_\_\_ of the faithfulness of God.
  - f. It helps us to see how God \_\_\_\_\_ our prayers.

## C. Meditation (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:2; 48:9; 77:5-6, 11-12; 119:14-16, 27, 48; 143:5; 145:5; Phil. 4:8-9)

1. The meaning of the biblical concept

Both words used for meditation in the Bible mean much the same thing. One word means to “murmur or \_\_\_\_\_ to oneself.” The other means to “talk to oneself under one’s breath.”

## 2. The definition of meditation

*“Meditation in the Bible usually indicated a person considering something about God and quietly focusing his mind on that truth. Most often, scriptures in the Bible were the focus of meditation, but anything about God – his mercy, his love, his majesty, his power, his kindness – were all causes for meditation. Christian meditation is when we quietly reflect on the things of God. It is different from prayer in that we are not communing with God but we are reflecting on his word or his attributes. It is not like eastern meditation, since we are always cognizant of our thoughts and we never enter into a trance-like state. The focus of Christian meditation is always on God, something about God, or on God’s care for us.”*

--Christian Meditation © 1998 by David Humpal

## 3. The value of meditation

- a. Meditation allows the things of God to be in our \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the day.
- b. Meditation takes the things of God and works them into our \_\_\_\_\_ man.
- c. Meditation helps us to \_\_\_\_\_ the word of God into our life.
- d. Meditation helps us to overcome \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. Meditation helps us to keep in \_\_\_\_\_ (Is. 26:3).

## 4. The process of meditation

When meditating on a scripture verse, it is helpful to follow these simple guidelines.

- a. Choose a verse that is relatively short.
  - It may come out of your personal Bible reading.
  - It may come out of a preached word.
  - It may come out of a quickened thought from the Holy Spirit.
  - It may come out of a personal need, challenge or encounter.
- b. Write the verse out on a card or small piece of paper.
  - You may want to make a few copies.
  - You may want to post them where you will see them often (e.g. the dashboard of the car, your office cubicle, on the bathroom mirror, etc.).

- c. Attempt to commit the verse to memory.
- d. Think on the verse word by word and discover the implications of the passage for you.

*Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things. Philipians 2:8*

- e. At the end of the day, write down what you have learned from this exercise.

#### **D. Listening**

Communication is a two way experience. To cultivate a relationship with anyone, it requires both speaking to a person and \_\_\_\_\_ to another person speak.

- 1. God desires to \_\_\_\_\_ to His people (Ps. 50:7).
- 2. God desires that we would \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 81:8, 13; Is. 55:3; John 10:27).

*Listen to me, O my people, while I give you stern warnings. O Israel, if you would only listen! ... But oh, that my people would listen to me! Oh, that Israel would follow me, walking in my paths! Psalm 81:8, 13, NLT*

- 3. Listening involves spending some time in \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord (Eccl. 3:7; Ps. 39:7-9).
- 4. Listening involves \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord (Ps. 25:5; 52:9; 106:13; Jer. 14:22).

Some of the words associated with waiting on the Lord mean:

- a. Waiting with an \_\_\_\_\_ or hope (Ps. 62:5).
- b. Waiting with a \_\_\_\_\_ for something or someone (Is. 25:9).
- c. Waiting in \_\_\_\_\_ for your expectant desire (Ps. 37:7; 40:1).
- 5. Listening involves \_\_\_\_\_ that which is spoken (Luke 8:21; 11:28).

#### **E. Praying in the Spirit**

Praying in the Spirit is praying in “\_\_\_\_\_” (I Cor. 14:14-15). Praying in the Spirit should be an integral part of your time with the Lord. Even though when you pray in tongues you do not fully understand what you are saying (I Cor. 14:2), it is important to do so because when you pray in tongues several things take place.

1. You \_\_\_\_\_ yourself up in your faith (I Cor. 14:4; Jude 20).
2. Your spirit connects \_\_\_\_\_ with God’s Spirit (I Cor. 14:2, 14-15).
3. You dispel \_\_\_\_\_ created by Satan’s lies (Eph. 6:17-18).
4. The Holy Spirit helps you to pray when you do not know \_\_\_\_\_ to pray (Rom. 8:26).
5. The Holy Spirit helps you to pray according to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 8:26-27).

## Lesson 6

### Praying that Gets Results

#### I. What does God promise concerning answers to our prayers?

God gives sweeping promises concerning His heart to answer the prayers of His people. Some of these promises have \_\_\_\_\_ and some do not. Notice the following verses:

II Chronicles 7:14

*If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Psalm 34:15

*The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.*

Psalm 37:4-5

*Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.*

Psalm 91:14-15

*Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.*

Matthew 7:7-11

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*

Matthew 18:19-20

*Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.*

Mark 11:23-24

*For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

John 14:12-14

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

John 15:7

*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*

John 16:23-24

*And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*

James 1:5-8

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

I John 3:22

*And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.*

I John 5:14-15

*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

A. Notice some of the things that these verses tell us about God's \_\_\_\_\_ to answer prayer.

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ answer our prayer.
2. God wants us to be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God wants us to be \_\_\_\_\_.
4. God only wants \_\_\_\_\_ for us.

B. Notice some of the \_\_\_\_\_ for answered prayer in many of the verses.

We increase our potential for answered prayer when...

1. We walk \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord (I Chr. 7:14).
2. We are \_\_\_\_\_ in dealing with the sin issues in our lives (Is. 59:1-2).
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ His face (I Chr. 7:14).
4. We \_\_\_\_\_ His commandments (I John 3:22).
5. We walk in \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 3:22).
6. We \_\_\_\_\_ in Him (John 15:7).
7. We \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves in Him (Ps. 37:4).
8. We have \_\_\_\_\_ in His desire and ability to do what we ask (Jam. 1:5-8).
9. We ask in Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ (John 16:23-24).
10. We ask according to His \_\_\_\_\_ (I John 5:14-15).

## II. What kind of prayer does God resist answering?

A. Prayer originating from our fleshly lusts and \_\_\_\_\_ (Jam. 4:1-6).

B. Prayer that is focused on an earthly and \_\_\_\_\_ perspective (Mt. 6:31-33).

C. Prayer that comes from hearts filled with \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 66:16-20; Pro. 15:8).

D. Prayer that is used to promote our own \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 138:6; Jam. 4:6, 13-16; I Pet. 5:5-7; Mt. 20:20-23).



E. Prayer that is selfish and does not take into account the needs of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Phil. 2:2-4).

F. Prayer that \_\_\_\_\_ God's ability to answer (Jam. 1:6-8).

### III. What kinds of prayers does God enjoy answering?

A. Prayers like the prayer of \_\_\_\_\_ (I Chr. 4:9-10).

B. Prayers like the prayers of \_\_\_\_\_ (II Sam. 7:18-29; I Chr. 29:16-19).

C. Prayers like the prayers of \_\_\_\_\_ (I Kgs. 3:6-10; II Chr. 1:7-10; 6:12-21; 7:1-2).

D. Prayers like the request of \_\_\_\_\_ (II Kgs. 2:9-10).

E. Prayers like the prayer of \_\_\_\_\_ (Dan. 9:3-19).

F. Prayers like the prayer of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 4:29-31).

### IV. What are some other hindrances to answered prayer?

A. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_ toward others (Mark 11:25-26)

B. \_\_\_\_\_ conflict (I Pet. 3:7)

C. \_\_\_\_\_ for authority (Eph. 6:2-3)

D. Excessive \_\_\_\_\_, doubts or anxiety (Ps. 78:18-22; Jam. 1:6-7)

E. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 11:5-10; 18:1-8)

F. Indifference to the needs of \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 21:13).

G. \_\_\_\_\_ asking (Jam. 5:16b-18)

Elijah's prayer was a prayer that God respected (I Kgs. 18:41-46).

1. He had a humble \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer (I Kgs. 18:42; I Pet. 5:6).

2. He based his prayer on divine \_\_\_\_\_ (I Kgs. 18:1; Zech. 10:1).
3. His prayer was earnest, persistent and \_\_\_\_\_ (Jam. 5:16-18; Ps. 40:1).
4. His prayer was watchful and \_\_\_\_\_ (I Kgs. 18:43-44, Ps. 130:5-6).

“If the truth were known, often you and I are the only obstacles standing in the way of us receiving a desperately needed miracle. Our requests may be right. The timing may not be a problem. But when our lives are wrong God says, ‘Before I grant your request, I want you to grow. Put that sin away. Change your attitude. Stop that practice, end that pattern, get off that merry-go-round, reconcile that relationship, soften up your spirit, repent, receive forgiveness. Grow- and I’ll open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it’

--Bill Hybels

## V. **How important is it to ask? Doesn’t God know our hearts?**

- A. God continually encouraged His people to \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 2:8; Jer. 6:16; 33:3; Zech. 10:1).
- B. Jesus encouraged his disciples to ask the Father in \_\_\_\_\_ (John 14:12-14; 16:23-24).
- C. James indicated that \_\_\_\_\_ of receiving is asking (Jam. 4:2b).
- D. It is important \_\_\_\_\_ that you want that for which you ask (Ps. 106:15).

## Lesson 7

### The Voice of Prayer

#### I. What does the Bible tell us about “silence”?

- A. Silence is seen as a \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to praying or praising God.
1. Silence is the result of \_\_\_\_\_ (Jer. 8:14).
  2. Silence is sometimes attributed to the place of \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 115:17).
- B. We are not to be \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord (Ps. 30:11-12; Is. 62:6-7).
- C. There are very few instances in the Bible when people \_\_\_\_\_ silently.
1. Abraham’s Servant (Gen. 24:45)
  2. Hannah (I Sam. 1:10-15)

#### II. What does the Bible say about using our voice in prayer?

- A. There are several phrases that consistently describe the \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 18:6; 140:6).
1. I will \_\_\_\_\_ or to the Lord (Ps. 4:3; 86:6-7).
  2. I will \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord (Ps. 88:1-2; 141:1; Rom. 8:15).
  3. I will \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord (Ps. 55:16-17).
  4. I will \_\_\_\_\_ my voice to the Lord (Is. 24:14; 40:9).

Some of the Hebrew words used in these verses literally mean “to hum, to growl, to roar, to shout, to shriek.”

- B. The men and women of faith lifted up their \_\_\_\_\_ in prayer.
1. The patriarchs or fathers of Israel \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Lord (I Sam. 12:8).
  2. The children of Israel in \_\_\_\_\_ cried to the Lord (Ex. 2:23-24; 3:7-8; 14:10; Judg. 3:8-9, 14-15; 4:3; 10:9-16; 11:1; Ps. 22:4-5).
  3. Moses cried out to the Lord for miraculous \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 15:25).

4. Samuel \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord (I Sam. 7:8-9).
5. The children of Israel called on God's assistance \_\_\_\_\_ (I Chr. 5:19-20).
6. David \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (Ps. 138:3).
7. Jonah \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord (Jon. 2:1-2).
8. Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus for \_\_\_\_\_ of blindness (Mark 10:46-62).
9. Jesus used \_\_\_\_\_ in His prayers to the Father (Mt. 26:38-39, 42; 27:46; Luke 10:21-22; 23:46; John 17:1ff.).
10. The Apostles lifted their \_\_\_\_\_ in prayer (Acts 4:24; 7:59-60).

### **III. Why is using our voice in prayer important?**

- A. Because out of the abundance of \_\_\_\_\_ the mouth speaks (Mt. 12:34b).
- B. Because God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ our voice (Ps. 3:4; 5:2-3; 27:7; 28:1-2, 6; 31:22; 61:1-2; 64:1; 66:19; 77:1; 86:6-7; 116:1-2; 130:1-2; 142:1-2; Song 2:14). Many of these Psalms refer to "the voice" of my prayer.
- C. Because God is \_\_\_\_\_ of our voice (Is. 12:6).
- D. Because God has given special \_\_\_\_\_ to those who cry out in prayer (Ps. 34:15; 50:15; 55:17; 57:2; 145:18; Is. 30:19; Jer. 33:3; Acts 2:21).
  1. God hears the cry of the widow (Ex. 22:22-23).
  2. God hears the cry of the poor (Ps. 72:12).
- E. Because Jesus instructed us to "\_\_\_\_\_" our prayers (Luke 11:2).
- F. Because faith has a voice or \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 10:9-13).

## Lesson 8

### Prayer and Fasting

#### I. What is fasting?

##### A. The definition of fasting

Fasting is simply the abstinence from food or certain kinds of food either totally or partially for a specified length of time. The actual Greek word used for fasting literally means “\_\_\_\_\_” (*nesteia*).

##### B. Fasting in the natural realm

In the natural realm people often fast as a regular discipline in their lives for health reasons.

##### C. Fasting in the spiritual realm

Fasting is common in many religions of the world and it is promoted by Christ in relation to his followers. This fasting is done for the purpose of deepening one’s relationship and enhancing one’s \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

#### II. What are the various types of fasting?

##### A. There are varying methods of fasting.

###### 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ fast

The normal fast is abstaining from food while drinking water.

###### 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ fast

The partial fast is abstaining from certain types of food (Dan. 1:15; 10:3)

###### 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ fast

The absolute fast is the most rigorous type of fasting in that it involves a complete abstinence of both food and water.

###### 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ related fast

Some people find it spiritually beneficial to fast other things during a time of separation to the Lord. The most common type of fast in this area is fasting television, movies and other non-Christian forms of entertainment.

B. There are varying durations of fasting.

The fasts that are mentioned specifically in the Bible include the following:

1. One day fast

This is the most common fast (Judg. 20:26; II Sam. 1:12; 3:35).

2. Three day fast

This is the next level of fasting. Esther is an example of someone who proclaimed a fast of three days as the nations looked to God for deliverance (Est. 4:16-17; 5:1).

3. Seven day fast

This is the next level of fasting. David fasted seven days when his child was sick (II Sam. 12:16-18). When Saul and his sons were buried there was a fast of seven days mourning their unfortunate end (I Sam. 31:13; I Chr. 10:12).

4. Twenty-one day fast

Daniel fasted twenty-one days (Dan. 10:1-3). However, in his case it was not a total fast.

5. Forty day fast

This is the highest level of fasting. Three men in the Bible fasted forty consecutive days—Moses, Elijah and Jesus (Deut. 9:9, 18; Ex. 34:28; I Kgs. 19:8; Mt. 4:2).

### III. Who are some of the people who fasted and why did they fast?

A. God's people in the Old Testament fasted.

1. They fasted on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:29-31; 23:26-32; Num. 29:7).
2. They fasted during a \_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord (Deut. 9:9-11).
3. They fasted for direction and \_\_\_\_\_ in battle (Judg. 20:26; II Chr. 20:3-4).
4. They fasted as part of their \_\_\_\_\_ and return to the Lord (I Sam. 7:6; I Kgs. 21:27; Jon. 3:5-10).
5. They (David) fasted for \_\_\_\_\_ (II Sam. 12:16-23; Ps. 35:11-13).

6. They fasted in a time of \_\_\_\_\_ for the death of a leader (I Sam. 31:13).
7. They fasted for \_\_\_\_\_ from impending doom (Est. 4:3, 16).
8. They fasted for \_\_\_\_\_ and guidance on a difficult journey (Ezra 8:21).

B. God's people in the New Testament fasted.

1. They fasted in a special time of \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (Acts 13:1-3).
2. They fasted in the context of \_\_\_\_\_ in the church (Acts 14:21-23).
3. They fasted as a regular \_\_\_\_\_ (II Cor. 6:5; 11:27).

#### IV. What did Jesus teach about fasting?

- A. Jesus said that fasting would characterize His \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 6:16; 9:14-15).
- B. Jesus gave practical \_\_\_\_\_ about fasting (Mt. 6:16-18).
- C. Jesus demonstrated the \_\_\_\_\_ of a fasted lifestyle (Mt. 17:14-21).

#### V. What are some of the reasons why we might decide to fast?

A. Wrong reasons for fasting

1. Fasting to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Fasting as a way to force \_\_\_\_\_.

Fasting is not a hunger strike where we are blackmailing or trying to manipulate God into doing what we have determined as our own agenda. God does not respond to this type of fasting (Jer. 14:12; Acts 23:12-22).

3. Fasting as a way to prove your own \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 6:16-18).
4. Fasting as an \_\_\_\_\_ or ritual (Is. 58:3-9; Zech. 7:5)

Remember you can always \_\_\_\_\_ without fasting but you cannot fast in a biblical way without \_\_\_\_\_.

## B. Right reasons for fasting

The following are twelve good reasons for fasting:

1. Fasting for the \_\_\_\_\_ of yourself or others.
2. Fasting for \_\_\_\_\_ from bondages for yourself and others (Is. 58:6-11).
3. Fasting as part of the process of \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord (Neh. 9:1-3; Joel 2:12).
4. Fasting to \_\_\_\_\_ the works of the flesh.
5. Fasting to gain a greater \_\_\_\_\_ to the Holy Spirit.
6. Fasting to receive needed \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord.
7. Fasting for \_\_\_\_\_ in dealing with some of life's difficult issues.
8. Fasting for a greater release of \_\_\_\_\_ in our ministry life (Mt. 17:14-21).
9. Fasting to get a fresh \_\_\_\_\_ of and from God.
10. Fasting in anticipation of a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit (Luke 2:36-38; Acts 10:30).
11. Fasting to simply obey the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit.
12. Fasting when the local church is called to a \_\_\_\_\_ of fasting and seeking the Lord (Acts 13:1-3).

Andrew Murray said, "Fasting helps to express, to deepen, and to confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything—to sacrifice ourselves—to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God."

## VI. What are we actually doing when we fast?

- A. We are afflicting or \_\_\_\_\_ our soul (Lev. 16:29; Ps. 69:10).
- B. We are \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves before God (Ps. 35:13; 1 Kgs. 21:29; Ezra 8:21).
- C. We are \_\_\_\_\_ our natural man and \_\_\_\_\_ our Spirit man.
- D. We are focusing all of our energies on \_\_\_\_\_ God (Jer. 29:13-14).



## VII. What are some practical things to keep in mind when fasting?

- A. Use wisdom while fasting and try to \_\_\_\_\_ and physical activity (I Sam. 14:24-30).
- B. Limit activities that will \_\_\_\_\_ from seeking the Lord (Is. 58:3-4).
- Television
  - Sports
  - Hobbies
  - Video Games
  - Entertaining Guests
  - Non-Christian Reading
  - Sexual Activity (I Cor. 7:3-5)
- C. Focus on activities that will \_\_\_\_\_ your ability to hear from God.
- Bible Reading
  - Prayer and Meditation
  - Laying before the Lord (napping)
  - Reading a challenging Christian book
  - Singing and Worship
- D. Keep a \_\_\_\_\_ available at all times to write down spiritual impressions from the Lord.
- E. Drink lots of \_\_\_\_\_ while you are fasting.
- F. Check with a doctor \_\_\_\_\_ you fast especially if you have a medical condition that requires the use of medications.
- G. If you have never fasted, start \_\_\_\_\_ and work up.
- H. Expect your body to react with \_\_\_\_\_ symptoms.
- I. Come off of an extended fast \_\_\_\_\_.

## Lesson 9

### Feeding on the Word

#### *Our Daily Bread*

### **I. What is the importance of the word of God in our lives?**

The word of God is the food that gives life to and sustains the believer in their earthly walk. The word of God is the believer's food for their journey.

- A. Jesus indicated that the word of God was the \_\_\_\_\_ to Him (Mt. 4:4).
- B. Jesus encouraged us \_\_\_\_\_ and to feed on the right kind of food (John 6:22-27).
  - 1. Jesus spoke of a bread that when you eat you never \_\_\_\_\_ (John 6:35).
  - 2. Jesus spoke of a water that when you drink you will never \_\_\_\_\_ (John 4:13-14).
  - 3. However, the responsibility is on us to hunger and thirst and to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 5:6; Is. 55:1-2).

### **II. How important is it to get a word from the Lord on a daily basis?**

- A. Jesus indicated that we need \_\_\_\_\_ bread (Mt. 6:11).
- B. God has a word that \_\_\_\_\_ out of His mouth for us (Mt. 4:4b).
- C. God has a present truth or \_\_\_\_\_ for us (II Pet. 1:12).
- D. God has a word for us \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 3:1-7, 13, 15; 4:7).

### **III. What are some of the things that we need to do if we are to receive proper food?**

- A. We need to understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of the word of God.
  - 1. God's attitude about His word.
    - a. He magnifies His word above His name (Ps. 138:2).
    - b. His word is alive, powerful, active and sharp (Heb. 4:12).

- c. His word does not return void (Is. 55:11).
- d. He backs up His word with signs following (Mk. 16:15-20).

2. The Eight-fold Ministry of the Word in II Timothy 4:1-2

- a. For Doctrine
- b. For Reproof
- c. For Correction
- d. For Instruction
- e. For Convincing
- f. For Rebuke
- g. For Exhortation
- h. For Comfort

B. We need to have a \_\_\_\_\_ toward the word of God.

- 1. The attitude of hungering for and \_\_\_\_\_ the word (Mt. 5:6; I Pet. 2:2).
- 2. The attitude of \_\_\_\_\_ before the word (Ps. 119:33).
- 3. The attitude of \_\_\_\_\_ before the word (Is. 66:1-2).
- 4. The attitude of \_\_\_\_\_ or personal application of the word (James 1:25).
- 5. It means learning the \_\_\_\_\_ to study the Bible (II Tim. 2:15).
- 6. It means learning how to use the \_\_\_\_\_ for digging (Pro. 25:2).
- 7. It means accumulating helpful \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. It means studying and doing the work \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9. It means battling the natural “spirit of \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 10. It means overcoming the natural \_\_\_\_\_ of much study (Eccl. 12:12).
- 11. It means having a designated \_\_\_\_\_ for private study.
- 12. It means having a \_\_\_\_\_ to study.

#### IV. How is the word of God like manna for God’s people?

Jesus ties the preceding word into the manna of old (Mt. 4:4; Deut. 8:3).

*And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. Deuteronomy 8:2-3*

See: Exodus 16

1. It was bread from \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:4; Num. 11:9; Ps. 78:23-24; 105:40).
2. It was \_\_\_\_\_ bread (Ex. 16:7).
3. It was the bread that God had given them \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:15).
4. It came to where the people \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:14).
5. It was \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:14).
6. It was \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:14).
7. It was \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:31a; Dan. 12:10; Rev. 19:8-9; Ps. 19:8).
8. It was to be \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:15b; Jer. 15:16).
9. It was \_\_\_\_\_ to be eaten (Ex. 16:19).
10. It tasted like \_\_\_\_\_ (Num. 11:8).
11. It tasted like \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:31b; Ps. 19:10).
12. It kept them \_\_\_\_\_ (Neh. 9:20-21; I Cor. 10:3).
13. It was fine and easy to \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:14b).
14. It was to be gathered \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:4).
15. It came with the \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:13-14; Num. 11:9).
16. It was gathered in the \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:11-12).
17. It was gathered by \_\_\_\_\_.
18. It was gathered by \_\_\_\_\_.
19. It had to be gathered \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:16).
20. It was always \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:17-18).
21. It met each one's \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:18).

22. It could not be stored for \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:20).
23. It tested their \_\_\_\_\_ daily (Ex. 16:4).
24. That which was kept in the ark \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 16:33-34; Heb. 9:4).
25. It was to be eaten throughout their \_\_\_\_\_ wanderings (Ex. 16:35).
26. Sadly, it was often \_\_\_\_\_ by God's people (Num. 11:4-6; 21:5-6).

## Lesson 10

### Reading the Bible

#### I. What are the first steps to Bible reading and study?

- A. Seeing the \_\_\_\_\_ for it.
  
- B. Making a personal \_\_\_\_\_ to it.
  
- C. Choosing a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible for it.
  
- D. Adopting \_\_\_\_\_ for it.
  
- E. Establishing \_\_\_\_\_ for it.
  
- F. Keeping \_\_\_\_\_ that you have established for it.
  
- G. Being willing to \_\_\_\_\_ in it.

#### II. How does one choose a translation or version of the Bible?

There are many versions and translations of the Bible to choose from. Different translations are suitable to different purposes (See the chart at the end of this lesson taken from the *Text and Product Preview: New Living Translation Holy Bible*, page 37, Tyndale House, 2001).

- A. For \_\_\_\_\_ reading.

There are two types of versions that are inspirational when you are reading for personal devotions.

##### 1. Paraphrase

A paraphrase, like the *Living Bible*, *The Message* or *Phillip's Translation*, attempts to understand the meaning of the passage and put it into the context of the modern world. Many paraphrases are not based on the original Greek text, but are based on the reading of other contemporary versions.

2. Thought for thought translations

A thought for thought translation like the *New International Version* is usually based on the original languages, but is not so concerned about a word for word translation of the Greek. The translators attempted to understand the Greek mind and translate the thought or concept into the contemporary mind or understanding.

B. For \_\_\_\_\_ study.

For deeper study it is usually better to use a more \_\_\_\_\_ translation of the Bible. Because your deeper study will involve digging into the actual Greek words and concepts, it is more rewarding to work from a text that will be true to actual word equivalents.

C. For \_\_\_\_\_ usage.

There are some translations that should be avoided or used with extreme caution. Some translations take extreme liberty with the text of the Bible. Usually translators in this category have an agenda other than understanding the clear meaning of the original text. Often they attempt to bring modern culture with its modern \_\_\_\_\_ into the inspired word of God. The New Revised Standard Version is one such version that seeks to make the text of the Scripture gender neutral to the extent of referring to God as both Father and Mother.

Part of researching a translation is being aware of \_\_\_\_\_ the work of translating.

### III. What are some common Bible reading plans?

There are many ways to approach the study of God's word.

A. Reading the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Reading through from Genesis to Revelation.
2. Alternating Old Testament reading with New Testament reading.
3. Reading a portion of the Old or New Testament and a chapter in Proverbs and a chapter in Psalms.

B. Reading the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

Bible reading plans based on chronology are available or you can actually purchase *The Chronological Bible* that is already arranged in this way.

C. Reading the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

In order to do this you will need to purchase a topical Bible such as *Nave's Topical Bible*.

There are study Bibles that focus on various themes. Those who have crafted these Bibles do so with the idea of emphasizing certain aspects of the word of God. Example of this include *The Spirit Filled Life Bible*, *The Life Application Bible*, *The Maxwell Leadership Bible* or *The Christian Counselor's New Testament* by Jay Adams.

#### IV. What are the primary ways to interact with the Bible?

A. They should read it \_\_\_\_\_.

In this case the only book that we need is a version of the Bible or perhaps a study Bible with some additional notes and helps. This kind of reading should always be accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_ and even \_\_\_\_\_ of your Bible.

*"The sacred page is not meant to be the end, but only the means toward the end, which is knowing God himself."* —A. W. Tozer

B. They should study each book of the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

In this case, you will need your Bible and/or study Bible plus some other tools of study. These would especially include \_\_\_\_\_ on that particular book of the Bible.

C. They should study it \_\_\_\_\_.

In this case, topical Bibles, concordances, word study dictionaries and cross references can be very useful.

For all of these types of study it is critical for the believer \_\_\_\_\_ at the beginning of the study asking God by the Holy Spirit to enlighten your understanding concerning what you are reading (Acts 8:30-31).

*So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.*



## Bible Translations or Versions Chart

<b>Translation or Version</b>	<b>Reading Level</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Methodology of Translation Passage Comparison of Matthew 4:19</b>
<b>King James Version (KJV)</b>	<b>12</b>	The now classic English translation of the Bible dating from 1611. Though difficult for many to understand because of its sometimes archaic language, it is loved for its familiarity and poetic beauty.	<b>Literal</b>  And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
<b>New International Version(NIV)</b>	<b>7</b>	This popular translation seeks to balance the concerns of literal and dynamic equivalence translation philosophies.	<b>Literal with freedom to be idiomatic</b>  “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”
<b>New Living Translation (NLT)</b>	<b>6</b>	Authoritative text with a fresh, clear style that is enjoyable to read. A leading thought-for-thought translation that accurately communicates the meaning of the original Greek and Hebrew texts.	<b>Dynamic Equivalence</b>  Jesus called out to them, “Come, be my disciples, and I will show you how to fish for people!”
<b>New King James Version (NKJV)</b>	<b>7</b>	A translation that updates the language of the KJV while preserving its basic literary structure.	<b>Literal</b>  Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
<b>New American Standard Bible (NASB)</b>	<b>10</b>	Translates the original text as literally as possible, preserving word-for-word equivalency and original sentence structure in English wherever possible.	<b>Strictly literal</b>  And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
<b>New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)</b>	<b>7</b>	Translation sponsored by the National Council of Churches of Christ. Generally literal word-for-word philosophy.	<b>Literal</b>  And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”
<b>New American Bible (NAB)</b>	<b>7</b>	The official translation of the Roman Catholic Church in America. This fairly literal translation includes the deuterion-canonical books in all editions.	<b>Literal</b>  He said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
<b>Contemporary English Version (CEV)</b>	<b>5</b>	A dynamic equivalence translation that avoids difficult vocabulary and sentence structures to produce a straightforward translation that’s understandable to the modern reader.	<b>Dynamic Equivalence</b>  Jesus said to them, “Come with me! I will teach you how to bring people in instead of fish.”
<b>The Living Bible (TLB)</b>	<b>8</b>	Paraphrase by Kenneth Taylor that communicates the essential message of God’s Word to the average English reader. Simplifies theological language so it’s easy to understand.	<b>Paraphrase</b>  Jesus called out, “Come along with me and I will show you how to fish for the souls of men!”
<b>The Message</b>	<b>5</b>	A colorful paraphrase by Eugene Peterson that seeks to capture the message of the original text in a creative and impacting way.	<b>Paraphrase</b> Jesus said to them, “Come with me. I’ll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I’ll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass.”

## Lesson 11

### Bridging the Gap

#### I. What is the most significant challenge when it comes to studying the Bible?

The most significant challenge to fully understanding the Bible is bridging the \_\_\_\_\_ that exist between the contexts in which the Bible was written and our present day context. In order to fully understand the Bible we must bridge four primary gaps.

##### A. The \_\_\_\_\_ Gap

If we are to understand the Bible in its context, we need to know some things relative to the languages in which the Bible was written.

1. We need to know what \_\_\_\_\_ meant when they were written down by the author.
2. We need to know the idiomatic expressions and \_\_\_\_\_ that are used in the Bible and what their contemporary equivalents are.
3. We need to know the origin, formation and \_\_\_\_\_ of the words (etymology).
4. We need to know the significance of different \_\_\_\_\_ constructions as to how they have a bearing on the meaning of the text.
5. We even need to understand the \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. poetic, historical, prophetic, apocalyptic, etc.) in which a passage is written to better understand its present day application.

##### B. The \_\_\_\_\_ Gap

The Bible was written in the context of an eastern and agrarian culture that is not consistent with the culture of most of those reading the Bible today.

God is not interested in the duplication of biblical culture, but He is interested in the principles by which the culture operated. In order to understand the principle behind the practice, we must understand certain things.

1. We must understand what the \_\_\_\_\_ of the day was and how it has a bearing on the passage in question.

2. We must understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of culture including such things as transportation, cooking, clothing, tools for farming, weapons of warfare, housing and animal life (e.g. taxation, balances and scales, weights and measures, raising sheep, etc.).
3. We must understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of the society in which the verses were written including such things and marriage customs, biblical trades, economics, legal requirements, civil laws and other social customs.
4. We must be able to distinguish between the cultures that are referenced including the cultures of the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Persians, the Greeks, the Romans and, of course, the Jews.

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ Gap

The various books of the Bible were written in an historical context that is much different than the world of today.

1. We must understand the \_\_\_\_\_ world and the relationship of the various nations to each other.
2. We must understand the \_\_\_\_\_ and religious forces that were at play in the time when the books were written.

D. The \_\_\_\_\_ Gap

The story of the Bible took place in various geographical settings that are totally unfamiliar to the average reader of the Bible.

1. We must understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of the land.
2. We must understand the plant and \_\_\_\_\_ of the land.
3. We must understand the \_\_\_\_\_ and weather patterns of the land.
4. We must understand \_\_\_\_\_, rivers and seas.
5. We must understand the proximity of one \_\_\_\_\_ to another.

## II. What are some of the tools that will help to bridge the communication gap?

The following are some of the basic tools with which the serious Bible student should become familiar.

## A. Concordances

1. A concordance is a compilation of all of the places a certain \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible.
2. A concordance can be used to find a passage when you know some specific words in the passage for which you are looking.
3. A concordance can be used to find all of the places where a certain word occurs.
  - a. If you are using a modern language concordance, it will tell you all of the places where that \_\_\_\_\_ language word occurs.
  - b. If you are using an original language concordance (i.e. Greek or Hebrew) it will tell you where all of the places are where that \_\_\_\_\_ language word occurs in the Bible.

## B. Lexicons

Lexicons are dictionaries of words that help you to understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of words as they are used in the original languages.

## C. Bible Dictionaries or Encyclopedias

Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias are a wonderful resource for \_\_\_\_\_ information and \_\_\_\_\_ of biblical material. These books function just like other dictionaries and encyclopedias except they focus on topics that are specifically related to the Bible.

## D. Bible Handbooks

Bible handbooks are books that are meant to be \_\_\_\_\_ with your personal Bible reading. They often give insights into a variety of things including archeological findings, relevant historical data, background to the Book and many other useful bits of information.

## E. Bible Atlases

Bible atlases are \_\_\_\_\_ that help you understand many things about the geographical world of Bible times. Atlases offer information on topography, rainfall, weather patterns, proximity of nations, areas of land mass and distances for travel.

## F. Commentaries

Commentaries are written by scholars who try to expand a persons understanding concerning what is being read in the Bible. They are organized by chapter and verse of the books of the Bible.

#### G. Manners and Customs of the Bible

There are many such books that help the student of the Word to discover any customs that might have a bearing on the passage under study. They can be very helpful in unlocking the true intended meaning of the passage.

# Resources for Bridging the Gap

## THE LINGUISTIC GAP:

### Concordances:

1. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* (Abingdon). For those who study from the KJV Bible.
2. *Zondervan's Exhaustive Concordance* (Zondervan). For those who study from the NIV Bible.
3. *The NASB Exhaustive Concordance* (Thomas Nelson). For those who study from the NASB Bible.
4. *New Englishman's Greek Concordance* (Baker)
5. *New Englishman's Hebrew & Chaldee Concordance* (Baker)
6. *Young's Analytical Concordance* (Eerdman's)

### Lexicons:

1. *Greek-English Lexicon*, Arndt & Gingrich (University of Chicago Press)
2. *New Thayer's Greek - English Lexicon* (Baker)
3. *New Gesenius Hebrew Lexicon*, Gesenius (Baker)
4. *Analytical Greek Lexicon* (Zondervan)
5. *Greek-English Lexicon*, Liddell & Scott (Oxford)

### Word Studies:

1. *The Expanded Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, John R. Kohlenberger III (Bethany House)
2. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, Harris, Archer, Waltke (Moody)
3. *Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, Colin Brown (Zondervan)
4. *Linguistic Key to the Greek New Testament*, Rienecker & Rogers (Zondervan)
5. *Word Studies in the New Testament*, M.R. Vincent (Eerdman's)
6. *Expositor's Greek Testament*, W. Robertson Nicoll (Eerdman's)
7. *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, A.T. Robertson (Broadman Press)
8. *Christian Words*, Nigel Turner (Nelson)
9. *Synonyms of the Old Testament*, R.B. Girdlestone (Eerdman's)
10. *Synonyms of the New Testament*, R.C. Trench (Eerdman's)
11. *Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek*, Bruce Metzger (Theological Book Agency, Dist.)
12. *Grammatical Insights into the New Testament*, Nigel Turner (T&T Clark)
13. *Syntax of the Moods and Tenses*, E. Burton (T&T Clark)
14. *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible*, E.W. Bullinger (Baker)
15. *The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament*, Moulton & Milligan (Eerdman's)
16. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Kittel, Ed. (Eerdman's)

### Grammars:

1. *New Testament Greek for Beginners*, Machen (MacMillan)
2. *Manual Grammar of the Greek Testament*, Dand & Mantey (MacMillan)
3. *Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew*, J. Weingren
4. *Grammar of the Greek New Testament*, A.T. Robertson (Broadman Press)

### **THE CULTURAL GAP:**

1. *The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times*, Gower (Moody Press)
2. *Manners and Customs of the Bible*, J. Freeman (Logos International)
3. *Harper's Encyclopedia of Bible Life*, Miller, Miller, Bennett, Scott (Harper & Row)
4. *Sketches of Jewish Social Life*, A. Edersheim (Eerdman's)
5. *Life and times of Jesus the Messiah*, A. Edersheim (Eerdman's)
6. *Insights into Bible Times and Customs*, Weiss (Moody)
7. *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*, Jeremias (Fortress Press)
8. *All the Holy Days and Holidays of the Bible*, H. Lockyer (Zondervan)
9. *All the Trades and Occupations of the Bible*, H Lockyer (Zondervan)
10. *The Bible and Archaeology*, J.A. Thompson
11. *Ancient Israel*, R. DeVaux (McGraw Hill)
12. *The Temple*, A. Edersheim (Eerdman's)
13. *Eerdman's Handbook to the World's Religions*, (Eerdman's)
14. *The Land and the Book*, W.M. Thompson (Harper & Brothers)

### **Bible Dictionaries:**

1. *The New Bible Dictionary*, M.C. Tenney (Zondervan)
2. *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, (Moody)
3. *Pictorial Bible Dictionary*, M.C. Tenney (Zondervan)
4. *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, (Eerdman's)
5. *Bible Dictionary*, Smith (Holt, Rinehart, Winston)

### **Biblical Interpretation:**

1. *Interpreting the Scriptures*, Conners & Malmin (Bible Temple Press)
2. *Biblical Hermeneutics*, Terry (Zondervan)
3. *The Protestant Biblical Interpretation*, Ramm (Baker)

### **THE GEOGRAPHICAL GAP:**

1. *The Oxford Bible Atlas*, (Oxford Press)
2. *The Wycliffe Historical Geography of Bible Lands*, Pfeiffer & Vos (Moody)
3. *All the Animals of the Bible Lands*, G. Cunsdale (Zondervan)
4. *Geography of the Bible*, D. Baly (Harper & Brothers)
5. *The MacMillan Bible Atlas*, (MacMillan)

### **THE HISTORICAL GAP:**

1. *New Testament History*, F.F. Bruce (Anchor)
2. *Survey of Israel's History*, L. Wood (Zondervan)
3. *New Testament Times*, Tenney (Eerdman's)
4. *Jerusalem in the Times of Jesus*, Jeremias (Fortress)
5. *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, A. Edersheim (Eerdman's)
6. *Old Testament Bible History*, A. Edersheim (Eerdman's)
7. *The Archaeology of Cities on Western Asia Minor*, Yamauchi (Baker)
8. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*, Unger (Zondervan)
9. *The Archaeology of the New Testament*, Unger (Zondervan)
10. *The Works of Flavius Josephus*, (Kregel)
11. *Bible Archaeology*, G.E. Wright (Westminster Press)
12. *General Bible Introduction*, H.S. Miller (Word Bearer Press)
13. *Bible Survey*, Wm Hendriksen (Baker)
14. *The Books & The Parchments*, F.F. Bruce (Pickering & Inglis)
15. *Introduction to the Old Testament*, E.J. Young (Eerdman's)
16. *Introductory Guide to the Old Testament*, Unger (Zondervan)
17. *Introduction to the New Testament*, Thiesen (Eerdman's)
18. *Introduction to the New Testament*, Vols., Zahn (Kregel)
19. *New Testament Survey*, Tenney (Eerdman's)
20. *The Progress of Doctrine in the New Testament*, Bernard (Pickering & Inglis)

Note: The above resource list was extracted from *Bible Research*, by Ken Malmin and Team, pg. 19-20.



## Lesson 12

### Interpreting the Bible

#### I. What are some of the things that will help to lay a foundation for deeper biblical study?

Before you can understand \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible, you must have a good handle on \_\_\_\_\_. As you approach the idea of deeper Bible study there are some important foundations to lay in your own experience of the Bible (Note: The following points taken from unpublished notes by Lanny Hubbard entitled *Committed to the Study of God's Word*).

- A. A general \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible.
- B. An understanding of \_\_\_\_\_ and main events of the Bible.
- C. An understanding of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible.
- D. An understanding of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### II. What are some of the principles of interpretation that will help me to rightly divide the word of God?

- A. Let \_\_\_\_\_ interpret scripture (Acts 17:11).
- B. Pay careful attention to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the verse.

Discovering the context includes attention to the following:

1. Old or New Testament
2. Book of the Bible
3. Chapter of the book
4. What comes before
5. What comes after
6. The central subject being discussed

C. Look for specific things that will bring out meaning. (Note: The following points taken from unpublished notes by Lanny Hubbard entitled *Committed to the Study of God's Word*).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of words.
2. \_\_\_\_\_. Look for ideas, individuals, and/or items that are contrasted with each other.
3. \_\_\_\_\_. Look for ideas, individuals, and/or items that are compared with each other.
4. \_\_\_\_\_. Note where the text mentions more than two items.
5. \_\_\_\_\_. Look for the cause for certain effects or the effects brought on by various causes.
6. \_\_\_\_\_. Notice terms that join units including “and,” “but,” “for.”
7. \_\_\_\_\_. Determine the action involved and whether a verb is active or passive.
8. \_\_\_\_\_. Be sure to identify the proper antecedent for each pronoun.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ of the author. Is the author giving an admonition, exhortation, warning, promise, encouragement or judgment?
10. \_\_\_\_\_. The word of God poses many thought provoking questions. As we meditate on the question we better understand what is being intended in the text (I Cor. 1:13, Gal. 3:1-5, Rom. 6:1).

D. Look for divine \_\_\_\_\_ that apply to any age, any people, anywhere.

### **III. What are some practical guidelines to ensure that you get the most out of your study?**

(Note: The following points taken from unpublished notes by Lanny Hubbard entitled *Committed to the Study of God's Word*).

- A. Always start a study project with \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Read the passage \_\_\_\_\_. Read it in several \_\_\_\_\_ to get different perspectives.

C. Establish the \_\_\_\_\_ of the passage. Determine which verses before the passage and after it are necessary to understand it.

D. Research \_\_\_\_\_ material related to the passage.

1. Who is the author of the passage?
2. To whom was the passage written?
3. When was the passage written?

E. Discover the \_\_\_\_\_ of the passage.

1. What are the key or repeated words of the passage?
2. Are any unique words used in the passage?
3. Who is speaking in the passage?
4. Who is being spoken to?
5. Are there any cultural, ceremonial, geographic, or historical issues in the passage?
6. What persons are mentioned in the passage?
7. What are places mentioned in the passage?
8. What events are mentioned in the passage?
9. What objects are mentioned in the passage?
10. What symbols are used in the passage?
11. Does the author give any advice to the readers?
12. Does the author give reasons for his advice?
13. Are any contrasts or comparisons made in the passage?
14. Are any lists given?
15. Are there any summary statements given in the passage?
16. What is the author's tone of the passage?

F. \_\_\_\_\_ the passage.

1. What is the purpose of the passage?
2. What is the main point of the passage?
3. How does the passage relate to the rest of the book?
4. How does the passage relate to the other books of the testament?
5. How does the passage relate to the rest of the Bible?

**For the serious student, refer to the course titled, "Interpreting the Scriptures" where you will find principles to use in the study and application of God's word.**