



Lesson 4

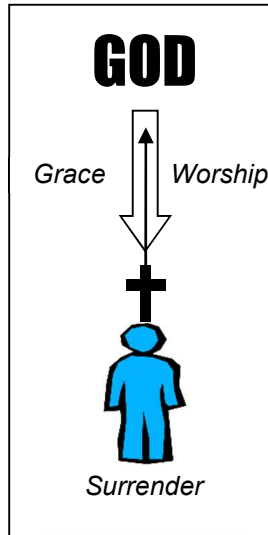
PRAYER: SPEAKING WITH GOD

Prayer is the natural outgushing of a soul in communion with Jesus. Just as the leaf and the fruit will come out of the vine-branch without any conscious effort on the part of the branch, but simply because of its living union with the stem, so prayer buds, and blossoms, and fruits out of souls abiding in Jesus. As stars shine, so do abiders pray. It is their use and their second nature. ...Hearts abiding in Christ send forth supplications as fires send out flames and sparks. Souls abiding in Jesus open the day with prayer; prayer surrounds them as an atmosphere all day long; at night they fall asleep praying. They are able joyfully to say, "When I awake, I am still with Thee."

—Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Power of Prayer in a Believer's Life*

The God-Centered Life begins with God's grace, in Jesus Christ, reaching out to us and inviting us to surrender to His love. Our response, in faith, leads to a life of worship, loving God in spirit and in truth.

"You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:22-24)



Worship is knowing God in truth and loving Him in spirit. Revelation and response. The Word and the life of prayer.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

For through Him [Jesus] we both [Jews and Gentiles] have access in one Spirit to the Father. (Ephesians 2:18)

To the _____

Through the _____

In the _____

Prayer is spirit-to-Spirit communication with our Father through the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ (cf. Romans 8:26-27; Hebrews 10:19). Prayer is the greatest privilege of the believer in Jesus Christ!

Worship is the two-beat rhythm of revelation and response.

—Ralph Martin

Prayer is one of the most common phenomena of human life. Even deliberately nonreligious people pray. Studies have shown that prayer continues to be practiced not only by those who have no religious preference but even by many of those who do not believe in God. —Timothy Keller

We must first hear the Word and then afterwards the Holy Spirit works in our hearts; He works in the hearts of whom He will and how He will, but never without the Word. —Martin Luther

Prayer. Greek, *proseuche*, "to direct one's desires toward God"

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

—Westminster Shorter Catechism

What a man is on his knees before God, that he is and nothing more.

—Robert Murray McCheyne

WHEN SHOULD WE PRAY?

- _____ the time (1 Thess. 5:16-18; Eph. 6:18; cf. John 15:4).
- At _____ times (Daniel 6:10; Psalm 55:17).
- In times of _____ (Phil. 4:6-7; Acts 9:1-9; Matt. 26:39).

WHERE SHOULD WE PRAY?

- _____ (Psalm 139:7-12; John 4:20-24).
- In our _____ place (Matt. 6:5-6; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16).

WHO SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?

- Ourselves (Psalm 55:22; Matt. 6:11-13; Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:7).
- Others (1 Sam. 12:23; Rom. 15:30; Eph. 6:18; Heb. 13:18; James 5:16).
- Those in Authority (1 Timothy 2:1-6).
- Gospel Advance in All Nations (Matt. 9:36-38; Acts 1:8; Col. 4:2-4).

HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

- Pray through the Psalms (or other biblical passages)
- The ACTS or the PRAY method
- Self-Others-Nation-World
- Prayer Devotional, Journal, or App
- Prayer Walk
- Special Times of Prayer
- Humbly, simply, boldly, specifically, fervently, thoughtfully, alertly!

WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?

We pray to receive help, peace, healing, deliverance, and change but ultimately to align our _____ to God's _____ (Matt. 26:39).

Walking the God-Centered Path This Week

- How is your prayer life? What hinders you from prayer?
- Set aside times for prayer each day. Make it a priority!
- Spend a partial day in prayer. Refrain from food or media intake.
- Complete the Lesson 5 study on *Rest: Enjoying God*.

Practicing the presence of God is a habitual, silent, and secret conversation of the soul with God.

—Brother Lawrence (1614-91)

I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk about, when I lie down and when I rise up. And the answers are always coming.

—George Mueller (1805-98)

I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.

—Abraham Lincoln

True prayer is measured by weight—not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.

—Charles H. Spurgeon

The measure of our love for others can largely be determined by the frequency and earnestness of our prayers for them.

—A. W. Pink

We should pray for deliverance from our selfish interests, not for their fulfillment.

—John Cassian (AD 360-435)

To pray effectively we must want what God wants—that and that only is to pray in the will of God.

—A. W. Tozer

Prayer is surrender—surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw out a boat hook from a boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will but the aligning of my will to the will of God.

—E. Stanley Jones