

# **10. PRAYER IS YOUR CONNECTION TO THE POWER OF GOD**

## **COMMENTS ON LESSON NUMBER TEN**

This lesson shows what a great privilege it is to be able to bring requests before the Father. The lesson also tells how to pray in a way that will be pleasing to Him.

## **EXPLANATION OF TERMS**

**JEHOVAH:** the name for God, which God gave to Moses. It means “I am.” The Jews worshipped the God who is, that is to say, the God that exists.

**ABIDE IN:** to live in.

**DEBTORS:** the people who are obligated to make something right with a person, to whom they owe something, or against whom they have done something wrong.

**DEBTS:** the wrongs that a person is obligated to make right.

**EVIL ONE:** the devil, Satan.

**GLORIFY:** to give royal honor to someone.

**MEDIATOR:** someone that speaks on behalf of another.

(Jesus is our mediator with God.)

**THRONE OF GRACE:** the throne of God.

## PRAYER IS YOUR CONNECTION TO THE POWER OF GOD

It has been often said that there is power in prayer. This is true; but the power is not in prayer itself. The power is in God, who answers prayers. He is the one that is powerful. In prayer, we appeal to Him to use His power to help us.

### JESUS MAKES YOUR ACCESS TO GOD POSSIBLE

If Jesus Christ had not come, we Gentiles (non-Jewish people) might not know about Jehovah God. We might be still praying to sticks and stones. Not only did Jesus teach us about God, but He also made our access to God possible; for He is our Mediator. He is the only mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5), and He Himself makes intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25).

That is why, when we ask God for anything, we should always ask in Jesus' name (John 16:23-24). When we ask in Jesus' name, it pleases the Father and it glorifies Him (John 14:13).

### PRAYERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE FATHER

Jesus gave His disciples a sample prayer, which was designed to teach them to pray. Jesus said,

“In this manner, therefore, pray:  
‘Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.’’

Matthew 6:9

Please notice that Jesus said that we should go directly to the Father in prayer. He did not say that we should ask a saint to plead for us. We ourselves can speak directly to God. We may come boldly before the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). That is an amazing privilege! We do not need to worry about God being too busy to hear our prayers. He is able to listen to our petty petitions and to run the universe at the same time. Further, He is able to do more for us than we can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).

We do not need to be timid about approaching God in prayer. Jesus indicated that God welcomes a kind of aggressiveness in prayer. See Luke 11:5 and the following verses as well as Luke 18:1 and following verses.

### FEEL FREE TO ASK

One reason why people do not get the things they want is that they do not ask God for them (James 4:2). Jesus said,

“So I say to you, 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.”

Luke 11:9-10

## GOD IS AN INTELLIGENT BEING

It should not be necessary to say that God is an intelligent being, because He is the source of all intelligence. Yet some people speak to God, as though He were a dumb idol or some blind force to be manipulated. We should speak to God as to a loving father when we pray. We should speak to Him intelligently (1 Corinthians 14:15). Someone has aptly described prayer as “a quiet talk with God.”

We are taught in the Bible to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). That does not mean that we should say the same words over and over again. Jesus taught that we should not use vain (useless) repetitions (Matthew 6:7). God is not more likely to grant our requests, just because we use many words. What is important is real heart-to-heart communication with the Father. We should not think that childlike babbling or thoughtless repetition is a higher form of communication (1 Corinthians 14:5).

## GOD DESIRES TO HEAR YOUR PRAYERS

Our prayers are a delight to God (Proverbs 15:8). Since He is our Father, He desires to have communication with us. Even though He knows everything about us (Matthew 6:8), He still wants us to discuss our needs with Him. By doing this, we not only show our respect for Him, but we also remind ourselves of our dependency upon Him.

Jesus taught us to pray about things that concern us. He said to pray like this:

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

Matthew 6:11

This shows that we may feel free to speak to God about ordinary, everyday things, such as food. If we do not have food, our Father who loves us wants us to speak to Him about it, for He is the one who can do something about it. When, on the other hand, we do have food we should express our gratitude to our Father for it.

If our conscience is bothering us because we know that we have sinned, God wants us to confess our sins and to ask Him for forgiveness. Jesus taught us to pray:

“And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.”

Matthew 6:12

God wants us to discuss all of our problems with Him, even our temptations. Jesus said to pray:

“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 6:13

From these examples we learn that we may pray about anything which concerns us. If it concerns us, it also concerns our Father. There is nothing too great or too small for Him to hear. If we develop this attitude, it will take most of the worry out of our lives.

## YOU CAN LIVE A WORRY-FREE LIFE

The apostle Paul wrote:

“Be anxious for nothing,  
but in everything by prayer and supplication,  
with thanksgiving,  
let your requests be made known to God.”  
Philippians 4:6

## YOU MUST PRAY WITH FAITH

Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Anyone who doubts God’s power and willingness to help is an unstable person, and he should not think that he would receive anything from God (James 1:6-7). God wants us to pray in confidence that He will answer. He wants us to expect that we will receive a positive answer to our requests (Mark 11:24). In fact, we should not ask for anything that we think God would not grant.

## ASK ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL

We also know that we can accomplish nothing worthwhile on our own (John 15:4). We need God’s help. Therefore, we should try to find out what God’s will is and pray accordingly. That is the way Jesus prayed. He said to the Father, “Not as I will, but as you will” (Matthew

26:39). If we can learn to ask for things that God would approve of, we will be more likely to get what we ask for. The apostle John wrote,

“Now this is the confidence  
that we have in Him,  
that if we ask anything  
according to His will,  
He hears us.”

1 John 5:14

When we ask for good things and God approves of our requests, it gives us great joy (John 16:24). This is the way in which we can bear much fruit (John 15:8).

## YOU MUST HAVE JESUS' WORDS ABIDING IN YOU

Before we can bear fruit, we have to have Jesus' words abiding in us. Jesus said,

“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

The way to have Jesus' words abiding in us is to be reading the Bible over and over again. Some people read the Bible all the way through every year. King David spoke about a man who mediates day and night on God's law. David said of such a man,



“But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.  
He shall be like a tree  
Planted by the rivers of water,  
That brings forth its fruit in its season,  
Whose leaf also shall not wither;  
And whatever he does shall prosper.”  
Psalm 1:2-3

The more we read the Bible, the better we understand what God’s will is. The better we understand what God’s will is, the more able we are to pray what pleases Him. This increases the likelihood that our prayers will find favor in His sight (1 John 5:14).

## YOU HAVE TO BE ABIDING IN JESUS

In John 15:7 we saw that we have to be abiding in Jesus before we can expect to receive what we ask for. What does abiding in Jesus include? It includes being in His body, the church. We must also be living according to Jesus’ teaching (1 John 3:22).

Before we can abide in Jesus, however, we have to find the way to get into Him. How does a person get into Jesus? What does the Bible say? The apostle Paul wrote,

“For as many of you  
as were baptized into Christ  
have put on Christ.”

Galatians 3:27

It seems that God has obligated Himself to answer the prayers of His spiritual children. He has not obligated Himself, however, to answer the prayers of those who do not belong to His spiritual family. He may, occasionally, answer the prayers of those who do not belong to His family, if He so desires. However, He always answers the prayers of His children. He may not always answer them in the way that His children desire; but He answers, nonetheless. God's children will be satisfied with the answers they receive when they finally come to understand God's reasons for deciding as He does.

## PRAY SPECIFIC PRAYERS

There is an added benefit in praying for specific blessings. When you see that your request has been granted much in the same way that you asked it, your faith is strengthened. You have tangible evidence that God is working. If it happens only occasionally, that God gives you exactly what you asked for, you might think it happened purely by chance. But if it happens over and over again, you have growing evidence of God's power at work.

When God answers your prayers and you see that He has granted you just what you wanted, your heart is filled with gratitude. Your heart overflows with thanksgiving and with praise.

The more you pray, and the more answers you receive, the more your prayers will be filled with thanksgiving and

praise. The book of Psalms draws to a close with these words:

“Let everything that has breath  
praise the LORD.  
Praise the LORD!”

Psalm 150:6

## WORKSHEETS

After you have read this lesson and have looked up all the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences. As you read, pay attention to whether or not these statements are true. If you decide a particular statement is true, please write “T” before it. If you decide a statement is false, write “F” before it.

\_\_\_\_\_1. Jesus made it possible for us to go directly to God in prayer.

\_\_\_\_\_2. When we ask God for anything, we should ask in Jesus’ name.

\_\_\_\_\_3. God is too busy to be bothered with our prayers.

\_\_\_\_\_4. If we recite phrases over and over again, it will influence God to give us what we want.

\_\_\_\_\_5. We should not pray about our physical needs, only about our spiritual needs.

\_\_\_\_\_6. God wants us to confess our sins to Him in prayer and to ask for His forgiveness.

\_\_\_\_\_7. There is more joy in asking for what we want than in asking for what God wants.

\_\_\_\_\_8. Baptism has nothing to do with getting our prayers answered.

\_\_\_\_\_9. If we have Jesus' words abiding in us, we are more likely to pray in accordance with God's will.

\_\_\_\_\_10. The way that a person lives his life has no effect on his getting his prayers answered.

Please, complete the following scriptures with the help of the New King James Version of the Bible.

John 15:7-8

"If you \_\_\_\_\_ in Me, and My \_\_\_\_\_ abide in you, you will ask what you \_\_\_\_\_, and it shall be \_\_\_\_\_ for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much \_\_\_\_\_; so you will be My \_\_\_\_\_."

1 John 3:22

"And \_\_\_\_\_ we ask we receive from Him, because we \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ and do those things that are \_\_\_\_\_ in His sight."

1 John 5:14-15

"Now this is the \_\_\_\_\_ that we have in Him, that if we ask anything \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, He hears us. And if we know that He \_\_\_\_\_ us, \_\_\_\_\_ we ask, we know that we have the \_\_\_\_\_ that we have asked of Him."

**THOUGHT QUESTIONS:** Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each.

1. What kind of fruit would you like to bear in God's vineyard (kingdom)?
  
2. Do you think God will listen to the prayers of people who will not listen to what He says in His word? Why do you think as you do?
  
3. What can you do to increase the effectiveness of your praying?