

• **THE PRAYER WORKBOOK**

THE PRAYER WORKBOOK
“WATCH”



Mervyn Naidoo

• THE PRAYER WORKBOOK

From the Author

It is important that the Church understands the basic principles of prayer. The tragedy that exists today is that prayer is given too many patterns and formulae and the believer has therefore come to follow as he pleases. The disciples in watching and following the life of Jesus knew there was one way. In coming to Jesus and requesting the manner of prayer, they were introduced to many things pertaining to prayer, yet one way. This is important to the believer today. In our obedience to that related to prayer we will be found praying more effectively. This will result in more of the Kingdom being established here on earth as it is Heaven. Matthew 6.10.

This workbook does its best to cover the order and principles that are important to God when the believer goes to pray. It invites the unbeliever to Christ first, as the prayer taught by Jesus is not something all men may pray. It is for the believers as the promises are for believers.

It is important that the believer knows the Holy Spirit, as it is Him who is now at work here on earth. It is the Holy Spirit who reveals to God that which is in our hearts. More so it is Him who takes what is of God's and gives it to us. Without fellowship and a consistent relationship with the Holy Spirit the prayers of the believers are in vain.

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Secrecy in prayer is an important principle in prayer as this book will teach you. This is something that believers must not neglect. Secrecy during prayer is helped along by finding that secret place. This sets the stage for communion with God. He sees that which we do in secret and openly rewards us. Matthew 6.6

The call to pray is made to all believers. And therefore the believer is called to make that decision to want to pray. This book covers this important aspect of making the decision to pray. God sees our intentions and our hearts and aids us along when we have made that decision to pray.

It is important that the believer knows what to pray. God through His Holy Spirit will teach us how to pray. There is a manner of prayer taught by Jesus. This manner opens up the door to a vast knowledge and understanding of how we should pray and what we should pray for. Through the help of the Holy Spirit and hours of research and study we have tried to bring together the important principles and duties of prayer. For when the believer prays then much of what is in Heaven is revealed.

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We pray that your relationship with Our Heavenly Father grows each day as you pray. And may you forever know that prayer is His design and plan for us. The believer must know that God's plan for him is always perfect. And through prayer God reveals His plan and purpose. That is the purpose of this workbook, that the believer will know the secrets behind praying.

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LET US PRAY !

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Matthew 6.6 “But you when you Pray, go into your room, close the door and Pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. “

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A. The Knowledge of Prayer

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1. FIRST FINDING OUR WAY TO GOD – SALVATION

A believer is one who has accepted the God of the Bible as the One and only true God. Having done so he accepts that God the Father has prepared no other way to Him but through His Son Jesus. The One God, the Creator of the universe and all mankind has designed a path to Him that is now fixed. Therefore any man who attempts to come to the Father without His Son Jesus is really attempting to do so in vain.

God is – **Omnipotent** (All Powerful), **Omniscient** (All Knowing) and **Omnipresent** (All Present). God is a spirit being who is pure and Holy.

He who comes to the Father must come through His Son Jesus. He is now a believer. This book is for every believer of the Christian faith. Though this book is for the believer we cannot move on if the invitation was not first granted to the unbeliever. If you are a reading this and have not accepted Jesus into your life then we ask you to give Him (God) the opportunity to work in your heart and turn you from an unbeliever to one who believes.

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It is essential that you the reader become a believer for two reasons:

1. That you may not perish. **‘For God so loved the world that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3.16** This is life eternal. When a man dies he will eventually spend the rest of his life with God or he will spend it in everlasting suffering.
2. That your life on earth may be filled to the full measure of what God has already purposed for you in Heaven. **‘.....and I pray that you being rooted and established in love, may have the power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.’ Ephesians 3.17-19.** Prayer helps fulfill this and therefore the purpose of these writings.

*Accept His Son Jesus **NOW BY FAITH** into your life by praying the prayer below.*

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Prayer for Salvation

Father God, I now accept your perfect plan for me through your Son Jesus. I acknowledge that I am a sinner through the blood of the first man Adam and that through the perfect Blood of Jesus (your Only Son) I now have New life. Just as the first man sinned and separated all men from You, I now believe that the One Perfect Man in Christ now lives and restores me back to you. Amen.

Now that you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you are one with the Father and His Son. Please fellowship with other believers. Find a Church and speak to others about your New Life. Get yourself a Bible and let God speak from His Word through His Holy Spirit. Then make a public declaration of your faith by becoming baptized in water. This tells publicly that you are away with the old life and now have a new one. Speak to a pastor and mature believers who will help you to do so. Welcome into the family of God.

PLEASE STUDY THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES

John 3.3 ‘Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”’

John 3.6-7 ‘That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.”’

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John 3.16 ' For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that so whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.'

Colossians 2.13 ' And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.'

1 Peter 1.2-4 ' Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading kept in Heaven for you'

Questions

- 1. What does it mean to be born again?**
- 2. What happens to a person who refuses to accept Jesus as their Saviour?**
- 3. Why is the Bible important to the believer?**

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

- 1. No man has access to the Father except through His Son Jesus.**
- 2. By accepting Jesus into your life, you become a believer and are now a son or daughter of the Most High.**
- 3. When you die you will spend eternity with the Father.**
- 4. If you are not a believer, you will perish and spend the rest of eternity in everlasting punishment.**
- 5. Being a believer gives you an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, reserved for you in Heaven.**

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2.HOW DO WE COMMUNICATE WITH GOD?

God in His love for us has not abandoned us. There is a wisdom that God ordained before the ages for our glory. This wisdom is given to us through the help of His Holy Spirit. **‘But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Holy Spirit searches all things, yes the deep things of God’ 1 Corinthians 2.10**

God is not flesh and blood. God is spirit and our communication with Him must be spiritual. **‘And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.....’Ephesians 6.18** We must understand that the forces of darkness are also spiritual and their communication is also by spirit. **‘...For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities; against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age; against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.’ Ephesians 6.12**

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This means that our warfare against the enemy is a spiritual one and so is our relationship with our Creator.

Just as no man knows the things of man except the spirit of the man in him so to no man knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. **‘For no man knows the things of man except the spirit of the man which is in him, even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.’ 1 Corinthians 2.11**

May God help us to understand these basic truths of who He is, and why our communication with Him through His Holy Spirit is so important?

Questions

- 1. Why is it important that we know that God is spirit?**
- 2. How has God given us the wisdom He ordained for us?**
- 3. Why is it important that we have His Spirit at work in us?**

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

1. It is important that we understand that God is spirit. Therefore our communication with God is in spirit.
2. God has given us His Holy Spirit to help us discern His thoughts and for Him to discern ours.
3. Our battle on earth is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces of darkness that do not belong in Heaven.

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3. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PRAYER

When God created the heavens and the earth, His Son and the Holy Spirit was present. In the book of Genesis we see that God together created man and the universe **‘Let Us make...’ Genesis 1.26**. We see clearly here that God was not alone. Paul makes it even more clear by making mention of all three Persons of the Godhead in his letter to the Church at Corinth. **‘The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen’ 2 Corinthians 13.14**. Here we see the work of The Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit.

We also see that even before the creation of mankind that the Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters. **‘And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.’ Genesis 1.2**

Jesus promised that He will send the Holy Spirit from the Father to us. **‘But when the Helper comes whom I shall send from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.’ John 15.26**

The New Testament believer is one who is drawn to God by His Spirit. Man first shows the initiative to want to come closer to Him. The Holy Spirit sees this and brings one closer to Him. We

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find ourselves coming to know the desires of the Lord's heart. This is what the Lord wants, that we know His heart.

These are important truths to understand as we see here that the Holy Spirit is a separate entity yet one with God. This will help the believer to recognize and take the work of the Holy Spirit on earth seriously. Without Him we cannot move on. All we receive comes from the Father through Him and that which goes to the Father can only go through His Spirit.

At the Last Supper Jesus made mention that there were many things to say and reveal to them the disciples but they were not ready to bear them at the time. **'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.'** John 16.12

Jesus then made it clear to them that it is the Holy Spirit that will come and guide them into all truth. Jesus also mentioned that the Holy Spirit will not speak in His own authority but only what He hears from the Father above. **'However when the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority but whatever He hears He will speak and He will tell you of things to come.'** John 16.13. Him speaking to the disciples at the time is relevant to all believers today.

Jesus also made it clear that the Holy Spirit will glorify Him. He will do so by taking what is of Christ's and declare it to the believers. **'He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.'** John 16.14

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All of these truths are important for the believer to understand. In understanding who God is and the role of His Son and His Holy Spirit here on earth, we are able to attain to all that Jesus speaks of here. Many things have piled up in Heaven because of our ignorance of these basics truths. In understanding Prayer it is important that we are aware of these truths. ***These truths assist us to Pray and gives us the confidence to pray without ceasing.*** Communication is made possible for the believer through His Holy Spirit.

Questions

- 1. When is the Holy Spirit first made mentioned of in the bible and what was He doing?**
- 2. Where does the Holy Spirit come from for the believer? Who has sent Him?**
- 3. Mention four importance's of the Holy Spirit and His work here on earth.**

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

1. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are three separate entities yet one. Scripture confirms this.
2. Each is specific Persons of the God Head and has a purpose to fulfill.
3. The believer must acknowledge all three Persons of the God Head to fulfill his purpose here on earth.
4. The Holy Spirit here on earth takes what is of the Father and gives to the believer. Therefore a Godly relationship is important with the Holy Spirit.

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4.1 WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer and Purpose

2 Timothy 1.9 'He saved us and called us to be His own people, not because of what we have done, but because of His own purpose and grace'

Prayer is simply Gods' way of telling the Church what He wishes done here on earth. The duty of the believer is to then pray out this accomplishment on earth. Prayer enables us and shows us what must be done to accomplish that perfect Will that God has for us. Prayer then brings forth the purpose of man because it unites the believers' thoughts with God's. *Remembering always that the believers thoughts must be in line with the thoughts of God.*

It was important that we studied the purpose of the Holy Spirit here on earth in our previous chapters. As the Holy Spirit is God the Spirit here on earth now, to help us achieve this.

Prayer is Gods' design for man. Best understood it is the seeking of God the Father through His Son Jesus by the help and leading of the Holy Spirit. No amount of knowledge and understanding of Prayer can complete the life of Prayer. Books and much writings of this important aspect of the Christ Life are

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merely there to assist us. It is a powerful duty essential in the life of every follower of the Lord Jesus.

The word *pray* comes from the Hebrew word ***‘proseuchomai’*** ***this word is progressive and in the verb it means to request or entreat. We entreat God or we request from Him. But it is important that we note that we can only request of Him or entreat Him for that which is already in His Will. In prayer God reveals such to us. Entreating God means to be serious about our requesting. Therefore the believer who is praying, is serious in the eyes of the Lord. God wants us to pray as it is in our praying He discerns our seriousness of desiring what He wants for us.***

Prayer is depth with God. Prayer is depth in God. Prayer reveals the heart of God for us. The Apostle Paul understood this well. In his letter to the church in Ephesus he wrote the following ***‘.....and I pray that you being rooted and established in love, may have the power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.’***
Ephesians 3.17-19.

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Questions

1. What is the meaning of Prayer?
2. What is the true purpose of Prayer for the believer?
3. What was the Apostles Paul's Prayer for the Church and why?

SUMMARY STATEMENT

1. Prayer is God's way of telling us His desires.
2. True praying is to simply know the Will of God and pray it back to Him.
3. God reveals His Will to us in prayer.
4. God's Will is perfect for us.
5. When we pray, God sees how serious we are about His desires.

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4.2 WHAT IS PRAYER? PART 2

Prayer and our relationship with God

Prayer is Gods' thoughts accepted by man through His Spirit and then given back to God by His Spirit.

When a man comes to know the Will of the Father in Heaven, he comes to understand the ways and manners of God's affairs here on earth. Yet more so He helps man manage those affairs here on earth. Again prayer is the means by which God reveals this. Prayer is the key to us drawing closer to God.

Prayer allows for man to become established with God. When a man is established with God he is one of good reputation, one that can be trusted and one that is reliable to Him. The more we pray the less strange or unfamiliar are the ways of God to us. The knowledge of God, compared to mans' earthly understanding of this knowledge is huge. An established man in God's eyes is one God has grounded, one God trusts, and one God is familiar with. He is one who is firm in the ways of God. We must be established in the things of God rather than the order of the things of this world.

When a man is established in the Lord he is one that shall know the heart of God. He shall know the heart of God for a city, a

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nation, leaders, kings, governments and kingdoms. A man who knows the Will of God knows about the estate of God and how that estate is managed. This is all part of God's Will and prayer is the means that God uses to reveal this. Simply put, Prayer reveals God! Prayer reveals HOW God would have something done. Faithfully going to God reveals WHEN God would have that done and it may also help to go to God to enquire WHY it must be done.

QUESTIONS

1. What does prayer allow between God and man?
2. What happens when a man is established with God?
3. What does prayer reveal to man?

SUMMARY STATEMENT

1. In prayer God reveals to us the way to manage His affairs here on earth.
2. The more we pray, the more we understand the workings of God here on earth.
3. We also become more established and firm in the ways of the Lord.
4. In prayer God reveals to us His plan for the people, the city; the nation and even the rest of the world.

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4.3. WHAT IS PRAYER? PART 3

Prayer and our Intimacy with God

Psalm 27.4 'One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to enquire in His temple.'

Prayer calls for God's purpose being revealed and lived here on earth. Prayer is about God. When we are able to understand this simple truth then shall we see the purpose of God for man. In going to God we realize that man has a role to play. Through Prayer we understand that we are to become the 'Heaven' here on earth for God.

Prayer is the key to developing this intimate relationship with God. Prayer is meant to be the means used to change our hearts. All that God desires for us is His best and He will not have that we settle for anything to the contrary.

Prayer is the key to attaining the resources that are available to us in Christ, yet more importantly prayer, true prayer reveals to

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God by the virtue of choice given to us, that we are dependent on Him.

I remind you once again that Prayer is the means that transfers that which is spiritual onto the physical and God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us do so. If we are found lacking or sluggish in our praying, we will see and experience far less of what God has determined for us here on earth.

Questions

- 1. When will man be able to see the purpose of God for himself?**
- 2. What does Prayer reveal to God about us?**

SUMMARY STATEMENT

- 1. The Psalmist understood intimacy with God. He knew that dwelling in His Presence gave him the opportunity to enquire from God.**
- 2. Prayer is the key for us to attain all that God has for us here on earth.**
- 3. Prayer reveals to God that we are dependent on Him.**

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5. WHAT IS NOT PRAYER?

Prayer is not just any random, wishful, desire that man may just conjure up in his mind and then take to God. Prayer is not a weapon for the warfare the Christian finds himself in. Prayer is the battle itself and therefore every weapon mentioned in God's Word must be applied.

Prayer is not meant to enlighten God. He knows all things. God is omniscient and will not answer a prayer because man simply has faith and may therefore ask whatever he wants. **'You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you spend it on your pleasures.'** James 4.3.

When reference is made to asking whatever we may to the Lord, we must be found asking in the Spirit, for it is already accomplished in the Spirit of God. **'The man without the Spirit (the Holy Spirit) does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.'** 1 Corinthians 2.14

Prayer is not putting God on the spot. It was never meant to put God on trial. He never is and never will be. The purpose of

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prayer is never to test God either. Even by the answers we receive we must be careful not to draw our own conclusions. The conclusion if any must still remain with God. Our provisions from God must be a testimony of Gods' faithfulness, yet we must be extra careful that we testify in truth. Also our provisions from God must never be used as a yard stick to determine who we are. The supplies from God is not something held back from the unrighteous, just look around you for proof. We would be threading on dangerous ground if we used this as our gauge. The answers to our prayers for provision must never be used as a measure of who God is nor who he is not. If this is our understanding it is shallow and superficial. For the answer given to one may not be the same for another. What God may allow for the one He may not for the other! This does not mean that God is inconsistent or contradicts Himself. He remains the same through all His dealings with man. *Each individual is unique and special in the eyes of God and He shall deal with each one as it pleases Him.* The relationship you have with God is a unique one that demands a great deal of intimacy with Him. Prayer, true praying, is not asking of God to do what we want, although we may think so. Prayer was never meant to change the heart of God but to change ours.

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Questions

- 1. Why does God not answer all prayer?**
- 2. Why are the things of God foolish to the man without the Spirit of God**
- 3. Why must our provisions never be used as a yard stick to measure who we are?**

SUMMARY STATEMENT

- 1. Prayer is warfare and not a spiritual weapon.**
- 2. Prayer is not meant to test God.**
- 3. Each person is unique to God and He deals best with each one as it pleases Him.**
- 4. Therefore each person is called to have an intimate relationship with God.**

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6. PRAYER AND A CHANGE OF HEART

The Change of Heart

Prayer must first change the heart of man. The heart of each man must first be willing to be changed. When the heart of man is transformed he is able to discern the heart of God. That change though, must be initiated by man for God to work. ***In other words it must be the decision of man to go to God for change to begin.*** Man must with all his ability show to God that he desires this transformation. This is the stepping stone to all that God has for Him. David knew this well and begged God to create in him a clean heart.

‘Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.’ Psalm 51.10

Prayer is Gods’ design for man that brings fellowship and His Will to be established here on earth. ***God will not fill the heart of man with that which is Heavenly if he (man) has not first had a change of heart.*** Prayer through the help of His Holy Spirit helps towards this change of heart. It is through prayer that God removes our selfish ‘wants’ and places His desires into our hearts. There must be a change of heart in the believer for Gods’ Will to be done here on earth. For God to have His way with our hearts there must first be change or a beginning with us, that’s the decision to change. To ask of God, to seek of Him,

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to knock on the door of Heaven is only worth your while if you are willing to have this change of heart.

Now we know that the human heart can be the most deceitful thing. **Jeremiah 17.9. 'The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?'** Yet in **verse 10** of that same chapter we see that the Lord is still willing and able to change the heart. **'I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind to reward a man according to His conduct.....'** But this *dependability* on God reveals our heart and gives God the opportunity to change it. Prayer has all to do with the Spirit of God and His divine Will for us. Therefore it is apt to say that prayer has a lot to do with '*change.*' You may ask, what has change to do with prayer. After all is prayer not asking, seeking and knocking? God can first have His way with our hearts ***when we are willing.*** For God to have His way with our hearts there must be change. To ask of God, to seek of Him and to knock on the door of Heaven is only worth our while if we are first willing to have a change of heart.

Going to God has never been about the blessing of one's own desires unless those desires have come from the Lord in the first place. The desires of God for us are perfect. The key is to receive from Him that which He so desires. Has this not so stalled the consistency of many a prayer life. The problem is

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that man is so absorbed in the things of the world that Heaven has to wait.

Prayer helps towards this change of heart. For it is through prayer that God removes our selfish wants and places His desires into our hearts. There must be a change of heart in the believer for Gods' Will to be done here on earth.

The desire to please God springs from the salvation of the spirit. Our souls are often in opposition to the work of the Holy Spirit. Through Prayer the Holy Spirit takes away the often selfish desires of our hearts and replaces it with God's. More so prayer helps remove our wrong desires. There are many times when we assume that we are asking God for His best yet we are not.

We must remember that whatever task we may be given, is first initiated in the spirit and so it may be stolen or destroyed just as we may receive it. In **Matthew 13.19** Jesus speaks about the evil one coming and snatching away what was already sown.

When our hearts are in tuned with God we will treasure that which comes from Him. We will become more careful and aware of what He is doing.

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Questions

1. With whom does the change of heart begin?
2. Why must we first have a change of heart when we pray?
3. What happens when God sees a change of heart in us?
4. Why has many of our prayer lives been stalled?

SUMMARY STATEMENT

1. Prayer has a lot to do with the heart. When God is able to change the heart of man then man can be used of God.
2. Man must be willing for God to change his heart. For the Spirit of God works with the heart of man.
3. God will not fill the heart of man with that which is Heavenly if he (man) has not first had a change of heart.
4. In prayer God is able remove our selfish desires and instead place in us His Heavenly desires.

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7. PRAYER MAKES US SOFT AND PLIABLE IN GOD'S HANDS

Psalm 37.4-5 'Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.'

The original Hebrew meaning of the word delight is to be **'soft and pliable'** in the hands of God. We must be easy for God to work with us.

The Holy Spirit is responsible for causing this softness. Prayer through the help of the Holy Spirit is responsible for the creation of this pliability before God. It is a removing of what we want and replacing it with what He desires. That word **'it'** in **verse 5** is the desires that God now places in our hearts that we can now pray back to Him.

To **'Commit'** according to this scripture is to surrender or to give over to Him all our 'decidings'. Difficult as it may seem, yet it is so nevertheless!

It is here in our journey with the Lord that He is able to place in our hearts His desires, we allow Him to. I hope that you will understand this very important principle of Prayer.

Any wonder why we are never the same after going to God.

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‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.’ Isaiah 55.8-9

We have mentioned before that prayer is really being in touch with God. This means that we must come to a willingness to have what God has prepared for us. To desire the heart of God is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit. And so it is important that we understand that God will only place His desires in our hearts when our selfish desires are no more. Again the Holy Spirit is at hand to help us. If we go further into this study we will see that Jesus made it very clear that sin was not just the act of doing wrong but the initial thought of it. **‘You have heard it was said to those of old,” You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother “*Raca!*” shall be in danger of hell fire. Matthew 5.21-22**

Furthermore Jesus warned: **‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.’ Matthew 5.27-28**

This means the desire in the heart to do wrong was sin and deserved the punishment of the actual act. In understanding

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this we come to the conclusion the importance of what is in our hearts and its completeness. When we look at prayer being the process of God placing His desires in our hearts, then we can faithfully say it is done. In the beginning God desired *it* and *it* was done. ***Just the desire placed in our hearts by the Lord is as good as the answer.***

Questions

1. What is it to delight in the Lord?
2. Why is committing our ways to the Lord so important?
3. Why are we never the same after we have gone to God in Prayer?

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

- 1. It is important that God be able to work with us. This is to be pliable in God's hands.**
- 2. God places His desires in our hearts and then allows for His desires to be fulfilled through us.**
- 3. Therefore through prayer we are changed.**
- 4. It is safe to say that the desires placed by God in our hearts are as good as the answer to those desires. For It is done!**
- 5. In God's creation we learn that He desired it and it was done.**

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B. The Application of Prayer

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Matthew 6.6 “But you when you Pray, go into your room, close the door and Pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. “

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8. MAKING THE DECISION TO PRAY

All that we have learnt so far was a great deal of knowledge. Application of our knowledge is important. How do we do so?

The Bible teaches us that the wicked have no desire to pray. **‘In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.’ Psalm 10.4**

God desires first place at all times. Prayer and our communication with Almighty God is notion that He is First and He be first. We belong to Him therefore we ought to think and behave as He would desire us to. He loves us and did so first. And so we must love Him and ourselves whom He made. Thinking and behaving so, helps us in our approach before His throne. This is Prayer for knowing who we are helps us take hold of God in prayer. This **‘taking hold’** of God reveals the extent of one’s desire for Him.

Because God has given us the ability to choose He waits on us to pray. In us coming to Him we reveal that we **desire** what He has.

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1. God knows of our needs before we pray. **Matthew 6.8**
2. The reason we must make the decision to pray, is for Him to see our seriousness in desiring what He already has for us.
Matthew 6.8 and 10

When men give prayer first duty, they will be able to see. They see what others may not and cannot see.

Jesus in teaching us how to pray made a very important statement. To pray is a decision that all believers must make. That decision starts with the believer. Here are the following scriptures to reiterate this:

‘And when you pray.....’ Matthew 5.5

‘But you, when you pray.....’ Matthew 5.6

‘And when you pray.....’ Matthew 5.7

All three of these verses help us understand that there is a decision that the believer must first make. It is when the believer responds to the task of prayer that he is then asked to do. He is helped along whilst praying, all initiated by his obedience to pray. It starts with **‘when you pray...’**

Jesus forever found time to pray. He forever wanted to be in the presence of His Father. He was forever enquiring and doing only as He was led to. When the disciples looked for Him, He

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was always away in some remote place in conversation with His Father. Setting the time to pray and finding a closet sets the stage for this continuity with God. Read **Matthew 26.36-46**. Prayer is what sustained Christ surrounding His crucifixion. Jesus' prayer was answered because of His reverent submission to Gods' Will.

Questions

- 1. What does communication with God first mean and why is it so important?**
- 2. Why does the decision to pray begin with us?**

SUMMARY STATEMENT

- 1. God knows of our needs before we come to Him.**
- 2. God sees the seriousness of our hearts when we pray.**
- 3. Prayer opens our eyes to see.**

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9. SENTRY PRAYERS

In war times there were two types of soldiers - one who went out to battle and those who stayed back at camp. The role of these soldiers who stayed back was equally important as those who went out to battle. They stayed back and made sure that the belongings of those who went to war were kept safe. They also protected the wives and children of those who were in battle. Yet very important aspects of these soldiers duty were to help these men for battle. Their role was one of covering whilst the rest were in battle...**1 Samuel 25.13**. About four hundred men went up with David (for battle) while two hundred stayed with the supplies. They helped with the swords – cleaning shining and sharpening, with the shoes – polishing, making clean, they may have also helped with relaying messages to each individual from the commander or commanders.

Because prayer is warfare, the same applies. *The warfare involved in prayer is far more fierce, brutal and intense than that of any physical war.* Ask any intercessor and they will tell you so. We must be ready in this spiritual battle. Like the sentinel who helped for and during real battle, the sentry prayer of the believer helps for the actual time of prayer.

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The sentry prayer is a prayer that is prayed before the actual time of prayer. This prayer is a prayer asking for help to pray.

Sentry prayers will mean you will have to ask God the following:

- 1. To give you the strength and help to arise each morning to pray***
- 2. To allow nothing to get in the way like sickness, tiredness, sleepiness, drowsiness or even forgetfulness.***
- 3. To help you get started in a proper manner when you pray e.g. after this manner pray***
- 4. That your actual time of praying will not be wasted in uttering things not in the will of God.***
- 5. To be fully disciplined to hear what God is saying***
- 6. To have the courage to ask and the faith to know God hears you and will answer you.***

Sentry prayers help you work towards the prayer closet. In fact all that we say, all we do and all that we are, must be a preparation for what will happen in the closet.

Like a subordinate before his King so to we come. This is our Holy time in a Holy Place before a Holy God.

Sentry prayers are short and simple for they are the prayers that are meant to get you ready for those intimate times with God.

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Before going to bed each night, it would be wise to pray a sentry prayer that will help see you through the actual battle. We go to God in faith, for it is Him who will help us arise at dawn to pray. It is Him who will give us the strength to pray together with the knowledge and understanding to pray.

Prayer

Dear Lord thank you for revealing this truth to me about sentry praying. Help me not to neglect setting myself up for the actual time of praying. And when that hour rises may I arise for battle. Amen

Questions

1. What are Sentry prayers?
2. Why are Sentry prayers important?
3. What can we ask God for in Sentry prayers?

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

- 1. Sentry Prayers equip us for the actual time of prayer.**
- 2. Sentry Prayers are normally the night before the morning of actual prayer.**
- 3. Sentry Prayers must be given the priority similar to the actual prayers.**

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10. A SECRET PLACE

Jesus made mention of important truths that all believers must know before prayer. God desires a secrecy to prayer. It is important that the believer understands this. When the disciples looked for Jesus they often found Him in a secret place away from the crowd. This allowed Him the intimacy He needed with His Father. God is in a secret place and there is where you and I must go. And for us to do so, we are called to *come away*.

Mark 6.31.....'let us go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest for a while.'

It is important that we note the following from **Matthew 6.6**

- 1. *God is in a secret place.***
- 2. *God desires we pray in secret.***
- 3. *He sees all that is in secret.***
- 4. *God will reward us openly for that which He sees us do in secret.***

We are called into this secret place so that we may hear Him and He may hear us. This opens up the way for Him to reveal

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Himself to us. As we move on during this journey, we will come to know the importance of being alone with the Lord on a regular basis. Going into a secret place helps us communicate with God in spirit. The hustle and bustle of our daily lives allows no room for this.

Please understand that not all believers may have the luxury of a physical closet to enter into. What is important is that the believer finds himself away from the crowd in spirit. An apron over the head of a busy mother may be her secret place. The importance here is the communication one is able to have with God in secret. The secret place is simply that place (here) from where you enter into His.

That place, behind the closed door – the closet, a physical place, is a great help to begin with. Though the closet is often away from the hustle and the bustle of everyday life, however the true meaning of the closet is more a spiritual one. The closet is that place where you become quiet with God. It is a place where God is able to speak to you and you with Him. This is the place where you have the opportunity to settle in....

We all need to be in a quiet place or else we perish and cannot move on without God. ***The secret place is where we allow God to speak to us. The secret place is where we carefully listen to God.*** From Him comes the wisdom and strength for everyday life. There are many secret treasures that the Lord may have for

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us. These are found in the secret places of our hearts. We get there by entering in and so receive from Him. It is in the secret place that man and God get to know what goes on. There are things mentioned here that God will not mentioned elsewhere. It is here that you have the opportunity to reveal to Him what you may have failed to do elsewhere. This is holiness with God because for most part, it sees the heart surrender. The surroundings and the preceding build up makes this possible. The believer cannot afford to take this for granted.

More praying never did hinder the Kingdom of God and it surely won't now. **The key is better praying.** *Personal* praying helps much and sets the tone when the Church comes together.

Those who have prayed well in their closets will bring with them that same anointing when they meet for prayer with the rest of the body. If you have been touched in the closet, you will be able touch those in the meetings. Our corporate praying will make a greater difference for government and those in authority, if only we first prayed passionately in the closet. ***The zest we have to pray corporately reveals our personal prayer lives. For the life that prays according to the will of God in the closet, will be found praying unselfishly when the Body meets together. The heart that pleases God in the closet will surely please the Lord when the church meets to pray. And the heart that pleases God in the closet will show forth the heart of God in the corporate prayer room of the church.***

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Again a personal prayer life is what first reveals the treasured life hidden in Christ.

Let's hear what Jesus had to say about prayer and a place of quietness – which is the prayer closet. **Matthew 6.5-6 'And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth; they have their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.'** Do you have a prayer closet? It should be the most important spot under your existing tent. It is here where you will meet with God one on one.

Our Church and corporate prayer meetings are only as strong as the quality of time we spend in our prayer closets. If our meetings are empty then our closets are empty. The strength of our prayer meetings will give you an idea of our closets. The closet is anything but a place to fear yet its' here the battle rages on. It is not a place you invite friends. The closet is a secret place, where its' you and God. Its' a place where the '*door*' must be closed behind you, so that you may hear what God has to say. I talk here of that spiritual door. It's here that the battle becomes fierce. It is here you will receive and its' here you will be asked to let go. And so it will be personal and

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at times very emotional. It is here you may refuse to let go. It is also a place where the passions and wants of self will have to make room for Gods' desires and plans. It is not a place for wimps or for those who want to retreat. It is your place, where you receive your strength and the energy to move on. It is a place where you will thirst and at the same time be filled to overflow. It is a battlefield, your battlefield. It is your place of confrontation, its' also your place of breakthroughs. And they shall come because of the issues that must be confronted. Here you are not able to play out any part, for there is no room for actors. It's a place of much stripping, much gripping. You would do well to hold on. When you have gone in, its' like being in the middle of the oceans, and to make it ashore, you will have to overcome the ocean greats. It is personal in here for all believers.

Any wonder why Gods' Word speaks about a '*door and it being shut.*' If you have no closet you will have no place to rest. You must overcome in the closet to know your place of rest. What happens in the closet, helps you come to that place of rest God has waiting for you.

Intimacy with God is important therefore a quiet place.

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Questions

1. Why is the closet so important to the believer?
2. What is the spiritual closet for every believer?
3. What happens in the secret place and why are we never the same after going into the secret place?
4. How does praying in secret help the Church to pray when we come together?

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us find our quiet place. And for us who may battle to find one, may just a covering sheet at night or an apron over our bowed heads at day become that accepted place. We pray that there be an urgency in us to hear from you or else we die. Amen.

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

- 1. In the closet we are not able to hide our thoughts and feelings.**
- 2. The closet keeps us from pretense and instead to be honest before God.**
- 3. The closet is a place of warfare – A place of honesty and surrender.**

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11. HOW TO PRAY

The Manner of Prayer:

The manner the believer is to come before the King of kings, must never be taken for granted. It holds the key to us entering His Presence. Having made the decision to pray, I now wait for God to draw me into His inner Presence. This is about the King, His Kingdom and the Provisions set aside in His Kingdom. Any wonder why Jesus said **‘This then is how you should pray.....’** **Matthew. 6.9** The life of prayer demands protocol for all New Testament Priests – Sons and Daughters of God. It is far more important than the protocol of the world and its demands. We must be sensitive to the way we approach God for He expects it so. Protocol is His design for us in prayer. In understanding protocol with God we are able to reach Him instead of being lost on some journey of our own.

The manner of prayer taught to us by the Lord helps establishes God’s Will for us here on earth.

We must not use vain repetition as heathens do whilst praying. Matthew 6.8

The **‘Our Father’** Prayer unlocks for us the doors that will lead us to better praying. Jesus said in this manner therefore pray

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‘Our Father.....’ Matthew 6.9 He made mention of this when His disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray. He first made known to them that their Father in Heaven knew in advance what their needs were. Their supply of needs was with Him. It was Heavenly and therefore they were to pray it into existence. This principle still applies for all New Testament believers. The manner of prayer taught to us does not advise God nor does it make Him aware of something He is not. ***The manner of prayer must therefore be seen as a request of what God is already waiting to give to us – something already in the mind of God.*** Whatever God has for earth is already planned and waiting to be released from Heaven. **‘Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’ Matthew 6.10** This means it is already done.

Prayer is the means that ***‘transfers’*** that which is spiritual into the physical which is here on earth. God is a spirit being and reveals Himself in Spirit. He has given us His Holy Spirit to help us do so. Read **1 Corinthians 2**

When we pray as the Lord has taught us, we then have our hearts changed in order to reveal His. Understanding this will surely help us to pray more effectively. A changed heart is a heart that prays as God the Holy Spirit would lead him. More revelation of God leads to more prayer when more of Him is revealed. When the believer has tasted that which God has, he then desires this more than anything else. In so doing the

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believer also reveals his lack spiritually and otherwise. This is humility – a humbling before God, that we do not have it all made. There must be much prayer, much focus on God for there to be much revelation of Him from Him. The more we pray according to His Will the more will be revealed and this together builds on our relationship with God.

‘This then is how you should pray’ Matthew. 6.9 This is an instruction given to us by the Lord Himself. We would be wise to obey Him and in so doing experience the richness of the hidden life in this prayer. God wants to pour out much of His life in us, for we who are His.

The enemy in his quest to find flaws with all that God does, attempts the same with this prayer. He knows that the manner taught by our Lord has much to offer. And therefore he has for the following reasons coerced many to believe that this prayer is not for the believer. Here are some of the lies he attempts to fool the believer with:

1. That times we live in no longer makes this prayer appropriate.
2. The Kingdom is already established on earth through Christ
3. We should not be praying for our daily bread but for abundance instead.
4. Our daily trespasses are forgiven and therefore no need to go to God on a daily basis for forgiveness of sins.

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5. The believer is delivered therefore no enemy stalks the believer.

If ever there was a time more appropriate for us to pray as told, then this would be it. The Kingdom of God was established for earth before Christ came to earth. In the mind of God is all things established. When sin entered man, our access to all that God had for us was blocked. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross opens up that door for us to be part of that Kingdom. We have the opportunity to work out our salvation with trembling and fear before meeting with our Lord one day. We ask and receive because it is in the Will of God in the first place. God is never obligated to man's asking. If anything God is obligated to His perfect Will which is revealed to us by His Spirit. Prayer is God's means to do so. ***The manner of prayer taught to us unlocks that which is already established in Heaven for earth.*** The manner of prayer taught here is for the believer. He is the one having received salvation now benefits from God's promises to him. The believer now walks daily in Christ and receives his promise by faith.

It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after he had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, '**Lord, teach us how to pray, as John also taught his disciples.**' **Luke 11.1**

The manner of prayer taught by the Lord in the Gospel of Matthew and Luke was to become the backdrop of true praying

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for all believers. It was a revelation of how we were to pray. Jesus was reminding the disciples that though God is omniscient, knowing all things, we who are His on earth, must desire the same that is already in His heart. This prayer was to unite our hearts to Him. It was not to be a prayer of mere repetition or recitation, instead it is for revelation of more to come. Prayer even in times of old sufficed a lot about the man and his needs yet very little praise and glory to God. This manner of prayer introduced by the Lord reveals to us what is important to God.

God's Will for our lives is still being revealed as we pray. His Name is still to be honored and great power is still manifested by just the mention of it. Our daily bread is the abundance that God has for us each day. Our past sins are forgiven but our daily trespasses must be admitted before Him for daily forgiveness. All believers are tempted on a daily basis as the enemy has made it his priority to kill, steal and destroy the believer. His is a daily mission. We therefore need the Lord on a daily basis. I hope that the believer will not take this prayer for granted.

Closer study of this manner of prayer will reveal many facets of the natural and the supernatural.

In this manner of prayer the following is revealed to us:

- God helps us understand who He is **(Our Father)**

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- The manner we are to come to Him and our reverence for Him. The power of His Name. **(Hallowed be thy Name)**
- His Kingdome come amidst so much sin and turmoil. **(Thy Kingdom come)**
- His perfect Will be done **(Thy Will be done)**
- Where? **(Here on earth...first in our hearts)**
- His daily Provision (**Give is our daily bread**)
- Daily forgiveness for our present day sins against God and man **(Forgive us our trespasses)**
- Daily forgiveness for those who hurt us or sin against us **(As we forgive those who trespass against us)**
- Daily request to keep us away from being tempted in a fallen world (**Lead us not into temptation**)
- Request to Him that we be delivered from anything the enemy may be planning against us **(Deliver us from evil)**
- That His Kingdom be established here on earth. We have faith and pray it so. **(For Yours is the Kingdom)**
- All the Power and the Glory and the Honor belong to Him. **(Yours is the Power and the Glory and the Honor)**
- It is so and we are in agreement with Him. (**Amen**)

When we carefully study the *'Our Father'* Prayer we find that there is no need that is not provided for us here. Deeper understanding will reveal that God is our Provision.

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QUESTIONS

1. Give 5 reasons why the manner of prayer taught to us is still relevant today?
2. List the important aspects of this prayer.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

1. The Lord teaches us how to pray. That means there is a way that we as believers are to approach the throne of God.
2. God is King and expects us to have protocol with Him.
3. In the Lord teaching us how to pray we come to know the desires of the Father's heart.
4. More of the Kingdom would be established on earth if more believers prayed according to the manner taught to us by the Lord.

12. AFTER THIS MANNER PRAY

Our Father

The truth is God is our Father and we must accept that we are His children and take hold of the special favor and privilege He has afforded us. This favor comes with a heavy price that has already been paid for us in Christ Jesus His Son.

When we address God in the plural (Our) it shows that we are many as we pray. The more of us praying and the more in agreement with what Jesus taught, makes our prayers more effective as two is better than one. It is important that we are mindful that we are part of the larger body already in prayer though in secret. In understanding this we will find that God will reveal to us issues pertaining to the body whilst in the closet. Knowing that we are part of a larger body reminds us of our Head which is Christ and the unity and intimacy we may have with God His Father – Our Father.

Allowing us to address Him as 'Father,' tells us that we are no longer just creation. Addressing Him so, gives the believer identity and belonging. It says of us that we belong to Him who is ***Our*** Father. Our earthly perspective of a father is one we look up to. It is one we have relied on and as we have grown have come to see in him our protection and His ability to provide for

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us. We gave them respect and as earthly fathers they made it known that their ways were correct and they must be obeyed. Our Heavenly Father is perfect, our earthly fathers were not. Even so, we grew to have a close relation with our fathers. Here Jesus expects us to have an even more intimate relationship with our perfect Heavenly Father, now that we are His sons and daughters. God's love for us cannot be compared to that of our earthly fathers but may help us understand our approach to Him and some idea of intimacy with Him. **' if you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give good gifts to them who ask Him?' Matthew 7.11**

We must be unashamed as we approach His throne. It begins with our desire and surrender followed by our manner of approach to Him. If we have this established in our hearts, it then sets the precedence for us to keep pressing on no matter what our circumstances.

Who art Heaven

Jesus helps the believer see that God our Father, exists outside this dimension of earth. This to the mature believer will reveal that God is not flesh and blood but spirit. God is in Heaven and we are on earth. This reveals prayer is a spiritual matter. This is the reason we have spoken much about the leading of the Holy Spirit in previous chapters. We cannot afford to neglect the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

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When Jesus left this earth He returned to His Father in Heaven. Jesus even now has taken up a Heavenly position next to His Father. The Bible teaches that we are seated in Heavenly places with Him. In the believer acknowledging God in Heaven he is also able to take up the Heavenly position now afforded to Him in Christ.

Questions

- 1. When does a person become a son and daughter of God?**
- 2. Is the 'Our Father' Prayer for all of creation?**
- 3. What should we be mindful of when we address God as Our Father?**

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

- 1. All of God's creation is invited to become sons and daughters. They must first accept His Son Jesus into their lives.**
- 2. Addressing God as Our Father reveals to us the intimacy we are granted with Him. All believers must take advantage of this when going to Him.**
- 3. In our intimacy with God we are able to be honest and open with Him. God loves a honest and clean heart.**

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13. HALLOWED BE THY NAME

The Name of the Lord is Holy. The Name of the Lord reveals who He is. The Name of the Lord stands for the reliable character of God and who He represents. When we call on the Name of the Lord, we are really calling into existence His promise of who He is. For example *Raphe* in Hebrew means Healer and God is ***Jehovah Raphe***. When we mention that Name we are really speaking into existence Healing. And so God's Name is really His function and ability. His ability is experienced in who He is. When Abraham's need was provided, he named that place after the God who provided for him – ***Jehovah Jireh*** meaning God is Provision. God provided for Abraham on one of the mountains in the land of Moriah. **‘And Abraham called the name of the place, The Lord - Will - Provide....’ Genesis 22.14**

The Lord will provide when He sees a need according to His Will. It is important to understand this and therefore not take the Name of God in vain. The power of life and death lies in the tongue. And we cannot afford to speak His Name in vain. Each time we mention His Name we are calling into existence who God is. ***God's Name is who He is.*** When Moses asked God for His Name, His reply was **‘I AM’** In other words if Moses replied to Pharaoh that Jehovah Shalom had sent him then that is not

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only who had sent him but also the experience that Moses will encounter and have as His.

To **Hallow** is to set apart as holy. The Name of the Lord is Holy and when we declare it there is Power. In us coming in that Name we are granted privileges as only believers may have. Again God's Name is who He is. In mentioning the Name of our God we are then declaring who He is. Therefore when the believer prays, his declaration of the Name of the Lord entitles him to that which He believes God is. Therefore it is important that the believer comes by faith believing.

When we declare that God is **Jehovah Raphe**, we are declaring Him as Healer for us. When we declare Him as **Jehovah Jireh**, we are then declaring that He has provided for us. We are therefore not to take the name of our Lord in vain. We declare His Name in faith and our declaration brings the answer so much needed.

Jesus when praying asked of the Father that those given to Him be kept through **His Name** so that they be one as Him and the Father were....

'.....Holy Father, keep through your Name those whom You have given Me, that they be one as we are.' John 17.11

The Lord went on to say that those who were given to Him here on earth were kept by Him through the Name of the Father.

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‘When I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your Name. ‘John 17.12

Luke 9.48 reiterates the power of the Name of the Father and the Son. **‘Whoever receives this little child in My Name receives Him who sent Me.....’**

In us declaring who He is, we then declare the manifestation of who He is. Therefore in the prayer taught to us by Jesus it is important that we honor the Name of the Lord. The Name of the Lord must not be taken for granted.

God takes names seriously. The name God gives a person declares who he is. We see this clearly in the story of Jacob. This forefather was given the name Jacob because of how he was born. He grasped at the heel of his brother Esau at birth. He was named *Deceiver* or *Supplanter*. Read what he had done according to **Genesis 25.26**. Interestingly though, many years later Jacob struggles with the angel of the Lord and is asked for his name. This in itself reveals the importance of a name. When Jacob reveals his name it is then changed to *Israel* which means - ***he had struggled with God and with men and prevailed***. This name Israel means Prince with God. **Genesis 32.28**

To ***HALLOW*** the name of God is to reveal to Him our desire to have what He has already prepared for us. It is to regard as Holy

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and only in coming in the Name of the Lord do we have the answers.

Prayer

Dear Lord we come to you in no other Name but that which is above all other. We acknowledge that your Name is what is..... And we declare it for ourselves. Thank you for the power in your Name and for allowing us to use it effectively. Help us not to take your Name for granted nor in vain. Amen.

Questions

1. What are we really doing when we call on the Name of the Lord?
2. What are we doing by *hallowing* the Name of the Lord?
3. What was the reason for the angel asking Jacob for his name? Explain

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

- 1. The Name of God is who He is.**
- 2. When we call on the Name of the Lord, we are calling into existence that He is.**
- 3. We use God's Name in faith.**
- 4. God's Name must never be taken for granted nor must it be taken in vain.**

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14. THY KINGDOM COME

This which God offers us is a finished work, it is done! It is a finished work in Christ in God in Heaven. **Matthew 6.10** says **‘your Kingdom come, your Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.’** Understanding how the Kingdom of God operates helps us know why God has placed such significance to prayer.

First of all we need to understand that God is King. One who is king will always have a kingdom to rule. The Kingdom of God is the Kingdom of Heaven. Every kingdom has a set of rules that govern that kingdom. God reigns in His Kingdom and has absolute and sovereign reign over all things in His Kingdom. The earth also belongs to God but He has given authority to man to reign in it. We read in **Psalms 115 .16** **‘The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth He has given to man.’** Man is to rule earth by His rules set up for His Kingdom. For man to know how to rule in this kingdom he must first be acquainted with the King and His set of rules. This will give man a better grip on his reign here on earth. You see prayer is the means that God has designed or proposed for man to know what is in Heaven. When man knows what is in Heaven and is familiar with the Kings’ Ways he can then apply them on earth. **‘Your**

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Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.'
Matthew 6.10. Simply put Prayer helps man to reign.

Prayer is the means that transfers that which is spiritual onto the physical which is earth. God has given us His Holy Spirit to help us do so.

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15. THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Jesus said the following **‘Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord, shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the Will of My Father in Heaven.”’ Matthew 7.21**

In this prayer the Lord helps to pray into being the Father’s Will. In other words the Will of the Father is not something done on earth lacking advice of wisdom and knowledge. Prayer which is God’s masterpiece reveals the wealth of spiritual sense to the believer. We are to pray into existence this spiritual wealth for our lives. It is an ongoing process that needs the help of our God in Heaven. We ought to pray it so and be partakers of it.

Gods’ purpose for us is special and already mapped out by Him. God holds the key to His plans for our lives. **Psalm 139.16 – 17** says **‘.....all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God, how vast is the sum of them.’**

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Let us briefly share the meaning of the word '*Will*' which is found in **Matthew 6.10** '..... **your Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.**'

The word '*Will*' in the original Greek has two meanings: The first comes from the word '*Boulema*' - this means the eternal '*Will*' of God. In other words it will be done whether we like it or not, for example the return of Christ Jesus as mentioned, another is the gathering of the elect according to **Matthew 24.30-31** and the judgment of each person according to what he has done here on earth in **Revelation 20.13**

'*Thelema*' – is the other Greek word for the word '*Will*.' This is God's desire for us and is dependent on us the believers and how we respond to Him. An earthly father means well and has a good gift for his child. The child has a choice, whether to accept it or not. Do you want what God has for you? ***Prayer makes known your heart to God.*** He knows everything about us for He is **omniscient** – All Knowing. Yet when we pray His Will, we show to Him our desire for what He has for us. This is made clear in **Jeremiah 29.12-13** '**Then you will call upon me and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.**'

Apart from us praying the eternal will of God on earth, we must pray the will of God for our lives on a daily basis. This is '*Thelema*'. It is this '*Will*' of God for our lives that has piled up in Heaven and waiting to be released. This is unique and exclusive

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for you and me. Because it is exclusive to you it will therefore require you to put your name to it. The passion and desire that is needed to pray this into existence will therefore be prayed best by you. The key here is for God to see that your heart truly desires to have what He has prepared for you. This starts with us being willing for Him to change our hearts - The willingness for God to give us a new heart must be one of the greatest desires for the believer.

The Will of God – The Various Aspects of Our Lives We

must Pray :

The Spiritual Will of God in our lives – That the Spirit of God shall rule and reign in one's life. That this person will have a close intimate walk with God and never neglect the fellowship that God desires and one ought to have with Him.

The Physical Will of God – That this person will be healthy in the physical. The body be free from sickness, pain or suffering again according to God's Will. Pray that no harm will come to this body, and that God will grant the wisdom for this person to take care of his body whilst here on earth

The Mental Will of God – That the person concerned will be free from any anxious thoughts. And that doubt and fear will never be a part of this person's life. That no matter what the circumstances may be that this person will always have the

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peace of God rule in his or her heart. **John 14.1 'Let not your heart be troubled. Be anxious for nothing'**

The Social Will of God – When we gave our heart to the Lord, He allowed us to remain on earth for a purpose. One was for the working out of our salvation, perfecting us for His return.

The other is to remember those around us and to preach the Gospel to them who are lost. We are called to go and make Disciples. We have an obligation to the lost; we have an obligation to tell them the truth. And for this we pray that God will give us the strength to do so.

The Provisional Will of God – This is prayer for favor from the Lord regarding our physical earthly provisions. Much of what we do and much of what we need involves the proper flow of provisions from the Lord into all areas of our lives. Remember He has already made provision for the life we are to lead here on earth. We are to simply pray it so! We are to pray the abundance of God's provision in this area. Here two important things must be noted :

1. That we remain humble as God releases His blessings into our lives. This is one area that can change a person's heart drastically.

2. That we tithe (simply First Portions) from what we have received and then offer unto the Lord as we are led with a joyful heart - Tithes and offerings.

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Prayer

Dear Lord we thank you that we may come to you regarding all matters pertaining to life. We humbly ask you to hear this prayer and may we be watchful of your work in all these areas of us asking. Amen

MAY THY WILL BE DONE!

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16. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

God invites us to ask simply because it is His will to give. The very fact that we are called to ask means it will be given. Our daily bread is that which God has prepared for us today. Our bread is meant for kingdom use, it comes from a Kingdom for a kingdom. It is meant for kingdom subordinates. When we ask for bread, it is certain and genuine for that which we ask for. It is already approved and set aside for us. The word **'Our'** already gives a title deed to it. It belongs to us. Our Father provides consistently and here meaning day to day. That in itself should keep us from worry. ***God has called for it to be daily so that our faith in Him when tested may see our relationship with Him not being severed.*** The prophet Moses became angry when the Israelites gathered more than they should as this was a violation of these two factors – Faith and Relationship. When they gathered the manna from Heaven, some gathered more whilst others less, yet when measured it was found to be enough. **'So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man gathered according to his own need.'** Exodus 16.18

This is an important aspect of this manner of praying. We are called to ask on a daily basis as God wants us to be dependent

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on Him on a daily basis. This will help us when times really do get difficult and impossible. Our daily dependence on the Lord will not put us into panic when there is a drought or starvation. It is important to note that when God gives, we will have enough. If we rely as the world does then we will become selfish, fearful and greedy. Relying on the world for our daily bread may make us unaware of our daily needs as we may have no proper measure. **‘Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them’**
Verse 20

The only perfect measure is the one used by the Lord. The unbeliever is not able to understand this as the measure used here is the measure used by the Spirit. It comes from the Spirit and adds Spiritually. When our spiritual eyes are opened we are able to see God’s perfect supply. **‘But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.’ 1 Corinthians 2.14**

The spirit of the world cannot understand this as their life is one of curse and toil. Not so for the believer as his is freely given. The believer has the Spirit of God and it is the Spirit that enables him to ask for that which is already prepared for him. **‘As it is in Heaven...’ Matthew 6.10**

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‘Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God’ 1 Corinthians 2.12

It therefore suggests we not be anxious for tomorrow’s supply and by faith know that God does have our daily provision. The Lord loves His children and loves for them to be dependent on Him. For it is the dependency of the believer that helps sustain the relationship between a Father and His children.

Please understand that we are not to demand from God but to humbly ask that which God has provided for us. We are not to manipulate God for we cannot. Instead we must learn to align ourselves with the truth of asking for what is already prepared for us by Him.

When the Lord Jesus asked us to look at the birds of the air and from whence came their provision He was comparing our value to Him more than the need. **‘Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more value than they? Matthew 6.26**

Know that God is very much aware of your need. He has set aside a perfect measure of His provision for you today. Knowing that God gives according to His perfect measure and it is His best must forever make us pliable in His hands.

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God gives us new manna every day. We are called to pray for daily bread so that we will not have to rely on the manna of yesterday. The manna from yesterday is rotten and really of no use today. There is a new testimony every day. They overcame with their testimonies. Using the manna of yesterday may reveal an ungrateful heart for today's supplies. Search your heart today for the miracles of today and be thankful today for your fresh supply of today.

Prayer

Dear Lord helps us know that our sustenance comes from you today. Though you know of our needs may we know that we are still to come and ask of you on a daily basis. This is relationship that we so desperately need. Thank you that our needs are provided for yet more importantly that our relationship with you may be ever consistent. Thank you today for our daily bread. Amen

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Questions

1. Why are we to go to God on a daily basis for our provision?
2. What happens when we gather as the world does?
3. Why is the natural man not able to see what God has provided?

SUMMARY STATEMENT

1. It is God's Will to give to His children.
2. God's provision for His people is already prepared.
3. Going to God on a daily basis develops our relationship with Him and builds our faith in Him.
4. No other measure is as perfect as the one used by God.
5. God expects us to know the things that are freely given to us the believers.
6. It helps us not to be manipulative and greedy as we ask and receive only what God has prepared for us.

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17. FORGIVE US OUR DEBT, AS WE ALSO FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS

It is important that all creation understand that to forgive is not simple and easy. In fact in his own doing man cannot forgive and love others as he should. Neither is he capable of it in his own strength. He does not have the strength to forgive forever. When God spoke to Moses regarding the laws to be followed by His people, they were asked to love their neighbors and hate their enemies. Jesus however said the following **“You have heard that the law of Moses says ‘love you neighbors’ and hate your enemies’ but I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in Heaven.”** Matthew 5.43 – 45.

It is important that we spent much time studying the work of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of this Workbook. You will remember Jesus saying the following: **‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.’** John 16.12 The reason for this is that the disciples at that time, had still to receive the Holy Spirit into their lives. This was to be the

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mandate of how God would use them and reveal the impossible. Like them, the Gentile believers were given the Holy Spirit to help them. This prayer is for the believer and the Holy Spirit is given to him.

And so we are called to love our enemies and pray for them which we can only *truly* do as believers. We will be tested and it is the help of the Spirit that keeps us going. Because we have the Holy Spirit, it is possible to forgive and forget as the Lord would have it. Without the Holy Spirit in our lives, it is impossible. Difficult situations and circumstances in the extreme will come along and make it impossible to forgive another. No religion or tradition, neither works nor routine can guarantee! Jesus makes it clear that in the last days there will be more hatred than love and this is one of the reasons. **‘And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.’ Matthew 24.12** The love of many will grow cold because they do not have the help from above. Their efforts are natural and bound to fail. The Lord then went on to say that it is him who endures to the end that shall be saved. **‘But he who endures to the end shall be saved’ Verse 13.** We cannot endure without the help of the Holy Spirit. It is Him who gives us the strength in Christ to continue.

The Lord explains further that we are to forgive men their trespasses. **‘For if you forgive men their trespasses your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive**

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men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.’ Matthew 6.14-15

We are forever trespassing with our thoughts. Our thoughts are known to God. So often we neglect to ask Him to forgive us for our evil and negative thoughts about ourselves, let alone others. ***Our negative thoughts about others may not be known to them but it is to God.*** He sees this as needing immediate repentance. The Lord does not want the believer to get away with this as he cannot and it further dampens our walk with Him. If we do not forgive others their trespasses then we are actually blocking the flow of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives. We need to forgive others even of the thoughts we do not know of. Many around us may have negative thoughts about us and we are to go to God daily asking Him to forgive them. We do not need to know who they are, nor the actual thoughts. Nevertheless, faithfully going to Him resolves the issue for us. This again confirms how important it is that we understand that our battle is not against flesh and blood. **‘...For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities; against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age; against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.’**

Ephesians 6.12

There will be many religious beliefs that teach that love and forgiveness is possible without the Holy Spirit but it is not so. In fact their teachings make no mention of the Holy Spirit as they

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do not know of Him. It is the believer to whom God has revealed Him to. *Forgiveness to many is simply a law written on stone therefore the difficulty as the world grows more wicked.*

The most important principle of forgiveness is the measure used by us in first forgiving others. The Word of God makes it very clear, we receive forgiveness only by the measure and quantity we ourselves are willing to pardon others. We are never able to continuously forgive if the work has not begun from within. The Spirit of God speaks from within. The obedience to the inward voice of the Spirit means we must surrender our hurts to the Lord. Because we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, the work is supernatural and indwelling. **‘Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors’ Matthew 6.12.** That word **‘as’** in **verse 12** simply means *‘a similar amount and exact degree.’* It is related to and acts in the same manner. Even the time of its application is synonymous and works together with what precedes it. In other words you are only forgiven as and when you forgive others.

Any blame that may still be lingering after a while may be the focus of the following reasons:

- 1 - We have refused to accept God’s forgiveness on the matter.*
- 2- We have refused to forgive others regarding the matter.*

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3- As believers we have refused the intimate relationship that is offered to us and the help through the Holy Spirit to forgive.

(Please note this is not about Salvation, but our daily relationship with the Lord)

When we forgive we are to release others with no negative thoughts either. To truly forgive is to still desire God's best for them. That desire in you will be tested when you are led by the Holy Spirit to pray for that person. Note you will be led to pray for that person and not the problem between you and the person. Therefore the scripture says '**Pray for those who persecute you!**'

An example would be if that person has offended you through some agreement that has gone wrong or perhaps you are now being made to run at a loss. You will still be asked to pray for that person's success having first forgiven them. Difficult as it seems, it is possible when the Holy Spirit of God is allowed into our lives. He is our Helper and shows us the way and also gives us the strength to do so.

True Prayer is seen when there is true forgiveness. Pray for that person, his family, his business, his work, his health and all matters relating to His well - being. To forgive would be to remember him in your prayers. When we first pray for those who have hurt us we then allow the flow of what God has for us. When we hear of their success we must be glad and not

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offended because God is the One who is in control. As we allow God to help us, our attitude and thoughts will change.

Prayer has much to do with forgiveness so much so that Jesus after teaching the **'Our Father'** manner of praying concludes by again reiterating the need to forgive. **'For if you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you.**

But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.' Matthew 6.14-15

Satan's hands are tied when God's people are willing to forgive. Many doors are opened by the Lord for us as a result of us forgiving others and even so many are closed when we are not willing to forgive. The duty is left to the believer to not allow the memories of the past to haunt him. Every time we are reminded of a sore point of our past, we must not entertain it any further giving it the privilege of weakening us. We must never linger on a negative thought. The more time you give to it the stronger you make it to be used again against you. We entertain it by giving place for it in our minds. *Any negative thought that is not immediately rebuked will eventually be built into a tower of strength for Satan to use against us.* The walls we set up around our lives are built by thoughts.

Ask God to forgive those who have sinned against you today and for you to hold no offence against them. Do not doubt God to help you through this. Any false notion that we may have of who God is may drastically affect our receiving of forgiveness.

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In the last days people will become lovers of themselves, forever putting themselves first at your expense. The pain is enormous no doubt and the way people treat us at times may give us the impression that God is on their side but this is not true. God loves us and is never ignorant of what has happened. What is important though is how we as believers respond to the matter. There is a right way, a good way and then there is a Godly Way. The right way and the good way will always involve much of self and emotions. The Godly Way is one of surrender to self. It involves much of God and less of you. Therefore as believers we must always use the Word of God and the leading of the Spirit to help us. If the Word of God does not say it nor the Spirit of God confirm it, then we must know for well it is not from Him.

In forgiveness there is unity especially in the body of Christ. Where there is unity there is love. This love not only covers a multitude of sins but together with unity of Spirit brings forth an anointing for God to move.

Prayer

Dear Lord, help me today to truly surrender any bitterness or hatred that I may have for people. I pray specifically for this matter regarding asking for your help to overcome and love again as you have forgiven me and love me. I pray for your favour in all areas of this person's life. Amen.

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Questions

- 1. Why is the Holy Spirit so important to us when it comes to forgiving others?**
- 2. What is the measure that God uses to forgive us?**
- 3. In what way do we act as children of God?**

SUMMARY STATEMENT

- 1. Only God can give us the strength to forgive and hold no grudges against our enemies.**
- 2. No man can truly pray for his enemies if he is not a believer. The pain will eventually be too much.**
- 3. As believers we have the Holy Spirit here with us to help us along. It is important that we have fellowship and intimacy with Him.**
- 4. Forgiveness holds back many things that the enemy may have planned against us.**

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18. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE

‘Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’ Matthew. 26.41.

Prayer is what keeps man from temptation. The more we are found in God’s presence the more we are led away from temptation; the key is to be consistently in His presence. The spirit of man may be willing but the body is weak. Man needs to be in the presence of God even more because of his sinful nature. We must have a continuous flow of that which God has for us. This prayer is so significant at this time as we are forever being tempted. The world has much to offer in disguise to the believer. Asking God to lead us away from temptation is the first step as it takes us away from any further sin. Temptation is there all the time especially in our thoughts. The Lord made it clear that just a wrong thought was in danger of judgment.

‘....But I say to you whoever is angry with his brother without cause shall be in danger of judgment’ Matthew 5.22

Furthermore Jesus warned: **‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you whoever**

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looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.’ Matthew 5.27-28

Here again we see how serious is the matter of desire to commit wrong. Too often we overlook the thought and only concentrate on the actual deed or act which we call sin. But God sees it differently. When we are intimate with the Lord, He will reveal to us our wrong thoughts. This line of prayer opens that door for us and enables God to forgive us. It all starts with a thought or a desire, and then grows. Perhaps evil thoughts have already come to us and we are therefore praying so. This is a daily occurrence and therefore a daily prayer. On the other hand we may have allowed the wrong thought to mature into a willful act. Here we need the deliverance that comes from our Lord. The word ‘but’ can also be substituted with the word ‘nevertheless.’ ***‘Nevertheless deliver us from the evil one.’*** Though our temptation may have matured to actual deed, nevertheless ask God to deliver us from the clutches of the evil one. God is the One who makes this request possible for us and so it is possible for us to pray it so and be delivered.

We see this word ‘*nevertheless*’ used often when God was angry with the kings of Israel. Great punishment awaited them but God would defer the punishment because of his covenant with their father David. One such scripture is found in **1 Kings 15.3-4** ‘.....his heart (king Jeroboam) was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. ***Nevertheless for***

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David's sake the Lord his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem.'

Even Jesus was tempted but His relationship with the Father saw Him through. Read **Matthew 4.1-11**. Here we see how Jesus overcame temptation with the sword of the Spirit which is the Word. His intimacy with His Father allowed Him to use the *Sword* effectively. Intimacy with God brings us into submission with Him. Prayer allows for more grace. When we are intimate with God we are in submission to Him and therefore able to resist the evil one. The bible tells us when we resist the devil he will flee from us. **'...God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.'** James 4.6-7

God sees the humbling of our hearts and responds. **'Because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I spoke.....therefore I also have heard you.....'** 2 Kings 22.19

The Apostle Paul pleaded with the Lord three times for the thorn in the flesh to depart from him. God's answer to him was simple. **'My grace is sufficient for you, My strength is made perfect in weakness.'** 2 Corinthians 12.9

If Jesus being the Son of God prayed with such reverential fear and determination then how much more you and I need to heed the instruction to pray. All men are called to pray from slave to king. Prayer must be a constant thing. The more men

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we have praying the stronger is the fragrance that rises towards heaven. Believers must never be selfish to leave of praying for others to do. If we ever do so we are weaker than before and we become more vulnerable to the evil one. Pastors must never leave of praying, only to make it a duty for their intercessor wives. All leaders must pray for all leaders will be tempted. There is for sure a great anointing when there are people praying everywhere.

We are overcomers only through Christ in us. This battle is not of flesh and blood, not of strength of the body but strength of the spirit. God is spirit and the secrets to God's Kingdom and us overcoming is given to us in the spirit. God makes known His secrets to our victory in the spirit. Prayer brings into the spirit realm that which God desires for each one of us. We must be spiritually mature and remain so to overcome all the evil forces of darkness. There is a secret wisdom given to us by His Holy Spirit. And so our faith rests not on human wisdom but on the power that comes from God. It is this power that helps us to remain standing till the day we receive the crown of life. Read **1 Corinthians 2**

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Prayer

Dear Lord open our spiritual eyes we pray, to see not only your love for us but also the spiritual markers set up by the evil one to destroy us. Lead us away from the evil one and may we never compromise your truth. Amen!

Questions

1. Why do we need to be in the Presence of God so often?
2. What does intimacy with God reveal to us?
3. How did Jesus overcome temptation and what made this possible?
4. What happens when we humble ourselves before God?

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SUMMARY STATEMENT

- 1. Prayer is the key to us not falling into temptation.**
- 2. Temptation begins with a thought and our consistent relationship with our Lord helps stray us away from this.**
- 3. We must ask God to remove any sin in our hearts and not just concentrate on the actual physical act of sin.**
- 4. Prayer allows for more grace. It is the grace of the Lord that is sufficient for us to overcome.**
- 5. Believers must *never* leave praying for others to do. As we are the ones who know ourselves better than them.**

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19. FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER

Finally our prayers must never lack acknowledgment that all power and glory belongs to God. To Him belongs all the praise and glory. Because of this and in preparation of that which is to come, we honor Him. He alone has the ability to bring it all together and therefore He alone deserves all our admiration.

We must be thankful to God. To be thankful and full of praise is a great part of what makes up the prayer life of the believer.

Praise and thanksgiving should not only come after our answered prayers. We should never wait for the answer and then thank God. We go to God in faith and in faith we know it to be so.

We must be thankful that God has heard our prayers. Knowing we have prayed the Will of Him means we are to be thankful for what is already done for us in Heaven. And so by faith we keep standing. In the manifestation of our requests we testify of God and His goodness.

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Everything belongs to Him who created it. In faith we come to God knowing the work that is already completed in Christ.

Though that specific answer may yet to manifest, we are to nevertheless honour our God. **‘Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name.’ Hebrew 13.15**

To Praise God is to thank Him. That word Praise comes from the word **‘Halal’** – it is to rejoice or boast about someone. **‘Halal’** is the root word from which we get the word Hallelujah. The word Hallelujah is actually a command to praise. Also from the word **‘Halal’** we get the Hebrew word **‘Tehillim’** which means to speak of the glories, virtues or honour of someone. The Hebrew title for the Book of Psalms is **‘Tehillim’** which means **‘Praises.’** When we praise God we invite His continuing ruling presence in our lives and the land.

Herein lies an important truth – the Presence of God and His Kingdom power is directly related to the practice of praising Him. God waits for our decision and whenever our decision is to praise Him, we bring the situation to be appropriate to His Kingdom’s Power. In other words all trials in life create some limp in us. When we run from it, we do so very slow and cannot go to far. When we stay and deal with it, less do others come to know about it. Sometimes it is just God and you. Running away allows for more to see and even more to be wrong. When we run in shame we allow for a cruel world to add to our story. The

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conclusion is much that is spoken about is much that never happened and so a discouraged heart for many. We must run to God and He must always be our first and only choice.

Do not neglect opening the envelope with the bill. If you leave it for later, there will be two envelopes and now the charges but then it is too late. We must invite His rule to break into our plans. What this means is that praise gives God the place He is looking for in our lives and the opportunity to work in them. And the place God is given will determine the power revealed. Praise is the entry point for the Kingdom of God and we are to align ourselves with Him. The Psalmist prayed the following: **‘I will praise You, O Lord, with all my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.’ Psalm 9.1-2**

To speak of the glories of God is to give Him the credit for all splendour, beauty, wonder and brilliance. It is our way of admiring who God is. To give Him all the glory and honour is also our way of appreciating what He has done. It also shows our approving of what He has done.

**‘For yours is kingdom and the power and the glory forever’
Matthew 6.13**

We acknowledge that all authority, control and influence, is His to handle. We move at His command and it is Him who has the final say in this His Kingdom. This part of the prayer is to recognize God for who He is and what He has done.

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The Hebrew word for honour is the word '*Hadar*' in the verb it speaks of splendour that belongs to Him. We give Him honor for His creation, for His Kingdom.

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Amen!

Ending this prayer with the word 'Amen' really means 'it is so.' In other words it is done. It is most safe to say it is done when we have prayed according to the Will of the Father in Heaven. We have learnt in the previous chapters of being soft and pliable in God's hands. As long as we have the desires of God in our hearts we can therefore safely say our prayers are as good as answered. ***Asking or requesting is only important as we do so according to the Will of Him in Heaven.*** The desires of God in our hearts are what make our requests possible. With God all things are possible. As long as we have God with us we will have a changed heart.

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20. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!

Pray without Ceasing

'Pray without ceasing' 1Thessalonians 5.17

**'.....This calls for endurance and faithfulness from the saints.
Revelation 13.10**

Watching and praying is important in us praying without ceasing. In **Matthew 26** we find that Jesus first asked His disciples to watch with Him whilst he went to pray. **'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with me' Matthew 26.38**

There are few things we can learn from this. Watching cannot take place if we are asleep. When we are asleep we will have no light and therefore we will not be able to see.

In **Ephesians 5.14** the Apostle Paul quoting the prophet Isaiah says **'.....Awake, you who sleep...and Christ will give you light'**

The Apostle continues **'See then that you walk circumspectly not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the Will of the Lord is.' Verse 15-17**

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We are called to be watchful. God has given us His Spirit to be watchful. We may not be found on our knees all the time, nor all day in the closet but we are called to be watchful at all times. Just as we are to use wisdom and be watchful of man's exploits against us. The Lord expects of us to be wise and walk circumspectly. This means we are to walk carefully and not foolishly. This is the request that Jesus put to His disciples at first. When He found them asleep an hour later he reprimanded them. For he knew that their flesh was weak in staying awake. This time however Jesus asked them not just to watch but to ***watch and pray***. His reason was so that they not fall into temptation. Watching is important but without prayer we are bound to enter into temptation.

The great prophet Elijah was in prayer talking to God in the cave pouring his heart out to Him '**...I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.**' 1 Kings 19.10

God then spoke to the prophet to go out of the cave and stand on the mountain. Elijah did not do so and instead expected to still hear from God. But it was not to be! Surely Elijah thought that God would speak to him when he passed by. The strong wind tore into the mountains but it was not so. The prophet thought he would perhaps hear the voice of the Lord when

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there came an earthquake but again it was not to be. After the earthquake came a fire but even then God was not to speak. Then a voice suddenly came to Elijah and he then knew it to be the voice of God. In knowing so, he then ran to the entrance of the cave.

‘Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said ‘What are you doing here Elijah?’” Verse 11-13

It is important that we watch for the little things. To us they may seem insignificant but to God they are not. Often it is the insignificant things in life that ultimately destine our lives according to God’s Will and purpose. It is when we are in tune with His Holy Spirit that we are able to hear God. Intimacy with Him is therefore important.

‘Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak’ Matthew 26.41

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Prayer allows for intimacy with God. Intimacy with God allows for revelation. Prayer is forever because prayer is forever revelation. Prayer is what keeps man from temptation. **'Watch and Pray so that you will not fall into temptation'** Why? Because the spirit of man is willing but the body is weak. Read **Matthew. 26.41**. Prayer is what sustained Christ surrounding His crucifixion. Jesus' prayer was answered because of His reverent submission to the Will of God.

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To Pray without Wavering

To pray without ceasing is a directive from the Lord. We would be wise to never forget this. In **Luke 18.1** we read **‘Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.’** The purpose of the parable was to show them they should press on no matter what. They must press on till they had gotten relief. This does not mean that we press on till we see the answer. No we press on till we have heard from God. Hearing from God should settle it in our hearts that He is in control of this matter. Too often we pray but still do not hand the matter over to Him. The difficulty is not the problem reaching God but instead our stubbornness to hand it over to Him. **‘Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you’ 1 Peter 5.7**

As children of God we often resist Him from taking charge of the matter. This questions the quality of our relationship with Him and the strength of our faith in Him. Releasing a matter to God must be the most explicit show of our trust in Him. God must surely love that. We therefore need to learn to pray till we have released that thing into the hands of God. Had the judge in **Luke 18** answered that he was aware of the matter, the widow would not have returned. For the Bible tells us she kept coming, in other words she received no word prior. All she needed to know was that justice would be served.

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“There was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘grant me justice against my adversary’” Luke 18.3

We do need a word from God and we must therefore remain with Him until we receive that word. ***The answer may not be seen now but that word we receive helps us continue with life. Continuation is a matter of praise to God that He has heard me.*** The parable in **Luke 18** is not to liken God to any earthly judge but instead to show who He is. He is God and will bring about justice for His chosen ones who cry to Him day and night. He will not put them off but they instead must have faith that He hears when they call. **‘However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?’ Luke 18.8**

This is very important to the believer as there are many things we do not see manifestation immediately after our request. This gives opportunity for the enemy to lie to us. This is his way of making war with the children of God. Many things may happen whilst we are waiting. Let it never be that we are misled.

For what we need now is God’s word on the matter as His word is the answer. We go to God in hope and receive His word in faith. Having faith, we then please God. Having hope does not mean we have the answer but faith does. Be encouraged to pray in spite of whatever you may be going through.

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To pray without ceasing is no easy task as it is a spiritual task; it needs faith and requires much resistance for much is encountered. Even so, our God is with us and the place of the attack is where He is. The irony is that it is in our weakness that we find the greatest amount of strength. The enemy pulls from one side while God holds firm on the other. We therefore pray without ceasing as we are called to do so. It is to pray again and having prayed, to pray again. The request is received by Him who knows all things but we pray that our faith is built and God is justified. We *'remind'* God in a little childlike way in the midst of our praises that He is there and we are mere man down here. Praying without ceasing must never become tiresome for Gods' people. For after we have requested we praise God knowing He has heard us. Having praised Him, we praise Him again. This is relationship in its highest order. He is never guilty of having too much of our praise, for it is always due to Him.

The more we praise God, the more we justify who He is and the more we praise Him, the Higher we lift Christ. The Higher Christ is lifted; the more the world is able to see and the more she sees the more are drawn to Him. This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that all men be drawn to Him. The enemy has accused God for ages; ours is to believe the Lord and the more we do so the more evidence is raised against the evil one.

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The burden that one must carry at times is always compensated by the measure of that burden. We serve a just God. Because prayer involves much, it will require much work. The man who prays will be one who is busy with Gods' work and doing it His Way. To pray without ceasing involves much work. Jesus was not pleased with the disciples when He found them asleep at the most crucial hour of man's history here on earth. **'.... Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come....'** **Mark 14. 41.** For prayer will require much from God, much of what He desires and much of what he is doing. Jesus was busy discussing their eternity with the Father whilst the disciples fell off to asleep on the Mount of Transfiguration. **Luke 9.28 – 36.**

Praying without ceasing shows Heaven our desperation, it shows our seriousness towards the matter at hand. The Lord desires to see how true our hearts really are. We must wait till He speaks. When God has spoken we must then thank Him. This is praise. The rest of our days must be spent thanking Him for the answers received.

Prayer reveals to God and it reveals our heart to have what God has. Prayer is war on a battlefield raging on and we are not to give up. The call to pray without ceasing is the call to **all** believers not to grow faint in their quest for that which the Lord has for them. Praying without ceasing will involve much labour, energy, and time. For such praying must leave no room for any lack of faith. It will require much and much will be given for it.

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A man who prays well will be found doing well and working well for he has received well. Prayer reveals what God wants done. Often obedience to what has been given sets the precedence for more to be given. Faith and praying are never separated. Jesus was concerned regarding this matter. **'Will I find faith when I return'** are the words of our Lord in **Matthew.18.8**. The end time Church will need much faith. It is this which concerns the Lord. Faith is what will pursue the believer to not back down in spite of whatever he may face. Jesus is very much concerned about this matter. I believe it grieves him for what He is now busy seeing and the direction He knows many of us are heading.

To pray without ceasing helps us to stay God focused only to arrive at His conclusion. We must never run away from this truth. We must never take another gasp for air, shocked and then draw our own conclusions on matters around us. In the modern and semi modern world there is information at our beckon call. The technology and advancements of our times are also constantly preventing the safeguarding against sudden outburst of filth, all at just a press of a button.

To believe that God will come through and never give up is the Christ life we live. Our call to pray without ceasing may just be the difference in our prayers being answered or them not and perhaps us still standing compared to us falling. It is known and therefore with passion we pray what is, knowing we have not

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been forsaken. To pray without ceasing may find us all alone in the chapel when all the others have moved on. The man who prays constantly may just be responsible for the difference between a city destroyed to one being saved. *For the sake of forty five, for sake of thirty, for the sake of twenty, for sake of ten even so will God save a city, if men will stand in the gap and pray without ceasing, Genesis 18.* For surely He is God who will save a city even if there be but one righteous man as long as he can find a man who prays much. God help us and may this be the cry of our hearts that more be the men and women who pray without ceasing. There is a place much needed for them or else we will suffer much.

WATCH AND PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!