**Prayer**

**Review**: Prayer **changes** things. You should live in **atmosphere** of prayer, which is an **awareness of the presence** of God. Prayer is **Communion** with God. Remember what prayer is **NOT.** When we pray we pray **to the Father in the name of Jesus**.

James told us if we are afflicted (or have **trouble) WE should pray**. Not expect someone else to pray for us. **There is some prayer that is personal and only you can do**.

He also told if we were sick (too weak) to have the elders of the church anoint us with oil and pray for our healing.

We discussed developing a **fellowship** with the Lord and not just a **relationship**.

If we **want true power in prayer**, we must cultivate deep hunger through spending time in His Word and spending time in communion with Him.

Prayer is not what you do, it is who you are. **You are NOW GOD’S HOUSE OF PRAYER**.

Effective prayer comes from **the heart not the mind**. **The Holy Spirit will teach you all things**.

**Assignment**

daily **appointment** with the Lord; reading a chapter in the Bible; spend some time **praising** the Lord; take a **notebook** and as your pray with your words or in the spirit, **make notes** of anything that you felt God was saying to you; go **expecting** to hear from Him; spend some time only **listening**.

We learned that we ought always to pray, to pray without ceasing, and that it benefits us to pray.

Prayer is a **way of life**. We pray without stopping because we pray as a matter of lifestyle.

We are to pray with all prayer, with all perseverance and for all saints.

And it should **be focused prayer**. **Don’t be distracted**. Guard your house of prayer. Guard your time of prayer.

Jesus is our example and he had a **practice of praying**.

Jesus **prayed with purpose**, and he got **answers and results**. He **sought the Father every day** on what to do each day.

**It is GOOD TO KNOW**.

**Why** do so many good church going Christians **not know**? They don’t **pray**.

Jesus summed up His entire ministry by saying **I only do what I see Him do and I only say what I hear Him say.**

**As you continue** in the Word, you grow in faith, and as you grow in faith, your ability to pray increases as well.

He uses many ways to speak to us, he may bring the Word to our remembrance; he will declare things through a knowing heart; or a glimpse of a new truth through an image in our spirit or a change in your perception; he may transmit His thoughts to your thoughts; it may float up from your heart;

**Daily Time in the Word**

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4 (KJV)

We have determined that we are a **house of prayer**. And within every orderly house, there are **certain habits** that cause it to run smoothly. Like taking out the trash, buying groceries, cleaning. In our house of prayer one of those task is **daily reading and meditating of the Word** of God. Just like when the Isrealite’s gathered **manna** every day (except Sunday) or it would spoil. So too, we must gather and partake of the Word daily.

God’s Word is the **fuel behind every effective prayer**. When your Word gets low, your prayers **spit and sputter** along instead of **roaring ahead in power**. If you don’t **stop and refuel**, your prayers will eventually come to a stop.

If you abide in me, **and my Words abide in you**, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you. John 15:7 (KJV)

As you spend **time talking** with the Father and **reading His Word**, your prayers will begin to **reflect the heart, mind and Word of the Lord**. God's Word is the same yesterday, today and forever.

**God will meet you right where you are**, using the amount of knowledge you have.

**Ask God to give you a verse that applies to the situation for which you are praying, and pray it.**

**Your prayer** will then become God's own Word alive in your mouth. **Praying God's Word brings results and answers,** because God Himself said that His Word **will not return to Him empty,** without accomplishing what He desires, and without succeeding in the matter for which He sent it (see Isa. 55:11).

When you pray the Word, however, it must be quickened by the Holy Spirit so you may speak forth with anointing. **Don’t pray the Word for the sake of religious** activity. Don’t just take a scripture and stick in your prayer and **parrot** it without truly understanding it or having it in your heart. For the Word to have power, it must take up **residence** in our hearts. We must meditate on it until becomes revelation from the Holy Spirit and dwells richly within us. In other words, **the Word must move into our house of prayer**.

It will then become alive and full of power. **When you read and meditate the Word, the Holy Spirit imparts that spiritual substance to you**. You are partaking of the very life and nature of God Himself. His faith, His power is transmitted to you.

**Pray the Word based on faith**, **believing that you are in agreement with God's will** for the circumstance. **Let faith be the motivation** behind your prayer. Then you will have the assurance that He will work in cooperation with you.

And without faith it is impossible to please Him. for he who comes to God must believe that He is. and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Heb. 11:6).

**Prayer that is based on faith bears fruit** for the Kingdom and pleases God When you pray and communicate with God in faith. He will speak to you and give you direction, wisdom, knowledge, strength and protection

**Keys to Meditation**

The Bible talks a lot about meditating the Word, but **very few Christians have an understanding** of how to do this. Instead **they read the Bible like a story book versus an important instruction manual or textbook.** So they do not benefit like they should.

We should focus on the **quality of our time in the Word versus the quantity**. Instead of reading 5 or 6 chapters at a time, maybe pick out a particular passage that speaks to you, or several scriptures on the matter at hand.

For instance, if you need **God’s protection**, you might select Psalms 91:2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust (KJV). **Then deepen your understanding by reviewing different versions of this scripture.**

MSG Say this: God, you’re my refuge. I trust in you and I’m safe.

AMPC I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I confidently trust!

Then review the 20 or so **cross reference** scriptures that have the word refuge in them. Meaning, read the 20 other scriptures that have the word refuge in them.

Maybe **look up the definition** of the word refuge.

**Picture the Lord protecting you and keeping you safe**. Read **Biblical accounts of divine protection** like for Ester and the Isrealites from the wicked Hamon, or the baby Moses from Pharaoh, or Elijah from Ahab and Jezebel. Vividly play out the events in your mind’s eye.

**Don’t just read the stories, live them. Lynne Hammond says this is a extremely powerful method of transferring the Scriptures from your head to your heart.**

Another way is to carry it with you throughout the day by **muttering it** over and over to yourself. Think about it by turning it over and over in your mind.

As you meditate the Word, **you are actually fellowshipping with the Spirit of Truth**. Growing **familiar with His voice**.

Reading and Meditating the Word daily will give you a **sense of assurance when you pray**. The more firmly our prayers are grounded on the Word, the more sure we can be that those prayers will be answered.

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His Will, He hears us: and if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the **petitions** that we desired of Him.

**Waiting on the Lord**

Psalms 27:14 Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.

Another habit for your house of prayer is an attitude of dependence on the Lord. Whether you realize it or not, we are totally dependent on Him in the area of prayer. Romans 8:26 tells us we do not know what prayer to offer or how to offer it worthily as we ought.

We must be able to pray in all sincerity – **Father, I cannot accomplish anything without the leadership of Your Spirit. So I am waiting here before You in reverence and faith, trusting you to show me the way I need to pray today.** Then do what we said, WAIT.

In this fast paced, instant, automated world, **WAITING is anything but simple**. It takes **time to cultivate a relationship** with Him, not just talking but time spent quietly waiting and listening. It is said that we have **one mouth and two ears** because we should spend twice as much time listening as talking. Use that as a gauge during your prayer time.

It takes time to quiet our minds and hearts so that the static and noise that often deafens us to His gentle voice, melts away and we can hear Him.

While we wait the Word tells us that God goes to work. Is 64:4 For from of old no one has heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has eye seen a God besides You, **Who works and shows Himself active on behalf of him who earnestly waits for Him.**

And He strengthens us: **They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength**. Is 40:31

As you develop the skill of waiting on the Lord, start small, maybe **5 minutes** of completely uninterrupted time. Turn off your phone. Get away in your room or your closet. Devote this time to Him with no thoughts of what else you have to do, or what else is going on. Train your mind to be obedient to the spirit. **Focus your mind on a particular scripture**.

If the **President of** the United States came to your house today to meet with you for 5 minutes, would you not give him your undivided attention. Surely, you can clear 5 minutes out of your day for the **creator of the universe**.

**Prayer**

**Father I pray that I may be filled with the knowledge of Your will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that I may walk in a manner worthy of You Lord, to please You in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in**

**the knowledge of You Father God; strengthened with all power, according to Your glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously**

**giving thanks to You Father, who has qualified me to share in the inheritance**

**of the saints in light.**

**Book List**

Unseen Forces beyond this World – Phillip & Fern Halverson

The Master Is Calling – Lynne Hammond

World Prayer Guide – Dr. Veronica B. Winston

Prayer Confessions to Dominate in the New Millennium – Dr. Veronica B. Winson

Secrets to Powerful Prayer – Lynne Hammond & Patsy Cameneti

How to Become a Prayer Warrior – Elizabeth Alves

[www.praywhatgodsays.weebley.com](http://www.praywhatgodsays.weebley.com)