

2017

SCHOOL OF PRAYER

SERIES

In Prayer

with **DICK EASTMAN**

NINE "IN PRAYER" CLUSTER THEMES
FOR FRUITFUL PRAYING!

LESSON ONE

THE GROWTH CLUSTER

Abounding in Prayer



THE GROWTH CLUSTER

Abounding in Prayer

- Growing in Prayer
 - Advancing in Prayer
 - Prospering in Prayer
-

INTRODUCTION

Numbers 13:1-3, 23-30 (NLT)

The Lord now said to Moses, “Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes.” So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He sent out twelve men, all tribal leaders of Israel... When they [the twelve spies] came to the valley of Eshcol, they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes so large that it took two of them to carry it on a pole between them! They also brought back samples of the pomegranates and figs. That place was called the valley of Eshcol (which means “cluster”), because of the cluster of grapes the Israelite men cut there. After exploring the land for forty days, the men returned to Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel... They reported to the whole community what they had seen and showed them the fruit they had taken from the land. This was their report to Moses: “We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak! The Amalekites live in the Negev, and the Hittites, Jebusites,

and Amorites... But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. "Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!"

DEFINITIONS

Abound:

"To be plentiful; to overflow; to be copiously supplied"

From the Latin *abundare* — "to overflow"

Related to *undare* — "to rise in waves"

Overflow:

"To be completely filled with something; to be so full that there is not enough room for anything more; to fill a space to capacity and spread beyond its limits"

John 15:1-8 (MSG)

I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.



This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

GROWTH CLUSTER INSIGHT ONE: ABOUNDING

To _____ *live* _____ and _____ *abide* _____ in Christ is to have His _____ *presence* _____ and _____ *words* _____ living and abiding in us, leading to an intimate and organic _____ *relationship* _____ that abounds in a _____ *harvest* _____ of abundance.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thoughts

Based on Cluster Insight One, share your thoughts within your prayer cluster regarding what you think it means to abound in prayer.

Prayers

Turn your thoughts regarding Cluster Insight One (or any impression from the Scripture passages shared in this teaching segment) into a prayer of desire to abound in prayer.

PART 1

Growing in Prayer

VOICES OF PRAYER

“All the Christian virtues are locked up in the word prayer.” — Charles Spurgeon

Psalm 92:12-13 (NKJV)

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (MSG)

“...I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I’ll listen. When you come looking for me, you’ll find me. Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I’ll make sure you won’t be disappointed.” God’s Decree. “I’ll turn things around for you. I’ll bring you back from all the countries into which I drove you”—God’s Decree—“bring you home to the place from which I sent you off into exile. You can count on it.”

1 Peter 2:4-5 (AMPC)

Come to Him [then, to that] Living Stone which men tried *and* threw away, but which is chosen [and]



precious in God's sight. [Come] and, like living stones, be yourselves built [into] a spiritual house, for a holy (dedicated, consecrated) priesthood, to offer up [those] spiritual sacrifices [that are] acceptable *and* pleasing to God through Jesus Christ.

VOICES OF PRAYER

“When a man is born from above, the life of the Son of God is born in him, and he can either starve that life or nourish it. Prayer is the way the life of God is nourished.” — Oswald Chambers

GROWTH CLUSTER INSIGHT TWO: GROWING

To grow in prayer is to get _____ *serious* _____ with pursuing _____ *God* _____ more than anything else, so as to be _____ *built* _____ into a spiritual _____ *house* _____ and a holy _____ *priesthood* _____.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thoughts

Based on Cluster Insight Two, share your thoughts within your prayer cluster regarding what you think it means to grow in prayer.

Prayers

Turn your thoughts regarding Cluster Insight Two (or any impression from the Scripture passages shared in this teaching segment) into a prayer of desire to grow in prayer.

PART 2

Advancing in Prayer

VOICES OF PRAYER

“Our prayers lay the track down on which God’s power can come. Like a mighty locomotive His power is irresistible, but it cannot reach us without rails.”

— Watchman Nee

2 Samuel 5:17-24 (NLT)

When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of Israel, they mobilized all their forces to capture him. But David was told they were coming, so he went into the stronghold. The Philistines arrived and spread out across the valley of Rephaim. So David asked the LORD, “Should I go out to fight the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?” The LORD replied to David, “Yes, go ahead. I will certainly hand them over to you.” So David went to Baal-perazim and defeated the Philistines there. “The LORD did it!” David exclaimed. “He burst through my enemies like a raging flood!” So he named that place Baal-perazim (which means “the Lord who bursts through”). The Philistines had abandoned their idols there, so David and his men confiscated them. But after a while the Philistines returned and again spread out across the valley of Rephaim. And again David asked the LORD what to do. “Do not attack them straight on,” the LORD replied. “Instead, circle around behind them near the poplar trees. When you hear a sound like marching feet in the tops of the poplar trees, be on the alert! That will be the signal that the LORD is moving



ahead of you to strike down the Philistine army.”

Deuteronomy 30:16 (NIV)

For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV)

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

VOICES OF PRAYER

“Every step in the progress of missions is directly traceable to prayer.” — A. T. Pierson

**GROWTH CLUSTER INSIGHT THREE:
ADVANCING**

To advance in prayer is to walk in total dependence on our Lord, never advancing without His voice of direction and approval, as we press toward the prize of that which brings Him the most glory.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thoughts

Based on Cluster Insight Three, share your thoughts within your prayer cluster regarding what you think it means to advance in prayer.

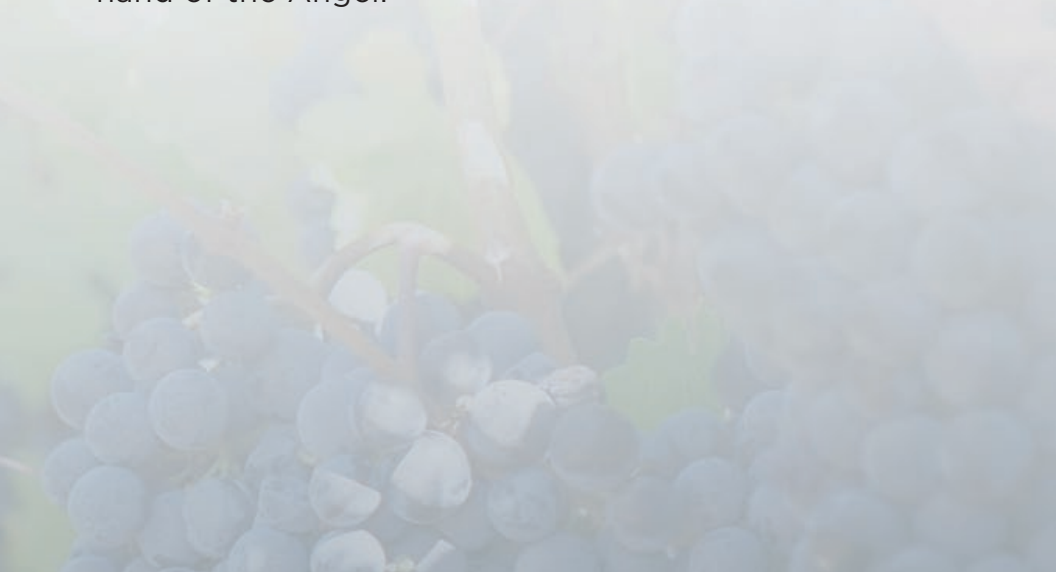
Prayers

Turn your thoughts regarding Cluster Insight Three (or any impression from the Scripture passages shared in this teaching segment) into a prayer of desire to advance in prayer.

HARVEST INCENSE *(National Focus)*

Revelation 8:3-4 (MSG)

Then another Angel, carrying a gold censer, came and stood at the Altar. He was given a great quantity of incense so that he could offer up the prayers of all the holy people of God on the Golden Altar before the Throne. **Smoke billowed up from the incense-laced prayers of the holy ones,** rose before God from the hand of the Angel.





PART 3

Prospering in Prayer

VOICES OF PRAYER

“By one hour’s intimate access to the throne of grace, where the Lord causes His glory to pass before the soul that seeks him, you may acquire more spiritual knowledge and comfort than by a day’s or a week’s converse with the best of men, or the most studious perusal of many folios.” — John Newton

Deuteronomy 6:23-25 (NIV)

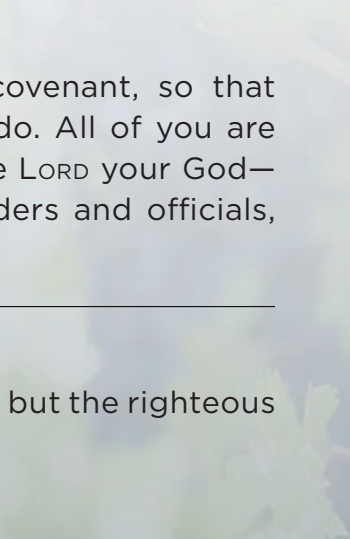
“But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land he promised on oath to our ancestors. The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”

Deuteronomy 29:9-10 (NIV)

Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do. All of you are standing today in the presence of the LORD your God—your leaders and chief men, your elders and officials, and all the other men of Israel...

Proverbs 11:28 (NIV)

Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.



Hosea 6:1-3 (NLT)

“Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces; now he will heal us. He has injured us; now he will bandage our wounds. In just a short time he will restore us, so that we may live in his presence. Oh, that we might know [YADA] the LORD! Let us press on to know [YADA] him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.”

VOICES OF PRAYER

“How little time the average Christian spends in prayer! We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little.... The power of God is lacking in our lives and in our work. We have not because we ask not.”

— R. A. Torrey

**GROWTH CLUSTER INSIGHT FOUR:
PROSPERING**

To prosper in prayer is to live and thrive in the fullness of God's promises sought and cherished through a continuing, daily pursuit of life-giving intimacy with our Lord.





THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thoughts

Based on Cluster Insight Four, share your thoughts within your prayer cluster regarding what you think it means to prosper in prayer.


Prayers

Turn your thoughts regarding Cluster Insight Four (or any impression from the Scripture passages shared in this teaching segment) into a prayer of desire to prosper in prayer.

HARVEST INCENSE *(Global Focus)*

Revelation 8:3-4 (MSG)

Then another Angel, carrying a gold censer, came and stood at the Altar. He was given a great quantity of incense so that he could offer up the prayers of all the holy people of God on the Golden Altar before the Throne. **Smoke billowed up from the incense-laced prayers of the holy ones,** rose before God from the hand of the Angel.



NOTES

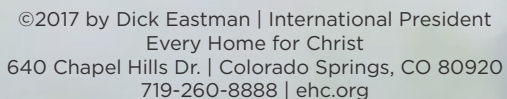
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