

Lesson One
Prayer: Untapped Power

The Power of Prayer... Its Threefold Potential

Foundational Scripture

Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.

Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

...The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.

James 5:16b (NLT)

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NKJV)

Voices from the Past:

“Generally, if not uniformly, prayer is both starting-point and goal to every movement in which are the elements of permanent progress. Whenever the church is aroused and the world’s wickedness arrested, somebody [somewhere] has been praying.”

—Dr. Arthur T. Pierson
Bible Scholar

“One day Christians will give themselves to a study of prayer, and when they do it will change the world.”

—Charles Steinmetz
Scientist, Electrical Engineer

Prayer’s Threefold Potential

Potential One:

World _____ and Prayer

(The capacity to change the _____)

Scripture

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Matthew 9:35-38 (KJV)

Three Unalterable Convictions

The Great Commission must be taken _____!

Without _____, the task is impossible!

Prayer will remove every _____ that
stands in the way!

Christian _____ and Prayer
(The capacity to change the _____)

While they were praying, the place where they were meeting trembled and shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak God's Word with fearless confidence. The whole congregation of believers was united as one—one heart, one mind... They shared everything. The apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Master Jesus, and grace was on all of them.

Acts 4:31-33 (MSG)

Personal _____ and Prayer
(The capacity to change the _____)

But you, dear friends, carefully build yourselves up in this most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit, staying right at the center of God's love... This is the unending life, the *real* life!

Jude 20-21 (MSG)

"I am better or worse as I pray more or less. It works for me with mathematical precision."

—E. Stanley Jones
Methodist Missionary

[illegible]

What is Prayer?

A Biblical Overview

(Four Definitions)

Voices from the Past:

“The powers of the eternal world have been placed at [prayer’s] disposal. It is... the channel of all blessings, the secret of power and life... It is on prayer that the promises [of God] wait for their fulfillment, the Kingdom for its coming, and the glory of God for its full revelation.”

—Andrew Murray

Author of *With Christ in the School of Prayer*

Definition One:

Prayer is entreating spiritual _____.

1. The Example of _____

Scripture:

When it was time for the sacrifice to be offered, Elijah the prophet came up and prayed... “Answer me, GOD; O answer me and reveal to this people that you are GOD, the true GOD...” Immediately the fire of GOD fell and burned up the offering, the wood, the stones, the dirt, and even the water in the trench.

1 Kings 18:36a, 37a, 38 (MSG)

2. The Example of _____

Scripture:

Now the king of Aram had issued these orders to his charioteers: “Attack only the king of Israel!” So when the Aramean charioteers saw Jehoshaphat in his royal robes, they went after him. “There is the king of Israel!” they shouted. But Jehoshaphat cried out to the LORD to save him, and God helped him by turning the attack away from him.

2 Chronicles 18:30-31 (NLT)

3. The Example of _____

Scripture:

Now about that time Herod the king stretched out *his* hand to harass some from the church... Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by *him*, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And his chains fell off *his* hands.

Acts 12:1, 5-7 (NKJV)

Summary: Prayer is _____ to God.

Definition Two:

Prayer is transacting spiritual _____.

Scripture:

Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

Matthew 18:18-19 (NKJV)

God's Law of Spiritual Authority:

When we take _____ on earth, we
_____ God's power from the heavenlies.

To "Bind" (a legal definition):

"To _____ as by oath or _____ restraint"

Summary: Prayer is _____ in God.

Definition Three:

Prayer is tapping spiritual _____.

Scripture:

Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things...

Daniel 2:20-22 (NKJV)

How Do We Tap God's Secrets?

Scripture:

The secret of the LORD *is* with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

Psalm 25:14 (NKJV)

God-friendship is for God-worshippers; They are the ones he confides in.

Psalm 25:14 (MSG)

The key to confiding is _____!

Scripture:

Listen to my voice in the morning, LORD. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly.

Psalm 5:3 (NLT)

Summary: Prayer is _____ in God.

Additional Notes and Comments:

AFTERTHOUGHTS... PONDER AND PRAY

Ponder Points:

Ponder which of the three definitions in this session you feel is most needed for you to understand and apply during this season of your life. Journal your thoughts in the space that follows.

Personal Afterthoughts:

[illegible]

Prayer Points:

Turn your desire to understand and apply this type of prayer into a prayer itself. Ask God to reveal to you in greater depth how to cultivate this aspect of prayer.



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What is Prayer?

A Biblical Overview (Continued)

Definition Four:

Prayer is developing spiritual _____.

Voices from the Past:

“Prayer is not casting a fishing line with a hook toward God to catch from Him a blessing, but to cast a line toward God so that He might pull ourselves closer to Him.”

—Theodore Cuyler
Pastor, Expositor

Scripture:

...The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32b (KJV)

The results of knowing God:

STRONG: Firm and _____

EXPLOITS: Bold _____ and daring _____

The essence of knowing God:

“Know” in Hebrew: _____

Scripture:

...The people that do _____ their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32b (KJV)

Now Adam knew [YADA] Eve his wife, and she conceived...

Genesis 4:1 (NKJV)

YADA defined:

“Life-giving _____; direct _____ contact”

Scripture:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

“Way” defined:

“A course affording passage from one place to another”

“Acknowledge” defined: _____

Personal paraphrase: “In all your days — YADA God through direct, intimate contact.”

The YADA Prayer Premise:

Just as _____ (YADA) in marriage creates a deep and meaningful relationship leading to physical conception and human life, _____ (YADA) with God, through prayer, creates a deep and meaningful spiritual relationship leading to divine conception and

supernatural life (e.g., answers to prayer, dreams birthed, souls won to Christ, etc.).

A Life Verse for Passionate God-Seekers:

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

Psalm 27:4 (NIV)

Summary: Prayer is _____ with God.

Additional Notes and Comments:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery.

AFTERTHOUGHTS... PONDER AND PRAY

Ponder Points:

Ponder how you see spiritual intimacy (YADA) as being the highest form of prayer. How do you view YADA as differing from other aspects of prayer? Journal your thoughts in the space that follows.

Personal Afterthoughts:

[illegible]

Prayer Points:

Turn Psalm 27:4 into a personal prayer for intimacy with God. In your own words, ask God to show you how to enter His presence daily to “gaze upon his beauty and to seek him in his temple.”