

Lesson 14: The 1st Essential of Holy Living: Prayer-2

Memory Verse: Psalm 55:17 "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."

V. When Should We Pray?

1. Every _____ **Psalm 5:1-3**
2. E _____, _____, and at _____ **Psalm 55:17**
3. When we feel O _____. **Psalm 61:1-3**
4. When we need H ____ ! Examples:
 - ❖ **Jonah 2:1** "Then _____ prayed unto the Lord his God out of the _____ belly,"
 - ❖ **Acts 12:5** " _____ therefore was kept in _____: but prayer was made without ceasing of the _____ unto God for _____."
 - ❖ **Acts 16:23-25** ❖ Who was it? _____ and _____
 - ❖ Where were they? In the inner _____ with their feet in _____
 - ❖ What did they do? "And at midnight Paul and Silas _____, and sang _____ unto God: and the _____ heard them."
 - ❖ **Nehemiah 1:3,4; 2:1-8** ❖ Who was it? _____
 - ❖ Why was he sad? The _____ of Jerusalem was _____ down and the _____ were _____ with fire. (Nehemiah 1:3)
 - ❖ What did the king ask him? "For _____ dost thou make _____?" (verse 4)
 - ❖ Before he answered the king, what did he do? "So I _____ to the _____ of heaven." (verse 4) He prayed for the right words to speak and for God to impress the king's heart.
 - ❖ What was his request? He wanted the king to _____ him to Jerusalem to _____ it. (verse 5)
 - ❖ When the king gave him permission to go, what else did he ask for? He asked for _____ from the king's _____ (verse 8)
 - ❖ Why was the king so willing to give him what he asked for? (verse 8) "And the king granted me, according to the _____ of my _____ upon me."
 - ❖ **Daniel 6:7-13, 16, 20-22** ❖ What law did they conspire to make? (verse 7) "that whosoever shall ask a _____ of any _____ or man for _____ days, save of thee, O _____, he shall be cast into the _____ of _____."
 - ❖ What did Daniel do when he knew about the law? (verse 10) "he went into his house; and his windows being _____ in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he _____ upon his knees _____ times a day, and _____, and gave _____ before his God, as he did _____."

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- ◇ What did these men do? First they "found Daniel _____ and making supplication before his _____." Then they came to the king and said: "That _____, ..., regardeth not _____, O king, nor the _____ that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition _____ times a day." (verses 11-13)
- ◇ When Daniel was thrown to the lions, what did the king say to him? (verse 16) "Thy _____ whom thou servest _____, he _____ deliver thee." What did he do the next morning? He went to the den of lions the next morning to _____ to Daniel.

Think: Why would he do that? Daniel should have been eaten by the lions!

- ◇ What did he say? O Daniel, servant of the _____ God, is thy God, whom thou servest _____, able to _____ thee from the _____? (verse 19,20)
- ◇ What was Daniel's answer? "My _____ hath sent his _____, and hath _____ the lions' _____, that they have not _____ me: forasmuch as before _____ innocency was found in me; and also before _____, O king, have I done no hurt." (verse 22)

Note: "Pray in your closet, and as you go about your daily labor let your heart be often uplifted to God. It was thus that Enoch walked with God. These silent prayers rise like precious incense before the throne of grace. **Satan cannot overcome him whose heart is thus stayed upon God.**" SC 98.3
"There is no time or place in which it is inappropriate to offer up a petition to God. There is nothing that can prevent us from lifting up our hearts in the spirit of earnest prayer. In the crowds of the street, in the midst of a business engagement, we may send up a petition to God and plead for divine guidance, as did Nehemiah when he made his request before King Artaxerxes. A closet of communion may be found wherever we are. We should have the door of the heart open continually and our invitation going up that Jesus may come and abide as a heavenly guest in the soul." SC 99.1

VI. Conditions of Answered Prayer

There are certain conditions upon which we may expect that God will hear and answer our prayers. Let us see what these are:

5. **Isaiah 44:3** "I will pour water upon him that is _____, and floods upon the _____ ground."

Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are they which do _____ and _____ after righteousness: for they shall be _____."

Note: "One of the first of these [conditions] is that **we feel our need of help from Him.** ... Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, who long after God, may be sure that they will be filled. The heart must be open to the Spirit's influence, or God's blessing cannot be received." SC 95.1

6. **Matthew 7:7** "_____, and it shall be _____ you; _____, and ye shall _____; _____, and it shall be _____ unto you:"

Note: "Our great need is itself an argument and pleads most eloquently in our behalf. But **the Lord is to be sought** unto to do these things for us." SC 95.2 We must ask.

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7. **He wants to give us His blessings.** This He has shown us by giving His Son for us: **Romans 8:32** "He that spared _____ His _____ Son, but delivered Him up _____ us _____, how shall He not with _____ also _____ give us _____ things?"

8. **1 John 5:14-15** "And this is the _____ that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing _____ to his _____, he heareth us: And if we _____ that he hear us, whatsoever we _____, we know that we _____ the petitions that we desired of him."

Note: "While presenting our petitions with earnestness, we should say, '**Nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done.**' [LUKE 22:42.] Jesus added these words of **submission to the wisdom and will of God** when in the garden of Gethsemane He pleaded, 'O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.' [MATT. 26:39.] And if they were appropriate for Him, the Son of God, how much more are they becoming on the lips of finite, erring mortals! GW 218.1

"The consistent course is to **commit our desires to our all-wise heavenly Father**, and then, in perfect confidence, trust all to Him. We know that God hears us if we ask according to His will. **But to press our petitions without a submissive spirit is not right**; our prayers must take the form, not of command, but of intercession. GW 218.2

"We all desire immediate and direct answers to our prayers, and are tempted to become discouraged **when the answer is delayed or comes in an unlooked-for form**. But God is **too wise and good** to answer our prayers always at just the time and in just the manner we desire. He will do more and better for us than to accomplish all our wishes. And because we can trust His wisdom and love, **we should not ask Him to concede to our will**, but should seek to enter into and accomplish His purpose. Our desires and interests should be lost in His will." GW 219.1

"**Dear children and youth, you need a new heart.** Ask God for this. He says, 'A new heart also will I give you' (Eze. 36:26). When you have asked according to His will, doubt not that you will receive; for whatever God has promised, He will fulfill. If you come with **true** contrition of soul, you need not feel that you are at all presumptuous in asking for what God has promised. Presumption is asking for things to gratify selfish inclination; for human enjoyment in earthly things. But when you ask for the spiritual blessings you so much need in order that you may perfect a character after Christ's likeness, the Lord assures you that you are asking according to a promise that will be verified."

The Youth's Instructor, Aug. 23, 1894.

9. **Psalm 66:18** "If I regard _____ in my _____, the Lord will _____ hear me:"

Note: We must be honest and sincere with God. "If we **regard iniquity in our hearts**, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is **always** accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God will answer our petitions. Our own merit will never commend us to the favor of God; it is the worthiness of Jesus that will save us, His blood that will cleanse us; yet we have a work to do in complying with the conditions of acceptance." SC 95.3

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10. **Hebrews 11:6.** "He that cometh to God must _____ that He _____, and that He is a _____ of them that _____ seek Him."

Note: "Another element of prevailing prayer is **faith**. ... Jesus said to His disciples, 'What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, **believe** that ye _____ them, and ye shall have them.' Mark 11:24. Do we take Him at His word?" SC 96.1

"The assurance is broad and unlimited, and He is faithful who has promised. When we do not receive the very things we asked for, at the time we ask, we are still to believe that the Lord hears and that He will answer our prayers. We are so erring and short-sighted that **we sometimes ask for things that would not be a blessing to us**, and our heavenly Father **in love** answers our prayers by giving us that which will be for our highest good -- that which we ourselves would desire if with vision divinely enlightened we could see all things as they **really** are. When our prayers **seem** not to be answered, we are to cling to the promise; for the time of answering will surely come, and **we shall receive the blessing we need most**. But to claim that prayer will always be answered in the very way and for the particular thing that we desire, is presumption. God is **too wise** to err, and **too good** to withhold any good thing from them that walk uprightly. Then do not fear to trust Him, even though you do not see the immediate answer to your prayers. Rely upon His sure promise, 'Ask, and it shall be given you.' " SC 96.2 **This is faith.**

11. **Mark 11:25-26** "And when ye stand praying, _____, if ye have ought against any: _____ your Father also which is in heaven may _____ you your trespasses. But if ye do _____ forgive, _____ will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."

Note: "When we come to ask mercy and blessing from God we should have **a spirit of love and forgiveness in our own hearts**. How can we pray, 'Forgive _____ our debts, _____ we forgive our debtors,' and yet indulge an unforgiving spirit? Matthew 6:12. If we expect our own prayers to be heard we must forgive others **in the same manner** and to the **same extent** as we hope to be forgiven." SC 97.1

12. **Luke 18:1** "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought _____ to _____, and not to _____. Keep praying and don't give up if you don't see an answer right away. Read the parable in verses 2-5. Then read what Jesus says in verses 6-8. Even the unjust judge will do what the widow asks of him when she keeps asking. God is so much better than that. "He will avenge them _____. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find _____ on the earth?"

Note: "There is **no danger** that the Lord will neglect the prayers of His people. **The danger is** that in temptation and trial they will become discouraged, and **fail to persevere in prayer**." COL 175.1

"**Perseverance** in prayer has been made a condition of receiving. We must pray always if we would grow in faith and experience. ... Unceasing prayer is the unbroken union of the soul with God, so that life from God flows into our life; and from our life, purity and holiness flow back to God." SC 97.2

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13. **John 14:13-14** "And whatsoever ye shall _____ in my _____, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall _____ any thing in my _____, I will do it."

Note: "To **pray in the name of Jesus** is something more than a mere mention of that name at the beginning and the ending of a prayer. It is to pray in the mind and spirit of Jesus, while we believe His promises, rely upon His grace, and work His works." SC 100.2

14. Let us summarize the 8 conditions of answered prayer that we have learned:

- A. We must feel our need of help from him. Matthew 5: _____
- B. We must ask. Matthew 7: _____
- C. We must ask according to His will. 1 John 5: _____, _____
- D. We must not cling to any known sin. Psalm 66: _____
- E. We must believe that He will answer our prayer in the best way. Heb. 11: _____
- F. We must have a spirit of love and forgiveness toward others. Mark ____:25,26
- G. We keep on praying even if we don't see the answer right away. Luke 18: _____
- H. We pray in the name of Jesus. John 14: _____, _____

VII. The Results of True Prayer

15. **2 Chronicles 7:14** "If my people, which are called by my name, shall _____ themselves, and pray, and _____ my face, and _____ from their wicked ways; then will I _____ from heaven, and will _____ their sin, and will _____ their land."

16. **Ephesians 3:20-21** "Now unto him that is able to do _____ that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be _____ in the church by Christ Jesus throughout _____ ages, world without end. Amen."

Note: "Those whose hearts are open to receive the support and blessing of God will walk in a holier atmosphere than that of earth and will have **constant communion** with heaven." SC 99.2

"We may keep so near to God that in every unexpected trial our thoughts will turn to Him as naturally as the flower turns to the sun." SC 99.4