

Lesson 4

PRAYER

Opening Verse: Psalm 16:11

*Thou wilt shew me the path of life:
In thy presence is fulness of joy;
At thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

Introduction:

Prayer is our path of life with God on this earth, with many great benefits. Prayer is very foundational in our walk with God, as it enables us to build our **relationship** with God (*to know and depend on Him*), to **communicate** with Him (*to hear His voice, to pray in tongues, etc.*), and to **accomplish His will** (*intercession, etc.*). In this lesson, you will learn about the importance of prayer, the types of prayer, and how to pray.

Definition and Purpose of Prayer

- Prayer is the supernatural dimension of life (and fellowship) in God.
- Prayer is our process to SEEK the will of God and to SUBMIT to the will of God.
- It involves communing or connecting with God; and it is a TWO- way communication.
- Prayer must become a PRIORITY in our daily life. The Lord commands us to seek His Kingdom first above all things. (Matthew 6:33)
- Prayer is necessary for us to FULFIL God's will everyday.

2 Main Types of Prayer

1. The first type of prayer is the RELATIONAL prayer. This is important because we need to build a strong relationship with the Lord. It also prepares us for ministry prayer.
2. The second type of prayer is KINGDOM prayer. This involves ministering to others. This is the heartbeat of God since He came to seek and to save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10)

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The Power of Prayer

NOTES:

1. Prayer gets your spirit CLOSER to His!
 - When you pray, you are drawing closer to God.
 - Prayer is beneficial to you. The very act of prayer brings comfort and strength.
 - When you get close to Him, you become more like Him.

James 4:8 “*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.*”

2. Prayer changes your ATTITUDE.
 - You cannot remain in the presence of God and harbor anger, envy, strife, etc.
 - God is love. When you pray His love affects your thoughts and actions.
3. Prayer affects the ENEMY.
 - Your prayers have great impact on the kingdom of evil. Through faith and prayer, we have power over the demons!
 - Even the strongest demon must flee at the prayer of God’s elect (*Daniel chapter 10*).
4. Prayer “can” change HEAVEN.
 - Hezekiah prayed and changed the mind of God. He was to die but his prayer added 15 years to his life.
 - But no matter how we may feel about the situation, it’s the safest to **pray for God’s will to be done**, since He knows what’s best for us.
5. Prayer affects OTHERS.
 - Your prayers touch others’ hearts.
 - Your prayers are the only thing that stands between them and the devil. Your prayers change other people’s lives. ***Don’t stop praying for your loved ones!***

Prayer as our Priority

Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Psalms 5:3

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

Prayer as our Priority

1. The best time to start praying is **first thing in the morning**, when your mind is at its purest state, giving God the very first moments of your day.
 - This is relevant since one of the goals in prayer is to seek the will of God for that specific day and to follow His direction.
2. Establishing a REGULAR **place** and **time** of prayer will help you to become more consistent in your prayer time.
 - It takes 21-30 days to establish a habit, and 2-3 days to break one.
3. As you start your prayer time with God, do not set a time length but let the **Spirit** of God lead you.
 - Remember that the QUALITY of time that you spend with God in prayer is more important than the quantity of time.
4. Your prayer time with God should not be treated as a routine devotional or like a religious duty to satisfy your conscience. But let your prayer time with God become a relationship builder that draws you closer to Him each day.
5. After spending our quality time with God during the first part of our day, we should always be ready in our spirit to connect with God in prayer throughout the day or at any time of the day.

David said, “*Evening, morning and noon will I pray ...*”
(*Psalms 55:17*).

1 Thessalonians 5:17
Pray without ceasing.

COMPONENTS OF RELATIONAL PRAYER:

1. **PRAISE, Thanksgiving & Worship** – Psalm 22:3; Heb. 13:15; Psalm 95:6

“*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his court with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*” (*Psalm 100:4*)

- Begin all prayer with praise as you esteem God for His greatness and virtues.
- In thanksgiving, thank Him for all His blessings and provision in your life.

- Worship is a more intimate and demonstrative aspect of prayer. As you worship God, express your love to Him and esteem Him for Who He is in your life.

Praise is acknowledging God for *what* He has done.
Worship is acknowledging God for *who* He is.

2. **CONFESSION, FORGIVENESS & REPENTANCE**

– I John 1:9; Mat 6:14-15

- Confess your sins to God and ask Him to forgive you for anything you have done against His will - with your thoughts, actions and speech. Ask Him also to cleanse your mind, your heart and your whole being.
- You must also forgive those who have offended you since unforgiveness is a common hindrance and foothold of the enemy!
- Ask God to **CHANGE** you from your carnal thinking, selfish desires, impure motives, ungodly speech, habits, behavior, etc.

3. **CAST all your CARES unto the Lord** – 1 Peter 5:7

- Cares are burdens or anything that matters to you.
- As you give all your cares to the Lord, you will need to (1) release your control over these matters and to (2) exercise your trust in God to take care of it.
- And then your worries will be replaced by His peace.

4. **SURRENDER your will to God** – Mat 6:10; John 5:30

- You need to first surrender all of your will to God.
- Afterwards, you need to seek His will or His specific direction for that day.

5. **WEAR the ARMOR of God** – Ephesians 6:13-17

- There are six pieces of God’s armor that we need to wear before we go into spiritual warfare.
- As you pray all the parts of **RELATIONAL** prayer – you are also wearing your Armor of God.

God’s PEACE as our Spiritual Gauge

The presence of God’s peace within us affirms that we are walking in His Spirit. This is very important since it allows us to flow in His Spirit and to be led by His Spirit.

The absence of peace denotes that there is something that is hindering the flow of God’s Spirit in prayer such as: (1) any *unrepented sins*, (2) *unforgiveness* in our heart, (3) *cares* that we have not successfully casted to the Lord, or (4) part of *our will* that we have not fully surrendered to God.

- Then we remove these hindrances through prayer.

NOTES:

What about **PETITIONS**?

You can ask God for things but stating, *“let it be according to Your will.”*

Psalm 66:18

If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear me:

God may say **yes**, **no** or **wait**.

And as you grow closer in your relationship with the Lord – you will learn to become more content with whatever His answer is.

- [More details on the Armor of God in the next lesson.](#)

- [To retain PEACE, see SELF-CHECK process in the next lesson on Spiritual Warfare.](#)

COMPONENTS OF KINGDOM PRAYER:

These verses show the pattern of prayer that Jesus taught to His disciples:

Matthew 6:9-10 *After this manner therefore pray ye: (1) Our Father which art in heaven, (2) Hallowed be thy name. (3) ¹⁰Thy kingdom come. (4) Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

1. As we start our Kingdom Prayer, our **FAITH needs to be activated** - as we confess or **acknowledge God as our Father and that He is in Heaven RULING over all things.**

Then we pray under **God's leading and authority:**

2. Pray for the **Name of Jesus to be glorified**, for the power of His name to be released and to minister to the souls - for their deliverance, salvation, etc.

3. Pray for **God's Kingdom to be Manifested on earth**, as we pray and release His POWER (1 Cor. 4:20):

- to prevail over every principality, power, dominion, name, government, worldly system, religion, etc.
- to be demonstrated or manifested in signs, wonders, miracles, healings, deliverances, Holy Ghost infillings, etc.

Sample Prayer: *In the name of Jesus, I pray for Your Kingdom to come, for Your rule to expand here, and I loose the manifestations of Your Kingdom here on earth.*

4. Pray for **God's Will is done** or performed (Matt. 16:19) on earth, as you **bind and loose** things as the Lord leads you. And this always needs to be consistent with His Word.

Sample Prayer: *In the name of Jesus, I pray for Your will to be done here on earth, for souls to be convicted and converted in Jesus' name.*

Why do we need to pray for God's will to be done?

- God gave Man dominion over the earth which Man lost and gave to Satan after he sinned.
- God's throne is in Heaven and owns the whole universe but does not have dominion over the earthly kingdom.
- Christ is the MIND and we are the BODY that He uses to regain His dominion over the earth.
- It is through prayer that when we SPEAK – His power and authority is released into the atmosphere.

NOTES:

Sample Prayer:

I pray for your Name to be glorified and I release your Name to do mighty things in my home, in my neighborhood, and in my city in Jesus' name.

Sample Prayer:

In the name of Jesus, I curse the works of hell and I loose the light of Your gospel and the works of Your deliverance upon the souls here.

Sample Prayer:

In the name of Jesus, I bind the works of blindness here and I loose the revelation of Your Truth upon these souls.

Spiritual Weapons used in Kingdom Prayer/Warfare:

1. Sword of the Spirit

- The Rhema – the Spoken Word of God
- Binding and Loosing – keys to the kingdom of God
- Operated by FAITH – you hear it then you speak it

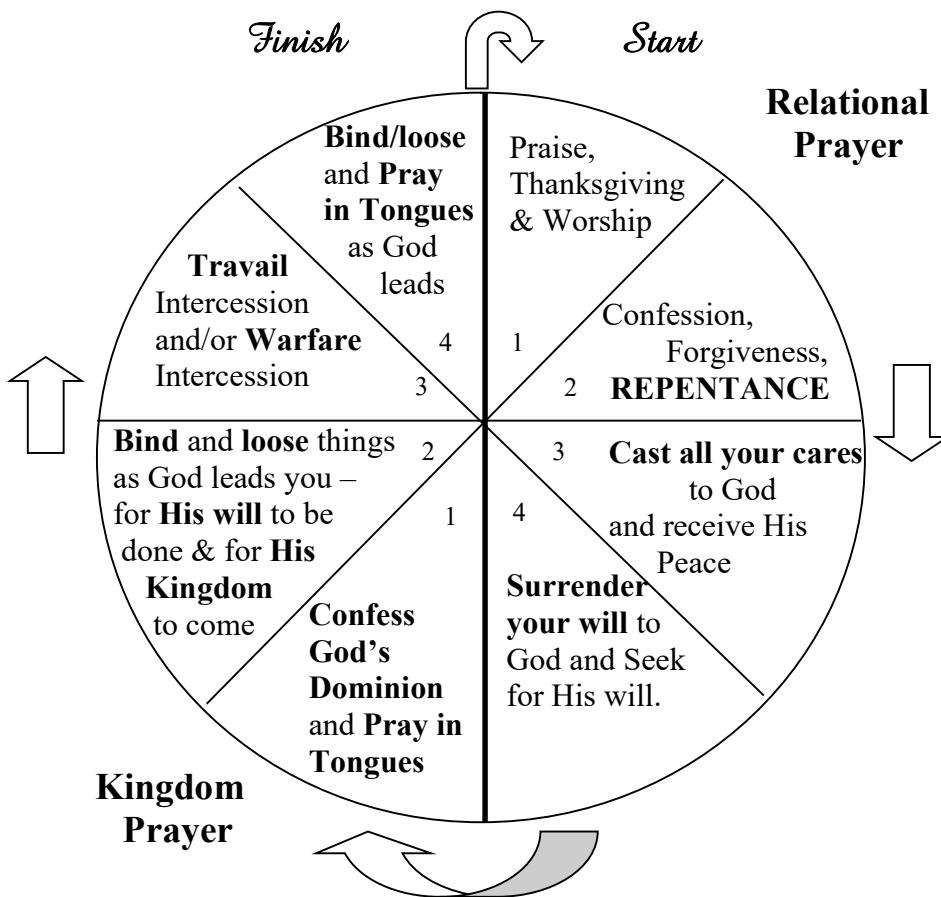
2. Praying in the Spirit (Romans 8:26)

- **Warfare** Intercession – this is when God’s authority restrains the enemy as we pray in tongues
- **Travail** Intercession – gives birth to new souls
- Travail is also necessary for the spiritual babies to GROW in Christ. (Gal. 4:19)
- We need to intercede until we PREVAIL!

NOTES

- **Binding and Loosing** is covered in more detail in the next lesson.
- **Warfare and Travail Intercession** are also discussed in the next lesson.

Daily Prayer Guide:



Examples of Ineffective Prayer:

- Absence of peace = hinders the flow of the Spirit
 - Silent or non-verbal prayer (Prov. 18:21)
 - Shallow versus fervent prayer (James 5:16)
 - Memorized prayer
 - Lack of faith OR not flowing with the Rhema
 - Lack of fasting (Matthew 17:21)
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NOTES:

Application:

- Make a personal commitment to God to PRAY daily.
- First focus on practicing RELATIONAL prayer then incorporate KINGDOM prayer in your daily prayer time.
- Experience and learn more about Kingdom Prayer during our Prayer Services.

Daily Prayer Time: _____

Date today: _____