

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

Jeremiah 33:3

Imagine yourself in a room. Imagine being in great pain. Life threatening pain. Place that pain in your heart. Add numbness in your left arm. Add burning sensations to your entire chest area. Add shortness of breath. Add fear.

Now, imagine that you know that a great physician just happens to be in the next room. Amazing grace! Now imagine yourself doubled over in agony, walking right past him, out of the building, driving home, getting a drink of water, and telling yourself that you can handle it on your own. You even curse him a little under your breath for not noticing that you were walking by his room. Surely, in his great wisdom, he sensed that something was wrong with someone nearby even though you did not call out to him. He is a great healer after all, isn't he?

The scenario sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? It is. Sadly, though, it is the same philosophy that many Christians use in their prayer life. If God knows everything about us then he should be able to anticipate our needs, help us, and heal us...shouldn't he? Why should we cry out for help? Why should we pray?

Just as the physician cannot assist the patient who does not communicate with him, God cannot help (i.e. answer the prayers) of those who do not ask Him for help through prayer. When we do pray and ask God our Father for help and understanding, he will do more for us than we ever asked for in the first place.

Some of the ways we communicate with God include, living in harmony and observing nature, praising God with music and song, feeling God's presence without the use of words, reading God's Word and communicating with God through other people. However, one of the most effective ways of communicating with God is through prayer. In this course, "**Newness of Life**", one of our objectives is for each person to develop and

mature spiritually. Effective prayer is essential in the achievement of that objective.

The first thing we must understand about prayer is that we are participating in a relationship with God. Relationships require communication and understanding. God has no problem in understanding our needs. In many cases, we are like little children, who cannot explain what is bothering us nor are we able to

even articulate our needs. In other words we do not understand ourselves. Many times we pray for the wrong thing(s).

Though prayer we begin to gain insight not only into the Character of God, but also through prayer we gain, over time, an immense understanding of ourselves. This is one of the reasons that God takes time in answering our prayers. **He wants us to understand ourselves and to begin to gain an understanding of His will for our lives.** What God wants for us is infinitely better than we can imagine.

Prayer is extremely important to God. Many people have the mistaken belief that God knows all (He does), that he knows our needs (He does), and that we are not important enough to worry God about our mundane interest/needs (Not true). Therefore, the conclusion many people draw from this is that there is no need to pray. After all, they say, why should I have to ask for what He already knows I want and need?

The answer to that is **God has given us perfect wills, the absolute ability to call upon or not to call on God. We don't have to pray. We don't have to ask. We can do everything**

ourselves. Not to pray is to say to God, I don't need your help and assistance. I don't need your love and grace. I can make it on my own.

Can you imagine, calling someone friend and never talking with them. Can you imagine thinking that you love someone, but you never tell him or her? Why is God any different? Why should God be above us never calling on Him? E. M. Bounds states in his book *E. M. Bounds on Prayer* the following: "In dealing with mankind, nothing is more important to God than prayer. Prayer is likewise of great importance to people. **Failure to pray is failure in all of life.** It is failure of duty, service, and spiritual progress. It is only by prayer that God can help people. He who does not pray, therefore, robs himself of God's help and places God where he cannot help people." Bounds goes on to say; "We must pray to God if love for God is to exist. Faith and hope and patience and all the strong, beautiful, vital forces of piety are withered and dead in a prayer-less life. An individual believer's life, his personal salvation, and his personal Christian graces have their being, bloom, and fruit in prayer."

1. Read Jeremiah 33:3. " Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know."
 - 1.1. What do you learn from this verse? _____

2. One of the individuals in the OT that God loved was David. When you examine why God loved David so much, it does not take long to understand that David and God had a very close and intimate relationship. This relationship was achieved though David's prayers, his singing and his worship.

2.1. Read and summarize Psalm 3, the theme of which is “a morning prayer for deliverance.” David sought God’s help in all adverse situations. The word “Selah” means pause in your reading at this point. Psalm 3 “O Lord, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me./ Many are saying of my soul, “There is no deliverance for him in God.” Selah. / But You, O LORD, are a shield about me, My glory, and the One who lifts my head. / I was crying to the LORD with my voice, And He answered me from His holy mountain. Selah. / I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustains me./ I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me round about./ Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God! For You have smitten all my enemies on the cheek; You have shattered the teeth of the wicked./ Salvation belongs to the LORD; Your blessing be upon Your people! Selah.”

2.2. Read and summarize Psalm 4, the theme of which is; “An evening prayer for peace.” With this type of prayer, what is happening to David? Psalm 4 ”Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Be gracious to me and hear my prayer. /O sons of men, how long will my honor become a reproach? How long will you love what is worthless and aim at deception? Selah. / But know that the LORD has set apart the godly man for Himself; the LORD hears when I call to Him. /Tremble, and do not sin; Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah. / Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, And trust in the LORD. /Many are saying, ‘Who will show us any good?’ Lift up the light of Your countenance upon us, O LORD! /You have put gladness in my heart, More than when their grain and new wine abound. / In peace I will both lie down and sleep, For You alone, O LORD, make me to dwell in safety”.

2.3. Read and summarize Psalm 5, the theme of which is; A morning prayer for vindication.



The purpose of the next four exercises (Questions 3 through 6) is for you to gain sophistication in your prayer life by examining the given scriptures closely. Think about how you can use this information in developing a closer, more intimate relationship with God.

3. David developed a close intimacy with God. If intimacy and dependency are so important to the believer, we can find numerous examples in scripture to verify this. In the next nine verses, record who, what, where and when the events took place. What trend do you notice in this exercise?

3.1. **Genesis 12:8** Who _____ What _____ Where _____ When _____

3.2. **Exodus 15:1** Who _____ What _____ Where _____ When _____

3.3. **Exodus 34:2** Who _____ What _____ Where _____ When _____

3.4. **Psalms 5:3** Who _____ What _____ Where _____ When _____

3.5. **Psalms 88:13** Who _____ What _____ Where _____ When _____

3.6.1 **Sam 1:13-15** Who _____ What _____ Where _____ When _____

3.7. **Daniel 6:10** Who _____ What _____ Where _____ When _____

3.8. **Luke 4:42** Who _____ What _____ Where _____ When _____

3.9. **Matt 14:23** Who _____ What _____ Where _____ When _____

4. **Attitude in Prayer.** Read the following scriptures and match the passage with the word or phrase that describes an attitude or characteristic found in the prayer life of a believer.

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| 4.1. Psalms 42:1-2 | looking to Him only |
| 4.2. Hebrews 4:15-16 | persistence |
| 4.3. Psalms 62:5 | desire |
| 4.4. Philippians 4:4-7 | confidence |
| 4.5. Luke 11:5-8 | without ceasing |
| 4.6.1 Thessalonians 5:17 | not anxious |



5. In each of the following verses write the condition and the promise given for each scripture.

5.1. Matthew 21:22 _____

5.2. John 15:7 _____

5.3. Matthew 7:7 _____

5.4. 1 John 5:14-15 _____

5.5. Mark 11:24 _____

5.6. John 16:24 _____

6. Read Matthew 6:7-8 and record the difference between persistent prayer and meaningless repetition. *“And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words./So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”*

7. Read the Lords Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13 and write the scriptures that contains the following aspects of prayer. The Lord’s Prayer is a **model prayer**. It teaches that our prayers should have the following elements.

7.1. Adoration/Worship _____

7.2. Confession _____



The Lord's Prayer - Albert Hay Mallotte

Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, or we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen