

KINGDOM THINKING

(A Home Study Guide associated with Impact School of Mission)

Study Guide Three // Topic: PRAYER

A four-part study examining Christian Prayer and the wonderful privilege we have as children of God, to have a real and living relationship with God.

Read and comment on these Scriptures:

Matt. 6:9-13

“In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven.....”

James 5:16b

“.....The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”

Introduction / Your Thoughts:

Prayer is common to man, but to whom do they pray? The world is constantly coming together to pray, but does God hear their prayers? Is the prayer of the world the same as Christian prayer, and if not; what is the difference between the prayer of the World and the prayer of a Christian?

Therefore:

- a) What is prayer to you?
- b) How do you know you have a living relationship with God?
- c) Does God answer your prayer?

Notes:

STATEMENT: *“Prayer is our perfect conversation with our God. It is real and continuous. It is not an event in a certain place at a certain time. It is our lifeline to Heaven through which we speak to our Heavenly Father and He speaks to us. Prayer is the Life of a Christian.”*

This study examines **FOUR** critical elements of Prayer, examining our Personal Prayer Life and our prayer responsibility in the World.

- 1. What is Christian prayer?**
- 2. My Personal Prayer Life**
- 3. Forgiveness and Healing**
- 4. Intercession and Warfare**

1. What is Christian Prayer?

Read and Discuss the following Scriptures:

Psalms 34:15-17 “ The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of their trouble.”

Prov. 15:29 “The Lord is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.”

Questions:

Whose Prayer does God hear? _____

Who are the Righteous? _____

Why does He not hear the prayer of unbelievers? _____

Read and Discuss the following Scripture passage:

Prov. 1:20-33

Analyse the various thoughts in the passage explaining God's attitude and heart.

Verse 20-23 _____

Verse 24-32 _____

Verse 33 _____

Question:

What hope is there for the wicked? Is there any prayer God will hear from them?

In your answer, consider the following Scriptures:

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Psalms 51:17 "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart – These, O God, you will not despise."

James 4:6 "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Now in Conclusion, Read and Discuss:

Hebrews 10:19-22

“ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the House of God , let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.

Your Statement:

I have a wonderful relationship with my Heavenly Father because I am

When I talk to God, He (H _____) and (A _____).

I need to make sure I (L _____).

Final Statement: *What is Christian Prayer?*

“Through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, we become the children of God. As Children of God we have the wonderful privilege to have a relationship with God our Father and to have daily fellowship with Him. We talk to Him, He talks to us. This is a real conversation and is our lifeline to Heaven and our confidence in daily life.”

“The world does not have this relationship. Unless they are repenting, their prayers are meaningless.”

“We must appreciate the opportunity we have, to have a real relationship with God, and allow that privilege to be our source of strength and courage each day.”

2. My Personal Prayer Life

2(A). God is real and when He created us, He had a certain relationship in mind. Let us examine what was in the heart of God toward us.

Read and Discuss the following Scriptures:

Gen. 3:8-9 “and they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.....” vs **9** “Then the Lord God called to **Adam** and said to him ‘Where are you?’ ”

Gen. 6:9 “This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.”

Gen. 5:24 “And **Enoch** walked with God; and was not, for God took him.”

Deut. 34:10 “but since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like **Moses**, whom the Lord knew face to face.”

James 2:23 “And the Scripture was fulfilled which says ‘**Abraham** *believed God, and it was accounted for him as righteousness*’. And he was called the Friend of God.”

Question:

When reading these Scriptures, what kind of relationship do you think God is interested in having with us? A close relationship or a distant relationship?

Let us consider what Jesus said about His relationship with us.

Read and Discuss the following Scriptures:

John 15:15 “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all the things that I have heard from My father I have made known to you.”

Prov. 18:24 “ A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Questions:

What is the relationship God wants with you? _____

Is it possible God wants to be your best friend? _____

If God has opened His heart to us, what must we do in response?

List some attitudes/qualities/behaviours that define a close friendship vs. any other relationship:

Statement: “God is God, and He is Father, but His desire is to be our greatest friend. He came to be our friend and He showed that by opening His heart to us and revealing His heart to us in His Word. NO SECRETS. Friends don’t have secrets. The only response acceptable to God, is that we also open our hearts to Him. NO SECRETS. NOTHING HIDDEN. Now we have a real relationship. Two people knitted together as one... “closer than a brother.”

2(B). (If time is gone, do this next section as a separate study)

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

All relationships must be maintained by good attitudes and communication, so let's examine this concerning our relationship/friendship with God.

There are four fundamental attitudes we need to have, to maintain our friendship relationship with our God.

A REPENTANT HEART, THANKGIVING HEART, WORSHIPPING HEART AND COMMUNION.

Read and comment on these four Attitudes:

1. A Repentant Heart

Matt. 6:12 and 14-15 “And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.”
vs 14-15 “ For if you forgive them their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your father forgive your trespasses.”

1 Pet 1:16 “because it is written, ‘be Holy for I am Holy.’ ”

Question:

Do I have any un-forgiveness in my life which is hindering my relationship with God?

2. A Thankful Heart

Psalms 100:4 “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.”

Hebrews 13:15 “ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

Questions:

Am I truly thankful for my life, knowing I can trust God and He will always take care of me? _____

How is it possible to thank God for everything in our life?

3. A Worshipping Heart

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

2 Cor. 3:18 “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the Glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Question:

How do I know I am a worshipper of God? _____

4. Communion (means “when two become one”)

John 6:53-55 “Then Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him.”

Question:

What was Jesus talking about and how can I apply this to my life? _____

Final Statement: *My Personal Prayer Life*

“It is very clear that God came into the world to become our closest friend, and His invitation to the world is an invitation of friendship, “would you like to be my friend ?” This is perfect. He is God, He is Father, but His desire is to be our best friend. Please open your heart to Him and take Him into your heart. No more secrets, no more false images, just two people sharing life together, forever in Jesus Name.”

3. Forgiveness and Healing

Statement: *“Many Christians are not free because they haven’t understood how to forgive others for the offences they have suffered in their lives. They don’t understand the power of forgiveness and the process of healing, and therefore spend their entire lives bound in un-forgiveness.*

This study will set us free from all anger and hatred, to be able to live in peace, be healed and totally restored for the things God has prepared for us.”

3a. Forgiveness

Read and Discuss the following Scriptures:

Matt. 6:12 and 14-15 “and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.”
“ For if you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Matt. 18:21-35 “**vs 35** So my Heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

Question:

From these Scriptures, what can we see is God’s heart towards us forgiving others?

So what does forgiveness do for me? If I forgive people, don’t they get away with their sin against my life, and who will avenge my pain?

Read and Discuss the following Scriptures:

John 20:22-23 “And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you remit (send back) the sins of any, they are remitted (sent back); if you retain the sins of any they are retained.’ ” (KJV)

Romans 12:17-21 “Repay no man evil for evil.....Beloved do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written ‘vengeance is Mine says, I will repay, says the Lord.’Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Prov. 20:22 “Do not say ‘ I will repay evil ’ ; Wait for the Lord , and He will save you.”

Questions:

If we do not forgive our offender, what happens to their sin against us?

If we forgive our offender, what happens to their sin?

Who will avenge/repay our offender, who will deal with our offenders?

Therefore, why is it important for me to forgive my offender, no matter how much pain and suffering they have caused me?

Statement: “*Most people think if we forgive offences, the offender gets away free. But the opposite is true. When we forgive, God takes over. He is our Father and Protector. He will avenge all offences against us. We can walk away free.*”

If we do not forgive others, we take their sin upon ourselves and are held captive to their sin. But if we forgive others, we go free and the offender is held guilty before God.”

3b. Healing

Healing is a different matter. Forgiveness is a choice. Healing is a process.

Consider the healing process as you Read these Scriptures:

Matt. 18:7 “Woe to the world because of offences! For offences must come, but woe to the man by whom that offence comes!”

Luke 17:1 “Then Jesus said to the disciples ‘It is impossible that no offences should come , but woe to him through whom they do come!’ ”

John 16:33 “.....In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Luke 4:18 “.....heal the broken hearted.....liberty to the captives.....sight to the blind.....liberty to the oppressed.....”

Question:

Why can I not avoid offences in this world? _____

What is God’s plan for me? To H ___ and R _____ my life.

Can God do that for me? _____

Final Statement: *Forgiveness and Healing*

“Jesus came to forgive, heal, and restore our lives. He taught us to forgive, so that we could forgive others and be free from the evil of this world. But forgiveness is not healing. Healing takes time and we must allow ourselves time to heal. Offences cause much pain in our lives, and as with any wound, healing takes time. Forgiveness is our choice and begins the healing process, but healing takes time.”

“Healing is a personal process and no-one can tell you when you should be healed. You are healed when there is no more pain attached to the memory of the offence, and you are free from all other effects of the offence.

Scars will always be there, but the pain is gone. Healing may take months or even years, but it will happen. It is God's promise. Forgive and be healed."

"Lord, forgive me my sin, as I forgive those who sin against me."

"Make this your daily prayer and allow your life to be completely restored to the Glory that God has destined for you."

Footnote : Don't forget to forgive yourself. Be forgiven, forgive yourself, forgive others.

4. INTERCESSION AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Read and Discuss the following Scripture:

Rev. 1:6 " and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and honour forever and ever, Amen."

Questions:

Who is talking in this Scripture? _____

Who are to be kings and priests to God? _____

What is the Role of a king? _____

What is the Role of a priest? _____

4a. Intercession

Read and Discuss the following Scriptures:

I Tim. 2:1-4 "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and the giving of thanks be made for all men,....."

2 Chron. 7:14 “If my people who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Questions:

What does intercession mean to you? _____

Who is responsible to intercede for the people? _____

Consider these Scriptures:

Luke 23:34 “Then Jesus said, ‘Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.’ ”

Ezra 10:1 “Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing and weeping, and bowing down before the House of God,.....”

Daniel 9:3 “and I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession.....”

Ezek. 22:30 “so I sought for a man among them who would make up a wall, and stand in the gap before me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.”

Question:

What is the essential purpose of intercession? _____

Isaiah 59:16 “He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; and His own righteousness, it sustained Hm.”

Question:

What is the amazing revelation we read in this Scripture? _____

Statement: *“Intercession is to stand before God on behalf of others, to seek forgiveness and mercy for them. Through Intercession God can move and*

begin to touch hearts, to forgive, heal and restore their lives. Intercession cannot save them but it will open the door for the ministry of the Father.”

“We need to intercede for our Families, friends and Nations.”

4b. Spiritual Warfare

Read and Discuss the following Scriptures:

2 Cor. 4:4 “whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe.....”

Isa. 60:1-3 “.....for behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people, but the Lord will arise upon you and His Glory shall be seen upon you.”

Question:

What is the condition of the world and what is the evidence of that condition?

Consider these Scriptures:

Eph. 6:12 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age and against spiritual wickedness in the Heavenly places.”

2 Cor. 10:3-6 “.....for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God to pull down strongholds,.....”

Matt. 16:19 “ and I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatsoever you bind on earth be bound will in Heaven and whatsoever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven.”

Questions:

How can we, the Church, help the world to see the right way?

In the context of this study, what is my personal responsibility as a priest and king?

In general terms, who should I be praying for ?

Write down a list of those in your field of influence that you should be praying for.

Final Statement: *Intercession and Spiritual Warfare*

“As children of God we enjoy a great privilege of having a personal relationship with God our Father, and this relationship sustains our life. However, while we are still in this earthly life, we also have the responsibility to work to free the people from bondage, that they may believe in the Lord and be saved. This earthly responsibility is the role of a priest to intercede before God and a king to take authority and dominion in the earth.”

“We do this for ourselves, for our families and friends, and for our community of influence.”

“Let us therefore be diligent to fulfil these roles in Jesus’ Name.”

This Concludes our Study on ‘Prayer’.

Please Note:

All Scripture references are in *NKJV*, unless otherwise noted.

This study is available in video format on the **Impact School of Mission** website:

www.impactschoolofmission.com.