



“For Everyone Who Asks Receives”
A STUDY ON PRAYER BASED ON GENESIS

By

Dr. Cornelius (Neal) Hegeman

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL SEMINARY
14401 Old Cutler Road
Miami, FL 33158
305-238-8121 ext. 315
Email, MINTS@ocpc.org
web site, www.mints.edu

“For Everyone Who Asks Receives”

A STUDY ON PRAYER BASED ON THE BOOK OF GENESIS

BY

DR. CORNELIUS (NEAL) HEGEMAN

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL SEMINARY

2002

Course Goal

The students will develop their own prayer manual for their Christian ministry based on biblical exposition, theological reflection, devotional practices and academic considerations.

Course Requirements

1. 25% Homework assignments written in personal notebook.
2. 25% Completion of prayer manual
3. 25% Attendance of 8 classes (or if correspondence, essay of 8 pages)
4. 15% Final exam (for certificate level the final exam is 25%)
5. 10% Bachelor Degree: three page report on 300 pages of reading
Master Degree: five page report on 500 pages of reading

Perspective

Andrew Murray, *“We have heard a great deal about systematic Bible study, and we praise God for thousands upon thousands of Bible classes and Bible readings. Let all the leaders of such classes see if they can open prayer classes – helping their student to pray in secret, and training them to be men of prayer above all else (The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer, p. 14).*

Christian Action

The student of prayer will be spiritually strengthened and equipped to **resist and overcome** sin, the consequences of sin, temptation and the Evil One and **worship and minister** in this world in the name of Jesus, by the power of the Spirit and to the glory of the Holy Father.

COULD YOU BENEFIT FROM THIS COURSE ON PRAYER?

Take the Survey on Prayer on the next page and see for yourself.

SURVEY ON PRAYER

1. The following religions pray to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Judaism and Christianity
 - b. Muslim and Christianity
 - c. Christianity
 - d. Buddhist and Christianity
2. Communication with the deceased saints is:
 - a. Prohibited by Scripture
 - b. Encouraged by the Scripture
 - c. A personal choice
 - d. Not a concern
3. True or false: "Regardless of one's religion, all roads lead to the same God."
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. I don't know
4. True or false. "It is inappropriate to impose a Trinitarian view of God on the Old Testament."
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. I don't know
5. When the Bible speaks of Satan, it is referring to:
 - a. A symbol of evil
 - b. A real fallen angel
 - c. An evil god.
 - d. I don't know
6. The Lord's Prayer is:
 - a. A human summary of what the Biblical authors heard Jesus say
 - b. A real prayer taught by Jesus to the disciples
 - c. A liturgical prayer of the early church
 - d. An expression of godly prayer
7. The intercession of Jesus at the right hand of God is:
 - a. The early churches perception of the resurrected Jesus
 - b. The function of Jesus as the High Priest in heaven
 - c. An expression of human hope
 - d. A figure of speech to describe the heavenly existence of Jesus.
8. The intercession of the Holy Spirit in the heart of the believer is:
 - a. The early churches explanation for the presence of God
 - b. An expression of human hope
 - c. A figure of speech concerning the nearness of God
 - d. A divine working of the Spirit of God with the spirit of a believer.
9. True prayer starts:
 - a. In the heart of people who want to pray
 - b. In the heart of believers
 - c. In the throne room of God
 - d. I don't know
10. True prayer requires:
 - a. The presence and intercession of the Holy Spirit
 - b. The voluntary activation of the human will
 - c. The intercession of the church
 - d. A need to respond to

*Recommended answer in the Teacher's Manual

STUDENT MANUAL

The student manual for ORIGIN OF PRAYER is found on www.mints.edu under new courses.

A. CLASS SCHEDULE

Preparation	Before coming to first class, obtain copy of Student Manual, read preface, introduction, chapter 1 and chapter two. Complete the questions at end of introduction and end of chapters 1 and 2. The student is to secure his/her own copy of course text: Murray, Andrew. <i>The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer</i> . Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1981. Common price is \$8:00 USA.
Classes	
LESSON ONE	Review of homework for introduction and chapters 1 and 2
LESSON TWO	Review of homework for chapters 3 and 4
LESSON THREE	Review of homework for chapters 5 and 6
LESSON FOUR	Review of homework for chapters 7 and 8
LESSON FIVE	Review of homework for chapters 9 and 10
LESSON SIX	Review for homework for chapters 11 and 12
LESSON SEVEN	Review for homework for chapters 13 and 14
LESSON EIGHT	Review for homework for chapters 15 and 16, take one hour exam.
Follow up	On your own, continue with your prayer manual

Each lesson is two hours for a total of 16 hours.

Each lesson has two hours of homework for a total of 16 hours

The special project, the development of a prayer manual, is 13 hours.

B. HOW TO USE THE STUDY MANUAL

The student will read two chapters at a time and do the corresponding homework. It is recommended that the questions and answers be written out in full. For the prayer manual, sample sheets are provided.

The student will be asked to auto-correct their own answers using the Teacher's Manual.

Class time will be spent reviewing the questions and answers in an inter-active way.

The Final Exam is based solely on the Homework assignments.

C. CHAPTER OVERVIEW

CHAPTER	TITLE	BIBLE PASSAGES	PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER	PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE
CHAPTER 1	God and Prayer	Genesis 1:1-2, 26-27; Matthew 28:19-20	True prayer is asking the true God to be glorified.	In your prayer manual, identify how your prayers are related to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Acknowledge each person and ask them to work according to their divine order. The Father is to be glorified, the Son redeems and the Holy Spirit sanctifies and perfects. 2. Go through the ASKS content for prayer. Feel free to add your own insights.
CHAPTER 2	God Communicates	Genesis 1:26; John 1:1-14	True prayer starts with God, flows through us by God, is mediated by God and returns to glorify God.	In your prayer manual, write a prayer in a language that does not use "super religious" words or "street language." In your prayers, acknowledge the source of prayer, the mediation of Jesus in prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit in prayer.
CHAPTER 3	The Person as an Image Bearer	Genesis 1:26-31	As image bearers our prayers are to perfectly reflect God's will.	In your prayer manual, make a list of what God's expressed will is for your life and how you can glorify Him today.
CHAPTER 4	God Speaks and Acts	Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 31; I Tim. 4:1-5	God speaks and acts according to His Word. We are to gratefully and joyfully participate in God's creation.	In your prayer manual write down the names and service rendered by church leaders and member who preach, teach and minister in communicating God's Word.
CHAPTER 5	Spiritual Life	Genesis 2:1-7; Acts 9:1-19	Prayer is the spiritual life of the soul.	Write down what you have "inhaled" and therefore what you have "breathed out" in your prayer life today.
CHAPTER 6	Submitting to and Receiving from God	Genesis 2:8-17; Mt. 6:5-15	The Lord's Prayer teaches that we are to submit to the holiness, will and kingdom of God and receive daily food, forgiveness and deliverance from God.	In your prayer manual, pray through the 6 petitions of the Lord's Prayer. As you meditate on them, jot down thoughts that come to mind for each petition.
CHAPTER 7	Asking, Seeking and Knocking	Gen. 2:8-17; Matthew 7:7-12	Jesus teaches that praying is actively asking, seeking and knocking for answers from God.	In your prayer manual indicate what you have asked for, search for and acted upon in prayer. Indicate in a future time how your prayers have been answered.
CHAPTER 8	Omission of Prayer	Genesis 3:1-7; Mt. 4:1-11	prayerlessness and sin are directly related.	Note the sins, and especially the secret sins that you are struggle with. Ask God to show you how your misinterpretation of Scripture is helping you justify such sin and not completely repent from it. (This page

				is confidential and you do not need to share it with others.) Ask God to show you ways in which to prevent being tempted or when tempted, how to handle it.
CHAPTER 9	God Declares War	Genesis 3: 8-15; Col. 1:16; 2:14-15	Our prayers follow Christ's victory over Satan.	Write down in your prayer manual how you perceive that the "fiery darts" (Eph. 6:16) of the evil one have attacked you. Where you protected by the Armor of God (Eph. 6:10-20)?
CHAPTER 10	Prayer and the Results of Sin	Genesis 3:16-24; Luke 4:13-21	True prayer prays through the consequences of sin seeking its reversal.	During this lesson you were asked to pray about sin and the consequences of sin. Added to that, pray for the Christian responses needed (Luke 4:18-19).
CHAPTER 11	Prayer is Restored in the Family of God	Genesis 4 –9; Luke 3:23-38	The people of God are identified by their exercise of true prayer	Make a list of your immediate and extended family. Pray for the salvation of your family members. Ask God how you can be an instrument of the gospel for your family. At a latter date revisit the list and note down how God is answering prayer.
CHAPTER 12	World Wide Communication	Genesis 10-11; Matthew 9:35-38; Acts 1-2	True prayer unites all believers in the praying for spiritual workers worldwide.	For your prayer manual select at least 10 nations where you know of people who live there or where your church has missionaries and pray for them. In order to help you, contact your missionaries and ask for their prayer letters. Also, consult with <i>Operation World</i> for their prayer list.
CHAPTER 13	Prayer Promises	Genesis 12	True prayer is based on the promises of God.	In your prayer manual, pray according to the seven levels of covenant promises.
CHAPTER 14	Intercessory Prayer and Action	Genesis 14; Hebrews 7	All believers need intercessory prayer.	In your prayer manuals jot down two things. One, give thanks to God for others who have been used to intercede for you. Two, make a list of people who need your intercessory prayers and actions.
CHAPTER 15	Covenant Prayers	Genesis 8:20-22. 9:1-17, 25-27; 12:1-4; 14:19-20; 15:1-9; 18-21; 16:7-14; 17:1-22; 18:3-15; 16-33	True prayer is always covenantal.	In your prayer manual, list your responsibilities of the covenant you are in and pray for your faithfulness
CHAPTER 16	Prayer and Reconciliation	Genesis 45	True prayer recognizes the sovereignty of God and seeks reconciliation.	Pray for reconciliation that needs to take place in your personal life, in family, in church and in the wider Christian community.

PREFACE

The motivation for writing a course on prayer for the Miami International Seminary (MINTS) students is to seek to prepare the students to aggressively use prayer as a weapon against sin and as a means of grace for worship and ministry. Prayer is the starting point of Christian living and service.

There have been certain times in my ministry where God would lead me to concentrate on prayer. Undoubtedly, we are to pray without ceasing, but there are also seasons of prayer. The summer of 2002 has been such a season for me. The load of responsibilities in working with the seminary goes far beyond my expectations and abilities. There comes a time when all you can do is pray. And what a blessed time that is! Writing this course, sensing my own inadequacy, being led to pray more fervently, reading the exciting literature on prayer and struggling through presenting the lessons as clearly as possible, has invigorated me to continue onward. I wish the same blessing to you, fellow student of prayer.

The one who writes this course is not a great prayer warrior. I admire the intercessors at Old Cutler Presbyterian Church in Miami, who Sunday after Sunday gather in the prayer requests and who faithfully place them before the throne of grace. When the list of prayer requests, which sometimes number in the hundreds, are typed up every week, I am heart broken to hear the cries for healing, stability, provision and salvation. I rejoice with those whose prayers are answered. I continue thank our loving Lord for this precious means of grace. May the gates of heaven continue to be stormed by the petitions of prayer. We cannot ever out pray Jesus, our heavenly intercessor. It is the Spirit of God who calls us to pray more fervently.

Prayer has always been a part of my life but my life has not always been lived in prayer. I am painfully aware of the times in my life where I did not pray but went ahead and sinned. I also know that tomorrow, history will repeat itself. If past experiences have any sanctifying value, I hope and pray that I will pray more and sin less today and in the future.

The course is based on a devotional exposition of the book of Genesis. The hermeneutic applied to the study seeks to be grammatically accurate, historically relevant, spiritually dynamic and Christ centric in perspective. The illustrations are drawn out our family's mission work context in the Caribbean and Latin America. Several attempts were made to be humorous and laugh at ourselves but if offense is taken I ask for forgiveness before hand.

The students will be able to use this course in four ways: traditional classroom setting; correspondence; internet and via distance education conferencing. Write us as MINTS@OCPC.org for more information. See our web site at: www.mints.edu to check out our catalog and other courses.

The student will write both questions and answers for the Bible Study, Devotional Thoughts and Academic Questions in a personal notebook. The Prayer Manual will be apart, with one page being dedicated for each lesson. It is recommended that each page in the prayer manual begin with the Principle of True Prayer for that lesson and that both prayer requests and, in retrospect, forthcoming answers, be jotted down.

It is also recommended that in order to have a transportable and useable prayer list, that after completing the regular prayer manual, the students take one piece of paper and fold the sheet into divisions of 8. Counting both sides, there will be 16 divisions. With small handwriting, the principles, petitions and responses for each lesson can be prayed over using one sheet. The prayer sheet is not meant to become a Presbyterian rosary nor is to be used as a Mennonite head covering for prayer, but it's a simple tool to help us remember the comprehensive task of prayer.

As the author of this course, I give permission to all who would like to use the course. Further permission is not needed. It would be nice to hear from you just to see how the course is going or perhaps how it can be improved. For those who would like to take the course for academic credit, arrangements can be made through MINTS to facilitate that.

Thank you, Laura Darnell, for carefully checking the grammar and sentence structure.

Finally, the heart felt desire of MINTS is to equip you for ministry. We would be honored if you were inspired to write and develop your own course on prayer or in another area of Bible, Theology and Ministry. We offer our educational services and network to you help you accomplish that. This would especially be gratifying if such courses were developed in other languages.

Yours in His service,

Dr. Neal Hegeman

INTRODUCTION

According to my knowledge, the first persons to pray for me were my parents, Rev. Cornelius and Truus Hegeman. Even before I was born, they prayed that the Creator God would bless my birth. Upon being born, prayers of thanksgiving were made. To this day, even though my father went to be with the Lord in 1981, my mother prays for me.

Both parents interceded for their six children on a daily basis. Many of their prayers have been answered and some have yet to be answered. Our parents main concern was that their children would be saved from sin, serve the Lord and be prepared for eternity. Their prayer covered our whole life span and has gone from generation to generation.

As a child I learned several formalized prayers, including ones before eating like: "Lord, bless this food for Jesus sake, amen." Meal times were special times for Bible reading and Dad's prayers. Now we have taught our children the evening prayer of: "Now I lay me down to sleep, pray Thee Lord my soul to keep, bless Mommy, Daddy, all my friends, for Jesus sake, amen."

Dad was a preacher and his pastoral prayers were offered to God every Sunday as well as during special services during the religious holidays. The prayers contained praises to God, petitions for His intervention, as well as confessions of sins.

As a teenager I do not remember praying on my own. Upon going to college and moving away from home, prayerlessness set in. I remember writing poetry, which replaced prayer. My poetry was like talking to myself rather than God. Every human being has the innate need and ability for inner communication. We are created in the image of God to have communion with Him. Yet, this need was stilted and misdirected during my college years.

Prayerlessness and temptation are good friends. My prayerless and sinful life became a frustrating experience. Yet, the prayers of my parents, who had moved to Europe, continued with me. It was not until my senior year at Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada, that I learned how to pray. God used a Christian sociology professor and latter a small circle of Christian friends, to bring me to Himself. Upon believing in Jesus as Lord and Savior a whole new world of prayer open before me.

In prayer, I committed my life to serving God. I did not have any realistic idea how that was going to work itself out. Each step of the way to realizing my life's calling was accompanied by prayer.

God graciously provided me with not only a beautiful life's partner but also a faithful prayer companion. Her steadfast parents, Sidney and Katherine

Slotegraaf, also prayed Sandra into the kingdom. Together we set out to be prepared to serve the Lord.

Upon finishing university in Canada, we moved to Grand Rapids for ministry training. Our time at Reformed Bible College set the course for our future. Not only did we meet men and women of prayer but also their focus was worldwide. How can we forget the enthusiasm of the dean of student, Bill Vermuelen, who invited students to his and his wife Gladys's home for Friday evening prayer sessions. I remember Bill unfolding the map of the world on his living room floor and announcing that we were going to pray for the whole world. We did. And all of us at that prayer meeting were sent throughout the whole world.

After university, Bible college and seminary, we finally became full time missionaries. For 12 years we worked as church planters and Christian educators in the Dominican Republic. The incredible growth of the *Iglesia Cristiana Reformada*, which surged from 40 attendees in 1981 to over 9,500 in 1988, was accompanied by spontaneous evangelism, simple Bible preaching and prevailing prayer by mission supporters and church members.

In learning how to pray, over the course of my life, I am convinced that the most effective prayers are Biblical prayers. As we pray God's Word back to Him we will see the wonder of such prayers being answered. In the words of E.M. Bounds, *"The Word of God is made effectual and operative by the process and practice of prayer."* And again... *"The Word of God is the food by which prayer is nourished and made strong. Prayer, like man, cannot live by bread alone, "but by every word which proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord."*

In this study we will examine the origin of Biblical prayer as revealed in the book of Genesis. The student will see that prayer originates with God and that it flows through God's people into the world and back to where it came from. The student will be challenged to see that all of life is to be covered with prayer. THERE IS NO CHRISTIAN MINISTRY WITHOUT PRAYER. CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IS APPLYING GOD'S SOLUTION TO HUMAN NEEDS. ALL MINISTRY NEEDS TO BE EXERCISED IN PRAYER. GOD IS THE PRIMARY MOVER IN MINISTRY.

HOMEWORK

EXERCISE

Think through your personal encounters with prayer. Write out a one-page chronology of your prayer life history in your prayer manual.

CHAPTER 1

GOD AND PRAYER

Genesis 1:1-2, 26-27: Matthew 28:19-20

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER. *True prayer is asking that the true God to be glorified.*

The longest recorded public prayer of Jesus begins by: *“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you”* (Jn. 17:1). True prayer is when we ask God to be glorified in our asking and that God be glorified in His answering.

God’s glory is the perfection of His being, actions and words. In order to know the glory of God we must know God’s perfection. This perfection is known in Jesus.

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word” (Hebrews 1:3).

The Psalmist exhorts:

*“Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is He, this King of glory?
The Lord Almighty,
He is the King of Glory (24: 9-10).*

In prayer the “gates of our heart” are lifted up for the Lord to enter. Samuel Zwemer, one of the pioneer missionaries to the Muslim world writes:

“True prayer is God the Holy Spirit talking to God the Father in the name of God the Son, and the believer’s heart is the prayer room” (*Into All the World*, p. 160).

To experience the glorious prayer life that all of God’s people testify to, you must come to God through faith in Jesus. This faith will lead you to pray.

BASIC COMPOSITION OF PRAYER

True prayer consists of a person speaking with the true God. Immediately we can identify the four basic components of prayer: 1) God; 2) a person; 3) in the context of the world; 4) speaking with God. In order for true prayer to exist all four dimensions have to be in place (Richard Pratt, Jr., *Pray with your eyes open*, chapter 1, mentions three dimensions: God, communication and prayer).

The perspective of this course is that prayer is to be theocentric (theo: god). It will be shown from Scripture that prayers starts with God and by God's Spirit influences the human spirit to speak with God (Andrew Murray, *The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer*).

Amy Carmichael, a late nineteenth and early twentieth century missionary to India writes:

*Love through me, Love of God,
Make me like Thy clean air
Through which unhindered, colors pass
As through it was not there.*

*Powers of the love of God,
Depths of the heart Divine,
O Love that fainteth not, break forth,
And flood this world of mine.
(If, preface)*

There are four contrary ways to define prayer, according to our simple paradigm of prayer, would be to pray to a false god (idolatry); concentrate on the person praying (anthrocentric; anthro: man; humanism, existentialism); over emphasize the content of the prayer (ritualism); or the nature of the context (naturalism, contextualization). Prayer to a false god originates with man's sinful nature. The anthrocentric perspective sees prayer as the product of human efforts and spirituality. The ritual view emphasizes the praying of formula prayers in order to please God. The contextual view sees prayer as a human response to world needs and conditions (see D.G. Bloesh, "Prayer," *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, p. 866-867).

The people who pray act according their God given image bearing qualities. Mankind was made to reflect the glory of God in all area of life. Due to sin, mankind seeks to glorify anything but the true God. The sinner's prayers are like car headlight shinning straight into the eyes of the driver rather than shinning on the pathway of life. The lights work but shine on the wrong object.

The contents of human prayers can be varied. For our purposes we will summarize the contents of Christian prayers with the acrostic ASKS. Throughout the course we will explain these dimensions of prayer in more detail.

- A. Adoration of the triune God.
- S. Submission to the holiness, will and kingdom of God
- K Knowledge of sin and confession of sin
- S Special petitions, service opportunities and thanksgiving.

CHART A. "ASKS" ACROSTIC

- A** **Adoration of Triune God**
- **Father**
 - **Son**
 - **Holy Spirit**
- S** **Submission to God**
- **His holiness**
 - **His will**
 - **His kingdom**
- K** **Knowledge of sin**
- **Confession of sin**
 - **Forgiveness and reconciliation**
 - **Deliverance**
- S** **Special petitions**
- **Service opportunities**
 - **Share thanksgiving**

GOD'S SELF IDENTIFICATION

True prayer is speaking with the true God. Those who speak with false gods may very well be involved in the exercise of praying and but their prayer cannot be considered true prayer. When the Buddhist prays to Buddha, the Muslim to Allah, the Jehovah Witness to their idea of Jehovah, the Mormon to their definition of Elohim, are they calling the wrong number?

One of my uncles was fed up with his home number being mixed up with a local pizza delivery place. People would regularly call his home to place take out orders. Eventually, he began to take the orders and give them great discount prices. The pizza place changed its number in a hurry realizing that their customers were calling the wrong number and receiving false hope.

The Bible helps us get the right number so we can pick up the right order. In prayer we need to know WHOM we are speaking to. The Bible is God's Word about Himself. We must turn to Him and hear from Him in order to know the truth about prayer. Scripture teaches us that unless the Spirit of God works in our hearts, we do not pray as we ought (Romans 8:26,27). True prayer starts with the true God.

The Biblical revelation of God begins in Genesis. God reveals Himself as an all powerful and personal God. When Moses wrote in Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth," he identified the true God by name. Elohim refers to the sovereign creator God who made the universe out of nothing and who by His Word and Spirit brought the creation into existence. Most monotheistic religions, such as Christianity, Islam and Judaism, would agree on that statement. However, Christianity goes much further. Since Jesus identified the true God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19-20) and commissioned his followers to disciple all nations in that name, the Christian associates Elohim with the tri-unity of God. The grammatical make-up of the name Elohim affirms the Christian claim. Elohim is plural (im). Christians believe in the plurality of divine persons of God and singularity of the essence of God.

Within the Christian tradition of Bible interpretation there are those who reject the association of Elohim with Jesus or the Trinity. It is argued that the Biblical interpretation must be tied to the human author's intention and understanding of what he was writing. Obviously, Moses did not know the mystery of the tri-unity of God when he wrote Genesis 1:1. The personhood of God is fully revealed when Jesus came as a person to earth and revealed the persons of the Godhead (Mt. 28:19-20). Plus, the interpretation of Scripture cannot only be tied down to the knowledge level of the human author. Scripture is foremost the Word of God and the intention of the divine author needs to be carefully discerned as we compare Scripture with Scripture. The Bible is its own best interpreter (II Tim. 3:16-17).

God is not only revealed as Elohim. Other names for God in the Old Testament include Adonai (Lord), El Elyon (God Almighty), El Shaddai (All powerful God), Sabbaoth (Lord of hosts); Yahweh (personal God, eternal being) as well as a variety of names used with adjectives (God provides, God is peace, God is my banner, etc). All of the names of God of the Old Testament are translated into two generic names in the Greek: Theos (God, for Elohim, Elyon, El Shaddai, Sabbaoth) and Kurios (Lord, for Adonai and Yahweh). When doubting Thomas finally believed in Jesus he confessed him as “my Lord and my God.” (Jn. 20:28). In Jesus we come to know the Lordship and personhood of God.

God does not leave Himself without a self-witness. God came down to earth to identify Himself. The Bible witnesses to who the true God is. God’s self-identification is Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:1-3). If you and I are not willing to accept God’s ability to identify Himself, His right to identify Himself and His graciousness in identifying Himself to us, then we have no sure way of knowing God nor praying to Him. On the contrary, we hold as a self-evident and reasonable truth that if God exists He is able and willing to make Himself known and He has done that through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-3).

NON-CHRISTIAN PRAYERS

Is Jesus present in non-Christian religions? Nineteenth century and early twentieth century liberals sought to make that claim. The resounding response from non-Christian leaders was that Christians were patronizing them by claiming that their religion was a less developed form of Christianity. Orthodox Biblical scholars have resisted the temptation of making a “world religion Jesus.” If Jesus did not try to be “Mr. World Religion’s Savior” why should we attempt to place him in that position?

Do non-Christians pray to the same God as Christians? Before we answer that question, it needs to be said that the Christian God is different than all other gods. Only Christians believe that the only true God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Jewish faith rejects Jesus as the Son and the Holy Spirit as God. The Jehovah Witnesses, like the Muslims, do not affirm the eternal Fatherhood of God (that He forever has a Son) or the Holy Spirit as God. The Mormon posits that Adam became Elohim and that we can become gods. The Hindus and other polytheist have the persons of the Trinity among their pantheon of God. Even within the Christian tradition there are those who advocate communicating with the dead (be they loved ones or saints), contacting deceased or living spirits, and speaking with angels, something that is prohibited in Scripture (Dt. 18:11). We could go on and on in our search for the Biblical God but we will only find Him through Christ’s revelation to us (Mt. 28:19-20).

Even though the non-Christian concept of God is erroneous, thankfully God through his omniscience (all-knowing) is capable of knowing about sinful prayers and in His sovereignty He is able to use them for His purposes.

CHRISTIAN PRAYER

When Christians pray, they pray to the only true God: to the Holy Father, by invitation of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. During this course on prayer the role of the triune God will be explored in the prayers of the patriarchs of the book of Genesis. The historical events and prayer life of the patriarchs in Genesis will be compared and interpreted in light of all of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. All of Scriptures speak about God. The history of the coming of the Savior is filled with witness about God and examples of prayer. The Christian affirms the Ten Commandments in which the first commandment forbids the believer to come into the presence of God with false gods. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, he replied that when they prayed they were to pray to their Father in heaven. When Jesus came he revealed the personhood of God and commissioned his disciples to go forth in that name (Mt. 28:19-20). The apostles taught, "no other name has been given under heaven by which men can be saved" (Acts 4:12). Since we believe in one God in three persons, we cannot plead ignorance and pray prayers that ignore one of the three persons of the Godhead. The law, the teachings of Jesus, the Great Commission, the apostles and all of Scripture teach us that true prayer requires praying to the true God. Christian prayer will be different than the prayers of non-Christians. Christians are to pray to God that the Spirit of God will prepare the hearts of non-Christians to pray to believe in Jesus and so glorify God.

When you pray, are you calling the right number?

HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 1

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 1. *Genesis one introduces us to the true God. Jesus Christ has revealed the personhood of the true God and our prayers are to*

personally relate to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and glorify the only true God.

BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 1

1. What does Elohim mean and what are the implications of such a name?
2. A Mormon believes that Adam became Elohim. How would Genesis 1 contradict such a view?
3. A Jewish rabbi would say that Elohim refers only to the multiplicity of the attributes of God. What would your response be?
4. A Jehovah Witness does not believe that Jesus is part of Elohim. How would you respond?
5. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus reveals the personhood of God. Why is that important?
6. What do the Ten Commandments teach about the true God?
7. What does the Lord's Prayer teach about approaching the true God?
8. What does the Great Commission teach us about the true God?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR CHAPTER 1

1. How do your prayers differ from the prayers of those who are not Christian?
2. How is the triune God related to your prayer life?

ACADEMIC QUESTION FOR CHAPTER 1

1. George Barna shows according to his year 2000 research that 26% of professed born again believers hold to the position that one can come to God through different world religions. How would you reflect on that?

READING FOR CHAPTER 1

Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*, chapter 11.

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 1

1. In your prayer manual, identify how your prayers are related to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Acknowledge each person and Their work according to

Their divine order. The Father is to be glorified, the Son redeems and the Holy Spirit sanctifies and perfects.

2. Go through the ASKS content for prayer. Feel free to add your own insights. (An example of a prayer is given in italics).

FATHER. *Thank You, heavenly Father, for showing who You are through Your Son Jesus Christ. If it were not for Your Son, we would not have known You as we ought. When I think of Genesis 1, I want to praise You for Your marvelous creation and the power of Your Word and providence.*

SON. *Praise be to the Son of God, through Whom we may know and come to the Father. We acknowledge the mystery of Your being and work and by faith we accept Your teachings as summarized in the Great Commission. I acknowledge Your participation in the creation, knowing that only He who made us can save us.*

HOLY SPIRIT. *Holy Spirit, the Ruah Elohim of Genesis 1:2, we praise You for bringing order to the chaos, for instilling natural law and upholding the universe in accordance to the Word. We pray that You will instill in our lives the divine order which pleases the Father.*

- A.** *I adore and praise God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit for being the creator and provider of the universe.*
- S.** *I pray that I will submit to God's holiness, God's will and God's reign as I witness to the true God and as we are stewards in Your creation.*
- K.** *I acknowledge that my sinful heart is a factory of idols. Left on my own, my prayers and thoughts about God go in the wrong direction. I do not praise, adore, believe and follow You as I ought. Bring me back to your Word, Your Son and by Your Spirit. Guard our hearts, homes and churches from idolatry.*
- S.** *Thank-You for Your grace and mercy in hearing my prayer. Use me to be a witness to the truth of Your being and work.*

Special prayer requests

CHAPTER 2

GOD COMMUNICATES

Genesis 1: 26; John 1:1-14

THE SECOND PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER. *True prayer starts with God, flows through us by God, is mediated by God and returns to glorify God.*

The glory of God is communicated to the believer by God's Word. This glory returns to God in prayer that is according to God's Word and in our own language. In this chapter it is shown that the triune God speaks and that God speaks in our language and to our heart. This allows us to respond back to Him in prayer.

THE PERSONS OF THE TRINITY SPEAK

From Genesis 1:1- to Genesis 1:26 we observe that the triune God communicates. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit speak to each other (1:26). Even before humanity was created there was holy communication in the throne room of God. We cannot imagine what the voice of God sounds like but we know it is very powerful, for when God spoke during creation; the elements of the universe came into existence. The New Testament records the conversations of the triune God (Mt. 3:16,17).

How does God speak to us today? It is common for believers to say: "The Lord told me" or "the Lord spoke to me." In my curiosity I have sometimes asked if He spoke in Victorian English (King James English) or New International Version English (more contemporary). Such knowledge would be helpful for Biblical scholars to decide which Bible version is the standard and authoritative text! However, most of the time I know what the believer is saying: "God impressed on my heart and mind a certain knowledge." We are speaking about how the Holy Spirit guides us. We already know how Jesus spoke, so any claim to visions and communications with Jesus need to measure up to the well defined standards of the words of Jesus in the four Gospels. Scripture records several instances where the Father spoke audibly and so any claim to hearing the Father must be in conformity to His own revelation in the Bible. No exceptions to a 100 % confirmation of Scripture is allowed. Scripture instructs us not to add or take away from Scripture (Rev. 22:19). Our knowledge of God must be 100% correct less we suffer the reward of the false prophets. The triune God has given us the Bible, His Word. We are to discern all knowledge and claims about God by His Word. For reason, Christians gladly embrace the teaching that the Scripture

alone is the final authority for our conscience, for the church's teachings and practices, and for all of the activities of society. When God speaks, we must know for sure.

GOD SPEAKS NORMAL HUMAN LANGUAGES

When Jesus spoke with the people, it was in their language. When God inspired the Biblical authors, it was in their language. God speaks all human languages and thus we can speak normally with God.

We are not on buddy-buddy speaking terms with the Almighty Architect of the universe! One of the strangest prayers that I have heard was in the cafeteria of the London Baptist Bible College, where as a visiting pastor I was eating lunch with the students. As was the custom, a student opened with prayer. The young man, with long curly hair and a 1960's type t-shirt and pants, prayed something like: "Hey big guy, good to talk to ye, looking forward to eating some of this stuff you gave us. Hey man, thanks a lot." A few of the students laughed out loud. Who was that dude talking to?

On the other hand, there are dudes who pray for their food in a special religious tone and in ancient theological languages. "We come to Thee, O Thou heavenly Creator, Supreme Ruler of the Universe, bend Thy ever gracious ear to our heartfelt prayer and extend Thy hand of mercy to us unworthy and hell bound sinners and grant that we might partake of this earthly food with humble and contrite hearts. We pray to Thee, not because we deserve one small morsel of Thine divine benefits but because we seek to see Thee glorified in the fulfillment of Thine own teaching: "Give us this day our daily bread." May our participation in this earthly food be ever accompanied by Thy divine food, so that our Word hungry souls and Spirit parched lips be ministered by Thy presence. In His precious name we contritely and humbly pray to Thee. Amen and Amen. "

Uh, didn't Jesus just say: "Give us this day our daily bread?"

The 16th century Protestant Reformation and the tremendous growth of the Evangelical churches throughout the world today have everything to do with the Spirit led translations of the God's Word into the normal language of the people. Knowing that God speaks our language should motivate us to speak in our language to God.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GOD AND MAN NEEDS COVENANT MEDIATION

For God to communicate with human beings and for us to communicate with God there has to be mediation. God and man are not equal. As created creatures, we are dependent on God and God does not depend on us. Yet, God wants to relate with us and He teaches us how to relate with Him. Such a relationship is called a

covenant. God covenants with Adam and Eve before the fall and after the fall. The covenants continue in unbroken succession from Adam to Noah (Gen. 6:18), Abraham (Gen. 15:18), Israel (Ex. 24:8), David (Ps. 89:3) as well as foretelling the new covenant through the prophets (Jer. 31:31) until Jesus came (Lk. 22:20). (Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*, p. 3).

Scripture instructs us that before the world was created, God established the eternal covenant in which the Son is the eternal mediator (Eph. 1:3-14; Hebrews 13:20). Even before humanity fell into sin, they needed mediation. Christians believe that Jesus intercedes for the people of God. He prays for us! Before the world was created, Jesus became our covenant mediator. Not only does Jesus intercede for us in heaven but also the Spirit intercedes in our spirits. "For the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with the will of God" (Romans 8:27). We will take a closer look at the interceding work of the Son and Spirit in subsequent chapters.

Because God knows who we are as creatures, sinners and struggling saints, He has provided intercession. For this reason Christians become exceedingly bold in prayer. Our prayers do not depend on our efforts and prayers, but they are covenant appeals to Jesus to pray to the Father for His will to be done. The believer's appeals to Jesus are based on the promises of the Word of God and the promised power of the Holy Spirit. Christian prayer is not simply speaking with God but appealing to God to fulfill His Word because of His Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

There are many seeking to pray to God without relying on the mediation of Jesus. They try hard in appealing to non-divine intercessions; in fact they try a lot harder than we do. I have seen Mexicans crawl in their knees to the shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico City, seeking to impress their intercessors, the virgin, the saints, and through them, God. Yet, when Jesus gave an example of prayer, he pointed to the sinner standing at a distance from the temple, who beat his breast and said, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner" (Lu 18:13).

GOD'S SPIRITUAL COMMUNICATION WITH PEOPLE

God's Spirit also speaks to the heart of the believer. How do we know if the Spirit of God is working in our spirit? When the Holy Spirit is working redemptively in us, our heart and mind is turned to Jesus. "*Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus is cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit*" (I Cor. 12:3). During the Old Testament, only a Spirit inspired believers looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. Job confesses: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth" (Job 19:25). In the presence of Christ and by the Spirit of God Peter professes about Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt. 16:16). Jesus reminded Peter that, "for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven" (16:17).

The Spirit led heart truly confesses Christ and prays (Acts 9:11). The inspiration for such prayer comes from God through the Spirit, is mediated through Jesus Christ, is prayed by the believer and returns to glorify the Father. It is a spiritual circle that cannot be broken by principalities and powers on earth or in hell.

Do you speak with God in your own language? In the privacy of your heart and personal life, do you converse with God? Any sense of inadequacy of “Oh, I don’t know what to say,” must be overcome by an act of faith, responding to Jesus who also taught His disciples how to pray. Submit your life to Christ and pray according to His Word. Pray God’s Word back to Him.¹

When we pray God’s Word back to Him we are speaking His language. The Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path (Ps. 119:105). The Word of God comes from God and our souls are to absorb the Word. When we pray, we pray the Word back to God. This way the light of heaven flows through our soul and returns back to heaven.

Let us teach our children, the members of our church, as well as the leaders of our churches to pray God’s Word back to Him. A short and sincere prayer based on a faithful interpretation of Scripture is far more valuable than the liturgical and man centered prayers which try to tell God what to do.

In one of my trips to Cuba I had reason to believe that a couple, who had recently come to church and had enrolled in our theology course, were secret informants of the government party. As a missionary teacher I did not have objections to them being there. They were very pleasant and freely participated in theological discussions. At the close of one of the session, I asked the wife to close with prayer. She looked at me, with anxiety in her eyes and said, “Rather not, I don’t know what to say!” Their cover as evangelical believers was blown. Virtually all evangelicals, be they men, women or children, pray. Believing is not just knowing, it is also depending on God in prayer in a small group setting. The couple did not return to study. Another special visitor took their place.

If you were arrested for praying according to God’s Word would there be enough evidence of His Word in your prayer to convict you?

¹ Students have asked me about the value of praying in unknown tongues. The apostle’s Paul argument in I Corinthians 14 is to show the greater value of speaking in your own tongue since you know what you are saying. Praying in your own language gives you opportunity to interpret whether or not you are speaking according to God’s Word. I have uttered prayers that were sinful and thankfully, by God’s Word and Spirit, I have been corrected.

HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 2

SUMMARY FOR CHAPTER 2. *True prayer comes from God, is mediated by the Son and Spirit and returns to God. Prayer conforms the heart of the believer to the will of God.*

BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 2

1. How do we know that there was communication among the triune God before humanity was created?
2. How do we know that God speaks normal languages?
3. Why do people need Jesus' intercession for their prayers?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR CHAPTER 2

1. What does it mean to come to the Father in the name of Jesus?
2. Why does your prayer life need the intercession of the Holy Spirit in your life in order to pray?

ACADEMIC QUESTION FOR CHAPTER 2

1. Reflect on God's use of human language. Does God have his own language?

READING FOR CHAPTER 2

Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*, Chapter 2.

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 2

In your prayer manual, write a prayer in a language that does not use “super religious” words or “street language.” In your prayers, acknowledge the source of prayer, the mediation of Jesus in prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit in prayer. Before you pray, read from the Word in areas of your concern. In your prayer use the ASKS paradigm. An example of prayer requests are given in italic letters.

WHAT PART OF GOD’S WORD IS SPEAKING TO YOU TODAY?

i.e. Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

God’s Word shines so I need to walk by its light in this spiritually dark world. When the Spirit of God illuminates the Word in my life through faithful obedience in prayer and service I reflect that spiritual light back to God.

Life is a path along which I need direction from God’s Word. Jesus said that He is the way, the truth and the life.

HOW DO YOU NEED TO PRAY TO GOD TODAY?

- i.e.*
- A.** *Thank the Lord for prayer since I live in a dark world.*
 - S.** *Pray for a willing spirit to submit to God’s holiness (separation from sin and dedication to God’s will); pray for submission to God’s will rather than my own will; pray that God will reign and rule in my life and communities, rather than my self-reign.*
 - K.** *Acknowledge that I have strayed when I did not listen to God’s Word. Pray for forgiveness for ourselves and others in the areas where we have strayed. Asked for the strength to reconcile with others, to forgive others. Pray for deliverance from darkness and straying from the path.*
 - S.** *Thank the Lord for His mercies. Ask for opportunities to let the light of God’s Word shine in every area of life.*

Special prayer requests

CHAPTER 3

THE PERSON AS AN IMAGE BEARER

Genesis 1:26-31

THE THIRD PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER. *As image bearers our prayers are to perfectly reflect God's will and so glorify Him.*

The human being is very special to God. Humans are the only creatures made in His image. As image bearers we are the only creatures who pray to God. Prayer is not simply communicating (angels speak with God and so communicate) but humans communicate and spiritually commune with God. The highest calling which human beings have is to be in spiritual communion and fellowship with their God. In Scripture the Psalmist speaks of delighting in the Lord (Psalm 37:5). The greatest joy we can have is to enjoy God and be like Him. Only by following Jesus and being filled by God's Spirit is that possible.

In this chapter the image bearing qualities of people, the distortion of our image and the priority needed as image bearers will be examined.

IMAGE BEARERS OF GOD

God made Adam and Eve in His spiritual image. Human beings have a special relationship with God that angels and animals do not have. Part of being an image bearer of God is to be able to commune and relate with God like no other creature. Part of this special relationship is prayer. In prayer the Spirit of God communes and interacts with the spirit of men in a way He does not do with angels or animals.

Christians also fall into a state of spiritual independence and ungratefulness. When Christians plop down around the table and start eating without saying thank-you to God, they are doing little to distinguish themselves from the unbelievers and even the animal world.

IMAGE BEARING AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD

For the image of God to be able to function the Spirit of God needs to be present and active. One cannot be an image bearer of God without God's presence. The presence of God in the believer is the presence of the person of the Holy Spirit. He shares God's attributes in people (communicable attributes: also known as the fruit of the Spirit), God's communication and action gifts for the church (gifts of the Spirit) and God's providence for the world in general. In prayer the presence of the Spirit of God is acknowledged.

People are properly functioning as image bearers of God when their life reflects the will of God. How do they know the will of God? God has revealed His will in His Word. The Spirit of God makes the Word of God real to the believer. The Word instructs us to give thanks, to pray, for all things, both the good and the evil. All good things come from the hand of God (I Tim. 4:1-5) and all evil things can be confronted by God and turned to the good (Rom. 8:28-39). For that reasons Christians pray over all things asking that God's will be done and that God alone be glorified.

Prayer is the defining mark of a spiritually functioning image bearer. It has been said that a person best understands himself when kneeling in prayer. In prayer we bow, *koram Deo*, in the presence of God. Paul exhorts believers to "pray without ceasing." Our hearts and our spirit are to be continually bowed in the presence of God. Only then can we spiritually be image bearers of God. Then believers become a spiritual letter written by God for all to read.

When others get to know you, what do they read? Is their attention turned to:

- a. your spirituality
- or b., religion
- or c., their own spirituality
- or d., the glory of God for His grace and love to save sinners?

DISTORTED IMAGE BEARING

When human lives reflect something other than the will of God as expressed in the gospel of repentance and faith in Jesus then they are imaging something other than the true God. Due to the fall of humanity into sin, sin distorts the image of God. Sin causes people to reflect something other than God. Sin is always void of true faith and true prayer.

The distortion of the image of God is seen in the prayer life of the people of the world. When a Muslim suicide bomber is willing to blow himself and others up in the name of Allah, one has reasons to doubt Allah or question the bombers communion with God. Praying Roman Catholic soldiers and the infamous Inquisitors martyred our Protestant forefathers. Where the martyrs who were burning at the stake speaking with the same God as the Inquisitors? Today the Protestant movement harbors and tolerates those who promote the killing of the unborn children. Liberal Protestants are proclaiming to be born again, peacemakers and agents of reconciliation, yet they support the slaughter of unborn children. The Christian churches are filled with adherents who pray to the dead, communicate with spirits and trust in special angels. God the Father is called Mother and the Son is set besides Sofia.

While distortions of spirituality are many, a form of religion and image bearing remains in the sinner. For example, all human beings speak with God, whether

they realize it or not. The atheist carpenter, who strikes his thumb with a hammer uses God's name in vain. The reason atheists hate and curse God is that God exists and has made the atheist with the ability to speak with God. The atheist is filled with unrealized frustrations, because he is created to think about God, speak to Him and serve Him, yet his philosophical and psychological presuppositions do not permit him to express himself. The pantheon of false gods and religions is evidence that man is made in the image of God and that this image is distorted by sin.

Is the true God the fulfillment of the misplaced and misdirected religious aspirations of non-Christians? Is truth the fulfillment of falsehood? No, truth is antithetical to falsehood, they are opposites. Therefore, the image of man needs to be reborn, redirected and transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Our image bearing qualities does not make us gods. That would be a contradiction in categories. Only one God can exist at one time. It is impossible to have two or more gods who are equally omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. Only one God can be all-powerful, all present and all knowing or else they would ultimately clash with each other. Only if God is God can we properly be image bearers. If we are gods, then our image bearing capabilities is simply a reflection of our selves and we would be caught in an egotistical never ending circle which a variety of world religions finds themselves in.

Many people are content with the contradictory religion they have and exercise. Prayers are conducted out of habit and in times of emergency. Jesus warns all who confess the name of the Lord that unless they repent from sin and do the will of the Father, they will not enter the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 7:21-23).

People who do not pray to the true God are incredibly deceived. Even the Deceiver knows about the true God, yet he has millions of people in the world speaking to themselves, speaking to idols made by man, speaking to creation, speaking to false gods and demons, or not speaking at all. The deception needs to be uncovered and exposed by the truths of Scripture.

IMAGE BEARING PRIORITY

True prayer empowers the believer to be a spiritual image bearer. The world, the church and we ourselves need to glorify God more than anything else. Jesus began His longest public prayer with: "Father, the time has come, glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you" (Jn. 17:1). Here we see perfect image bearing. The Father glorifies the Son and the Son glorifies the Father. The Son glorified the Father by offering to the Father His perfect work of redemption. The Father will glorify the Son in giving Him reign over the Kingdom. By faith, we behold Jesus reigning at the right hand of God the Father and by faith we know the Lord's prayers are being answered on earth.

To glorify God the believer goes to the reigning Son in prayer. The believer prays to the Father to glorify His Son by fulfilling the promises made to the Son. The believer prays that sin, temptation, the devil, demons and all forms of evil be rejected and overcome. This is based on Jesus finished work, His present reign and future victory. The believers pray to God's will to be done in one's life, in the family, at work, at play, in church and in the different spheres of life. We ask that God be glorified through His Son in all areas of life.

If God cannot be glorified in any particular area of your life, then you as a believer do not have any business being there. The Conqueror demands all (Psalm 2).

When God looks in your mirror will He see Himself?

	WORSHIP	
	CHURCH	
FAMILY	IMAGE OF GOD?	PHYSICAL
MARRIAGE		MENTAL
SOCIETY		SPIRITUAL
	WORK	
	STEWARDSHIP	

	WORSHIP	
	CHURCH	
FAMILY	IMAGE OF YOU?	PHYSICAL
MARRIAGE		MENTAL
SOCIETY		SPIRITUAL
	WORK	
	STEWARDSHIP	

HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 3

SUMMARY CHAPTER 3. *As renewed image bearers of God people's prayers are to reflect God's will by faithfully obeying the Word of God and so glorify Him..*

BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 3

1. What is the image of God in a person?
2. If a person is an image bearer of God then how is their prayer life suppose to be?
3. What has sin done to the image of God in a person? How is that shown?
4. According to the author, what has to happen in order for the image of God in a person will be restored and function properly?
5. How is true prayer part of the renewed image believers have?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR CHAPTER 3

1. What was the content of your prayers for today? Did your prayers reflect the truth of God's Word? Can you verify that?
2. In our prayer life, how do we image our fallen nature?
3. In order to not image our fallen nature, how then should we pray?

ACADEMIC QUESTION FOR CHAPTER 3

1. Compare the prayers of a Muslim and a Christian and show how they differ

READING FOR CHAPTER 3

Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*, chapter 1

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 3

In your prayer manual, make a list of what God's expressed will is for your life today and how that glorifies God . Remember that we are made in God's image, we are to reflect His holiness, will and reign and not ours.

God's will is determined by what He reveals in His Word. God's moral will is manifest in the Ten Commandments, the teachings of Jesus (i.e. Sermon on the Mount), the Lord's Prayer, the Great Commandment, the Great Commission and other mandates of the Lord in Scripture. Jesus said: "If you love me you will keep my commandments."

It is God's will for my worship life....*that I worship Him in Spirit and in Truth (Jn. 4:24), together with His people (Hebrews 10:25), so help me to glorify You by submitting to Your Spirit, Your Truth and Your Church.*

It is God's will for my church life....*that I be a faithful member in the Body of Christ, obeying His Word and commandments for the Church. Also, God has called me to be a minister of His Word. So help me to glorify You in being faithful in interpreting and communicating Your Word.*

It is God's will for my service to Him....*that I commit my whole life to following the Lord Jesus. Help me to glorify You by submitting all my thoughts, words, actions and relationships to You.*

It is God's will for my inner personal life....*that I live by the new nature which the Spirit gives to God's people. Help me to die to the old nature and live by the new nature.*

It is God's will for my marriage or single life....*that as a married person I be faithful to our marriage vows and that our marriage be a relationship where God is glorified.*

It is God's will for my family life...*that our home be a spiritual haven for all the members of the family. We will glorify God through following Christ, regularly observe family devotions, attend worship services and seek to serve the Lord together.*

It is God's will for the protection of human life....*all of life is sacred. I pray that my words, actions and relationships will honor the sacredness of life, from conception to natural death, and I pray for opportunities to help others do likewise.*

It is God's will for being honest....*I confess that I would like to cheat on my tax forms, not pay our tithe and rob others of the time and resources that are due to them. Help me not to gossip or talk behind other people's back. Rather than talking back and become bitter when people offend me, help me to pray for them.*

It is God's will for my work....*that I work as to the Lord. Help me to be faithful in the ministry that You have given to me. Be with those whom I work with.*

It is God's will for justice....*I recognize that justice is an attribute of God and all of life is to reflect this perfection. Forgive me when I have been unjust in relationship to others. Help the church to be a community of reconciliation for sinners and separated peoples.*

Special prayer requests

CHAPTER 4

GOD SPEAKS AND ACTS

Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 31; I Tim. 4:1-5

THE FOURTH PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER: *God speaks and acts according to His Word. We are to gratefully and joyfully participate in God's creation.*

A lot of our talk is all words and no action. Not so with God. When God speaks, everything happens according to His Word and for His glory. In this chapter we examine God's actions in creation, history, through the Bible and in our hearts. Because God speaks, we have the joy and privilege to speak with Him. Our hope is that when we pray according to His Word that our prayers will not be words only but a commitment to do God's will.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH CREATION

The creation of God is a wonderful textbook about the existence, the power and purposes of God. Sometimes, without speaking an oral or verbal word, God communicates his marvelous glory (Ps. 19:1).

Has a sunrise or sun set evoked a prayer of praise to your great Creator? That should be our normal response. When we find ourselves not responding to the awesomeness of God's creation we need to ask God for forgiveness. God deserves to be glorified for His creation. To be anything less than grateful for God's creation is sinful. Paul writes:

"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected (i.e. marriage, foods) if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer" (I Tim. 4:4,5).

The Christian farmer, teacher, policeman, preacher, mother, father, son or daughter goes about their duties with gratefulness to God and as joyous servants of God. Since we know that God's creation and God's care for the world is intrinsically for the good, we enthusiastically respond. For this reason it should not surprise us that Christians are among the best workers in the world.

The general rule of thumb is that if we can pray for God's blessing on our work then we should work until the blessing is complete. If we cannot pray for some aspect of our work, then we should question ourselves if we should be doing it.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HUMAN HISTORY

Does the beginning of human history evoke responses of praise and adoration to God from us? What is more praise worthy? One, that man evolved from the

animal kingdom and at a certain moment in time received the image of God? Or, man was made from mud and at a certain moment in time, on the sixth day of creation, God created man and endowed him with spiritual life and he became a human being? Are we made in the image of God or in the likeness of the animals? Does God hold us responsible as maturing animals or persons made in His perfect image?

Our responses to the origins of human history and human life will affect our prayers. Biblical Christians are appalled by slaughter of millions of unborn children every year. The reason is that Christians believe that human children bear the image of God at conception. Jesus became human upon conception, not at birth. Christians not only pray for the unborn children at risk of murder but they pray that adoption, fostering, friendship circles, family bonds and parenting responsibilities and opportunities will be realized.

There are certain historical events that evoke prayer. When the Muslim terrorists directed the passenger filled airplanes into the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington D.C. there were a variety of prayers offered. Some said: "Praise be to Allah!" Others prayed to the Father through Jesus for mercy for the victims' families and protection for America. The nations prayers at the Washington cathedral was a more civilized demonstration of the contradiction of pluralistic prayer meetings as Buddhist, Christians, Jews, Muslims and people from other faiths offered their prayers to their gods. Yet, one historical event brought opposite responses to different deities.

Perhaps the time of life where prayer is most associated with is at the time of illness. Even atheists are known to secretly pray for the recovery of a terminally ill loved one. It is also true that atheists have expressed their frustration at God for allowing someone to die. All modern atheistic societies have finally capitulated to the fact that the "God idea" cannot be eradicated. Human experience and history will not allow atheist to ignore God.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE BIBLE

Besides the mighty acts of God in creation and His continuing presence in human history, God speaks to us through the Bible and special theophanies. Most importantly, God has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-3), the Word made flesh (John 1:1,14).

In reading the book of Genesis we recognize that God also speaks to us through giving us a Bible. Obviously Moses was not present at the time of creation in order to give an eyewitness account. Yet Moses was not ignorant about the origin of the universe and of man. Oral tradition had been passed on to his day and He was chosen and equipped by God to write these down in readable form. God provides Scripture for us so that we may know God's point of view.

So we are not speaking about a God who whispers sweet nothings into our soul. There are a lot of deceived people who think God has spoken to them but He has not. How do we know? Everything He speaks is absolutely true, biblically sound and Christ centered.

So you think that God speaks outside of the Bible? I am sure God is able to speak to us outside of the Bible, but if he does choose to do so, what he says will not be counter biblical but affirm what He has revealed in the Scriptures (John 17:17; II Tim. 3:16-17).

God speaks to us through the Bible. Spiritually we discern that He is confronting and guiding us. The fact that God has given us a Bible means that He want to communicate with us. This implies that God is a personal God who seeks to relate to us.

Birds communicate with birds and rabbits with rabbits. Melinda, our daughter, had a pigeon and a rabbit and she put them in the same cage with a divider. Somehow the rabbit jumped over the divider and got in with the bird. Poor rabbit! One day, to make more room for the growing rabbit, we decided to let the pigeon go. To our surprise she kept coming back. We didn't want to put her back in a cage so we hung her feeder from the eave trough. Day by day the white pigeon would come back and every once in a while several other white pigeons would accompany her. You should see the flock of free feeders on our roof! Do the white pigeons have a special communication between them? I will need to ask a pigeon scientist about pigeon communication patterns but the Bible clearly says we are made in the image of God and so we have the special ability to communicate with God.

GOD SPEAKS TO US AND WE ARE TO RESPOND

The Bible is the clearest way in which God speaks to us. When the Holy Spirit speaks to us, we can discern his message to us through the Word. When the Spirit speaks He is preparing us for action. And, when the Spirit gives of Himself, he prompts us to respond and to ask of Him. Andrew Murray writes:

“Christ said, ‘Ask, and it shall be given.’ God’s giving is inseparably connected with our asking. He applies this principle especially to the Holy Spirit. As surely as a father on earth gives bread to his child, so God gives the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him. The whole administration of the Spirit is ruled by the one great law: God must give, we must ask.” (The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer, p. 23).

James said; *“You do not have because you do not ask God”* (James 4:2).

If I were to tell you that the Bible is a book filled with promises that we may pray back to God, wouldn't you want to ask God to fulfill His promises? What Biblical promise have you asked God today to fulfill?

GOD ► CREATION ► HISTORY ► BIBLE ► JESUS ► SPIRIT ► YOUR HEART

HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 4

This summary statement is made by Redeemer College (Hamilton, Ontario, Canada) Students at the Camp Shalom Student Spiritual Retreat, January 1994, in response to studying *The Origin of Prayer*.

God speaks to us through His Word, through creation and through other people. This shows us that He is a social God who desires to communicate with us, His creatures. When God speaks, we are to acknowledge His power and authority. We can have confidence in Him. We can trust that He has a purpose and order. He will fulfill what he says He will do. God also holds us responsible as image-bearers. He wants us to communicate with Him. We must fulfill our part of that relationship and speak to Him as well as listen to what He has to say.

BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 4

1. How does God speak to us? (Gen. 1:1).
2. Where did Moses get his information about God to write Genesis 1?
3. What does it say about God that he speaks to us?
4. When God speaks, what happens (Gen. 1:3)? Why is that important?
5. Who was God speaking with in Genesis 1:26?
6. How can we be sure that God is speaking to us?
7. How are we to respond to God's creation?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR CHAPTER 4

1. If God speaks, we need to listen. How have you listened to God today?
2. God speaks through His Word. How have you listened to God's Word today and what did God say?
3. In light of what God has said to you today through His Word and Spirit, what are some things you need to talk to God about?
4. Are there matters that you want to praise God for today?
5. Are there matters that you need to confess before God today?
6. If your confession has to do with another person, are you willing to go speak with the person in order to seek reconciliation?
7. Have you asked God permission to pray for non-believers today, people who need to come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and God?
8. Do you have some unanswered prayer concerns you would like to share?
9. Are you gratefully and joyfully serving the Lord. If not, ask for the joy of the Lord in all areas of life.

ACADEMIC QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 4

1. Prove from Scripture that the Bible is the Word of God.
2. Prove from Scripture that Moses is the author of Genesis 1:1.

READING FOR CHAPTER 4. Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*, chapter 10.

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 4

In your prayer manual write down the names and service rendered by church leaders and members who preach, teach and minister in communicating God's Word. Pray for their ministry, families and personal walk with God (use back of church bulletin or church directory....its good to pray through the directory!)

Preachers _____ *I pray for the preachers involved with our family. Be with Mike Khandjian, Greg Branson, Matt Lomenick, and Greg Hauenstien of Old Cutler Presbyterian Church. Be with Allen Vander Poll, Richard Gainer, Dick Stevens of Cape Coral Reformed Church, my supervising church; be with Patrick Eduardo, our Canadian mission support Church.*

Teachers of: Children _____ *Be with Marilyn, Kristi, Jan, Lori, Sandy, Susie and Karen as they work with the Children's ministry and preschoolers.*

Youth _____ *Be with Matt, Christi, Jeremy and Lori as they work with the Youth Ministry. Be with youth workers at the schools and in after school programs. Be with Christian school teachers and Christians teaching in Public Schools. Be with the parents with youth at home.*

Adults _____ *Be with the counseling, adult education, music, adult ministries and administration programs in our local church.*

Leaders _____ *Thank You for Christian leaders in the church, in Christian agencies and throughout society. We pray for the leaders of the land (I Tim. 2) as well as our church leaders .*

Trainer of teachers and preachers _____ *I pray for leaders who have been set aside to train Christian leaders. Help them to lead by teaching and modeling Christ.*

Radio and TV broadcasters _____ *I pray for the ministries who use mass media to present the gospel of Jesus Christ. Help them to be faithful to Your word.*

Evangelists _____ *I pray for those who train the church in evangelism so that the gospel will go out to unbelievers. Help me to be an evangelist. Apologists _____ Help us all to defend the faith.*

Bible Translators _____ *Thank-You for those who are called to translate the Scriptures into the language of different peoples. Thank-You for the agencies that are dedicated to this task. Help them to be faithful to Your Word.*

Bible distributors _____ *Thank You for distribution of the Bible in so many different languages. I pray especially for the distribution of Bibles in the closed countries. I pray that people will learn to read so they can read the Bible.*

Christian authors and literature distribution _____ *Thank-You for calling authors who interpret and explain God's Word for all areas of life. Help them to be faithful.*

Christian music and drama _____ *Thank You for the many talents given to musicians and actors. Help them to be faithful in communicating the Word through those means. Thank you for music we can use to praise You.*

CHAPTER 5

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Genesis 2:1-7; Acts 9:1-19

THE FIFTH PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER. *Prayer is the spiritual life of the soul.*

The glory of God is experienced in the soul of the one who truly prays. There is no greater spiritual joy as believing God's promises and experiencing answered prayer. We are made physical and spiritual beings and praying is to the soul as breathing is for the body.

PHYSICAL LIFE

God created man from dust. The Bible says that Adam was made from dust and upon death he would return to dust. Evolutionist scientists continue to search for the "missing link" which will explain the evolution of animal to man. Such a link does not exist. The first man was made from dust and the evidence that this is so is seen in the decomposition of human bodies back to dust after they die. The beginning of the matter is as certain as the end of the matter. The "missing link", for the evolutionist, is found in the cemetery. The dust of the cemetery offers more empirical evidence than all of the reconstructed bones wired together in the museums. Even the evolutionist turns to dust.

As MINTS is teaching students in the Cuba it is interesting to read the reflection of Cuban students on evolution. Evolution has not only been taught as a biological fact but also as a social and religious fact. Jaimira writes: "After the honest evolutionist has climbed and descended the mountains and valleys in search of truth, he will find on top of the mountain a group of Christians who have affirmed the truth of God's creation all along."

SPIRITUAL LIFE

The Bible also says that Adam was made a living being by "the breath of God." The evidence that the "breath of God" formed our soul is that our spirit not only returns to its maker but also communicates with its maker. Augustine put it this way:

"You have made us for Yourself, O Lord; and our heart is restless until it rests in You."

Adam was made from dust and God breathed life into him and he became a living being (*nepes* in Hebrew and *psyche* in Greek). Without absolutizing the categorical distinction between the human soul (*nepes, psyche*) and the human spirit (*ruah, pneuma*) it must be said that the unbeliever is spiritually dead. All

human beings are spiritually dead in their trespasses and sins (Rom. 3:10, 23; Eph. 2:1-4). To be spiritually dead means that the inner life of a person is unable to respond to God and live spiritually (in the Spirit). The child of God must be born anew spiritually (regenerated) (John 3:3,5), receive a new spiritual nature (Eph. 3:16; 4:23,24), live in the workings of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 2:20; 5:16-26) and by faith in God and His Word (Rom. 10:17), walk in relationship to God. True prays flows out of a Spirit directed soul.

PRAYER LIFE

The rich language of the Bible allows us to speak of true prayer as spiritual breathing. Prayer is a sign of spiritual life in the soul of the believer. Symbolically speaking, our prayers need both inhaling and exhaling. Traditionally we associate prayers with the exhaling activity, the communication of praise, adoration, confessions and petitions. Where does inhaling come into the picture? The answer lies with God: His Word and the Holy Spirit. In order for us to exhale we need the substance that we inhaled. The quality of prayer we exhale is indicative of the quality of air we inhale.

In the words of the hymnist Edwin Hatch:

*Breathe on me breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.*

Daniel Iverson wrote:

*Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.*

*Soul of heaven, heart of God, wash over me.
Cleanse me, teach me, hold me, reach me.*

*Holy presence, love divine, cast out my fear.
Shield me, free me, call me, lead me.*

How is your spiritual breath?

STUDY GOD'S WORD ► INHALE GOD'S WORD ► PRAYER ► EXHALE WORD

HOME WORK FOR CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY FOR CHAPTER 5

God made man body and soul. The spiritual side of man consists of his soul and spirit. The Spirit of God, which created man, also dwells with man. Prayer is the spiritual response of the spirit of man to communicate with God.

BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 5

1. What two main substances is man made of?
2. How does prayer relate to the Holy Spirit?
3. Is prayer a dialogue or a monologue?
4. Why does true prayer need to come from a regenerated spirit?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR CHAPTER 5

1. In order to spiritually expire we need to spiritually inhale. What have you taken in from God's Word today that you can pray back to God?

ACADEMIC QUESTION FOR CHAPTER 5

1. Find the opinion of an evolutionist about the origin of prayer. Compare that with your own view.

READING FOR CHAPTER 5

Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*, chapter 12.

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 5

Write down what you have “inhaled” and therefore what you have “breathed out” in your prayer life today.

Word of God “breathed in.” What Scriptures have you read today and what did you learn from them.

i.e. Psalm 1:1 says that a man is blessed who:

- 1. does not walk in the counsel of the wicked*
- 2. does not stand in the way of sinners*
- 3. does not sit in the seat of mockers.*

Prayers to God “breathed out.” In relationship to the Scriptures you have read you pray. You can use the ASKS paradigm.

- A.** *Thank the Lord for warning us against the wicked, for giving us truth to recognize the wicked, for offering salvation for wicked people, for giving us the power of the Spirit to strive against wickedness.*
- S.** *Recognize that God is holy and completely separated from sin. Ask that His will be done and His kingdom be established through you.*
- K.** *Acknowledge that if it were not for the grace of God we would still be in wickedness and would be mocking God. Ask for forgiveness and ask for protection.*
- S.** *Thank God for His truth and ask that you may defend His truth.*

Special prayer requests

CHAPTER 6

SUBMITTING TO AND RECEIVING FROM GOD

Genesis 2:8-17; Mt. 6:5-15

THE SIXTH PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER: *The Lord's Prayer teaches that we are to submit to the holiness, will and kingdom of God and receive daily food, forgiveness and deliverance from God.*

The central and deepest human need which is expressed in all of the major world religions is to commune with the Divine. Only in Christianity does the Divine come to earth and teach believers how to pray. In this chapter we examine how believers are to listen, speak and walk with God. The Lord's Prayer is our model.

LISTENING, SPEAKING AND WALKING WITH GOD

God spoke with Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve spoke with God. Prayer is speaking with God in response to God speaking to us. When the believer responds to God's he needs to respond according to God's standard, according to God's Word.

In the Garden of Eden we notice that as long as Adam and Eve were obedient to God's Word their prayers were unhindered. What was the Endemic model for listening, talking and walking with God? The first words of God to Adam came in the form of a command (2:16). For humans to walk with God there had to be obedience to the Word. The commands given were not difficult to keep. All they had to do was keep their hands off the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The moral questions of good and evil were to be left to God. They were called to trust God and obey His Word and God would take care of the rest.

Adam and Eve's walk with God was accompanied by the promises of blessings and curses. God's blessings and curses were pronouncements of His favor and disfavor. The blessings of God are promised but they are to be searched for. The blessed Edenic state was not just an automatic approval and provision by God, but required willful obedience. Prayer, the human communication with God, would be a central part of such obedience.

When Adam and Eve did not consult with God, when they confronted their temptation. In prayerlessness, they fell into sin. However, God did not abandon Adam and Eve and the descendants who called upon His name (4:24). God would continue to walk and talk with His people. Throughout the Old Testament we read about how God visited His people. We read about the coming of the Angel of the Lord (malak adonai). He came to Hagar, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Gideon and others. God instructed His people to build special meeting places such as altars, a tabernacle and the temple. However, the supreme visitation

came in the coming of Jesus Christ. Here God Himself visits with His people. When Jesus came, he taught His disciples how to talk and walk with God.

Thousands of years latter, with the coming of the Lord and Savior Jesus, temptation was confronted and defied. In Matthew 4 we find Jesus in the dessert, preparing for 40 days and 40 nights, in order to be tempted by the Evil One. As we witness the temptation of Jesus, we see how different He approached temptation as compared to Adam and Eve. In fact, with the victory of Jesus over Satan, secured by defeating Satan and evil through the cross and resurrection (Col. 2:14-15), now through faith in the risen Lord, the harmony of Eden is restored, the shalom (peace) of walking with God is real.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The disciples were taught how to listen, talk and walk with God. Jesus taught them the **Word of God**, the **Lord's Prayer** and the **Law of love**. The disciples were called by Jesus to pray according to God's Word and to walk in conformity to God's law. The model of prayer is the Lord's Prayer (Mt. 6:5-15) and the model for living is the gospel fulfilled Law (Mt. 5:17) as taught in the Sermon on the Mount.

Prior to teaching the disciples the Lord's Prayer Jesus related to them how nauseating it is to the Father to receive prayers from religious hypocrites. The hypocrites were faulted in two major ways: publicly parading their prayers and vain repetitions.

Since prayer is intended to be the communication between God and people, then those who pray should not simply pray to be seen by men. Jesus adds that the prayers made in private would be answered in public and that those prayed in public have already received their reward: the recognition of the hearers. This teaching has at least two implications. One, we should fervently pray in private and praise God for the answers in public. Two, our public prayers are to instruct and motivate believers to pray in private. It is a sin for pastors to use pastoral prayer time as a replacement for their own private prayers or as another opportunity to preach a mini-sermon. Pious public prayers are especially tempting for conservative Christians (Liberals tend not to pray so much). Is our zeal for public prayer matched and outdone by private prayers? Calvin writes:

"This is the sum of it: whether one is alone or in company at prayer the attitude to adopt is to think of God as one's witness, as though shut off in an inside room."
(Harmony, Vol. 1, p. 203).

Jesus also discourages the vain repetitions of our prayers. The Father is not deaf as if not to hear our prayers plus He is omniscient and he knows our prayers even before we pray them. Arminians, who believe that the exercise of the human will as the key factor in living the Christian life, are prone to over

emphasize the role of the human efforts. All means are used to persuade the human will as well as the will of God. People resort to the ridiculous to show God how sincere they are in prayer. Screaming, swaying, swooning, groaning, crying, laughing, slapping, vomiting and you name it, has been tried to persuade God.

When I lived in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, I was coming home a bit late one evening and I walked past a storefront church. The sidewalk where I was walking went the length of the church building and there was a window right by the platform and pulpit. The visiting evangelist had preached and was now praying with the people who came forward. The evangelist had both hands on the head of the one of the kneeling men, shouting, "Crea, crea, crea!" (believe!) The poor man was uttering to himself, "No puedo, no puedo, no puedo" (I can't). It would have been much better if the evangelists had prayed to God rather than struggled with the unbeliever.

Calvin, speaking to the conditions of the Roman Catholic Church of his day, observes:

This condemns, of course, the superstition of those who trust they will win merit with God for long mutterings: precisely the error we may see affecting the Papacy, where the highest virtue in speaking is reckoned to be wordiness" (Ibid).

Rather, Jesus personally invites us to speak with His Father in heaven. Such a divine invitation must not go unnoticed. The fact is, since Jesus openly invites all who hear His invitation to come to the Father, we must joyfully respond and boldly come before the Father in prayer.

So, **who** do we pray to? Jesus calls us to speak directly with the Father. "Our Father, in heaven." Jesus presents us to the divine person of the Father. Do you know that Christianity is the only world religion that believes in a divine Father? Christianity is the only religion in the world that believes in a divine Son and divine Holy Spirit. So, here Jesus cuts through the whole barrier of idolatry in which people want to pray in the name of Allah, Buddha, Confucius, Jehovah, Mother, the angels, spirits, the saints, the popes, the pastors and you name it. Hogwash on all the idols and its accompanying idolatry, we are to come directly to the Father and speak with Him in the name of Jesus and by the drawing power of the Holy Spirit.

Do you realize how liberating it is to know that you may personally speak with the only true God? We can throw all of our prayer crutches away and upon the invitation and commission of the Lord, speak directly with the Father. To do less is disobedience to Christ.

How do we come in prayer to God the Father? Jesus teaches us that we are to come seeking and asking for His holiness, His rule and His will to be done.

“Hallowed be your name.” Holiness is separation from sin. Notice that Jesus did not require our holiness as a precondition, but the recognition of and seeking for the holiness of God’s name. If our holiness were a precondition to prayer we could never pray (1 John 1:9). If we truly believe that God is holy, then we will come in humility and repentance before God. Then we ask God for separation from sin and a dedication to His will and reign. We ask Him to forgive our sins of commission and omissions, our known sins and unknown sins. Prayer starts with recognizing God’s holiness and our own unholiness (Is. 6: 1-5).

When the believer prays for God’s will to be done he must recognize that his own will needs to submit to the will of God. Only the will of God is sovereign. The “my choice” generation will be silenced if they pray the second petition seriously.

The believer prays for God’s kingdom to come. We ask that His rule and reign be manifest in our lives and communities. We know that God rules through His Son, by His Word and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Are you submitted to God’s will to reign with Christ in all areas of your life?

There are three **necessities** for living the Christian life we need to ask for: daily bread, forgiveness of debts and deliverance from evil. Notice that all of these petitions include others: our daily bread, our debts and our deliverance. We need to pray for the provision of the daily needs of our neighbors as well as ourselves, we are to resolve the conflicts we have with others and we need to be delivered from evildoers.

The Lord’s Prayer was not meant to be a ritualistic formula prayer. There is nothing wrong in memorizing and repeating it, but that in and of itself is not the purpose of the prayer. The Lord’s Prayer is a model for praying. It is a real prayer, taught by Jesus and is recorded by both Matthew and Luke. We need to daily reflect on the powerful petitions of this prayer. Martin Luther, in speaking about praying through the Lord’s Prayer observed:

“It often happens that I loose myself in such rich thoughts in one petition of the Lord’s Prayer and then I let all other six petitions go. When such rich good thoughts come, one should let the other prayers go and give room to those thoughts, listen to them in silence and by no means suppress them. For here the Holy Spirit Himself is preaching and one word of His sermon is better than thousands of our own prayers. Therefore I have often learned more in one prayer than I could have obtained from much reading and thinking.” (Martin Luther’s Quiet Time, p. 18).

When you pray the Lord’s prayer, do you sense God speaking to you about His will for your life?

HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 6

Summary statement by Redeemer College Students. *“Prayer is speaking with God. We are able to speak with God because of our special relationship that we share with Him. Unlike animals, we are made in God’s image and we are able to communicate with Him.*

As God’s children, God calls us to come before Him with humility and deep-rooted assurance that He will meet our needs.

Our model for prayer is the Lord’s Prayer. Christ instructs us to use the imperative form of the verbs. This shows confidence in God’s providence.

From the beginning God’s walk with man was accompanied by obedience. In obeying God’s command we become perfect. God commanded us to be perfect by living by faith in Jesus Christ. We cannot be perfect without having communion with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 6

1. How did God first speak with Adam? (Gen. 2:16)?
2. What attitude was necessary for Adam and Eve to talk and walk with God?
3. Did Jesus prescribe to Whom we are to pray? (Mt. 6:9)?
4. What relationship is there between public and private prayers? (Mt. 6:5-8).
5. What does the first petition of the Lord’s Prayer require of us? (Mt. 6:9).
6. How does the will of God relate to our will in prayer? (Mt. 6:10).
7. How does the kingdom of God relate to us in prayer (Mt. 6:10)?
8. What are the three communal necessities we need to pray for (Mt. 6:11-13)

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR CHAPTER 6

1. When you prayed today, what command of God were you obeying?
2. Please describe in your own words the God to whom you are praying.
3. What does Jesus have to do with your prayer life?
4. The Lord’s Prayer is made up of 6 petitions (requests). How would you put these requests in your own words and pray them to God?
5. Take of the petitions of the Lord’s Prayer and pray about it. What thoughts were impressed on your heart about that petition?

ACADEMIC QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 6

1. How does the introduction “Our Father” in the Lord’s Prayer shatter all idolatry?

READING FOR CHAPTER 6

Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*, chapter 5.

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 6

In your prayer manual, pray through the 6 petitions of the Lord’s Prayer. As you meditate on them, jot down thoughts that come to mind for each petition.

Invitation by Christ to pray: *Thank-You, Lord, for the gracious invitation to pray directly to the Father. Help me always to go directly to the Father as You have taught me. Guide me by Your interceding Holy Spirit.*

Father’s holiness; *We praise Your holiness. Thank You that You are perfectly and completely separated from sin. As I submit myself in prayer to You, may Your holiness fill my spirit, soul and body. May I break away from unholy relationships and be totally consecrated to Your service.*

Father’s will: *I pray that my will shall be submitted to Your will.*

Father’s kingdom: *I pray that You will rule in my heart, home and in every relationship I am involved with. Show me how I can repent and be more faithful in following Jesus (Mt. 4:17; 6:33).*

Daily provision. *I thank You for the daily provisions You have given today. I know there are many others who need help. May You use me to be a blessing to others.*

Forgiveness of Sin. *Forgive me of my sins of today, whether they be thoughts, words or actions. Show me my secret sins. Help me to truly forgive others and not only say that with my lips but show that in action.*

Deliverance from evil. *Thank You that You seek to protect my soul from temptation and evil. Help me to be wise to avoid temptation and help me to be faithful in the midst of evil. I pray especially for the persecuted church.*

Special prayer requests

LORD’S PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER	SUBMITTING TO	FATHER’S HOLINESS FATHER’S WILL FATHER’S KINGDOM
Submission to Father Invitation by Son Power of the Holy Spirit	RECEIVING	OUR DAILY BREAD OUR FORGIVENESS OUR DELIVERANCE

CHAPTER 7

ASKING, SEEKING AND KNOCKING

Gen. 2:8-17; Matthew 7:7-12

THE SEVENTH PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER: *Jesus teaches that praying is actively asking, seeking and knocking for answers from God and receiving, finding and openings being made by God.*

God wants you to pray. He wants you to actively ask, seek, knock...in other words, to go after His promises. Why do you think God wants us to pray to Him?

JESUS AND PRAYER

Praying is a sign of spiritual life functioning in a person. Jesus was known as a man of prayer. Not many of his prayers are recorded in Scripture but we do know that He delighted to personally be in the presence of His Father through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The contents of prayer are taught by Jesus in the Lord's Prayer (chapter 6). The believer's attitude in prayer is addressed in Matthew 7:7-12. The three-fold injunction to ask, seek and knock is to be part of our prayers.

ASKING AND RECEIVING

Those who ask will receive. "*For everyone who asks receives.*" At least two divine principles are operative in this first exhortation. One, all things are to be asked for. Two, all things need to be given. The believer is to ask for all things according to the will of God as revealed in Scripture (James 4:3). All things are to be received in thanksgiving (I Tim. 4:4-5). Life is a continual history of God giving and humanity receiving. Even the unbelievers receive from God's gracious hand (Mt.5:45). God in his omniscience knows all things and knows what we need even before we ask him. Yet He instructs us to ask! Why? That we may recognize Him as the giver of all things and be thankful for all things that He gives. God in his omnipotence is able to give all things. When we receive His gracious provisions, let us praise Him for His power, His providence and His common mercies. God in His omnipresence is not only in heaven, but His presence is everywhere. There is not a corner in the whole universe where His presence does not reach. Therefore, we can ask of His Spirit in whatever place or whatever situation we find ourselves (Psalm 139). *Our prayer life needs to be filled with asking and thanking God for all things.*

During World War II, missionaries in Peru were affected by the financial stress caused by the war. On particular day, the Savage family found themselves without food and without the means by which to acquire the food. Rev. Savage

gathered his family around him and stated that he believed God would provide. Mrs. Savage set the table and the children took their places. While they were seated, there was a knock on the door. To their delight, an Indian lady stood there with food from the countryside. She had walked for several days to get to the city. The Lord had laid a special burden on her heart for the well being of the Savage family.

SEEKING AND FINDING

Those who seek will find. "*he who seeks finds.*" Seekers are those who are without something and need to find provision. Jesus gives of the comparison of the evil fathers who respond to the needs of their asking sons and the heavenly Father who responds to the needs of His children. With this comparison the Lord concludes the obvious: "Of course the heavenly Father will answer prayer and respond to your needs. *Our prayers need to be seeking prayers.* Are you lacking anything in order to serve the Lord? You may ask that He would supply according to His will.

As student in preparation for mission work, we were tested early on in relying upon the church and others for financial support. Our financial support to go for missionary training in Mexico for the summer of 1978 had not come in. Several churches had been asked. It was not until the very last week that two church offerings came in. Without the one church knowing what the other church was going to give, the amount came to within 5 cents of what was required. Some may interpret this as mere coincidence or luck, but then under the sovereignty of God luck does not exist. Others have interpreted this form of financing as reckless and irresponsible, however, the disciples of Jesus were sent out in a similar way (Matthew 10). For us it was yet another confirmation that we were to be involved in mission training.

KNOCKING AND OPENING

Finally, the praying believer is to knock. "*and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*" Sometimes we would like to knock the door down in order to receive a certain answer to prayer. On other occasions, we fail to knock at all because of disbelief. Yet, the Lord commands us to knock and look for the door to be opened.

The Miami International Seminary was started in 2000 and by 2002 the Hispanic program had 21 study centers in 12 nations serving over 250 students. Rev. Roger Smalling and I, in conjunction with local teachers, were attending to the needs of the educational needs of the Spanish-speaking students. Our commitment to the students was to conduct four teaching seminars in each location annually. In March of that year, I was particularly burdened as to the need for professors who would be able to raise their support, travel to the different countries and teach according to the Bible and theological standards of the school. Within a period of 6 weeks, 4 active teachers working with another

ministry and two Mexican pastors joined our ranks. Interestingly enough, not only had I been knocking in prayer on God's throne room door for more qualified teachers but also the teachers themselves had similar requests for God.

Which door has the Lord opened to you lately in response to your prayers?

HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 7

SUMMARY. *Jesus teaches His disciples to pursue God's answer in prayer.*

BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 7

1. In Matthew 7:8 Jesus says, "everyone who asks receives." What two principles can be noted here?
2. Jesus taught that he who seeks finds. What was he referring to?
3. Jesus taught us to knock. What does that mean?
4. In John 17, who did Jesus pray to?
5. In John 17, who did Jesus pray for?
6. In John 20, why did Jesus breathe on his disciples? With what activity were his actions associated?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR CHAPTER 7

1. Have you prayed today? What promise have you pursued in prayer?
2. In your prayers today, for what things did you ask and thank God for?
3. In your prayers today, what specifically did you seek?
4. In your prayers today in what way did you knock?
5. In what way were your prayers a monologue or a dialogue today?
6. Do you pray for the binding and loosening of sin in the lives of people?
7. For which workers for the harvest did you pray today?
8. Do you pray for those who are yet to come to Christ through your witness?

ACADEMIC QUESTION FOR CHAPTER 7

1. Does God have to answer prayer?

READING FOR CHAPTER 7

Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*, chapter 4

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 7

In your prayer manual indicate what you have asked for, search for and acted upon in prayer in the past. Indicate how your prayers have been or have not been answered. Give examples which are recent.

<p>ASKED IN PRAYER</p> <p>March 2002: As the Academic Dean of MINTS and director of the Hispanic program, more professors are needed to teach with MINTS</p>	<p>RECEIVED</p> <p>By May, six new professors indicated interest in teaching</p>
<p>SEARCHED</p> <p>March-April, made arrangements to meet with APOYO ministry to talk about teaching and teachers. April. Went to Oaxaca, Mexico, to speak about setting up seminary courses.</p>	<p>FOUND</p> <p>Four APOYO teachers willing to help when needed. Two pastors from Oaxaca offered to help teach.</p>
<p>KNOCKED</p> <p>Proposed that Eliezer Gonzalez teach in Cancun at the end of May, while he was going there anyway in order to do a crusade.</p>	<p>OPENED</p> <p>During the last week of May, Eliezer taught 12 students in Cancun and will be doing follow up with their home work.</p>

Special prayer requests

CHAPTER 8

OMISSION OF PRAYER

Genesis 3:1-7; Mt. 4:1-11

THE EIGHTH PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER: *prayerlessness and sin are directly related.*

When do couples separate and get a divorce? Psychologists will give you a list of reasons why marriages break up, but often times the couples show an ambivalence toward each others, to their vows and to God's will. "I don't care anymore." "I've had enough." "Whatever."

When ambivalence to prayer and worshipping God is evident in our lives, sin is knocking at the door. Our humility and joy before God evaporates like thin air and hardness of heart sets in. Prayerless is the undertaker of the soul.

PRAYERLESSNESS: EXCLUSION OF GOD

When Satan tempted Eve, she did not turn to the Lord in prayer. She relied on her own senses and mental faculties. Her intuition, her rationality, her senses, her conscience and her will betrayed her. If we are to understand our spiritual responsibility before God, we must take note that human responsibility must be led by divine guidance. Without the means of prayer, without being in touch with God, Eve could not resist sin or Satan.

Chart 8.A **SIN: THE SENSES AND MIND MALFUNCTION**

THE SENSES	TRUE INSANITY. The mental faculties malfunction.
1. Saw the fruit	1. Conscience. The "ought not" was ignored.
2. Heard. Continued to listened to Satan.	2. Memory/ Intellect. God's Word was not correctly interpreted.
3. Touched. Touched the fruit.	3. Rationality. Reasoned erroneously
4. Tasted. Ate of the fruit.	4. Will. Made wrong decision.
5. Smell. Part of tasting.	5. Experience. Caused terrible experience
	6. Sense perception. Trusted intuition and senses rather than God's command
	7. Relationship. Eve tempted Adam

The first step toward sin is to exclude God's presence and communication from one's life. Adam and Eve should have fled to the Lord. We see the opposite response when Jesus was tempted (Mt. 4:1-11). Jesus took forty days to prepare

Himself for the temptation. These were forty days for prayer and fasting in which Jesus spend time with His Father. John Calvin reminds us that Jesus did not fast in order to teach us to fast but rather we are instructed “*after His preliminary training, He would be equipped for such an arduous and distinguished mission*” (Calvin, *Harmony*, Vol. 1, 133).

The believers are to be prepared for temptation. The good news is that we do not have to face such temptations alone.

“If Jesus was tempted as the Representative of all the faithful, we should realize that the temptations that strike us are not fortuitous, or the turn of Satan’s whim, without God’s permission, but that the Spirit of God presides in all our trials, that our faith may be better tried” (Ibid, p. 135).

In prayer we are called to engage all of our senses and our mental faculties and put them at the disposition of the Lord. Jesus modeled that in His preparation for the temptation with the evil one.

Chart 8.B. SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR TEMPTATION

MAKES SENSE	TRUE SANITY. The mental faculties function according to Word and Spirit
1. Seeing. Jesus was shown the glories of the kingdoms of the world.	1. Conscience. The “ought not” is clearly based on Word.
2. Heard. Jesus heard Satan’s interpretation of Word and rejected it.	2. Memory/ Intellect. God’s Word is correctly interpreted.
3. Touched. Jesus was physically taken into dessert and to other places.	3. Rationality. Reasoning based on God’s Word
4. Tasted. Jesus was first tempted with food.	4. Will. Human will is submitted to God’s will in prayer
5. Smell. Part of tasting.	5. Experiences do not dictate but follow obedience.
	6. Sense perception. The senses are subjected through prayer and fasting to the Word of God
	7. Relationship. Satan is chased away and by faith believer draws near to God

FALSE INTERPRETATION OF GOD’S WORD

As we observe the way in which the Deceiver tempted Eve we see, second of all, that he had to remove the credibility of God’s Word from Eve’s mind. He did that in a very deceptive way. He used the Word of God, affirmed the existence and

the concerns of God. Having affirmed these truths he gives the truth a slight twist, casting doubt on God's intentions. Eve's response was automatic.

After the sin of omission, we see a series of sins of commission. Eve misuses all of her faculties and senses when she fell into the tempter's snare. She continued to listen to Satan. Her mind dreamed of being like God. Her eyes lusted after the fruit and potential power. Her mouth tasted it. Her feet led her to Adam. Her hands gave the fruit to Adam. There was not one part of Adam and Eve's existence that did not cooperate in their sin.

When Adam and Eve stopped listening to God they stopped talking with God they stopped walking with God.

Why was sinning so automatic? Any time a person takes their eyes off of God and God's Word, they have nothing left to resist the Evil One. The best they can do is co-exist with evil and then succumb. Prayerlessness and false interpretation of the Bible is the undertaker of all sin.

PRAYER: AN ANTIDOTE TO SINNING

We find the antidote to temptation and sin in Jesus prayerful response to temptation. Prior to being tempted Jesus had spent 40 days in prayer and fasting. Then Jesus exposed the tactics of Satan by properly interpreting and obeying Scripture. Herein lies the victory: through faith in Jesus, pray for God's Spirit and obey the Word to get rid of evil!

What then will be the Deceivers tactic to tempt us? Keep us from prayer and the true interpretation of the Word

Samuel Chadwick says:

The one concern of the devil is to keep the saints from prayer. He fears nothing from prayerless study, prayerless work, prayerless religion, he laughs at our toll, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray.

E.M. Bounds sounds a timely warning for ministers:

A prayerless ministry is the undertaker for all God's truth and for God's church. He may have the most costly casket and the most beautiful flowers, but it is a funeral, notwithstanding the charming array. A prayerless Christian will never learn God's truth; a prayerless ministry will never be able to teach God's truth. Ages of millennial glory have been lost by a prayerless church" (The Best of E.M. Bounds, p. 102).

Do you speak with God about your temptations on a personal and daily basis? You and I cannot overcome temptation without the intervention of God. How does God intervene? How can we talk and walk with God again?

Andrew Murray states: *“Without fear let us confess the sin that shames us, and then confront it in the name of our Mighty Redeemer. The same light that shows us our sin and condemns us for it will show us the way out of it, into the life of liberty that pleases God. (The Ministry..., p. 20)*

God sends His Spirit.

“The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.” (Rom. 8:26).

Have you asked God Spirit to “take over your prayer life?” Remember, true prayer is not simply the solitaire labor of a valiant saint, it is the participation of the believer in the communication process which begins at the throne room of grace, which comes to us through the Word and Spirit and which is “breathed back” to God in heaven. In prayer we participate in the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Heidelberg Catechism puts it this way: *“God gives his grace and Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly, asking God for these gifts and thanking Him for them.” (L.D. Q/A 116)*

The fruit of the Spirit is given to the believer so that the believer may exercise power over temptation. Are you tempted by hatred, bigotry and racism? God gives love. Are you angry, resentful, bitter? God gives joy. Is your inner life in turmoil? Submit your life to God and God will give peace. Are you impulsive, angry and rash? God gives patience. Have you been harsh, rude and cruel to others? God gives kindness. Do you have evil and wicked desires and thoughts? God gives goodness. Do you have problems keeping your word and promises? God gives faithfulness. Do you over aggressive and rude? God gives gentleness. Are you easily tempted? God gives self-control. All of these workings of the Spirit in your personality you must ask for. They do not come from your human nature but they come from the divine nature God has given to you in Christ.

Secondly, God has given us His Word. All that we ask the Spirit to do in our lives will be according to God’s Word. “Against such things there is no law.” “If you love me you will keep my commandments.” We have the assurance that whatever the Holy Spirit does in our live and relationships will be done according to the Word and in an up-building manner. God is not the God of sin and confusion but of holiness and order.

Third, Satan is send away. Jesus said to Satan, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”

Believer, you do not have to co-habit with Satan. You can send him packing. We should never have to say, "The Devil made me do it." To say that is an admission that you let the Devil hang around, when in reality you should have resisted him and sent him away.

When our girls were still little, there were times when they had bad dreams and were scared of evil. We taught them to pray to Jesus and sing, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Believers of all ages can simply trust in the finished victory of Jesus as the Bible so clearly teaches. There is not excuse for letting evil hang around.

In missionary ministry the same truth applies. For 12 years I served among the Haitian immigrants in the Dominican Republic. Voodoo spiritism is an undeniable reality. God gave me several opportunities to evangelize Voodoo prophets and rebuke demons among the voodoo practitioners. What a joy it is to see the demons flee and people be delivered from their insidious tormentors. How sad it is to see Satan tormented, demon possessed and sin sick people flee from Jesus.

I firmly believe that in dealing with Satanic attacks, including resisting demons, that it is not necessary to communicate with the demons or even to understand what kind of evil is in operation. **Taking Satan more serious than God's command was the beginning of Eve's downfall.** Our only task is to present the gospel of repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ. We appeal to the simple child like gospel and not to an esoteric knowledge of the supernatural mysteries. Liberal Protestantism has greatly erred in interpreting the devil and demonic activity in a mythological way. Neo-Pentecostalism is equally erroneous in misinterpreting the presence of evil as always being the work of demons and over dramatizing the ministry of deliverance from demons. Demons exist but it is a sinner's sin that has to be eradicated from the human heart. We are at fault if we tolerate the presence of evil, whether it comes in the form of sin, supernatural forces, or religious error. It remains for Biblical believers to recognize God in prayer, apply the truths of the gospel and rebuke all the manifestations of evil. Isn't that the most liberating news you could possible hear?

HOMEWORK OF CHAPTER 8

SUMMARY OF REDEEMER STUDENTS. *The Lord calls us into communion with Him. He longs for fellowship with His children. His children long for fellowship with the Lord. The Devil knows this and tries hard to keep us from prayer. His lies are subtle. We are to ask God to reveal Satan's deceptive ways, so we can resist him and grow closer to God. Without prayer we have no guidance and we will be defeated. Prayerlessness is sin.*

BIBLE STUDY OF CHAPTER 8

1. In what way did Eve show that she was not in communion with God when she encountered Satan?
2. In what way did Satan use God's Word to tempt Eve?
3. How was the response of Jesus to Satan's temptation different than Eve's?
4. When Jesus was tempted by the Evil One, what defensive strategy and offensive strategy did he use?
5. Speaking from hindsight, what preventative measures could Eve have taken to prevent the fall into sin?
6. Describe how Eve used all of her senses and mental faculties to sin.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS OF CHAPTER 8

1. What are the temptations that you are facing in the present?
2. Did you see patterns of deception in these temptations?
3. How is your understanding of Scripture being distorted in these temptations?
4. Reflect on the times in your life when you were tempted and you did not rely upon God in prayer, nor followed the Word and did not chase Satan away.
5. What secret sins in your life do you need victory over? What can you learn from Jesus' defensive and offensive strategy in overcoming temptation?
6. Describe how you have had victory over temptation.

ACADEMIC QUESTION OF CHAPTER 8

1. George Barna reports (www. Barna.org, [2000])) that 47% of born again Christians believe that Satan is a symbol of evil. How would you respond to this belief?

READING FOR CHAPTER 8

Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*, chapter 6

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 8

Today we add another dimension to your prayer life, confession of sin. Note the sins, and especially the secret sins that you are struggle with. Ask God to show you how your misinterpretation of Scripture is helping you justify such sin and not completely repent from it. (This page is confidential and you do not need to share it with others.) Ask God to show you ways in which to prevent being tempted or when tempted, how to handle it. Ask God to give you specific Scriptures by which to confront your temptation.

Secret sins.

How you justify secret sins

Scriptural teaching about your secret sins

Steps you need to take to deal with your secret sins.

Special prayer requests

CHAPTER 9

GOD DECLARES WAR

Genesis 3: 8-15; Col. 1:16; 2:14-15

THE NINTH PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER: *Our prayers follow Christ's victory over Satan.*

Prayer puts into operation the victory that God has over sin. When Adam and Eve sinned, they blamed others and even God. God did not waste time accusing and pouting but took aim at the heart of the problem of sin. He declared war on Satan and sin and provides protection for His people.

MAN'S ULTIMATELY BLAMES GOD

Thankfully, God did not stop speaking to Adam and Eve after they fell into sin in the Garden of Eden. The natural response of our forefathers was to flee from God but God pursued them. As a covenant partner who made a previous agreement, God held Adam and Eve responsible for their actions. He outlines the consequences of their actions and promises them restoration.

Rather than praying to God for forgiveness, Adam and Eve participated in the blame game. Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed Satan. Notice how Adam indirectly blamed God as well? "The woman *you* put here with me." Have you notice that if you talk long enough with unbelievers about sin they usually end up blaming God? This is the nature of Satan's temptation. Sin is absolutely irresponsible. In modern America today we are beset by such irresponsibilities. The criminal has more rights than the victim, truths about God are ridiculed in court and in public.

In June of 2002, a regional appeals courts in San Francisco, California, voted 2-1 that the term "under God" in the American Pledge of Allegiance constituted the pledge as a prayer and therefore violated the principle of the separation between church and state. The appeal had been made by an atheist parent whose daughter in grade 2 had to listen to the Pledge. The repeating of the pledge is voluntary in the United States. So what is the real problem? The real problem is that one person out of over 220 million people can use the courts of the land, cost the tax payer hundreds of thousands of dollars in using the court system, capture the news headlines, all in his efforts to insult God. Thankfully, the response was strong enough to put the matter on hold, however, it will be interesting to see how God will respond (Psalm 2). Not only does God laugh at our rebellion, He also defeats it.

GOD DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST SIN

In God's declaration of war against sin He first of all goes to the root of the problem, Satan. In this lesson the war against Satan will be reviewed. In the next lesson the results of the war against sin will be analyzed.

PART I. The war against Satan

God declares war on Satan and his cohorts: "I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman (the Church, according to Rev. 12). This declaration of war is good news for the believers. The enemies of God have been put on notice. The promise of victory comes in the form of a future Conqueror who would overcome sin and Satan. The seed of the woman would crush the "head" of Satan. Notice that seed is in the singular. The seed is Jesus (Gal. 3:16). Jesus would live a perfect life, die on the cross for sinners and be raised victoriously. All those who trusted in the Messiah are members of the seed of Jesus. They are to live according to the benefits of His redemptive work. The seed of Satan are all who do not trust in the Messiah for deliverance. They live according to ways of the Deceiver.

The cohorts of Satan include: himself, demons, persons who reject the Messiah and all systems of angelic and human organizations that are anti-Christ. A prophetic description of these principalities and powers are clearly represented in the book of Revelation.

The crushing or bruising of the head of Satan is seen throughout the Old Testament and fully manifest in the victorious work of Jesus. Throughout the Old Testament God's people are protected and led despite the attempts of non-believers (within or outside of the covenant community) and unbelieving nations (including Israel sometimes) to eliminate them. When God's covenant people erred, following in the ways of non-believers, God corrected them. The promised deliverance all comes down to the coming of Jesus Christ. Repeatedly we see Jesus triumph over Satan and rebellious sinners and undo the complex results of sin and evil. Jesus uses all godly means of ministry to bring salvation and deliverance. Such ministry is clearly expressed in the words of Luke 4:18-19.

Christians believe that the crushing of Satan comes in stages. We see this process during the lifetime of Jesus. When Jesus was born, Satan sought to eliminate Him through the political and religious leaders. He failed. With the temptation, Satan tried and failed three times. Through the Jewish religious leaders and even one of the disciples, Satan tried to trip up Jesus. Failure again. Then at the cross, Satan finally thought he had Him. Yet, in the greatest irony that the universe has and ever will know, God the Father planned to use the cross to defeat Satan. By dying for sinners, Jesus fulfilled the purpose of the Father to receive the punishment for sinners and to be a sacrifice and substitute

for them. The legal charges against sinners were removed at the cross (Col. 2:14:15).

Jesus announced: *“How can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man?”* (Mt. 12:29).

The disciples were amazed that the demons submitted to the name of Jesus. Jesus responded: *“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven”* (Luke 10:18).

The disciples and all believers are authorized to go into the entire world and defeat evil and the evil one. *“ All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me, therefore go...”* (Mt. 28:19). The great difference between the mission program of God in the Old and New Testament (pre-Pentecost and post Pentecost) is that Jesus now speaks, intercedes, and reigns (as Prophet, Priest and King) at the right hand of God. The church is able to go to every nation and possess the land, because the “strong man” has been bound for a time until Jesus returns.

Peter announces that fallen angels are bound, even though their influence still have certain effects in the world (II Peter 2:4). Even Satan has been bound and limited until the end of time (Revelation 20). He is like a furious Pit Bulldog, tied on a leash, seeking to devour those within his reach and influence, but he is limited. For that reason the gospel is able to go to all nations.

Through faith in Christ, believers have power to resist the Devil: *“Resist the devil and he will flee from you”* (James 4:7). Satan’s power is a pseudo power and is not based on a position of authority. He is a terrorist on the run. He can still do damage but his days are numbered.

The early Christians carried the hope of the crushing of Satan into the arenas of martyrdom, *“ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet”* (Romans 16:20). You know what happened to Rome!

Do you see the crushing of evil? A microscale view of the crushing of evil is seen in our repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. At the macroscale level, we have witnessed the rise and fall of Nazism, Communism, and other Totalitarian anti-Christian governments. We see the demise of Liberal Protestantism. Wherever evil arises, it eventually will get crushed.

Part II. Protection against Satan

The Apostle Paul uses the analogy of the armor of a soldier as an example of how we are to be guarded against the attacks of the Evil One. The armor includes (Eph. 6:10-20):

ENEMIES OF GOD AND MAN	ARMOR OF GOD
-------------------------------	---------------------

Devil: -darts of lies, accusations, falsehood, deception, idolatry, perversion World: principalities and powers -systems of idolatry, power, oppression, seduction Sinful Self: -carnality and unfaithfulness	Belt of truth Breastplate of righteousness in Christ Feet protected for gospel proclamation Shield of faith in Christ Helmet of salvation by grace through faith in Christ Sword of the Spirit: the Word of God Communication through prayer in the Spirit with the commander
--	---

If the “darts” or “flaming arrows” of the evil one continue to get through, then the believer must adjust his armor. Are we believing and speaking Biblical truth? Do we only depend on the righteousness of Christ as opposed to our righteousness? Are we active in the proclamation of the gospel? Do we believe in Jesus alone for salvation? Are we mentally and spiritually convinced of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus? Do we exercise or use the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, to battle evil? Are we in constant communication with the Commander through prayer in the Spirit?

Do you fight with your armor on or off?

HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 9

SUMMARY OF REDEEMER STUDENTS. *Even though we sin against Him, it is by God's grace and love for us that we are able to return to the Lord. We need to admit our sin, instead of blaming others. God will triumph over Satan and sinners.*

BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 9

1. What was God's response to Adam and Eve's sin?
2. What was Adam and Eve's response to God?
3. In Genesis 3:15, what does the seed of the woman refer to?
4. How was Jesus involved in crushing the head of Satan?

DEVOTIONAL STUDY FOR CHAPTER 9

1. When you have sinned, how did God convict you?
2. Reflect on how you have tried to blame others for your sin.
3. In what way did knowing Christ's victory over sin help you deal with your sin?

ACADEMIC QUESTION FOR CHAPTER 9

Some assert that spiritual warfare is fought and won in bringing down the demonic strongholds in the world. How would you respond to their call to pray against the legion of demons?

READING FOR CHAPTER 9

Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*, p. 7.

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 9

Write down in your prayer manual how you perceive that the “fiery darts” (Eph. 6:16) of the Evil One have attacked you. Are you protected by the “armor of God?” (Eph. 6:10-20)

Darts of Evil One

The darts of the evil one come in a variety of way in my life. I pray that I will be protected from lies which come from within and without. Help me to control my thought life, so that only the thoughts which honor God are accepted and all other thoughts are rejected. Help me not to react sinfully to attacks coming from others, but rather, help me to respond with Christian faith and charity.

Protection by Armor of God

*Belt of truth. Help me to be truthful at all times. May I not deceive myself.
Breastplate of righteousness in Christ. Help me to live by the righteousness of Christ and not my own self-righteousness.
Feet protected for gospel proclamation. May I promote the gospel message.
Shield of faith in Christ. Enable me to use faith to defend against the dart.
Helmet of salvation by grace through faith in Christ. May I be intellectually and spiritually aware of what it means to be saved by the grace of God.
Sword of the Spirit: the Word of God. Help me to use this spiritual weapon to overcome evil and established the reign of Christ.
Communication through prayer in the Spirit with the commander. Help me to be in touch with the Commander at all times.*

What dart continues to get through? I find that through watching television the darts of the devil come through. This is especially true with sexual content and violence. Help me to resist these influences by turning the TV off when these darts come my way.

What part of the armor needs to be adjusted? I pray that I may move forward and continue to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Also, I continually need to use the Sword of the Spirit.

Special prayer requests

CHAPTER 10

PRAYER AND THE RESULTS OF SIN

Genesis 3:16-24; Luke 4:13-21

THE TENTH PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER. *True prayer prays through the consequences of sin seeking its reversal.*

The promises of God's victory are great, yet the battle is gut wrenching. Genesis 3 speaks about the consequences for sin. Part II of God's victory over evil is to deal with the consequences of sin. Faith and prayer in Christ overcomes the consequences sin has on parenting, marriage, work and life and death.

CHILD BEARING

There would be pain in child bearing (3:16). The women's special role given by God in creation as a child bearer will be tainted by pain. The pain in child bearing does not only refer to act of pregnancy, the carrying and deliverance of a child, but also refers to the whole child bearing relationship between mother and child. Christian women are to bear children and do so in faith, love and holiness (I Tim. 2:16).

As we pray to see God glorified in motherhood we have a lot to pray for. In your prayer manuals, note down the names of mothers and would be mothers who need intercessory prayers. Note down the children who are in their care. Pray for their husbands. Pray for Christian mothers but also for non-Christian mothers. Pray for women at risk, girls who are vulnerable to abuse, teen-age pregnancies, single mothers, burdened mothers and aging mothers. Pray for mothers who have succumbed to terminating the life of unborn children and thereby committed an irreversible murder. Pray for the father, parents, doctors, nurses, medical administrators, church leaders, counselors and politicians who supported such actions. Pray for the "unwanted children syndrome" so prevalent in our fast moving society. Pray for foster, adopted and needy children. Pray that children may be led to the Lord and be nurtured in the church. Pray for Christian families and that families would come to Christ. Pray that Christ's Spirit would intervene in marriages and families all around us.

As a demonstration of God's grace and the ministry of restoration, Arie and Lynn Van Wingerden, now living in Colorado, had 12 children. They also adopted 12 other children. The adopted children were persons who had not been accepted in other homes. They also came from a variety of countries: Colombia, Haiti, Korea and the USA. Some were "crack kids" (mother's were addicts) and some of the others were mentally challenged. Yet, all found a home with this Christian family. A true picture of the Body of Christ.

MARITAL RELATIONSHIP

Another consequence of the fall is in the area of husband and wife relationship. *“Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”* This consequence of the fall into sin is related to Eve’s created position to be a helper for her husband. Through Satan and sin she became an instrument of temptation for her husband. The headship of the husband would be needed to secure proper order in their relationship so that the husband will assume responsibility and that temptation be prevented (I Tim. 2: 11-14).

It is necessary for us to pray that God’s kingdom order be practiced in Christian marriages. Pray for wise and submissive hearts. Pray that Biblical authority be practiced in the home.

WORK

The following consequence of sin, as mentioned in Genesis 3:17-19, is the difficulties of work. In creation God had given Adam the tremendous responsibility to be a steward over creation. This task would become difficult.

Pray for the workers in our family, church and society. Pray for those who are disabled, who have lost their employment or who are seeking employment. Pray for those whose toil does not produce enough to make ends meet. We are to remember the poor. We are to honor God with His tithe. We are to work as unto the Lord.

“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord” (Proverbs 19:17).

LIFE AND DEATH

Man was made from dust and due to sin will return to dust (3:19b). The wages of sin are death and as soon as we are conceived, the presence of death is real. The Christian knows that physical death is not the end of man. As Jesus physically rose from the grave, so all will resurrect to face the Lord and Judge of the universe. Judgement will focus on one fact, what have we done with our knowledge of God and His Word. What have we done with Jesus as Lord and God?

A FINAL RESTING PLACE.

Finally, Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden. They would be homeless until they reached heaven. There would be temporary stops, but these stops are not eternal (Hebrews 11:10).

As God moves us from place to place and we meet so many different people, may he use us to pray and promote the eternal resting place in Jesus.

Do we really live as if our eternal home is not here?

HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 10

SUMMARY OF REDEEMER STUDENTS. *Men and women's roles became a burden and painful. We must pray to God for strength and for each other so that we may be responsible before God in our distinctive roles. We ask God for wisdom, guidance and His will to be done for our daily tasks. We recognize our dependence on God through prayer.*

BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 10

1. How are we to think of pain in childbearing?
2. How are we to think about a man ruling over his wife?
3. How are we to think about the difficulty of work?
4. Why do we have to die?
5. Where is our eternal resting place?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR CHAPTER 10

1. Reflect on what hope the gospel brings to frustrations in the home.
2. Reflect on how you deal with pain and frustration in your life.
3. In what way does it make a difference that you are a Christian when you feel alone?
4. How has prayer helped you to suffer?

ACADEMIC QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 10

1. If God is all-powerful and all good, he could have prevented sin. Why didn't He do that?
2. Our theology tell us and statistics will prove that 100% of us will distort the truth on any given day! Reflect on that.

READING FOR CHAPTER 10

Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*chapter 8.

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 10

Pray about sin and the consequences of sin (Genesis 3:8-24). Pray for the people by name and mention the responses needed (Luke 4:18-19).

Consequences of sin in:	Corresponding Ministry
<p>Relationship with God -rejection of God (name and need and needs)) -struggling with faith (name and need)</p>	<p><i>Evangelist (name and need) or action needed</i> <i>Encouragement (name and need)</i></p>
<p>Marriage -pre-marital needs (name and need) -marriage needs (name and need) -single parents needs (name and need) -separation divorce needs (name and needs)</p>	<p>Marriage counseling -name and need of counselor or action needed -name and need of counselor or action needed -name and need of ministry or action needed -name and need of counselor or action needed</p>
<p>Parenting -children needs (name and need) -youth needs (name and need)</p>	<p>Family Ministries (name and need) -to children -to youth</p>
<p>Work -work training (name and need) -work placement (name and need) -unemployment (name and need) -other income needs (name and need)</p>	<p>Work -school -work place -action to help -plan</p>
<p>Life and Death -sickness (name and need) -elderly care (name and need) -death and dying (name and need) -widows and widowers (name and needs) -orphans (name and needs)</p>	<p>Ministries dealing with life and death -health care and visitations -elderly care and visitations -grief care -special attention -child care</p>

CHAPTER 11

PRAYER RESTORED IN THE FAMILY OF GOD

Genesis 4 –9; Luke 3:23-38

THE ELEVENTH PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER: *The people of God are identified by their exercise of true prayer.*

Saul was the number one Jewish enemy of the early Christian church. He delighted in hunting down the new believers, whether they be men, women or children. When Jesus confronted Saul on the road to Damascus, the “enemy number one” became Christianity’s greatest missionary. At his conversion, the Christians were still leery about this man. How could they know he was authentic? Jesus said in a vision to Ananias that he was to go and speak with Saul and that he would find Saul praying (Acts 9:11). God’s people are identified by their prayer.

PRAYER AS AN IDENTIFICATION MARK FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

True prayer is a tell tale sign of spiritual regeneration and restoration. After the fall into sin, humanity was divided into two families. There was the seed of the woman and the seed of Satan. The seed of the woman were those who lived according to the need and the promise of the Messiah. The seed of Satan rejected the Messiah. Those whose hope was the Messiah had faith in the true God and truly prayed.

In today’s lesson we will briefly consider the family of God as it stretches from Adam and Eve to Noah. Several distinguishing marks of the family of God included their faith, prayers and godly lifestyles. From Luke 3 we also learn that this lineage is part of the genealogy of Jesus. That reaffirms that a Sovereign Father is in control of His plan to send a Savior for to save His people. Prayer is a sign that God is ushering in His plan.

CHILDREN OF THE COVENANT

Biblical history shows from its onset that those who truly pray will be targets of **persecution** from the servants of Satan. We know Abel as the first martyr in human history. He was killed by his brother for having practiced true religion. The religion of Abel was one of faithful and thankful obedience to God.

A Cuban pastor told me that he was imprisoned for his Christian faith after the 1959 Cuban Revolution. He spent two years in a concentration camp. He would not speak about what happened there but he did say his faith in Christ was stronger after he left than before he entered the camp.

Biblical history shows that prayer will **persevere**. When Abel was killed, Adam and Eve had another son, Set. One of the sons of Set is Enosh. Scripture notes that it was in the generation of Enosh that “men began to call on the name of the Lord” (Gen. 4:26).

Prayer in Genesis and throughout the history of the Bible is an **inter-generational** matter. From generation to generation the family of God would continue. Faith and prayer are their distinguishing marks of covenant families. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 22:9-10:

“Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother’s breast. From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother’s womb you have been my God.”

“As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord. “My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever,” says the Lord (Isaiah 59:21).

The result of true prayer is a true walk with God. This was the testimony of Enoch (Heb. 11:5). “Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away” (Gen. 5:24). With this brief historical note, Scripture teaches us that God’s **abiding presence**, as represented in prayer, continued with God’s people in this life and the next.

Enoch was the father of Methuselah, who became the oldest person to live on earth (5:27). Some scholars have trouble accepting the ancient years as 365 days. I believe the years were actual years simply because the Bible does not give us any hints that it was different. Also, man was made to live eternally but sin has limited us.

By the time Noah lives, the world became exceedingly corrupt. Yet, Noah and his family lived by the grace of God (6:8). Noah was a man with whom God spoke and who spoke with God. When God spoke to Noah, Noah believed God and obeyed. Even though the neighbors laughed at the idea of building an ark, Noah knew the voice of God, responded in faith and communication with God. Only he and his family survived the pre-flood days.

SONS OF MEN

When Noah lived the “sons of men”, the lineage of the seed of Satan, had come to full expression. At the beginning of human history, Cain commits the first murder. Lamech becomes polygamous. In Genesis 6 it is reported that sons of God (lineage of the seed of the women) were attracted to the daughters of men (lineage of the seed of Satan). With such marriage the distinction between the sons of God and the sons of men were blurred. Wickedness increased in the

earth and the only solution that remained for the Lord was to destroy the human race. Only Noah and his family, a family of faith and prayer, were preserved.

A similar degenerative process occurs in the Christian church. The history and tradition of some churches have apostatized the truth of Scripture so much that there is no turning back. Such churches deny Jesus and the Word (Rev. 1:2; 12:17). Believers are called to leave the apostate churches and gather in churches that are faithful to the Word and Spirit. The apostate institutions and religions will eventually be destroyed.

NOAH AND A NEW START THROUGH SHEM

After the flood Noah prays for the world and his family. Noah made an altar and offered a sacrifice to God. God promised not to wipe out mankind with a flood. Later Noah prayed for God's blessing on Shem and Japheth and prayed for God's curse on Ham. These prayers were made in response to his son's actions toward their father. Ham was not removed from the covenant people, but his discipline involved having to be subservient to his brothers in order to be part of the covenant people. During the Old Testament, all the peoples came to the Semites and Israelites, in order to partake in God's covenant blessings. Only after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Supreme covenant mediator, did God's covenant go to all the nations.

YOU AND THE NEW COVENANT

Do you and your family live under the covenant of God? To enter the new covenant one must believe in Jesus Christ and repent from their sins. Then God enters into covenant with us, giving us the sign and seal of water baptism to us and our children (Acts 2:37-39: 16:31).

As covenant members we are called to live by prayer. We pray for God's covenant blessings and curses. Like Noah, we do not only pray for blessings. When one of the covenant members breaks the vows of the covenant, he or she will be disciplined. Christian families and churches are to be responsible in the covenant if they hope for God's blessings.

In the church today there is one covenant community: the congregation. Through the local congregation the Christian receives the signs of the covenant: baptism and Lord's Supper. It is the responsibility of the congregation to pray for you and pastorally oversee your spiritual life. If you sin publicly, you are disciplined by the church.

Each member of our family and extended family needs to become a faithful member in the church, the family of God. Our prayer manual today emphasizes praying for our immediate family members. Pray that they be covenant keepers in the family of God.

HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 11

SUMMARY OF THE REDEEMER COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR CHAPTER 11.

“Spiritual restoration occurs by acknowledging our dependence on God. Prayer is a sign of such restoration. In the lineage of Adam to Christ, the line was never broken. Even though there are high and low points in the spiritual lives of the people of God, God lets them make mistakes. He accepts them again when they repent. In the lineage of the people of God, we see that God restores prayer. Abel’s prayer was one of thanksgiving. Spiritual restoration is also seen in the life of Enosh when men began “to call on the name of the Lord.” In the life of Enoch we see the example of a man who not only talked with God but also walked with God. Noah feared God and was seen as a righteous man. As a covenant leader he prayed for the world and his family. In contrast, rebellion is the dominant theme in lineage of Cain. This rebellion is temporally halted with the flood.”

BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 11

1. What are sacrifices?
2. Why were sacrifices necessary in man’s relationship to God?
3. What was the difference between the sacrifices of Abel and Cain?
4. What kind of sacrifices are we called to bring before the Lord? (Ps. 50:14; 51:17; Rom. 12:1-2; Heb. 13:15).
5. How do you see spirituality in the life of Enosh?
6. How do you see spirituality in the life of Enoch?
7. How do you seek spirituality in the life of Noah?
8. By what standards do we see the degeneration in the lives of Cain, Lamech?
9. What characterized Noah and his family that made them different than the rest of the people? (6:2,5,8,11; 8:20).
10. How are we to pray for the world? (I Tim. 2:1-7; I Peter 2:4-10).

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR CHAPTER 11

1. All of us have had to deal with feelings of bitterness and resentment against family members or even God. What does Genesis 4 teach us about such feelings?
2. When did you personally start to pray your own prayers to God?
3. Reflect on the covenant blessings in your life.
4. Did you think there is a covenant curse in your family? How does that manifest itself?

ACADEMIC QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 11

1. How could a good God destroy the human race at the time of Noah?
2. Hudson Taylor, the pioneer Christian missionary to China, testifies: *“The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity...If we want to see might wonders of divine power and grace wrought in places of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God’s standing challenge, “Call unto me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things which you do not know.”*

Is this observation by Taylor applicable to the history of God’s people from Adam to Noah?

READING: Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*, chapter 14.

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 11

Make a list of your living immediate and extended family. Pray for the salvation of your family members. Ask God how you can be an instrument of the gospel for your family. At a latter date revisit the list and note down how God is answering prayer.

LIVING HUMAN FAMILY	ROLE IN THE FAMILY OF GOD	PRAYER AND WITNESS
<p>Parents: <i>Gertrude Hegeman</i> <i>Kathrine Slotegraaf</i> Brothers: <i>Johan and Hanneke</i> <i>Ben Hegeman and Chris</i> Sisters: <i>Lona Hegeman</i></p> <p><i>Trudy Hegeman</i> Aunts + Uncles <i>Len and Rie Van Wingerden</i> <i>Cor Snieder</i> <i>Joe and Jenny Van Vught</i> <i>Case and Rita Van Wingerden</i> <i>Bill Van Wingerden</i> <i>Chris De Groot</i> <i>Arie and Kathy Van Wingerden</i> <i>Abe and Ruth Van Wingerden</i> Cousins <i>On Hegeman side:</i> <i>(over 17 cousins)</i> <i>On Van Wingerden side</i> <i>(over 50 cousins)</i> Nieces and Nephews. 11 In-laws. <i>Sandy has 11 brothers and sisters and 49 nieces and nephews.</i></p>	<p>Netherlands Reformed in Franklin Lakes, NJ. Christian Reformed in Clinton. Reformed Church in Ede, Holland.</p> <p>Baptist missionary in Niger, Africa Anglican Church in Yellowknife, NWT. Baptist Church in Edmonton, Alb.</p> <p>Netherlands Reformed in FL, NJ</p> <p>Reformed Church in Holland Netherlands Reformed in FL, NJ. Netherlands Reformed in FL. NJ</p> <p>Netherlands Reformed in FL, NJ Netherlands Reformed in FL, NJ Netherlands Reformed in FL, NJ Pompton Plains Reformed Bible Church</p> <p>Various churches.....</p>	

CHAPTER 12

WORLD WIDE COMMUNICATION

Genesis 10-11; Matthew 9:35-38; Acts 1-2

THE TWELFTH PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER. *True prayer unites all believers in the praying for spiritual workers worldwide.*

God diversified human languages at the tower of Babel. This process was partially reversed at Pentecost.

THE HUMAN TONGUE DIVIDES

The human tongue is a wonderful instrument of communication. One of the most fascinating events in life is to watch children learn how to speak. Certainly, God is gracious in endowing us with the ability to speak and interchange ideas. Our ability to communicate verbally and conceptually distinguishes us from the animal world.

The tongue can also be our worst enemy. At the time of Babel the human race collectively sought to use their ability to communicate to plot against God's design for them. Rather than speaking to God in prayer and serving Him, they wanted to make a name for themselves.

In order to limit their rebellion, God "confused their language." They all began to speak in other tongues. This act of God was to protect the people from themselves, from the ability to plot against God in their own language and destroy themselves.

The story is told of an American missionary who walked into a Mexican bank wanting to change some dollars into pesos. The new teller tried in vain to convince him that the exchange rate was one dollar to ten pesos. The teller would take one dollar in one hand and ten pesos in another and show that they were the same. "No" the American would say, "more pesos." This went on for quite some time. Finally, a more experienced teller approached the new teller and quietly said to her: "Hey, this is how you do it." She showed the American one US dollar and then took the American by both ears and slammed his head on the teller's counter ten times." "Oh" the American said, "Now you tell me its one dollar to ten pesos."

Cross-cultural communication is still difficult.

THE GOSPEL INSPIRED TONGUE UNITES

The great reversal to Babel happened in Jerusalem in 33 A.D. At Pentecost we see the beginning of a great reversal in gospel communication. After the birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is sent upon the apostles and the early church. One of the signs of the presence of the Spirit was that the apostles were supernaturally testifying to the gospel in the languages of the international visitors. At Pentecost God initiated the great mission movement to present the gospel of Jesus Christ in every language spoken on earth.

Whereas sin brought about international linguistic disruption at Babel, the gospel of Jesus Christ will bring unity through the verbal communication of the gospel among the nations.

How is Babel and Pentecost related to prayer? The rise of Babel can be related to the absence of prayer. Prayerlessness in relationship to God leads to human pride and self-destruction. God graciously limited that by confusing the human tongues. On the other hand, through the gospel of Jesus, the human hearts are united in a common knowledge and prayer life. The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is directly related to the apostles being in prayer. The apostles were in the Upper Room, praying that God would fulfill his promises. After Pentecost, the book of Acts repeatedly reports how the early church was in prayer. As the message of Jesus Christ was announced and believed among different language groups, an international community of believers was formed. The harvest worldwide had begun.

We are called by the Lord Jesus Christ to pray for the worldwide harvest.

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Mt. 9:37-38).

Andrew Murray affirms:

The evangelization of the world depends first of all upon a revival of prayer. Deeper than the need for men – deep down at the bottom of our spiritless life – is the need for the forgotten secret of prevailing, worldwide prayer. Every child of God has the Holy Spirit in him to pray. God waits to give the Spirit in full measure. Ask for yourself, and all who join, the outpouring of the Spirit of supplication” (The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer, p. 126).

Have you asked God permission to pray for His worldwide missions? What nations and missionaries are you praying for?

HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 12

SUMMARY OF THE REEMER COLLEGE STUDENTS. *“The construction of the tower of Babel was motivated by pride and not worship. Their communication was confused by God to prevent them from fulfilling their plans. The Day of Pentecost reverses the curse of Babel. At Pentecost the different languages were united in the message about Jesus Christ.*

BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 12

1. What was the people’s intent for building the tower of Babel?
2. What was God’s concern about the tower of Babel?
3. What was the outcome of the confusion of tongues?
4. How has Pentecost reversed the curse of Babel?
5. What role did prayer have at Babel and at Pentecost?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR CHAPTER 12

1. If you had to choose between building a church building in order to make an impression on people or using the Lord’s resources to send forth missionaries, what would you do? Really? Can you do both?
2. Babel was precipitated by the lack of prayer while prayer preceded Pentecost and both had a worldwide effect. Reflect on those dynamics in your own life and the life of your church.
3. Jesus calls us to pray for workers for the harvest. Do you obey his call on a daily basis?

ACADEMIC QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 12

1. Is the Babel account a reliable source to speak about the history of languages?
2. Find out from the United Nations or another source about how many languages are being spoken in the world today.
3. Find out from the United Bible Society and other Bible society, how many Bibles were sold or distributed world wide last year.
4. Find out from the Wycliff Bible translators and other translation ministries, how many language groups still need the Bible translated into their language.
5. Find out from a known church planting mission agency as to the presence of Bible believing churches among the people groups today.
6. Find out from your church or mission agency is there are groups of Christians in your area who are praying for worldwide evangelism and missions.

READINGS FOR CHAPTER 12

Ten selections from Patrick Johnson’s, *Operation World*.

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 12

For your prayer manual select at least 10 nations where you know of people who live there or where your church has missionaries and pray for them. In order to help you, contact your missionaries and ask for their prayer letters. Also, consult with *Operation World* for their prayer list.

Nation to pray for (FOR EXAMPLE)	Ministers or Missionaries in the nations
1. Mexico	Ramon Celis, Samuel May (Cancun) Octavio Hernandez y Neri Gomez (Oaxaca)
2. Cuba	Manuel y Ruben Fonseca
3. Dominican Republic	Julio Vilchez, Felix Carraballo, Silvia Ricardo
4. Puerto Rico	Carlos Cruz, Johnny Rodriguez, Agustin Palomo
5. Honduras	Jose Arias, Orlando Avedaño, Manuel y Monica
6. Costa Rica	Lester Ramirez, Jaime Morales, Bill and Aletha Green
7. Ecuador	Fred y Irene Jonkman, Luis Carlos
8. Peru	Pedro Merino Boyd, Samuel Reategui, Jose Apon
9. Bolivia	Edgar Flores, Nicolas Vaca
10. Canada and USA	Brigido Cabrera, Mario Molina, Antonio Pena, Andres Serrano, Jesus Serrano, Eddy Aleman

Special prayer request

CHAPTER 13

PRAYER PROMISES

Genesis 12

THE THIRTEENTH PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER: *True prayer is based on the promises of God.*

Whereas our lives are filled with broken human promises, God has never made a promise He did not keep.

THE PROMISES DO NOT DEPEND ON A HUMAN BEING

One of the greatest obstacles to prayer is ourselves. Even though we have been given the capability to pray, our sinful nature is not inclined to prayer. Yet, God's grace is greater than our sin and he teaches us to pray despite of ourselves.

In Genesis 12 we are introduced to Abram, the "father of faith." Although Abram became a man of great faith, God certainly did not find him in that condition. God did not look down the corridor of history to see if he could find a man with at least a little bit of faith who He could work with.

Abram was called by God to be separated from his idolatrous environment. He had to leave his country, his people and his father's family. God had to separate Abram and his immediate family to work with him. The same chapter shows, however, then when Abram was confronted with a potential conflict in Egypt, he resorted back to his old ways and tried to trick the Egyptian king risking the honor and dignity of his wife. Abraham was a sinner saved by grace and the Bible does not hide or justify his sin.

GOD'S PROMISES ARE SURE

Added to the call to be separated to serve God, Abram received many promises of blessing. In vs. 2-3 seven blessed promises are made. Those promises are fulfilled in the life and experience of God's people in the Old Testament as well as through Jesus, for the Church of the New Testament. These are blessed promises we can pray for today.

1. *"I will make you into a great nation."* Not only from the biological descendants of Abraham the nation of Israel would be build but also believers from all nations are part of the family of God. Old Testament prophets were given the promise that the Messiah would receive all the nations as His inheritance (Ps. 2:8). With the victory of Jesus in his coming, life, death, resurrection and ascension, the "Israel of God" (Gal. 6:16) includes all who follow Jesus. Christians are to go to all

nations and gather in God's people (Mt. 28:19-20). Christians are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation" (I Peter 2:9). The Church is now a nation among all the nations. Our prayer is that God would use us to support the advancement of the gospel in all known nations and people groups of the world and that the "nation of God" would be established in every nation of the world.

2. *"I will bless you."* *"Barak"* not only means to speak well of but in the divine sense it is a promises of well-being and prosperity. *In prayer we pray for God's personal blessings to be given.* God's blessing is not to be separated from his mission motive. As the gospel advances world wide, great blessings will be poured out on His gospel messengers.
3. *"I will make your name great."* The name of Abram (exalted Father) was changed to Abraham (Father of many nations) in 17:5. In a literal sense, Jewish, Muslim and Christian peoples have named their children Abraham. However culturally and religiously significant such naming may be, without faith in Jesus, such an association with Abraham is spiritually powerless. There were Jewish people in the days of Jesus who took refuge in the thought that they were Abraham's descendants. Jesus strongly reminded them that if they were true descendants they would believe in His name like Abraham did (John 9). Acceptance by God of Abraham, despite all of his faults, is a pillar of strength for all who live by faith in Jesus (Gal. 3:6-29). Consider all the believing Jews and Gentiles who believe in Jesus and are true descendants of Abraham. They all exalt the name which is above every name, the name of Jesus (Phil. 2:10-11; Acts 4:12).
4. *"You will be a great blessing."* Believers in Jesus are blessed so that they may be a blessing to others. In your prayer life, have you asked God how you can be a blessing to others? One cannot read world history without seeing the great blessings that God has given through His people. Out of Christian missions come great personal transformation, leaders, families, schools, music, art, literature, science, communities, work opportunities, hospitals, orphanages, works of mercy and direction for the nations. It is not without significance that the greatest accomplishments in human history are associated with the name of Jesus.
5. *"I will bless those who bless you."* Scripture is filled with testimonies of how God prospered the nations who were receptive to His Word and His people. The most important matter for personal and national well being is to respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
6. *"I will curse those who curse you."* It is equally true that God has rejected the nations who have rejected the gospel of Jesus Christ. How

many nations have come and gone during our human history? How did those nations respond to God? Which nations today are experiencing the greatest crisis? What have these nations done with the message and messengers of the gospel of Jesus?

7. *“All the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”* Notice how the path of blessings has become complete. First, the Lord promises Abram that he will be blessed in becoming a great nation. Then, Abram will be personally blessed. He will be a blessing to others. Others, who bless him, will be blessed and the reverse is also true. Finally, the special nation that was promised to Abram will be a blessing to all the other nations (Gal. 3:8-9). *Our blessings are not complete until they reach out into all the nations.* We have to pray to God that He would *stretch us* according to these promises.

The promises of God are international. In one of the greatest ironies of history among the Jews and Palestinians who live in the Middle East there are Christians. While their national and cultural feelings sway them from one end of the pole to the other, in Christ they have a new identity. Christ has torn down the wall of separation between the two nationalities. It behooves the Christian Jews and Christian Palestinians to present Christ as the model for reconciliation.

PROMISES AND PRAYERS (Genesis 12:2-3)

Number of promises	Content of the promise	Relationship of the promises to believers
FIRST PROMISE	Be a nation	The new Israel is the church, of which we must be a member
SECOND PROMISE	Be blessed	We thank God for His blessings
THIRD PROMISE	Receive a great name	We witness in the name of Jesus
FOURTH PROMISE	Be a blessing	We ask God to be a blessing to others
FIFTH PROMISE	Those who bless you will be blessed	We thank God for others who help advance the gospel
SIXTH PROMISE	Those who curse you will be cursed	We pray for protection and removal of obstacles to the gospel
SEVENTH PROMISE	Be a blessing among all nations	We pray that God will use us and our church among the nations

HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 13

SUMMARY. Whereas the children of Babel exalted their own agenda, the children of faith, seek the blessings of the promises of God. God promises Abram that he would be blessed in becoming a great nation in which people would be blessed to bless others and be blessed. Herein lies the mission blessing of God's people: in prayer and missions claims the promises given to Abraham.

BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 13

1. What does Joshua say about Abraham's household (Joshua 24:3)?
2. Trace the seven levels of blessings given to Abram.
3. What does "Bethel" mean?
4. What does Abram's show in Egypt about his faith?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR CHAPTER 13

1. How do your prayers reflect the international mission dimension of God's promises?
2. How do your prayers recognize God's blessings to you?
3. How do your prayers benefit from being a child of faith?
4. How do your prayers relate to you being a blessing to others?
5. How do your prayers acknowledge those who bless you as you serve God?
6. How do your prayers relate to those who curse you?
7. How do your prayers acknowledge that God's blessing throughout the whole world will come through the community of believers?

ACADEMIC QUESTION FOR CHAPTER 13

1. Prove or disprove that the progression or failures in the history of humanity depend on people's relationship to the Messiah.

READING FOR CHAPTER 13

Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*, chapter 13.

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 13

In your prayer manual, pray according to the seven levels of covenant promises.

1. Pray for the church among the nations. *I pray for the planting of the church in all of the nations of the world. A special prayer for the churches in the Muslim worlds, where it has been slow in coming. But I believe that the gospel of the kingdom will be extended to all nations, including the nations of the Muslim world. Pray for the billions of people in India and China. Pray that the national churches and house churches will continue to multiply. Help our local church to be a church for all the ethnic groups.*
2. Pray for blessings on messengers of the gospel. *I pray for the blessing of Your presence on every single messenger of the gospel. May I be a messenger of the gospel. Continue to raise up workers to go into the harvest. Use me as a worker and one who supports the training of workers for the world wide harvest.*
3. Pray that the name of Jesus will be exalted. *I worship You, O God, that You have revealed your name to people like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and us as well. We know You through your Son Jesus Christ. We praise You that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.*
4. Pray to be a blessing. *Help me to recognize that every blessing comes from Your gracious hand.*
5. Pray that those who bless you will be blessed. *Thank-You heavenly Father for opening the hearts of others who cooperate with the extension of the gospel worldwide. Continue to open the doors of the countries where traditionally the doors have been shut.*
6. Pray that those who curse you will be cursed. *We pray that You will remove the obstacles which human beings, anti-Christian world systems, demonic forces and any force which would prevent the presentation of the good news of salvation to people who need to hear.*
7. Pray that the nations will be blessed through church. *Make Your church strong, Lord, help us to have victory over the "gates of hell" and usher in the promised inheritance of the nations for the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Special prayer request

CHAPTER 14

INTERCESSORY PRAYER AND ACTION

Genesis 14; Hebrews 7

THE FOURTEENTH PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER. *All believers need intercessory prayer.*

When we cry to God for help we are simply affirming what God knew all along. God, by his grace, has established a system of intercession, by which he rescues us.

ABRAHAM AS INTERCESSOR

Have you ever wished to have an intercessor, someone who will help you out when you're in trouble?

I can still remember an afternoon incident which happened 45 years ago. To make a long story short, when we were living in the Netherlands my family left me behind in a park on one of our family vacations. While they returning home someone asked, "hey, where is Neal?" Dad quickly turned the 56 Ford around, drove to the park and found me sitting on the edge of a large gravel pit. No big deal, right? Wrong, I am glad someone interceded on my behalf.

Abram was such an intercessor for Lot. King Kedorlaomer and his allies captured Lot, who lived in Sodom, along with other Sodomites. When an escapee informed Abram, he organized 318 men to carry out the rescue operation. The King of Sodom, whose subjects had been captured as well, was surprised with the successful operation! Verse 17 says that the king came out to meet Abram in the Valley of Shaveh.

In his sermon "*Jesus Meeting His Warrior*," Charles Spurgeon typifies Abram as a type of delivering Christ. Lot had chosen the way of Sodom and suffered the consequences. Lot typified the believer involved in the world. Lot suffers the consequences and Abram rescues him. The Sodomites were also rescued and so their King comes to make a deal with Abram. Before such a transaction takes place God intervenes in a surprising way. We see that Abram also needs an intercessor. Abram may be a "type" of Christ but he is not the sinless Christ!

MELCHIZEDEK AS INTERCESSOR

Melchizedek, King of Salem, was God's priest. He represented a universal priesthood, one without human ancestry and directly serving God. He prayed for Abram. He shared the sacramental bread and wine with Abram. On behalf of the Lord he received Abram's tithe.

What importance does Scripture give to Melchizedek? This man represents the priestly servants of God who pray for others and who fulfill an intercessory role (Ps.110). He stands in the line of many great priests of the Old Testament era who ministered until Jesus came.

JESUS AS INTERCESSOR

With the coming of Jesus, all of the roles of the priesthood are fulfilled. Now Jesus has offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins and He has become our supreme intercessor. Jesus intercedes for us at the right hand of God the Father. Not only does He pray for us and ask the Father to fulfill His promises but Jesus also rules as King and speaks to us as Prophet.

The English Puritan, Robert Murray McChenney writes:

“If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me.”

The South African missionary, Andrew Murray explains:

“We have a great High Priest... Jesus, the Son of God. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace” (Heb. 4:14,16).

Let us persevere, taking each subject boldly to the throne of grace. As we pray we shall learn to pray and to believe, and to expect with increasing boldness. Hold fast your assurance; it is at God command you come as an intercessor. Christ will give you grace to pray aright” (The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer, p. 140.)

CHRISTIANS AS INTERCESSORS

While Jesus is the High Priest in heaven, His people serve as priests on earth. All Christians, whether they are ordained or not, are part of the priesthood (1 Peter 2:5). We are called to intercede for others and encourage them to look to Jesus, their interceding High Priest.

We underestimate the power of intercessory prayer. Eighteenth century missionary to China, Hudson Taylor wrote:

“A young man had been called to the foreign field. He had not been in the habit of preaching but he knew one thing, how to prevail with God; and going one day to a friend he said: “I don’t see how God can use me on the field. I have no special talent.” His friend said: “My brother, God wants men on the field who can pray. There are too many preachers now and too few prayers.” He went. In his own room in the early dawn a voice was heard weeping and pleading for souls. All through the day, the shut door and the hush that prevailed made you feel like walking softly, for a soul was wrestling with God. Yet to this home, hungry souls would flock, drawn by some irresistible power. Ah, the mystery was unlocked. In

the secret chamber lost souls were pleaded for and claimed. The Holy Spirit knew just where they were and sent them along” (The Best of E.M Bounds., pp. 213-214).

We all need intercessors. Abram was used by God to intercede for Lot and the Sodomites. Yet Abram needed intercession before God. Melchizedek was used by God to intercede for Abram. Even Melchizedek and other priests would need intercession. Jesus is the ultimate and final intercessor. He gave Himself as the necessary sacrifice and intercessor for God’s people before the heavenly Father.

When was the last time you noticed that someone was lost and you interceded in prayer for him/her?

HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 14

REDEEMER STUDENT’S SUMMARY. Melchizedek, the high priest, interceded to God on Abraham’s behalf. Jesus came in this royal order of priest and is the internal intercessor. We are anointed by the Spirit to be part of the royal priesthood for the purpose of interceding for others. Melchizedek, the king of Salem, received the tithe of God from Abraham. We need to worship God through prayer and tithing. This involves not only given of our money but in giving of our time to assist others and pray for their blessing.

BIBLE STUDY

1. How was Abram an intercessor for Lot?
2. How was Abram an intercessor for the Sodomites?
3. How does this rescue of the Sodomites compare to the Sodomites in Gen. 19?
4. How was Melchizedek an intercessor for Abram?
5. How does God provide intercession for all of us?
6. How is the simple act of worship that Abram partook in with Melchizedek a foreshadowing of our worship?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS

1. How have you been used to practically intercede in the lives of others?
2. How have you in your prayer life interceded for others?
3. Have you been rescued from danger due the intercession actions of others?
4. Are you faithful in your tithes, offerings and use of your time for God?

ACADEMIC QUESTION

1. Some believe that Melchizedek was a special appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament. Others hold that Melchizedek was a historical figure. What evidences exist to draw a conclusion on this question?

READING Andrew Murray, *The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer*, Chapter 3.

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 14

In your prayer manuals jot down two things. One, give thanks to God for others who have been used to intercede for you. Two, make a list of people who need your intercessory prayers and actions.

Give thanks for those who intercede for you.

Lord, I give thanks for my mother and mother-in-law, who pray daily for their children. I give thanks for a faithful wife, we does likewise. I thank you for faithful church leaders, missionary supporters and all those who have the burden to pray for us. I especially thank-You, Father, for your Son Jesus Christ, who intercedes on my behalf and for the Holy Spirit who works in my spirit in order to lead me to pray.

Pray for those you are interceding for.

*I pray for family members, friends, those in need.
I pray for the MINTS staff and professors. When I am working with the students I pray for them.
I pray for Christian leaders who I work with.
I pray for world leaders and world situations.*

Special prayer request

CHAPTER 15

COVENANT PRAYERS

Genesis 8:20-22. 9:1-17, 25-27; 12:1-4; 14:19-20; 15:1-9; 18-21; 16:7-14;
17:1-22; 18:3-15; 16-33

THE FIFTEENTH PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER. *True prayer is always covenantal.*

The prayers of the patriarchs are in response to God speaking with them. As God gives promises the patriarchs responded. The prayers of the patriarchs are closely associated with covenant promises. Let us review some of the prayers and so how they are related to our prayer life.

THE COVENANT PRAYER OF NOAH (Gen. 8:20-22; 9:1-17; 25-27)

The covenant of God started with the family. Only Noah and his family were saved from the universal flood. Noah intercedes for his family and also for the world. The prayers of Noah for his family were not only to bless their obedience but also to curse their disobedience.

A country preacher was asked to visit an old cowboy who had not come to church for years. The old man had been very critical of the church and vowed he would not grace the doors of the chapel until all the hypocrites were gone. But now, a poisonous 7-foot long rattlesnake had bitten the old critter and his life was in the balance. The pastor prayed for him and soon the cowboy felt better again. He made a commitment to visit church the next Sunday. The cowboy said he would like to take his two grown sons to church with him but they were not in the mood to do so. The pastor bowed his head and prayed. "Dear Lord, thank you for sending our friend back to church, and like you did with him would you please send some of those ugly, mean rattlers to bite his sons."

The covenant prayer included protection. Dietary regulations were given for the eating of blood and protective measures made to protect life. The families were encouraged to be fruitful and multiply.

Finally, the Noahetic covenant includes a promise that a universal flood would not destroy the world. Many local floods have occurred since the days of Noah but never a universal flood like in his days. The rainbow in the sky would be the symbol God's promise of universal protection.

THE COVENANT PRAYERS OF ABRAHAM

In chapter 8 we spoke of the 7 promises that Abraham received from the Lord (Gen. 12:2-3). Throughout the life of Abraham and the covenant people, their prayers reflect the promises given by the Lord.

As noted before, the patriarch's prayers were in response to God's revelation to them in visions, special messengers and through great events. The patriarchs such as Abram would build an altar (i.e. Gen. 12:7). The altars served as visible reminders of God's promises and the believer's prayerful response. Today in countries where Christianity has flourished, churches populate the countryside and cities where God's people have received his promises and prayed to God. It is important for us to have a church or Christian community place where we can pray and grow in the faith.

After Abram rescues Lot from the 4 conquering kings, the Lord speaks to Him in a vision assuring him that God is his protectorate. The response of Abram was not one of thanksgiving about past deliverance and present protection but he is anxious about how God was going to fulfill His promises. How in the world could he become a great nation if he did not have a son? The Lord spoke to Abram again and Abram believed. Then it is said of Abram. "*Abram believed the Lord and he credited it to him as righteousness*" (15:6). However incredulous God's promises may be, by faith it will be made right. This principle has served as the basis for the justification by faith doctrine. Believers are made right with God through faith in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. We are called to believe God's promises.

Chapter 16 brings an interruption in the faith journey of Abram. The Bible is terribly honest about the sins of God's people. After Abram received the wonderful covenant promises in chapter 12, he goes to Egypt and pawns off his wife like an infidel. In chapter 16, Abram and Sarai lose faith in the promises of God and so Abram conceives Ishmael. To make matters worse, the pregnant Hagar is chased out into the desert to die. God intervenes in a special way. The Angel of the Lord (Malak Adonai), whom is considered the pre-incarnate Christ, sees the plight of Hagar and intervenes. God shows his universal reach, as Ishmael would be the father of the Arab world.

Gen. 17:1. reaffirms the only hope for Abram and the covenant people: "*I am God Almighty, walk before me and be blameless.*" Yet, when God repeats the promises of a son for Sarai, Abraham laughs.

Abraham intercedes in prayer for Sodom (Genesis 18). He pleads on the basis of the righteousness of ten people. None were righteous. Even Lot, his wife and two daughters, who were saved, were not saved because they were so righteous, but by the grace of God. The unrighteousness of Lot's wife is seen in her disobedience not to look back at Sodom and Gomorrah, and the

unrighteousness of Lot's daughters is told in Genesis 19:30-38. Nor could Abraham claim righteousness as a condition for God to hear him. Genesis 20 shows Abraham giving his wife away for the second time. The answered prayers are based on God's grace and not on human merit.

Genesis 22 relates how God tested the faith of Abraham. God asked Abraham to give up his son. Whereas Abraham had formerly laughed at the promises of God, now simply obeys. God sees his obedience and provides a substitute ram for the sacrifice. By faith in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, we are to let go of our earthly relationships, in order to be faithful to God.

Chapter 24 is filled with prayer and faithfulness. Abraham sends out his chief servant to find a wife for Isaac among the covenant people. The servant prays in his heart for a sign as to who this woman would be. Even before he is finished praying, Rebecca comes to the well and fulfills the signs that the servants had asked for. The answered prayer is confirmed by the parents of Rebecca and by Rebecca, as well as Abraham and Isaac. Faithfulness in finding covenant partners for covenant marriages is part of covenant obedience before God. Covenant parents and covenant youth are to make Christian marriage a priority for their married life. This is to be a matter of continual prayer.

Isaac continues with the covenant responsibilities to pray. Isaac prays for Rebecca to have children and "the LORD answered his prayer" (Gen. 25:21). The twins, Esau and Jacob, were born. Chapter 26 of Genesis tells how God renews his covenant promises to Isaac. Yet, Isaac continues in the sinful ways of his father, passing his wife Rebecca off as his sister. The patriarchs were beset by family sins such as having multiple wives and passing off their wives as sisters. In the continuation of the covenant, the faithful partner is God.

The passing on of the covenant blessings from Isaac to Jacob, from the human point of view, becomes a complicated and manipulated affair (Genesis 27). In the end, Jacob is blessed. Was all this manipulation necessary? Since Jacob had been chosen by God before he was born (Romans 9), the answer is "no." However, Rebecca and Jacob thought they had to set this arrangement up. As we pray through church politics and personal manipulations in the family and church, let us be assured that God will prevail.

God personally renews the covenant vows made to Abraham and Isaac to Jacob during the dream at Bethel. In the vision he sees the LORD standing on the top of the latter. His angels were ascending and descending, serving the LORD. God repeats the vow to increase his descendants and bring him back to the land where he was. God did not reveal new information but he renewed his vows to Jacob. Believers are to consider their baptism, membership, personal and family vows and seek God's blessings on them.

Jacob, whose name means deceiver, had an increasing long history of straining relationships. In Genesis 32 he has come to the end of the line. He rightly is concerned that Esau will attack him. In his anxiety, Jacob prays to the Lord. Before Esau gets to him, Jacob meets the Angel of the Lord. Jacob and the Angel struggle throughout the evening. Jacob would not let go until the Angel blesses him. The Angel changed the name of Jacob to Israel, *“because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome.”* Prayer is to struggle with God over our sinful condition. Sin will have its consequences but God gives relief to His people.

God was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He was true to all his promises (Gen. 12). We find Jacob moving to Egypt, where he dies under the protection of his son Joseph.

Can you think of a promise that God did not fulfill?

CHART 15.

MEET YOUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS



HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 15

SUMMARY. *The covenant prayers of the patriarchs go from Noah to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God gives unchangeable promises and God's people are to by faith live in conformity to the promises of God. All the patriarchs struggled and failed; yet God brought them through until the end.*

BIBLE STUDY

1. What was the nature of the promises given to Noah after the flood?
2. What were the promises given to Abraham in Gen. 12?
3. How is it seen that the patriarchs did not live up to the standards of the covenant?
4. Where do we see the intervention of the Angel of the Lord with the patriarchs?
5. When do we see the most faithful responses to the promises of God?
6. How does God show he is in control of the future of the covenant people?
7. How is Jesus prefigured in the covenant life of the patriarchs?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

1. In what way are you in covenant with God?
2. How does your membership in the covenant make a difference in your prayer life?

ACADEMIC QUESTION

1. What is the relationship between the covenants in the Old Testament and the new covenant in Jesus Christ?

READING

Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*, chapter 9.

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 15

In your prayer manual, list your responsibilities of the covenant you are in and pray for your faithfulness.

Christian covenant

Responsibilities in relationship to baptism.

Responsibilities in relationship to Lord Supper

Responsibilities in relationship to membership

Responsibility in relationship to leadership

Special prayer requests

CHAPTER 16

PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION

Genesis 45

THE SIXTEENTH PRINCIPLE OF TRUE PRAYER. *True prayer recognizes the sovereignty of God and seeks reconciliation.*

The closing dramas recorded at the end of the book of Genesis remind us of a sequel movie or television drama. The family of Jacob end up in Egypt and wonderful reconciliation takes place, but this cannot be the end of the story. There has to be a greater Joseph who can rescue His people.

COVENANT COMMUNITY DEGENERATION

Joseph lived in the fourth generation of the patriarchs. The spirituality of the covenant people had degenerated. The altars of worship are gone. We do not read of the prayers of the brothers of Joseph. Gone is the personal struggle with God among the brothers of Joseph. The attitudes and actions of the brothers of Joseph represent the whole spiral of degeneration.

Joseph stands out as an exception to the rule of degeneration. Even though his brothers tried to kill him and sold him into slavery he did not retaliate. Even though he was accused of fornication, was unjustly imprisoned and forsaken by the butler, Joseph did not become embittered. By faith, Joseph listened, talked and walked with God.

God spoke with Joseph through dreams. There were two dreams (37:7-9). The first one showed that all of the sheaves of the wheat bowed down to one sheave, which was Joseph. The second dream had to do with the bowing of the sun, moon and stars before Joseph. The first dream was fulfilled in Egypt, as the brothers of Joseph would have to come to Egypt to eat of the grain that Joseph had stored. The second dream showed how politically, the affairs of the nations would revolve around the leadership of Joseph.

Joseph spoke to his family about the dreams. As a true prophet, Joseph spoke openly about his dreams. The mystics keep their secret knowledge to themselves or reserve them for a special elite. Yet, Joseph was totally misinterpreted. Jacob, nor his brothers, were humble enough or spiritually discerning enough to ask God for a confirmation. Rather, they collectively assumed this was a family insult.

Joseph receives a prophet's reward. First the brother's seek to kill him. Yet, Reuben and Judah's conscience would not permit that. So they did the next worst thing, they sold their innocent small brother into slavery among the pagans.

Joseph remains in touch with God. Joseph, in honor of God, fled sexual temptation with Potifar's wife. God continued to give guidance to Joseph. He receives the interpretation of three more dreams, that of the butler, the baker and one for Pharaoh himself. Even though his friends abandon Joseph in jail, God provided the opportunity for Joseph to come out. God gave Pharaoh another dream. Since the interpretation of Joseph was correct, Joseph was elevated to be second in command in Egypt.

The brothers of Joseph are an antitype to a covenant keeper. Little is said about their worship and prayer, while their sinful actions speak for themselves. How could they be reconciled with God and with Joseph? Again we see the marvelous grace and promise of God. God brings the brothers to the doorstep of Joseph.

COVENANT RECONCILIATION

When Joseph and his brothers meet and the brothers find out about Joseph (Gen. 45) we see that reconciliation takes place. This reconciliation is based on several spiritual principles. One, by faith Joseph was able to interpret the actions of a sovereign God, who turns evil to good. Second, Joseph recognizes the providence of God in bringing the whole family to Egypt, in order that a remnant may survive and God's covenant promises would continue. Third, Joseph exercises grace in forgiving past sins and bringing the family back together again. And fourthly, Joseph took the responsibility of providing for his family.

The faith and patience of Joseph was nurtured in true prayer. The same goes for today. Remember the prayers that were lifted up for Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer, missionaries in Afghanistan, taken prison by the Muslim Taliban, prior to the invasion of the alliance of nations? Their eventual escape and rescue on November 15, 2001 was orchestrated by God. When they were being rescued by a US helicopter, one of the military personnel said to Dayna and Heather:

"I just want you to know that my family and I have been praying for you since the first day you were held captive. It's an honor for me to be here on this rescue mission" (*Decision* (07,2002), p. 8)

Not all prayers for freedom result in successful rescues. On June 7, 2002, the Muslim Abu Sayyaf martyred Christian missionary Martin Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap, in the Philippines. Gracia Burnham survived the ordeal with minor injuries. Because of their sacrifice, the error and terror of Islam is shown for all to consider and the Filipino government wiped out the kidnapers.

When the Muslim terrorists flew the civilian planes into the Twin Towers, they meant it for evil, but God has turned it to the good. As a result, Afghanistan, who harbored the Taliban terrorists, was attacked by the United States and other nations. The nation most hostile to Christianity is now open to the grace and forgiveness brought by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

During 2002, part of the World Cup was played in South Korea. The focus of the world again was on the far eastern peninsula. A half of century before the World Cup, tens of thousands of American and Korean soldiers died during the Korean War in the struggle for Korean freedom. For what purpose? Today South Korea has one of the largest percentages of Christians within their borders and represents one of the most active missionary forces for the Far East. Among the billions of pagans the Korean Christian community shines as a beacon of eternal hope.

When the innocent Son of God was crucified on the criminal cross outside of the gates of Jerusalem, the ancient Serpent and all his cohorts thought they had won the battle. Yet, they lost the war since the Father had planned from eternity to take the most evil act of humanity and turn it to the good for those who love Him. Jesus took our place on Calvary. He who knew no sin became sin for us so that we who are sinners may become eternally righteous. Now, eternal reconciliation between a Holy Father and sinful believers is accomplished through faith in Jesus.

When Stephen, the first Christian martyr (besides the Lord) to pay with his life for being a believer in Jesus, was being stoned, he looked up and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God the Father. In conclusion to our study on prayer, this is where we need to be looking, by faith, looking to Jesus. When we look at Jesus our prayers will be answered according to His marvelous plan.

Like the sons of Jacob, do you finally see the greater Joseph, who we have crucified, who has gone before us to another place, do you see Him at the right hand of the Father, preparing a place for us?

HOMEWORK FOR CHAPTER 16

SUMMARY. Even though the covenant community of the Israelites had degenerated, God turned the evil deeds of Joseph's brother to the good. Joseph maintained his faith in God.

BIBLE STUDY

1. How was the spiritual degeneration of the sons of Jacob noticeable?
2. What two dreams did Joseph have about his family?
3. Briefly, how did Joseph come to be the number two man in Egypt?
4. What was Joseph's explanation about him being sold into slavery?

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS

1. Have you been the victim of sinful human activities? Are you able to see how God used such evil for the good?
2. Have you victimized other persons due to your sinful activities? What should your response be?

ACADEMIC QUESTION

1. How does the final prayer of Israel concerning his sons show the continuation of the covenant?

READING

Andrew Murray, *The Ministry...*, chapter 15, pages 115-155.

PRAYER MANUAL EXERCISE FOR CHAPTER 16

Pray for reconciliation that needs to take place in your personal life, in family, in church and in the wider Christian community. Indicate what steps you need to take in reconciliation. Pray for the strength to do that.

1. personal life

2. family life

3. church life

4. Christian community

Special prayer requests

BIBLIOGRAPHY AVAILABLE TO MINTS STUDENTS

COMMENTARIES AND REFERENCES ON GENESIS

Atkinson, David. *The Message of Genesis 1-11*. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1990. The message that Atkinson attributes to Genesis is carefully woven into examples from 20th century ethics, psychology, theology and the sciences (Greg. H. lib)

Boice, James Montgomery. *Genesis. An Expository Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985. An excellent study and clear read on the major themes of redemptive history in Genesis (Greg H. lib).

Dillar, Raymond B., and Longman III, Tremper. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Co., 1994. A standard and thorough reference tool for evangelical students of the Old Testament (MINTS lib).

Douglas, J.D. (editor) *et. al. The New Bible Dictionary*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 1965. A concise and standard Bible dictionary (Greg H., MINTS lib).

Keil, C.F. and Delitzsch, F. *The Pentateuch*. Vol. 1. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, n.d. A standard scholarly commentary that takes the historical-grammatical interpretation serious (Greg H., MINTS lib).

Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Christ of the Covenants*. Phillipsburg: The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishers, 1980. One of the finest studies on the development of the Biblical covenants, including the covenants of Genesis (Neal H., lib).

Speiser, E.A. *Genesis. The Anchor Bible*. Garden City: Double Day and Co., 1964. A Higher Critical treatment, using the Documentary Theory, to explain Genesis. Highly subjective (MINTS lib).

Spurgeon, C.H., *The Treasury of the Bible*. Vol. 1. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1968. The collection of sermons of the 19th century Baptist "prince of preachers." (Greg H., MINTS lib).

Youngblood, Ronald. F. *The Book of Genesis*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991. A readable commentary which interacts with archeological findings. Suffers from ambiguities in historical dating and speculative numerology (Greg H. lib)..

Wenham, J. Gordon. *Genesis 1-15 and Genesis 16-50*. Waco: Word Book Publisher, 1987. Scholarly work which reviews the bibliography, literary

structure, grammar, history and a host of commentaries on the Biblical text (Greg H. lib).

BIBLE COMMENTARIES

Calvin, John. *A Harmony of the Gospels*. Vol. 1. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 1972. An excellent expositional treatment of the Gospel authors (Greg H., Neal H., MINTS lib).

Tasher, R.V.G. *The Gospel According to St. Matthew. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans, 1978. A concise and helpful commentary on Matthew (Greg H., Neal H., MINTS lib).

READINGS ON PRAYER

Baxter, Sidlow J. *Going Deeper*. Grand Rapids: Zondervans, 1978. Expositions on Biblical references about one's relationship with Christ and prayer (Old Cutler lib.)

The Best of E.M. Bounds. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1982. Collection of E.M. Bounds prayer quotes (Neal H.).

Bewes, Richard. *Talking About Prayer*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1979. A motivational and well illustrated book on prayer in a contemporary setting (MINTS lib).

The Book of Common Prayer. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1959. The prayer book for Anglican churches (MINTS lib).

Bloesh, D.G. "Prayer." *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*." Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991. A basic reference tool for evangelical scholarship (Greg H. lib)

Buttrick, George, Arthur. *So We Believe So We Pray*. New York: Abington Press, 1950. A series of lectures for ministeries conferences given in the late 1940's (MINTS lib.).

Carmichael, Amy. *If*. Grand Rapids: Zondervans, 1979. Devotional on the implications of being a follower of Him who died on Calvary (Old Cutler lib.).

Carmichael, Amy. *You are my hiding place*. Minneapolis: Bethany Publishing House, 1991. Bible and prayer devotional from one of the mission world's favorite spokesperson (Old Cutler lib.).

Chambers, Oswald. *My Utmost for His Highest*. Westwood: Barbor and Co., 1963. A yearly Bible study and prayer devotional (Old Cutler lib).

De Jong, Benjamin, R. *Uncle Ben's Quotebook*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1978. Collection of E.M. Bound's prayer quotes (Neal H. lib.).

De Vries, John. *Organizing Your Church for Spiritual Warfare*. Grand Rapids: Mission 21 India, 1993. An easy to follow prayer manual (Neal H. lib.).

Getz, Gene. *Praying for One Another*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1987. A "how to" book for corporate or group prayer (Old Cutler lib.).

Huffman, John, Jr. *Forgive us our prayers*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1980. Commentary on the Lord's Prayer (MINTS lib.).

Hunter, Bingham W. *The God who hears*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1987. Theological reflections on the God we pray to (Old Cutler lib.).

Jeremias, Joachim. *The Prayers of Jesus*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1978. A grammatical and critical examination on themes of prayer such as the term "Abba," Daily Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, and characteristics of sayings of Jesus (MINTS lib.).

Johnstone, Patrick. *Operation World*. Country by country religious and cultural information as well as prayer requests (Neal H. Lib.).

Kempis, Thomas. *The Imitation of Christ*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Classical reading on prayer by the 15th Century Dutch Roman Catholic monk (MINTS lib, Old Cutler lib).

Murray, Andrew. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. Springdale: Whitaker House, 1981. A motivational and devotional reflections on Christ's teachings on prayer (Old Cutler lib.).

Murray, Andrew. *The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1981. Biblical reflections on the importance and power of intercessory prayers (MINTS lib.).

Murray, Andrew. *Insights for Daily Living*. Ann Arbor: Vine Books, 1987. Bible and prayer devotional for 6 months of the year (Old Cutler lib.).

Packer, James. *Your Father Loves You*. Wheaton: Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986. Yearly devotional and prayers written by one of our generations top theologians (Old Cutler lib.).

Paulson, Bob and Noble Scott. "Captive in Afghanistan." *Decision*. (July 2002). pp. 7-9.

Peterson, Eugene. *Earth and Altar. The Community of Prayer in a Self-Bound Society*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1985. The author present prayer as a tool to deal with selfishness in American culture (Old Cutler lib.).

Pike, Wentworth. *Principles of Effective Prayer*. Three Hills, Alberta: AIM, 1978. Twenty lessons on prayer by Bible College professor and missionary (MINTS lib).

Pink, A.W. *Effectual Fervent Prayer*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981. Exposition on Hebrews 13:20,21; I Peter 1:3-5; 5:10,11; II Peter 1:2,3; Jude 24,25 and Rev. 1:5,6 (MINTS lib.)

Pratt, Richard Jr. *Pray with your eyes wide open*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1987. Biblical and theological reflections on the role of the person, communications and one's view of God in prayer (Old Cutler lib.).

Procter, F, and Frere, W.H. *A New History of the Book of Common Prayer*. London: MacMillan and Co., 1955. An historical and liturgical explanation of Anglican prayers (MINTS lib.).

Sanders, Oswald, J. *Prayer Power Unlimited*. Minneapolis: World Wide Publications, 1977. Helpful teachings on prayer (MINTS lib.).

Sergio, Lisa (ed.) *Prayers of Women*. New York: Harper and Row, 1965. Prayers and short biographical notes of women throughout church history (MINTS lib).

Speer, Rober. "The Good News about Prayer." In *Jesus and our human problems*. London: Fleming H. Revell Co., nd. A well illustrated mid 20 the century evangelical and Presbyterian spokesmen reflection on prayer MINTS lib.).

Stanley, Charles. *Handle with prayer*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1992. Devotional reading on prayer by Baptist TV pastor, Charles Stanley (Old Cutler lib.)

Stedman, Ray. C. *Talking to My Father*. Portland: Multnoman Press, 1975. Exposition on the prayers of Jesus (Old Cutler lib.)

Spurgeon, Charles, H. *Behold the Throne of Grace*. London: Marshall, Morgan and Scott Ltd., nd. Sermons on prayer by the 19th century London based prince of preachers (MINTS lib.).

Trobisch, Walter. *Martin Luther's Quite Time*. Downer's Grove, Inter-Varsity Press, 1975. An insight into the private prayer life of the great Reformer, Martin Luther (Neal H. lib.).

Trueblood, Elton. "The reality of prayer." *A Place to Stand*. New York: Harper and Row, 1969. The author reflects on Christ's view and practice of prayer (MINTS lib.).

Wallis, Arthur. *Prayer in the Spirit*. Ft. Washington: Christian Literature Crusade, 1973. Study of Biblical teaching about the role of the Holy Spirit in prayer (MINTS lib.).

Watson, Thomas. *The Lord's Prayer*. London. The Banner of Truth, 1960. A English puritan theological reflection on the Lord's Prayer (MINTS lib.).

White, John. *Daring to Draw Near*. Downers Grove, IVP, 1977. Theological reflections about Biblical personalities who prayed (Old Cutler lib.).

BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER DEVOTIONALS

Graham, Billy. *Day by Day*. Minneapolis: World Wide Publications, 1976. Short, to the point, Biblical devotionals with prayers.

Our Daily Bread. Grand Rapids: RBC Ministries, 2002. Daily devotionals produced by the Radio Bible Class. Well illustrated and appropriate for family devotions.

Spurgeon, Charles. *Morning and Evening*. Excellent Christ centered devotions by the "prince of preachers."

Tabletalk. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2002. Weekday devotionals and accompanying articles. Solid theological insights, excellent for personal devotions.

Today. Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 2002. Daily devotional booklet of the Christian Reformed Church.

PORTABLE PRAYER SHEET

<p align="center">DAY 1</p> <p>In your prayer manual, identify how your prayers are related to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Acknowledge each person and ask them to work according to their divine order. The Father is to be glorified, the Son redeems and the Holy Spirit sanctifies and perfects.</p> <p>Father Son Holy Spirit Special petitions</p>	<p align="center">DAY 2</p> <p>In your prayer manual, write a prayer in a language that does not use “super religious” words or “street language.” In your prayers, acknowledge the source of prayer, the mediation of Jesus in prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit in prayer.</p> <p>How is God’s Word speaking to me today (Bible verses and reflections) What do I need to pray to God today? (ASKS) Special petitions</p>						
<p align="center">DAY 3</p> <p>In your prayer manual, make a list of what God’s expressed will is for your life and how you can glorify Him today.</p> <p>It is God’s will for my worship life.... It is God’s will for my church life.... It is God’s will for my service to Him.... It is God’s will for my inner personal life.... It is God’s will for my marriage or single life.... It is God’s will for my family life... It is God’s will for the protection of human life... It is God’s will for being honest..... It is God’s will for my work.... It is God’s will for justice....</p>	<p align="center">DAY 4</p> <p>In your prayer manual write down the names and service rendered by church leaders and member who preach, teach and minister in communicating God’s Word.</p> <p>Preachers _____ Teachers of: Children _____ Youth _____ Adults _____ Leaders _____ Trainer of teachers and preachers _____ Radio and TV broadcasters _____ Evangelists _____ Christian counselors _____ Apologists _____ Bible Translators _____ Bible distributors _____ Christian authors _____ Christian literature distribution _____ Christian music and drama _____ Christian news papers and magazines _____ Others _____</p>						
<p align="center">DAY 5</p> <p>Write down what you have “inhaled” and therefore what you have “breathed out” in your prayer life today.</p> <p>Word “inhaled” (Bible verses) Prayer “exhaled (Prayers based on Bible verses)</p>	<p align="center">DAY 6</p> <p>In your prayer manual, pray through the 6 petitions of the Lord’s Prayer. As you meditate on them, jot down thoughts that come to mind for each petition.</p> <p>Invitation by Jesus to pray Father’s holiness Father’s will Father’s kingdom Daily provision Forgiveness of Sin Deliverance from evil</p>						
<p align="center">DAY 7</p> <p>In your prayer manual indicate what you have asked for, search for and acted upon in prayer. Give recent examples.</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width:50%; padding: 5px;">Asked in prayer</td> <td style="width:50%; padding: 5px;">Received</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Seek</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Found</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Knock</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Open</td> </tr> </table>	Asked in prayer	Received	Seek	Found	Knock	Open	<p align="center">DAY 8</p> <p>Note the sins, and especially the secret sins that you are struggle with. Ask God to show you how your misinterpretation of Scripture is helping you justify such sin and not completely repent from it. (This page is confidential and you do not need to share it with others.) Ask God to show you ways in which to prevent being tempted or when tempted, how to handle it.</p> <p>Secret sins. How you justify secret sins Scriptural teaching about your secret sins Steps to take to deal with secret sins</p>
Asked in prayer	Received						
Seek	Found						
Knock	Open						

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 9</p> <p>Write down in your prayer manual how you perceive that the “fiery darts” (Eph. 6:16) of the Evil One have attacked you. Where you protected by the “armor of God?” (Eph. 6:10-20)</p> <p>Darts of Evil One</p> <p>Protection by Armor of God</p> <p>What dart continues to get through?</p> <p>What part of the Armor needs to be put on?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 10</p> <p>Pray about sin and the consequences of sin (Gen. 3:8-24). Added to that, pray for the Christian responses needed (Luke 4:18-19).</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Consequences of sin in:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Ministry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relationship with God</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parenting</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marriage</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Work</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Life and Death</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Consequences of sin in:	Ministry	Relationship with God		Parenting		Marriage		Work		Life and Death	
Consequences of sin in:	Ministry												
Relationship with God													
Parenting													
Marriage													
Work													
Life and Death													
<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 11</p> <p>Make a list of your immediate and extended family. Pray for the salvation of your family members. Ask God how you can be an instrument of the gospel for your family. At a latter date revisit the list and note down how God is answering prayer.</p> <p>Grand parents:</p> <p>Parents:</p> <p>Brothers:</p> <p>Sisters:</p> <p>Aunts: and Uncles:</p> <p>Cousins</p> <p>Nieces: and Nephews:</p> <p>In-laws.</p> <p>Others.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 12</p> <p>For your prayer manual select at least 10 nations where you know of people who live there or where your church has missionaries and pray for them. In order to help you, contact your missionaries and ask for their prayer letters. Also, consult with <i>Operation World</i> for their prayer list.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Nation to pray for</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Ministers and missionaries in those nations</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 100px;"></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Nation to pray for	Ministers and missionaries in those nations										
Nation to pray for	Ministers and missionaries in those nations												
<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 13</p> <p>In your prayer manual, pray according to the seven levels of covenant promises.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pray for the church among the nations. 2. Pray for blessings on messengers of the gospel 3. Pray that the name of Jesus will be exalted 4. Pray to be a blessing 5. Pray that those who bless you will be blessed. 6. Pray that those who curse you will be cursed. 7. Pray that the nations will be blessed through church 	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 14</p> <p>In your prayer manuals jot down two things. One, give thanks to God for others who have been used to intercede for you. Two, make a list of people who need your intercessory prayers and actions.</p> <p>Give thanks for those who intercede for you.</p> <p>Pray for those you are interceding for</p>												
<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 15</p> <p>In your prayer manual, list your responsibilities of the covenant you are in and pray for your faithfulness.</p> <p>Christian covenant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baptismal responsibilities Lord’s Supper responsibilities Membership responsibilities Leadership responsibilities 	<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 16</p> <p>Pray for reconciliation that needs to take place in your personal life, in family, in church and in the wider Christian community.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. personal life 2. family life 3. church life 4. Christian community 												