

# Learning to Pray

## Lesson 12

### Memorize (Select One) –

- ✓ Matthew 7:7 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
- ✓ I Thessalonians 5:17 - pray without ceasing.

Prayer is the privilege of talking to God about everything. God speaks to us through His Word and we commune with Him through prayer. C. Hodge declared, “Prayer is the converse of the soul with God.”

***“In and through prayer we express our reverence and adoration for God; we bare our souls in contrite confession before Him; we pour out the thanksgiving of grateful hearts; and we offer our petitions and supplications to Him. In prayer we experience God as personal and powerful. He can hear us and act in response. The Scripture teaches both the sovereign foreordination of God and the efficacy of prayer. The two are not inconsistent with one another, for God ordains the means as well as the ends for His divine purposes. Prayer is a means God uses to bring His sovereign will to pass.***

***God instructs us to be earnest and fervent in our requests. At the same time, we come in willful submission. To say ‘Your will be done’ is not an indication of a lack of faith. The faith we bring to prayer must include a trust that God is able to hear our prayers and that He is disposed to answer them. Yet when God says no to our requests, this faith also trusts in His wisdom. God’s wisdom and benevolence must always and everywhere be assumed by those who entreat Him with petitions.” – R. C. Sproul***

- ◆ What did Jesus’ disciples ask Him about prayer (Luke 11:1)?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- ◆ What is a hindrance to prayer that Jesus spoke of in Luke 18:1?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- ◆ What did prayer empower the early church to accomplish (Acts 4:31)?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## I. How to Approach God in Prayer

- A.** Hebrews 10:22 invites the believer to “Draw near with a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.” Empty and insincere phrases are an offense to God.
- B.** God’s supreme majesty and Holiness is reflected in approaching God with reverence. In what way(s) do the following passages express a reverence toward God?

1. Psalm 95:6 \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Luke 11:2 \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Nehemiah 8:5 \_\_\_\_\_.

- C.** James 4:6 declares that God “Gives grace to the \_\_\_\_\_.” Reverence expresses who God is, humility remembers what we are. In what way(s) did the tax collector demonstrate a humble heart before God (Luke 18:13)?

\_\_\_\_\_.

According to Isaiah 66:2, who will God look upon with favor?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- D.** Because of the cross and Christ’s intercession as the believer’s High Priest, a Christian is encouraged to draw near to the Throne of Grace with \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 4:16). What assurance does I John 5:14 offer those who pray?

\_\_\_\_\_.

## II. Praying in Jesus’ Name

***“Whatever you ask in \_\_\_\_\_, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13).***

To pray in Jesus’ Name is not a formula to be tacked on at the end of a prayer as a guarantee of success. Rather, it is a way to express prayer on the basis and merits of Christ. Prayer in His Name is to pray in accord with what He would

pray. To conform our prayers to the Word of God is to pray in conjunction with the Word who became flesh.

### III. Basic Elements to Prayer

A helpful tool in learning to pray is the acrostic A – C – T – S. Each letter indicates an essential element of prayer:

- A. ADORATION** – Praising God for His attributes and works. Adoration is the expression of glory to God. Read Psalm 145 and list several of the attributes about God that invoke the psalmist's adoration:

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- B. CONFESSION** – When David acknowledged and confessed His sin, what did God grant him (Psa. 32:5b)? \_\_\_\_\_

To confess is to agree with God and acknowledge before God that attitude, word or deed which is in violation of His Word. What is the promise of I John 1:9? \_\_\_\_\_

- C. THANKSGIVING** – “In \_\_\_\_\_, give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (I Thess. 5:18). Nothing should characterize the life and prayer of the redeemed more than the attitude of gratitude. According to Eph. 5:20, a spirit controlled life will be marked by “\_\_\_\_\_ giving thanks for \_\_\_\_\_.”

- D. SUPPLICATION** – “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving \_\_\_\_\_” (Phil. 4:6). The word for supplication (petition) in the above passage emphasizes requesting an answer for a specific need. “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in Heaven give what is \_\_\_\_\_ to those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him!” (Matt. 7:11)

***Pleasing God is practicing prayer.***