

PRAYER LESSONS

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LESSON ONE

KNOWING GOD'S WILL IN PRAYER

No one can know the will of God unless he has a sustained, consistent prayer life. There must be concentrated periods of prayer, otherwise there will be a big question mark on who you have received direction from. (Hosea 4:6)

- (a) Man has a will
- (b) God has a will
- (c) Satan has a will

Man's will is the decision maker of man; it communicates to him what he wants. His will controls both the inside and the outside of himself, including his emotions and the reasoning of the mind.

Until man gives his consent, God will not make His way known unto man ("What is Your will Lord?"), whereas Satan will not wait for your consent. Satan forces and imposes his will upon man.

When we wait on the Lord with a fixed, locked focus, our will begins to co-mingle with God's, forming a union that brings appropriation or execution of desired effect. (Philippians 2:13 [God]; 2 Timothy 2:26 [Satan])

We need, so desperately, to know the Lord in spirit, to have the time to spend with Him so that the Spirit may work the Father's will, through and through, in us - spirit, soul and body. Study makes us to know about God, by intercession He begins to know us, but when we meditate, we know Him ("O that we may know Him"). (Ecclesiastes 12:12) Enoch and Abraham knew God, without the bible.

I have come to know that the choice of words that you speak will determine whether your prayers are answered. God must be dealing with us on a moment by moment basis, bringing details to our understanding which He, Himself, desires to hear. (Ephesians 5:17)

Many people think that it is impossible to know the perfect will of God. This is because there are false underlying structures that have built within their lives, hidden things that have not been dealt with. These structures reject the will of God when it is given, so as to never allow it to be implemented. Time has to be spent waiting, meditating on Him, until He replaces the blurred image of Himself, the distorted view that we have, with a clear picture and direction.

To know God's will, we must spend enough time in His presence until His will and our will are one. There is a condition of waiting, which is humility; an inward condition of self which is meek and humble. It is the characteristic of a pure heart. It desires no credit or praise; it is sacrificial.

Humility is not passive but aggressively reaching God-ward. It refuses to be distracted or to be deviated from the purpose of pleasing God. A humble spirit is a perfect

channel for appropriating God's will (hearing His instructions). Humility is the invitation to God to come and love with us, and on us. Invite Him, today, with that kind of HUMILITY.

How hungry are we to know His will? We need a greedy hunger to be present within us, by His Spirit.

LESSON TWO

DEVELOPING YOUR SPIRIT SENSES AND BRINGING INTENSITY TO THOSE SENSES

Before any time of prayer, it is important to examine your heart. (2 Corinthians 13:5) Is there any unforgiveness in your heart towards man or God? To know this, we must ask the Holy Spirit to bring to our conscious remembrance if anybody has said or done anything that has hurt us. After knowing who has hurt you, we then wait for an internal reaction.

Satan is very clever, in that he knows that if we have anything against God, we can still come to Him, because God lets sinners approach Him. But a lot of Christian brothers and sisters have hurts in their hearts toward God; where they have interpreted that God has let them down in some area of their lives. And therefore they have bitterness and anger or they do not trust the Lord, secretly in their hearts.

When you forgive, it is not an act of your emotions, but of your will and heart, united with faith, believing that He is faithful to forgive you.

If we do not deal with the issues in our sub-conscious, it will undermine our faith in the Lord's ability. (John 15:5; Matthew 5:23-24; Colossians 3:13)

With regards to prayer, your heart must be in it, otherwise you are just giving the Lord lip service. Our God loves to hear absolute honesty and unselfishness in prayer. He desires prayers that are not so full of words, but rather waiting, the prayer of listening. (Matthew 12:36)

INTENSIFY YOUR SPIRIT

It is important, and indeed essential, that we learn how to bring intensity to our prayer, by increasing the vibrations of our spirit. We do this by praise and worship, and shouting. When we get loud in our voices, we intensify the vibrations of our spirit. This is a build up of pressure which causes our spirit-senses to be heightened. It causes our spirit, in union with the Holy Spirit, to be caught up into the kingdom of God. This is where all the substance of all the promises can be obtained and fulfilled in our experiences.

This is the realm that we have to break into when we pray. Tongues is also good for building up this type of spiritual pressure. After we break through, it is then important to come into the prayer of silence or listening. (Psalm 46:10a; Isaiah 26:3; 40:31; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 10:5d)

You are now in the place where your spirit senses begin to develop. Here, you will develop an ability to hear Him. (John 10:27a)

LESSON THREE

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE INTERCESSOR

Presently there is only one true intercessor on the earth, the HOLY SPIRIT. He can only lay His burdens on teachable, obedient and humble hearts. We have to become sensitive to Him and wholly be given over to Him.

He needs these things to be in us in order do His work as an intercessor. We become intercessors simply because the Intercessor is dwelling within us. The Holy Spirit has to prepare us as His vessels so that He may begin His ministry of intercession.

1. We must train our minds to become still. We do this using the written word of God or by worshipping Him. However, though our minds become still, our spiritual senses still need to be aggressively active, and be highly sensitive to His presence. We must learn to discern the Tree of Life. (Hebrews 5:14)
2. We must ascend our focussed concentration into His omnipresence (that is, we focus on Jesus and the communion faculty of our spirits lifts us up into the omnipresence of God). By doing this, we become aware of Him until there is a tangible presence.
3. If our minds begin to wander, we must wilfully turn them back inside ourselves, focussing upon Him. The Lord, only, is to be found in the secret place, which is found in our spirit. (Ephesians 3:16-19; John 14:21, 23; Revelation 21:3) Once you are there, your outer senses will reside in the background and be in a suspended state. If you continue to look unto Jesus, you will then engage with God and be locked in. (2 Corinthians 10:4-6; Psalm 4:4b; 46:10) Before you realise it, you will have developed a conscious awareness of God.

In this state, the Holy Spirit can now reveal Himself to us in His own way. By causing His gifts to begin to operate within us, we can spiritually see, hear and know what the Spirit, Jesus and the Father are saying. Without the Spirit, it is impossible to communicate. Our spirits must be in union with the Holy Spirit so that all of our senses can come alive. (Romans 8:26-27)

We become a co-author with Him, interjecting with His words, and learning how we should speak until we become so one with the Spirit that our words and His become one. In fact, sometimes the Spirit wishes to speak alone with God in a mystery unknown.

Please understand that God does not originate anything outside of the activity of prayer. When He originates prayer, it becomes fruitful. Do not pray by lists; allow Him to lead you. This is what I call the prayer of listening. Ninety percent of my prayer life is listening. (John 5:30 - Amplified Bible)

LESSON FOUR

THE PRAYER OF SILENCE

Learning how to enter the realms of eternity through a fixed, concentrated focus; waiting in a peace that passes all comprehension, in the omnipresence of God.

“But when you pray, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to the Father which is in secret; and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward you openly. But when you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for there much speaking. Be not ye therefore like them: for your Father knoweth what things you have need of before you ask them.” (Matthew 6:6-8)

The Father desires every believer to come to the position of learning to pray without talking. It is a place of intuitive thinking, where the voice of your human spirit communicates with God, heart to heart. No sound was heard in the building of Solomon’s temple. I believe this is like our lives; so often God has done a work in my life as I have just sat in His presence.

The state of listening is where the mind has become still through aggressive activities of spirit. Then God’s spontaneous ideas begin to fill the heart of man, taking him into the very being of the Father. He begins to feel the very oneness that only the voice, with the presence of the Holy Spirit, can bring.

Practice thinking in the omnipresence of God, allowing it to wash over you, answering all the worries and cares, as well as the needs of your life. This is truly the peace of God that is full of wisdom and grace. Turning our attention to the voice that we are hearing brings clarity. It is like tuning a radio.

Most of the time we do not know what we should ask of the Father. It is interesting to note that the word “ask” means “to have already heard what we need to say and repeat it.” As I wait in the presence of God, the Holy Spirit tells me what I should say to the Father. Sometimes it is romantic, sometimes wisdom or counsel, depending on what the Spirit feels is best for me at that time. Being one with the Father and the Son can only come through the power of the Holy Spirit, and no other way.

Jesus said, *“you pray but you pray amiss.”* Not so with this kind of pray. You get what you ask for every time because He is asking Himself for whatever He thinks is best. The one thing that I have learned is that God loves the sound of His own voice.

“I will stand on my guard post and I will keep watch and see what He will speak to me. Then the Lord said, ‘Record the vision.’” (Habakkuk 2:1-2)

There are five spiritual senses that can speak, while the physical mouth is silent. Your inner eyes, or the screen of your imagination, is the gateway to the realm of the spirit, and it is the place the Holy Spirit uses to train the believer in hearing what the will of God is. It also reveals the heart of God, the feelings He has toward us, and many other things. To see a rose being given to you, or to see his hand reaching out to you in the

pit of sin, at an opportune moment, can convey more than words can say. The picture triggers spiritual hearing and all other senses. This is why the bible says “*watch what I will say to you,*” “*taste and see,*” “*the nose of the bride is like a tower that looks toward Damascus.*” Seeing triggers emotion or feeling. (Habakkuk 2:1; Psalm 34:8; Song of Solomon 7:4)

We need to spend time with God to develop this kind of relationship with Him. It is the deepest level that I know. There is so much to be desired in Him, if only, this day, we can touch and see it.

MY PRAYER

“O Lord, still us and make us to enjoy all You have for us in Your living word. Lift us up to Your plain of thinking so that we may abide in You. To be one in thought and action is our desire. To be on Your level of communication; that is awesome. We thank You for the opportunity of loving You day by day. You are so real, so beautiful and full of mysteries. Let us enter You that You may become all in all in us. Fill us will all the fullness of Christ, and then we will even look the same.”

“The wind touches my face softly, like Your hand, and I am moved with a fresh love once again. Come, O my love, come and fill the voids of our lives with the joy that only You can give. Your people love Your voice, so speak and do not keep silent. For Your word hangs like grapes ready for picking, and to be desired. Give me, O Lord, that fresh love, the tenderness of Your comfort, that sense of well being.”

“Wow, You did come. I saw how lovely You looked, dressed as You were when You saved me; the blood still fresh on Your hands, the tears running down Your face. Your eyes, they are filled with joy to see me excited, everyday, as though it was Your first. That is why my soul does love You.”

LESSON FIVE

HOW I PRAY

It is important to pray the will of God, whether by scripture or by the leading of the Holy Spirit. It is hard to use the scriptures and miss the will of God, but it is possible. It depends on the motive that you have, or you may be in deception. *“But we have this confidence, that if we ask anything according to His will, He will hear us. In whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked before Him.”* (1 John 5:14-15)

We have to be without condemnation in our hearts. For it is written that *“if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God.”* (1 John 3:21) *“And whatever we ask, we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments, and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.”* (1 John 3:22)

We must develop a repenting heart; one that is humble and quick to make things right, straight away. It is hard to remain tender before God; you have to work at it. It is not just feeling sorry for one’s self, it is godly sorrow that works the work of repentance in the heart. (Matthew 5:23; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10)

This is why it is so important to get that tangible anointing on you, because there is something about the presence of the Lord that keeps the heart tender. I worship until this tangible anointing comes; the omnipresence of the Lord, moving me to intercede.

Often, when I pray, things will rise up, that have occurred, that I need to deal with. I am consistently checking my heart, and its vibrations, to see if there be any wicked way in me. The deeper I go into the presence of God, the more that is revealed about myself, which can sometimes be very painful. But they must be prayed through. Once I have been through that time of searching, then I find that my heart is sensitive to the voice of the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

My fixed, locked focus is at a point where the union between Him and me can not be easily broken. Now the Holy Spirit will often give me words to say, by revelation. A love language that sometimes is so anointed that all I can do is weep. Then I just say, “I LOVE YOU,” over and over again.

I tell you, these are the moments that the Lord is going to remember in eternity. It is as if all this preparation is just to please His heart, and once it is satisfied, then there is a change that takes place in the spirit; an openness from Him that would not be there if I had not paid the price.

A daily commitment to prayer is important, so that a habit is formed and you remain sensitive. It is important to put your heart into praying your whole being, otherwise you are just fooling yourself. If you have to go out somewhere then set an alarm so that you do not have to look at your watch. Choose the right time, when you will have the least amount of interruptions. Develop this technique of a fixed, locked concentration; without it you will not be able to be effective in your praying.