PRAYER

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but they are mighty through GOD to the pulling down of strongholds...

Dr. Lester Sumrall
Prayer

by

DR. LESTER SUMRALL

LeSEA Publishing
530 E. Ireland Road
South Bend, IN 46614
PLEASE NOTE:
This study guide is designed to be a companion to the audio/video teaching entitled *Prayer* by Dr. Lester Sumrall.

All scriptures, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the *King James Version of the Holy Bible*.

Copyright © All Rights Reserved
Reprinted November 2003
This printing April 2017

*PRAYER*
ISBN 0-937580-53-8

Printed in the United States of America. All rights reserved under International Copyright Law. Contents and/or cover may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form without the express written consent of the Publisher.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. The Greatest Source of Untapped Resources</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Definitions of Prayer</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Set Laws Governing Prayer</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The Dimensions of Prayer</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The Three Prayer Worlds of Jesus</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. The Model Prayer That Jesus Taught</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. How Jesus Personally Prayed</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Praying in the Holy Ghost</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Prayer in Relation to the Bible</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Prayer with Fasting</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Divine Healing By Prayer</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Prayer in the First Church in Jerusalem</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. How Many Times to Pray For One Thing</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. What Prayer Cannot Do</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. The Problem of Unanswered Prayer</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. When it is too Late to Pray</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. The Devil’s Fear of Prayer</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. What and Whom to Pray For</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. My Personal Prayers Answered</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prayer is power.

It is possibly the greatest unused energy in our universe.

These in-depth studies are of a therapeutic and supernatural nature involving the ways and means of prayer.

There are methods of prayer which have been proven to be effective for the believer and disciple of Christ. These we must put into action.

There are major areas of study in the prayer world. They cover the total needs of humanity.

There is an amazing revival of prayer in America today. Many churches are having early-morning prayer with hundreds attending. Prayer brings revival.
STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

PRAYER

Lesson 1

THE GREATEST SOURCE OF UNTAPPED RESOURCES

READING:
Ephesians 6:18, Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

INTRODUCTION:
The human person admires and worships power. Prayer is the most talked about, discussed and least-used power available to mankind.

Since the earliest man, there is evidence of movement and progression toward more and more power. To primitive man, power was brute strength. Today, it is energy, apart from man, such as electricity and atomic energy. To this end man works incessantly.

1. THERE ARE UNTAPPED RESOURCES
   A. In nature, oil that is not yet discovered or drilled is an untapped resource.
   B. Diamonds that are not yet collected or mined are untapped resources.
   C. There is gold that is undiscovered. It is an untapped resource.
   D. Filipinos salvaged coal from a refloated vessel sunk by the Japanese during the war. They collected the coal and took it home for fuel. Before they collected it, it was an untapped resource.
   E. The greatest untapped resource of power is prayer!

2. PRAYER IS UNTAPPED POWER
   A. After the disciples prayed, they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

   Acts 4:31, And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.
B. When the disciples fasted and prayed, it was for others.
   Mark 9:29, And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

C. One can literally give oneself to prayer.
   I Corinthians 7:5, Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

3. PRAYER OPENS A WONDERFUL DOOR TO EXPERIENCE

A. There was commendation for Cornelius, a man who prayed.
   Acts 10:2, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

B. Togetherness of prayer helps the ministry.
   II Corinthians 1:11, Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

C. Prayer opens prison doors.
   Acts 12:5, Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

4. WE LEARN TO PRAY BY PRAYING AND SEEKING

A. The Spirit aids our power in prayer.
   Romans 8:26, Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

B. The scope of prayer is as large as our search.
   John 14:13, And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

C. One must not pray for oneself like the Pharisee did.
   Luke 18:11, The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.
The Greatest Source of Untapped Resources
Lesson 1

5. PRAYER IS NOT A FORMAL RECITATION OF WORDS
   A. Prayer is relationship, personal, connecting and inspiring.
   B. Prayer is a love lyric to our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. PRAYER IS NOT SIMPLY SPIRITUAL RECREATION: IT IS EDUCATION
   A. Prayer is creative. Emerson said, “No man ever prayed without learning something.”
   B. Prayer is a life planned on the knees! Prayer will stamp an indelible mark upon every action and thought.
   C. The prayer habit molds a personality!

7. PRAYER IS NOT ONLY WORSHIP: IT IS POWER
   A. This power is as real as terrestrial gravity.
   B. Prayer is spiritual magnetism—we are the iron!
   C. Dr. Alexis Carrel, author of “Man The Unknown,” says, “As a physician, I have seen men, after all other therapy had failed, lifted out of disease and melancholy by the serene effort of prayer. It is the only power in the world that seems to overcome the so-called ‘Laws of Nature. .’”

8. THERE ARE ETERNALLY INVINCIBLE POWERS
   A. Prayer is invincible: it is impossible to subdue it.
   B. The act of praying generates omnipotence.
   C. Prayer gives the frail human reed unshakable strength.
   D. Prayer is like radium, a source of luminous self-generating energy.
   E. There is a world where the unseen, righteous desire is granted, but bi-gotry, egotism and self-sufficiency create a material atmosphere which is fatal to spiritual life.

9. THE WORLD IS SEEKING INVINCIBLE POWERS
   A. Political and economic realms scheme for impregnable, immovable, indomitable, insurable, irresistible, unconquerable and unyielding powers!
   B. France, before World War II, believed the Maginot Line was invincible. But it collapsed!
   C. Germany believed that her blitz-tactics were invincible. They failed.
10. ALL EARTHLY POWERS ARE SUBJECT TO DEFEAT

A. Systems change.
B. Balance of power changes.
C. Prayer will never be defeated!
PRAYER

Lesson 2

DEFINITIONS OF PRAYER

READING:

Luke 18:1, And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

1. PRAYER IS THE TURNING OF THE HUMAN SOUL TO THE LIVING GOD
   Psalm 25:1, Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.

2. PRAYER IS COMMUNION WITH GOD
   Psalm 65:2, O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.

3. PRAYER IS A HEART STUDY
   It is a school of superb learning. Through prayer we learn truth unavailable elsewhere.

4. PRAYER IS A SUPERNATURAL VIBRATION
   All the universe vibrates.
   There are vibrations in the molecules of a table or book. The air is filled with vibrations.
   Dr. Norman Vincent Peale said, “Prayer is a sending out of vibrations of God.”
   When you pray, you employ a force inherent in our spiritual universe. This process awakens vibrations, through which God brings the objectives prayed for.

5. PRAYER IS INTENSIVE DESIRE
   Romans 8:26-27, Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
   v. 27, And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
6. **PRAYER IS A COMPASS**
   In prayer we locate our spiritual being. We discover where we are and which way we need to go.

7. **PRAYER IS HELPING GOD**
   A. Isaiah 59:16, *And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.*
   Here, God needed someone to intercede.

   B. Isaiah 63:5, *And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.*
   Here, God needed someone to stand in the gap.

   C. Ezekiel 22:30, *And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.*
   Here, God needed someone to stand in the gap.

8. **PRAYER IS THE DEEPEST SINCERITY**
   In prayer man disrobes himself of all artificiality, and pretense. He knows that God knows.

9. **PRAYER IS DIVINE REVERENCE**
   John 4:23-24, *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*
   v. 24, *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

10. **PRAYER IS DIVINE OBEDIENCE**
    I John 3:21-23, *Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.*
    v. 22, *And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*
    v. 23, *And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.*

11. **PRAYER IS THE POWER THAT UNLOCKS THE TREASURES OF GOD**
    James 4:2, *Ye have not, because ye ask not.*
12. PRAYER IS THE STRONGEST POWER AVAILABLE TO HUMANITY

S. D. Gordon said, “The greatest thing that anyone can do for God and man is to pray. Prayer is the winning blow.”

E. M. Bonds said, “God shapes the world by prayer. The more prayer there is in the world, the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil.”

13. PRAYER IS THE FIRST STEP IN KNOWING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Acts 2:21, And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14. PRAYER IS THE BELIEVER’S GREATEST SOURCE OF STRENGTH

Matthew 9:22, . . .Daughter, be of good comfort, thy faith hath made thee whole.

15. PRAYER IS THE KEY TO MIRACLES

Throughout the Bible there are releases of miracle through prayer, as with Elijah and Peter.

16. PRAYER IS GOD’S CANNON AT THE GATES OF HELL

Prayer can blast the devil’s stronghold and bring victory!
SET LAWS GOVERNING PRAYER

READING:
Matthew 6:9, After this manner therefore pray ye. . .

INTRODUCTION:
Jesus prescribed set laws related to prayer. There are principles we must follow. As the laws of gravity or the set laws of mathematics are tested and tried, so prayer has its rules, regulations and set laws. These are precise and exact. Man must recognize and respect them.

1. LAW OF BELIEVING
   A. You must have faith, trust and knowledge.
   B. Where there is no faith, there can be no answer.
   C. Jesus said in Matthew 9:29, . . .According to your faith be it unto you.
   D. The promises of God are set laws in the universe.

2. LAW OF KNOWLEDGE
   A. You must know the One to whom you are praying. In prayer, we face the trinity, the God of eternity.
   B. Know what you need and are praying to receive. You must also know God’s nature.
   C. You must acknowledge the ability of the One to whom you are praying, or your prayers are in vain.
      1) The priests of Elijah’s day prayed for rain, but received none. They did not know the limitations of their gods.
      2) The priests (soothsayers and magicians) of Babylon did not know the limitations of their gods. Daniel knew the limitlessness of his God.
      3) A person’s knowledge of God determines his depth of prayer. You cannot pray effectively in ignorance.
3. **LAW OF SINCERITY**
   There must be no obstructing lies.

4. **LAW OF PERSISTANCE**
   A. Prayer needs force and perseverance.
   B. Jesus said of prayer:
      1) Ask
      2) Seek
      3) Knock
   C. Abraham prayed for Lot’s family and interceded continually for them.
   D. Elijah prayed for rain, asking God seven times to send it.

5. **LAW OF HUMILITY**
   A. The purpose of prayer is so man will realize a need and deficiency in his life.
   B. Man seeks a higher power for assistance, not expecting to pay for such help.
   C. Arrogance has no place in prayer.

6. **LAW OF PRAYER STRUCTURE**
   A. Prayer glorifies and exalts God.
   B. Prayer brings the participant into a personal and intimate relationship with deity.
      1) Daniel knew God better after prayer and revelation.
      2) Jacob knew God better after a night of wrestling in prayer.
   C. Prayer convinces the unbeliever of God’s reality and often brings revival. The prophets of Baal prayed all day and got nothing. Elijah prayed and saw results. This display of God’s power caused Israel to turn back to God.
THE DIMENSIONS OF PRAYER

READING:
I Thessalonians 5:17, *Pray without ceasing.*

James 5:16, *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

INTRODUCTION:
All prayer must be sincere because it is the key to God and heaven. The power of prayer has removed kings, defeated armies and changed individuals. People of prayer are the greatest Christian heroes. A minister must be able to move God before he can move men.

1. **THE FIRST DIMENSION OF PRAYER IS CONFESSION**
   A. Confession creates friendship with God.
   B. Through confession we cleanse our soul and body of sin.
      
      Psalm 51:1, *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

2. **THE SECOND DIMENSION OF PRAYER IS THANKSGIVING**
   A. Thanksgiving reveals a deep appreciation of God.
   B. Psalm 107:1, *O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
3. **THE THIRD DIMENSION OF PRAYER IS WORSHIP**
   A. There is an area of courtship with God: outward reverence, praise and adoration.
   B. II Chronicles 5:13-14, *It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;*  
      v. 14, *So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.*

4. **THE FOURTH DIMENSION OF PRAYER IS MEDITATION**
   A. In contemplation of God, we enjoy God by thinking of Him.
   B. Psalm 62:5-6, *My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.*  
      v. 6, *He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved.*

5. **THE FIFTH DIMENSION OF PRAYER IS PETITION**
   A. Through petition, we draw from the storehouse of God and ask God for assistance.
   B. James 5:17-18, *Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.*  
      v. 18, *And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*
   C. Prayer is a petition for deep needs; supplication is the inner man crying out for God to solve his problem.
      Hebrews 5:7, *Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared.*

6. **THE SIXTH DIMENSION OF PRAYER IS INTERCESSION**
   A. A gnarled tree is not a happy tree.
   B. Rent rocks are not happy rocks
C. As Christians, we know that we are to bear fruit, for the Father is glorified by our fruit. In John 15, our Lord admonished His disciples and urged them to bring forth much fruit. However, much fruit would only be possible by abiding in Him, for without Him they could do nothing.

John 15:5-6, . . .He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit. . .

v. 6, If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

D. Christians often groan within themselves, frustrated and unhappy, unable to bear fruit as they should. They feel their limitations deeply. Their scope for fruit-bearing is reduced to the place where they find themselves and the time in which they live.

E. Intercession opens the door for ministry. How liberating it is! The intercessor finds a joy unspeakable and full of glory by reaching out a helping hand, via the throne of grace, to others. He is bound by neither time nor space.

F. Our Lord, in His talk on the need of fruit-bearing, did not leave His disciples in the dark regarding the method and the means for an abundant and immeasurably rich and permanent harvest.

John 15:7, 16, If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

v. 16, Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

G. The prayer of intercession reaches God for others.

Abraham interceded for Lot.

Genesis 18:23-32, And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

v. 24, Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

v. 25, That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

v. 26, And the L ORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

v. 27, And Abraham answered and said, Behold, now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes:
v. 28, *Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.*

v. 29, *And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty’s sake.*

v. 30, *And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there.*

v. 31, *And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty’s sake.*

v. 32, *And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten’s sake.*

H. It is working with God for others.

I Corinthians 3:9, *For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.*

I. Ask God to help others. This is the kindest and noblest form of prayer.

Exodus 32:30-32, *And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.*

v. 31, *And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.*

v. 32, *Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.*

7. **THE SEVENTH DIMENSION OF PRAYER IS PERSISTENCE**

A. Persistence is wrestling with God for victory. It is a personal fight or struggle.

B. It is travailing to bring to birth.

C. To prevail means to win and overcome.

D. When speaking of compassion, we briefly mentioned that type of prayer which includes a deep brokenness, sometimes even manifesting itself in groans. Such prayer would come under the category of “travail.” What exactly is travail? The following three basic facts about travail should help provide an answer:

1) Travail is the dying part of prayer. An expectant mother often feels she is at the very brink of death during childbirth. The pain is such that even modern medications may fail to relieve all of it and the “labor” is very hard work.
This pain is necessary and might be labeled the “dying part” of a mother’s experience. Only as she willingly suffers can new life come forth.

2) Travail is energy. The point above seems to suggest that this type of prayer involves long praying, but real travail concerns the energy we put into our praying. Spurgeon explained, “God does not hear us because of the length of our prayer, but because of the sincerity of it. Prayer is not to be measured by the yard, nor weighed by the pound. It is the might and force of it—the truth and reality of it—the energy and the intensity of it.”

3) Travail is the depth of desire in prayer. The Master of all prayer taught in Mark 11:24, . . .What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Desire is paramount to powerful praying.

James 4:2, . . .Ye have not, because ye ask not.

Perhaps we should phrase this, “Ye have not, because ye want not.”

The fact is, unless we want a thing, we will do nothing to acquire it. Further, the greater the desire we have for this thing, the more intensity will be manifest as we seek fulfillment of this want. E.M. Bounds said that desire is not merely a simple wish but a deep-seated craving. It is an intense longing for attainment. Desire precedes prayer, accompanies it and is followed by it. Prayer is nothing but the oral expression of desire. The deeper the desire, the stronger the prayer. William McBirnie adds, “Only prayers which are meant with all the heart and soul are really answered.”

Jesus prayed in Gethsemane with such agony that bloody sweat stood out on His face. Only real earnestness can propel a prayer far enough to be heard by God.

What Christ refers to as desire is especially meaningful in regarding prayer that will change the world.
READING:

Luke 11:1, 9, And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray. . .

v. 9, And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

INTRODUCTION:

This lesson is the dramatic portion of our studies on prayer. It demonstrates that Jesus was a person of prayer.

The Bible tells us that one day Jesus was praying to His Father. When He was done, His disciples approached Him and asked, “Master, teach us to pray.”

This request by the disciples could be the greatest one ever asked of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Few people truly know how to pray. Few people in this world really know how to approach God properly.

We need to know how to address God. If you were to be presented to an earthly king, you would be taught how to dress and bow before the monarch. You would be taught how to speak, when to speak and when not to speak. You would be taught all these things before you would be allowed into the throne room.

“Master,” the disciples asked, “teach us to pray.”
1. YOUR SUCCESS AS A CHRISTIAN IS IN YOUR ABILITY TO PRAY
   A. What the telescope is to the astronomer, prayer is to the Christian.
   B. What the microscope is to the doctor, prayer is to the Christian.
   C. What the compass is to the navigator, prayer is to the Christian.
   D. The devil hates prayer. He does not want Christians to pray. Many Christians today read their prayers from pieces of paper.

2. JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THREE PRAYER WORLDS
   A. Ask and ye shall receive.
   B. Seek and ye shall find.
   C. Knock and it shall be opened unto you.
   D. These three areas represent three worlds of prayer. These are absolute and diverse.

3. THE FIRST PRAYER WORLD IS, “ASK AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU”
   A. James 1:5 says that if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God. . . This is the prayer of the world of asking.
   B. We find in James 4:2, . . . Ye have not, because ye ask not. The Lord Jesus said, Ask and ye shall receive (Luke 11:9).
   C. This is the primary prayer world. This is the beginning prayer world.
   D. When we are converted, asking God for things we need is correct. It is the baby prayer world.
   E. When a child begins to learn how to speak, the first thing he learns is to ask for things. The asking world is the beginning prayer world.
   F. This prayer world is not to be despised. It is a necessary prayer world.
   G. When we are born into the Kingdom of God, the Lord says, Ask, and it shall be given you.
   H. John 14:13, And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do. . .
   I. In this beginning prayer world, this elementary prayer world, we ask in order to receive.
In my own life, there have been times when I did not ask. For example in the winter time if I have a cough or cold on my chest, and someone says, “Brother Sumrall, how are you feeling?” I say, “Fine.” The next day someone says, “Brother Sumrall, how do you feel?” I say, “I am getting better.” About the third day I can hardly get up, and the Lord says, “Why don’t you ask Me?” Then I say, “Why didn’t I ask You the first day?”

Ask the Lord, because the Bible says asking is a part of receiving.

4. THE SECOND PRAYER WORLD IS, “SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND”

A. The Lord Jesus said, Seek, and ye shall find.

B. If you could get everything you need by asking, Jesus would not have made this second prayer world.

C. There are things in God you cannot get by asking. Then we move into a second dimension of prayer, and that is the prayer world of seeking. Seeking is different from asking.

D. A one-year-old baby can say, “Give me some milk.” But if you said to a one-year-old, “Go and find that hat that your father lost last summer,” that one-year-old baby would fold up and say, “I don’t know anything about hats or last summer.” The world of seeking God is different from the world of asking God. It is a richer dimension of God. You receive bigger things through seeking than by asking. Seeking has to do with intelligence. Those who seek have a mind.

E. The treasures of this world, such as diamonds, gold, etc., are not found on Main Street. They are found in places where you have to search. They are in river beds or deep in the earth.

F. Some Christians never move from the primary-stage prayer world. They never cease to be beginners, and when they do not get what they ask for, they say, “Why didn’t I get what I wanted?” It is because they missed the prayer world.

G. Jesus said, Seek, and ye shall find.

I have found that to be true many times.

Matthew 6:33, But seek ye first the kingdom of God. . .and all these things shall be added unto you.

Hebrews 11:6, . . .He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

We can seek after God. In seeking after Him, we receive things that we could never receive otherwise. This is the second prayer world, which is progressive, exciting, fulfilling.
5. THE THIRD PRAYER WORLD IS, “KNOCK AND IT SHALL BE OPENED”

A. In this third dimension of prayer, the Lord Jesus said, *Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*

B. A beautiful painting by Hoffman is hanging in St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. Jesus is standing on the outside of the door, knocking.

C. There is a place in God in prayer that is different from the other prayer worlds.

D. Where to knock
   1) We knock on the door.
   2) We do not knock on windows or the roof or the sides of buildings; we knock at the door. Christ said in John 10:9, *I am the door.*
   3) Paul said in I Corinthians 16:9, *For a great door and effectual is opened unto me.*
   4) II Corinthians 2:12, *Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ’s gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord.*
   5) You must knock and Jesus will open the door. There is no latch on the outside! The door must be opened from the inside!

E. This third prayer world is the world of devotion to God.
   1) If all your praying is in one prayer world, then you will miss the others.
   2) I believe the third prayer world is the ultimate prayer world. I believe worship is the highest form of prayer.
   3) In this prayer world, you move into a state of ecstasy and magnifying God.
   4) Men like Isaiah knew this prayer world. For them the heavens were ripped apart and they saw the throne of God.
   5) Men like Daniel knew this prayer world. The heavens were shaken and God sent angels to talk with them.
   6) Men like John knew this prayer world. Holy men stood by them and caused them to fall on their faces.
   7) You and I can knock on that door of prayer. We can go into a place with Jesus where we can praise, magnify and worship Him. There you are in a place where time is lost. You are in a place where the things of life are outside.
   8) You would not dare ask for a favor, you would not dare say, “I am seeking something.” You just praise Him, and praise Him, and praise Him.
9) My mother:

Very early in my life I discovered this prayer world. Coming home from school like every boy, I would call to my mother as I came in the house. Often when I could not find her, she would emerge from a place that she called her prayer closet. It was a large walk-in closet where we kept the winter clothes in the summer. It was a quiet place and she would go back there and pray. Sometimes when she would come out, her face would be wet with tears, and I would say, “Mother, what has happened to you?” She would say, “I have been praying.” Then I would say, “Mother, why were you crying when you were praying?” She would say, “Well, it is just because I love Jesus.” I would say, “Well, you don’t have to cry just because you love Jesus, do you?” She would reply, “I cannot tell you all about it. I have just been in there praying, and God came down and it was so wonderful.”

There on her face I could see light that is not natural to the human face. I could see a glory which only comes from that third prayer world.

6. THE TRUTH OF THE THREE PRAYER WORLDS

A. These prayer worlds tell the story of your life.
B. When a person is born spiritually, he is born into the first prayer world.
C. As he develops, he goes into the second dimension of prayer.
D. As he becomes a full adult Christian, he moves into the third prayer world.
E. Then he lives in all three of the prayer worlds. For the smaller things of life he says “Give me, Lord.”
F. He seeks after the better things—God’s will.
G. Then, he lays them both down, goes in through the door, and says, “I love you, Jesus.”
H. Soon he opens the door and comes back to where men live. Then he again walks among men.

7. THE STORY OF OUR LIVES: THE STORY OF THREE DIMENSIONS OF PRAYER

A. When a person or a church backslides, they backslide through the prayer worlds.
The Three Prayer Worlds of Jesus  
Lesson 5

B. When a church is born, it is born first into the primary prayer world of asking.  
When a church matures, it goes into the second prayer world of seeking. Then a  
church goes into the third prayer world of worship unto God.  
If that church backslides, it will backslide through the prayer worlds. The first  
thing it will do is stop praising and magnifying God in worship.  

C. In the second prayer world it will stop seeking for more of God.  

D. Then it will backslide to the primary world of asking. Finally, it will stop  
praying altogether.  
Our lives are the same. When we are at our deepest place in God, we are in the  
prayer world of praising and magnifying Him. This is the biggest prayer world.  
It is the greatest prayer world.  

E. When we backslide from praising God, then we come down into the second  
prayer world of seeking Him. This is the determination to get something from  
God.  

F. When we backslide further, we just say a little prayer at the table and a little  
prayer by our bed at night. We are just asking for things we need, and asking for  
blessings. From there, we slide clear out the door and have no prayer life.  

8. THE PRAYER WORLDS, TELLING THE STORY OF SPIRIT, SOUL  
AND BODY  

A. Man is composed of spirit, soul and body.  

B. The primary prayer world is the physical prayer world of asking.  

C. The second prayer world is the soulical prayer world of seeking.  

D. The final and mightiest prayer world is the spiritual prayer world, where we  
move into the ecstasy of magnifying Jehovah.  

9. GOD DESIRES PEOPLE OF PRAYER  

A. When the Bible says pray with fasting, it is possible to do so.  

B. There are many attitudes of prayer.  

C. Our sleep can be a form of prayer. While we rest at night, something is moving  
out of our inner being and moving toward God. When we awake, our first  
thought is of God.
10. POWER OF PRAYER

Living in these prayer worlds makes it easy to live for Jesus. As we know how to ask, how to seek, and how to knock, a whole world is opened before us of loving and serving Jesus. It makes it easier to live for Him. People who find it hard to live for Jesus know little about the prayer worlds.

Friend, move from one to the other of the prayer worlds, but do not lose them!
PRAYER

Lesson 6

THE MODEL PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT

READING:

Matthew 6:9-13, After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

v. 10, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

v. 11, Give us this day our daily bread.

v. 12, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

v. 13, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION:

The greatest prayer ever prayed, was prayed by the greatest man who ever lived. There are 23 elements in The Lord’s Prayer. It is all-inclusive and exhaustive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Our Father</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Which art in heaven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoration</td>
<td>Hallowed be thy name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipation</td>
<td>Thy kingdom come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consecration</td>
<td>Thy will be done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universality</td>
<td>In earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conformity</td>
<td>As it is in heaven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplication</td>
<td>Give us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definiteness</td>
<td>This day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Necessity</td>
<td>Our daily bread</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Model Prayer that Jesus Taught
Lesson 6

Penitence: And forgive us
Obligation: Our debts
Forgiveness: As we forgive
Love and mercy: Our debtors
Guidance: And lead us
Protection: Not into temptation
Salvation: But deliver us
Righteousness: From evil
Faith: For thine is the kingdom
Humility: And the power
Majesty: And the glory
Timeless: For ever
Affirmation: Amen

1. HOW A GREAT PRAYER WAS BORN
   A. This prayer was born out of a request by the disciples to our Lord, Lord, teach us to pray (Luke 11:1).
   B. It has been so often referred to as, The Lord’s Prayer.
   C. How often we are dependent upon others, as were the disciples on Jesus. But we must learn to pray for ourselves.
   D. This “disciples’ prayer” is a model, not a mold.

2. JESUS HAD A WONDERFUL CONCEPT OF GOD AS A FATHER
   A. Our Father. He exalted the Father in His sonship.
      John 17:4, I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.
   B. He saw God as being one with Him.
      John 17:21, That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.
   C. He did reverence to God’s name.
      John 17:26, And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.
   D. Prayer brings us into sonship.

3. JESUS HAD A KINGDOM RELATIONSHIP IN PRAYER
   A. Which art in heaven. The kingdom of Heaven is within.
Luke 17:21, *Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.*

**B. The throne must be in our hearts.**

Romans 10:8-10, *But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;*

v. 9, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

v. 10, *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

**C. We must crown Him King of our lives.**

John 18:37, *Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*

---

**4. JESUS TAUGHT HONOR TO GOD’S NAME**

*Hallowed be thy name.*

**5. JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE KINGDOM**

*Thy kingdom come.*

**6. JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD’S WILL**

*Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

**7. JESUS TAUGHT PRAYER FOR DAILY BREAD**

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

**8. JESUS TAUGHT DIVINE FORGIVENESS IN THIS PRAYER**

*Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

**A. As we forgive.** This is the acid test.

Matthew 6:14, *For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*

**B. All resentment and evil speaking must go.**
Luke 6:45, *A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.*

9. **JESUS TAUGHT OUR DEPENDENCE UPON GOD’S STRENGTH**
   
   A. *Lead us not into temptation.* Give us Your protection.
   
   B. *But deliver us from evil.* This verse speaks of salvation and all righteousness.

10. **JESUS HAD A VISION OF WORLD DOMINION IN PRAYER**

    *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory.*

    A. The glory is all of God.

    I Peter 5:11, *To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

    B. The power is everything that God is.

    C. There is an enduring eternal quality of petition.

    Romans 4:20, *He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.*

11. **FOREVER, AMEN**

    A. Prayer must help His Kingdom to come.

    B. Prayer must help us to see that the kingdoms of this world are our Lord’s domain.
STUDY GUIDE
INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

PRAYER

Lesson 7

HOW JESUS PERSONALLY PRAYED

READING:
Matthew 26:41, Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

INTRODUCTION:
Jesus Christ, the son of God, believed in prayer. He showed Himself to be a person of dramatic and persistent prayer. Prayer was indispensable to His mission.
The prayer life of Jesus was a law of life.

1. JESUS LED THE WORLD IN PRAYER
   A. At His baptism (Matthew 3)
   B. At the transfiguration (Matthew 17)
   C. At the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26)
   D. At the Cross (Luke 23)

2. JESUS PRAYED BEFORE DAYBREAK
   Mark 1:35, And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

3. JESUS SPENT ENTIRE NIGHTS IN PRAYER
   Luke 6:12, And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.
4. **PRAYER WAS JESUS’ COMMUNION, INSPIRATION & STRENGTH**

Matthew 26:41, *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

Luke 18:1, . . .men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

5. **PRAYER DID NOT HAVE SECOND PLACE IN JESUS’ LIFE**

Jesus always gave prayer top priority.

6. **JOHN 17:11, 13, 15, 17, 23, 24—THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD**

A. Jesus prayed that His disciples would become one.

v. 11, *And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.*

B. Jesus prayed that His disciples would have joy. Christ knew their need for happiness.

v. 13, *And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.*

C. Jesus prayed that the Father would keep His disciples from evil. He knew they would be under attack.

v. 15, *I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.*

D. Jesus prayed for His disciples to be sanctified. Holy living is so important. Sanctification comes by the Word.

v. 17, *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

E. He prayed for His disciples to have eternal life.

v. 23, *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

F. Jesus prayed for His disciples to have eternal life.

v. 24, *Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*
PRAYER

Lesson 8

PRAYING IN THE HOLY GHOST

READING:
Romans 8:26, Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Ephesians 6:18, Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

I Corinthians 13:1, Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels. . .

INTRODUCTION:
We have studied many facets of prayer, especially in relationship to God the Father and God the Son. Now we learn that God the Holy Spirit, through prayer, can speak faith from our inner person and address our human needs.

1. WHY SHOULD WE PRAY BY THE SPIRIT?
   
   A. Since prayer is essential to spiritual life and growth, the Holy Spirit must be involved.

   B. The Holy Spirit is the sustainer of spiritual life.

   Galatians 5:25, If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

2. PRAYER BY THE SPIRIT CONFORMS TO THE BIBLE

   The two are in harmony. God’s Word and God’s Spirit are inseparable.

3. PRAYER BY THE SPIRIT WILL GLORIFY GOD

   A. In this kind of prayer, material or human help becomes secondary. The central emphasis of this prayer is God’s glory, not one’s own.
B. The Holy Spirit never ministers alone. He always ministers with man or with Christ. He is a helper.

John 16:7, Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

John 14:17, Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

4. PRAYER WITHOUT THE SPIRIT IS INEFFECTIVE

It is prayer through the mind instead of the spirit; therefore, its contents are inadequate.

5. ONLY THE HOLY SPIRIT KNOWS GOD’S THOUGHTS

I Corinthians 2:11, For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
PRAYER

Lesson 9

PRAYER IN RELATION TO THE BIBLE

READING:
I Kings 8:56, Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.

INTRODUCTION:
The Bible is essentially a prayer book. Without God’s Word, prayer does not have a proper foundation. Prayer is taking God’s Word into God’s throne room.
The Bible is the key source of information about prayer for all mankind. All of God’s great men were men of prayer.

1. THE BIBLE REVEALS AND TEACHES GOD’S NATURE
   The disciples knew when and how to pray.

2. GOD’S WORD IS VITAL IN PRAYER
   A. God speaks to man by and through His Word.
   B. Using God’s Word in prayer involves God.

3. THE BIBLE CAUSES PRAYER TO LIVE
   A. The Bible is a Tree of Life. Prayer is taught from the beginning.
   B. Hezekiah prayed and lived another fifteen years.
   C. Elijah prayed and a child rose back to life.
4. **THE BIBLE CREATES FAITH WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO PRAYER**
   
   A. Romans 10:17, *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
   
   B. Hebrews 11:3, *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God.*

5. **THE BIBLE TEACHES MAN HOW TO HEAR**
   
   A. Pray and listen. Samuel said in 1 Samuel 3:9, *Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth.* Too often we say, “Listen, Lord, thy servant speaketh.”
   
   B. Romans 10:17, *...hearing by the word of God.*

6. **THE BIBLE TEACHES MAN HOW TO WAR IN PRAYER**
   
   A. Jacob:
   
   Genesis 32:24-26, *And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.*
   
   v. 25, *And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob’s thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.*
   
   v. 26, *And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.*

   B. Elijah:
   
   James 5:17-18, *Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.*
   
   v. 18, *And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*

   C. Jesus:
   
   Luke 22:41-44, *And he was withdrawn from them about a stone’s cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,*
   
   v. 42, *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: never-theless not my will, but thine, be done.*
   
   v. 43, *And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.*
   
   v. 44, *And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*
READING:
Joel 1:14, Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD.

INTRODUCTION:
Prayer and fasting are the secret weapons of the believer. There are three people in the Bible who fasted for 40 days: Moses, Elijah and Jesus. They represent the Law, the Prophets and the Savior.

1. A NATION WAS CONCEIVED THROUGH PRAYER AND FASTING
   Deuteronomy 9:18, And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

2. A NATION SAVED
   Jonah 3:5-10, So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.
   v. 6, For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.
   v. 7, And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:
   v. 8, But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.
   v. 9, Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?
v. 10, And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

3. A MAJOR BUILDING PROJECT DIRECTED

Nehemiah 1:4-11, And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.

v. 5, And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

v. 6, Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father’s house have sinned.

v. 7, We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

v. 8, Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:

v. 9, But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

v. 10, Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.

v. 11, O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king’s cupbearer.

DANIEL PIERCED THE UNKNOWN

A. Daniel 9:3-4, And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

v. 4, And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments.
B. Daniel 9:21-23, Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

v. 22, And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

v. 23, At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

C. Daniel 10:2-3, 10-14, In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.

v. 3, I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

v. 10, And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.

v. 11, And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

v. 12, Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

v. 13, But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

v. 14, Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.

D. Fasting and prayer together are often the only source of victory. Jesus said in Matthew 17:21, . . . by prayer and fasting.

5. WITNESSES SENT FORTH AFTER THE CHURCH FASTED AND PRAYED

Acts 13:1-3, Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

v. 2, As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

v. 3, And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.
6. **CORNELIUS RECEIVES REVELATION BY FASTING**

Acts 10:30, *And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing.*

7. **WHY FAST?**

   A. To subdue the flesh.
   
   B. To control the soul.
READING:

Mark 11:22-23, And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

v. 23, For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

INTRODUCTION:

The most wonderful thing about prayer for healing is the way we are encouraged by the Scripture to seek God for health. When I say this, I mean more than physical well-being.

In divine healing, the whole man is involved: spirit, soul and body. What is more effective is the amazing fact that the whole Godhead is also involved: Father, Son and Holy Ghost. The message of the Godhead is from the whole Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. Healing is for the whole man and for the whole world.

1. WHAT THE OLD TESTAMENT SAYS ABOUT HEALING PRAYER

A. The promise is definite, all our diseases are healed.

Psalm 103:1-3, Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

v. 2, Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

v. 3, Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.

B. Restoration of health is promised

Jeremiah 30:17, For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD.

C. None of these diseases.

God demands that we hearken to His voice.

Exodus 15:26, And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his
commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

2. WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT SAYS ABOUT DIVINE HEALTH

A. The prayer of faith shall save the sick.

James 5:14-16, *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:*

v. 15, *And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

v. 16, *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

B. The first great thing in healing is need.

Luke 9:11, *And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.*

C. Jesus healed all manner of diseases among the people.

Matthew 4:23, *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.*

D. The Great Commission includes healing.

Mark 16:15, *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

3. MY PART AS A WHOLE MAN TO A COMPLETE MESSAGE

A. Matthew 28:19-20, *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

v. 20, *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

B. John 14:12, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

C. The grand climax is, “in the name of Jesus.”

Acts 3:6, *Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.*
CONCLUSION:

God is the author of an eternal message of healing which can never cease. Christ is the Great Healer: *The Lord shall raise him up* (James 5:15). The Holy Ghost empowers all His servants: *I am with you* (Matthew 28:20).
READING:
Acts 2:32-47, This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

v. 33, Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

v. 34, For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

v. 35, Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

v. 36, Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

v. 37, Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

v. 38, Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

v. 39, For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

v. 40, And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save your-selves from this untoward generation.
v. 41, Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

v. 42, And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

v. 43, And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

v. 44, And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

v. 45, And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

v. 46, And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

v. 47, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

INTRODUCTION:
The disciples looked to Jesus for the model prayer. Modern disciples look to the early Church to see how prayer worked. The amazing thing is that there are many evidences of answers to prayer in the New Testament Church. How grateful we should be for such a clear evidence of prayer. The truth of the matter is this: God has never failed in any age to meet any group of people who seek to pray. Seek, and ye shall find (Matthew 7:7).

1. THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES IS BETTER ENTITLED THE ACTS OF THE HOLY GHOST

A. They continued daily in the house of prayer.

Acts 2:42, And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrines and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

B. They were joyful in spirit.

Acts 2:41, Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

C. They counted nothing as their own.

Acts 2:45, And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.
2. THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST CHURCH PRAYED BEFORE MAKING DECISIONS

A. The choice is made by prayer in God’s presence.

Acts 1:24, *And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen.*

B. They prayed and praised God for all that happened.

Acts 4:23-24, *And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.*

v. 24, *And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is.*

C. They found an answer to prayer too good to be true on one occasion.

Acts 12:5, 14, 16, *Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.*

v. 14, *And when she knew Peter’s voice, she opened not the gate for gladness.*

v. 16, *...when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.*

3. IN THE EARLY CHURCH, PRAYER LED TO PRAISE

A. They were together when they prayed in the church.

Acts 3:1, *Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.*

B. They were of one mind and one accord.

Acts 2:46, *And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.*

C. They praised God in the midst of danger.

Acts 4:31, *And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*

4. THEY WERE KNOWN AS PEOPLE OF THE WAY

A. The way of salvation is through no other name.

Acts 4:12, *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*
B. The way of truth—there is no other.

John 1:17, *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*

C. The way of all power is given. There is no other avenue.

Acts 19:17, *And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.*

CONCLUSION:

The Holy Ghost was the inspiration of their prayers. They depended upon God to the point of no return.

Prayer and praise went in pairs. Those who prayed also praised.

Jesus was, to these first century Christians, the Way, the Truth and the Life.
READING:
Luke 18:1, *And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.*

INTRODUCTION:
There are people who teach that once you pray over a matter (either for a soul to be saved, or for a healing, or for a domestic problem) it is unbelief to repeat that prayer. Let us search the Scriptures on this important subject. Let us seek a principle of TRUTH.

1. ISRAEL MARCHED AROUND THE WALLS OF JERICHO FOR SEVEN DAYS

Joshua 6:3-4, *And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.*

v. 4, *And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams’ horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.*

On the seventh day they had to act seven times before the historic miracle occurred.

Why did it not come in just one day? The ark of God was present. The bugles of war blasted, but they walked 13 times around the city before the walls fell.
2. **ABRAHAM PRAYED SEVERAL TIMES FOR SODOM, BUT TO NO AVAIL—SODOM PERISHED**

Abraham said to God in His prayer. . .

Genesis 18:31-32, . . .Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty’s sake.

v. 32, And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten’s sake.

3. **ELIJAH PRAYED SEVEN TIMES**

Elijah the Tishbite, the mighty prophet, sought God for rain on Carmel’s heights.

A. I Kings 18:42-44, So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees.

v. 43, And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

v. 44, And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man’s hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

B. James 5:17-18, Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

v. 18, And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

Here were seven sessions of intercession, reaching for the answer.

4. **ELISHA LAID HIMSELF ON THE CHILD SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE THE MIRACLE OF HEALING CAME**

II Kings 4:34-35, And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

v. 35, Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.
5. **NAAMAN DIPPED HIMSELF SEVEN TIMES IN THE JORDAN BEFORE HIS MIRACLE OF HEALING CAME**

Naaman was a mighty general of the Syrian army. He had leprosy.

II Kings 5:14, *Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.*

6. **DANIEL PRAYED 21 DAYS BEFORE AN ANSWER CAME**

Daniel 10:2, *In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.*

7. **JESUS TAUGHT PERSEVERANCE**

   A. Luke 11:8, *I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.*

   His importunity, his persistence, won the food for a friend.

   B. Luke 18:1-8, *And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

   v. 2, *Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:*

   v. 3, *And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.*

   v. 4, *And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;*

   v. 5, *Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.*

   v. 6, *And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.*

   v. 7, *And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?*

   v. 8, *I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*

8. **JESUS PRAYED FOR THE BLIND MAN TWICE**

Mark 8:22-25, *And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.*

v. 23, *And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw aught.*
v. 24, And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

v. 25, After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

9. PAUL PRAYED FOR DELIVERANCE THREE TIMES

II Corinthians 12:8, For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

10. JESUS PRAYED IN GETHSEMANE

Matthew 26:41-44, Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

v. 42, He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

v. 43, And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

v. 44, And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.
READING:
I Kings 8:22-23, 39-40, And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven:

v. 23, And he said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart.

v. 39, Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;) 

v. 40, That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.

INTRODUCTION:
You will note that I have not limited this subject to the men and women of the New Testament. Some of the greatest prayers of the Bible are found in the Old Testament.

Isaiah 59:1, Behold, the LORD’s . . . ear (is not) heavy, that it cannot hear.

Since man has even invented an “electronic ear,” such as radio and telephone, to carry messages to the uttermost parts of the earth, surely the Lord’s ear can hear the prayers of His servants.
1. WHAT IS THE PARAMOUNT THING IN PRAYER?
   A. Great prayers must be sincere.
   B. They must be unselfish.
   C. They must be in faith.
   D. Great prayers make great people!

2. HISTORY TEACHES US THAT EARNEST MEN PRayed SUCCESSFULLY
   A. Abraham prayed on rugged Mt. Moriah as his son faced death.
      
      Genesis 22:13-14, And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

      v. 14, And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

   B. Jacob prayed with great intensity.
      
      Genesis 32:9-12, And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

      v. 10, I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

      v. 11, Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.

      v. 12, And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

   C. Moses interceded for Israel.
      
      Exodus 32:11-13, And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

      v. 12, Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.
v. 13, Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.

D. David prayed. He was one of the greatest prayer warriors of history.

Psalm 34:6, This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Psalm 86:8-9, Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works.

v. 9, All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.

E. Solomon dedicated a temple. He prayed.

I Kings 8:59, And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the LORD, be nigh unto the LORD our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require.

F. Jesus prayed with such intensity in the Garden of Gethsemane that He perspired drops of blood.

Luke 22:44, And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

G. The disciples requested Jesus to teach them to pray.

Luke 11:1, And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

H. Great prayers by Isaiah the prophet.

Isaiah 12:4, And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

I. Jeremiah declared that iniquity and sin withhold blessing.

Jeremiah 5:25, Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withheld good things from you.

J. Ezekiel declared that God pleads and disciplines through prayer.

Ezekiel 20:35-37, And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.

v. 36, Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.

v. 37, And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.
3. **A WOMAN PRAYED**

The prayer of Hannah was answered with the birth of Samuel.

I Samuel 1:11, *And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.*

4. **A HEATHEN WOMAN PRAYED FOR HER DAUGHTER**

Matthew 15:22-25, *And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.*

v. 23, *But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.*

v. 24, *But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

v. 25, *Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.*

5. **A MAN WHO PRAYED TO GOD FOR ANOTHER**

Matthew 8:13, *And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.*

**CONCLUSION:**

Prayer is the unceasing activity of men toward God. Prayer affects all important situations and decisions. The power of prayer is unlimited.
STUDY GUIDE
INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

PRAYER
Lesson 15

WHAT PRAYER CANNOT DO

READING:
Luke 18:10, Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

INTRODUCTION:
A Pharisee’s prayer cannot bring results.
It is taught, “God answers prayer,” but some prayers cannot be answered by God.
We hear about Jesus, who “saves, keeps and satisfies.” We are taught, “standing in the shadows you will find Jesus,” but little is preached about His flaming eyes that search the hearts of mankind. Little is told of the two-edged sword which issues forth from His mouth as described in the book of Revelation.
At the temple in Jerusalem, the veil before the Holy of holies was opened by Christ’s sacrificial blood (Matthew 27:51). Dare we enter with unconfessed sin, hatred, lying or murder?
Churches that permit sin to remain within the church have compromised themselves. Jesus Christ will judge them.

1. PRAYER CANNOT BE ANSWERED IN LIVES DISSIPATED BY SIN
   A. Christ cannot deny the attributes of His holy nature by winking at sin.
   B. Christ cannot hear the prayers of those unwilling to give up their personal sins.

   C. Christ cannot bless unconfessed sin. King Saul prayed and offered a sac-rifice, but it was not accepted by God because of his sinful heart.

      I Samuel 13:8-14, And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.
v. 9, And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.

v. 10, And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

v. 11, And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

v. 12, Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

v. 13, And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

v. 14, But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

D. The rich man prayed for help, but his prayer was unanswered.

Luke 16:24-25, 27-28, 31, And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue: for I am tormented in this flame.

v. 25, But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivest good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

v. 27, Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house:

v. 28, For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

v. 31, And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

E. The rich young ruler prayed for eternal life, but walked away from it when he heard the cost.

Matthew 19:21-22, Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.
v. 22, But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

F. God could not answer Balaam’s prayer: . . . Let my last end be like his! (Numbers 23:10).

Balaam’s life contradicted his prayer. He lived with the heathen and died with them.

2. TO BE ANSWERED, PRAYER NEEDS VISION

A. Isaiah had a vision of the holiness of God.

Isaiah 6:1-5, In the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

v. 2, Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

v. 3, And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

v. 4, And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

v. 5, Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

B. Job experienced God. Once he had only heard of God, now he had seen Him

Job 42:5, I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

C. John on Patmos had a real devotion. He fell as a dead man before God.

Revelation 1:17, And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.

3. GOD KNOWS

A. God saw Eve’s fingers clutching the fruit.

Genesis 3:6, And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.
B. God saw Cain’s arm raised to kill Abel.

   Genesis 4:8, And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

C. God saw Achan’s heart lust after the garment, silver and golden wedge.

   Joshua 7:19-21, And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me.

   v. 20, And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned a-gainst the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:

   v. 21, When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

D. God saw King David on the housetop with adultery in his heart.

   II Samuel 11:2, And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king’s house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

E. God saw Judas reach for thirty pieces of silver.

   Matthew 26:15, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

Under these circumstances, prayer could not be answered.
READING:
Luke 18:1-8, And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

v. 2, Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

v. 3, And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

v. 4, And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

v. 5, Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

v. 6, And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

v. 7, And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

v. 8, I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

INTRODUCTION:
Whenever as great a power as prayer is available, there are bound to be hindrances. The world, the flesh and the devil create these hindrances.
The Problem of Unanswered Prayer  
Lesson 16

1. NEGLECTING PRAYER  
   A. Some people think they should receive answers to prayer without praying.  

2. A WRONG MOTIVE IN PRAYER  
   A. One error in prayer is petitioning God for things that are not really needed. Things desired for the purpose of satisfying selfish desires.  
      James 4:3, *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*  
   B. The goal in life should be to glorify God.  
      I Corinthians 10:31, *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*  
   C. Effective prayer must be free of self-indulgence. John Knox prayed a self-purged prayer: “Give me Scotland or I die!” His prayer changed the pages of history.  
   D. David Livingstone prayed, “Lord, when will the wound of this world’s sin be healed?” Livingstone lived in prayer, and literally died while on his knees in prayer.

3. THE PROBLEM OF UNANSWERED PRAYER  
   A. Stand up and face the issues. One of the greatest human problems is unanswered prayer.  
   B. Many things are asked for, but not received.  
   C. Many people are prayed for, but they are not healed.

4. DELAY NOT NECESSARILY DENIAL  
   A. The delay in the story of Lazarus provided for a great miracle. To heal is one thing, but to raise the dead is greater.  
      John 11:11, 25, *These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.*  
      v. 25, *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.*  
   B. The cripple at the Beautiful Gate (Acts 3):  
      1) Jesus passed him in entering and departing from the temple. This was not a denial.
2) Peter and John came to him in God’s perfect timing.

Acts 3:6-7, Then Peter said, silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

v. 7, And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

C. The ten lepers (Luke 17):

The ten lepers cried out in prayer. They were not healed at first.

D. The woman of Canaan (Matthew 15:22-23):

The woman of Canaan sought the Lord on behalf of her daughter. First the Lord answered not a word! The disciples said, . . .Send her away . . .

Matthew 15:22, And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

E. The blind man (Mark 8):

At first he was half-healed, with blurred eyes he saw men as trees.

Mark 8:22-25, And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

v. 23, And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw aught.

v. 24, And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

v. 25, After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

5. HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

A. A husband’s prayer may not be answered because he has a broken fellowship with his wife.

I Peter 3:7, Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.
The Problem of Unanswered Prayer
Lesson 16

B. Sin is a great hindrance to prayer.
   Isaiah 59:1-2, Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:
   v. 2, But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.
   Psalm 66:18, If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.
   Sin is an awful barrier to answers to prayer.

C. Idolatry is a hindrance to prayer.
   Ezekiel 14:3, Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them?

D. An unforgiving spirit hinders prayer.
   Mark 11:25, And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.
   A bad spirit renders prayer completely ineffective.

E. Not considering the poor hinders answers to prayer.
   Proverbs 21:13, Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.
   Generosity and Christian victory go together. Much prayer is unnoticed, unanswered because we are deaf to the cries of human needs. The hardness of our heart stops God from giving.

6. ASKING AMISS
   James 4:3, Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

7. THE DEVIL FIGHTS AGAINST PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED
   Daniel 10:12-13, Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.
   v. 13, But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.
Lesson 17
WHEN IT IS TOO LATE TO PRAY

READING:
Luke 16:19-31, There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

v. 20, And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

v. 21, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

v. 22, And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

v. 23, And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

v. 24, And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

v. 25, But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

v. 26, And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

v. 27, Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house:

v. 28, For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

v. 29, Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

v. 30, And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.
v. 31, *And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

**INTRODUCTION:**

The story of Lazarus and the rich man is a tremendous story. It was told by Jesus. There are two places where men pray, this world and hell. Those who do not pray while living on this earth will join hell’s prayer for a savior. I accept the truth of the words of Jesus.

Prayer is important to the immortal soul. Many prayers are offered too late. Prayers are powerful, but they must be prayed in time. Sometimes parents pray too late for their children.

1. **THE RICH MAN OF EARTH**
   
   A. One does not have to be poor to pray.
      
      Luke 16:19, *There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day.*
   
   B. The rich man did not have time for religion.
   
   C. The rich man had no time for Lazarus or even his own brothers.
   
   D. He had no time for prayer.

2. **THE RICH MAN PRAYED TOO LATE**
   
   A. The first time he felt his need of a savior was in hell.
   
   B. In this world, he had everything he needed and more.
   
   C. In hell he had nothing.

3. **THE RICH MAN’S PRAYER**
   
   A. Luke 16:24, *And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*
   
   B. He asked for mercy.
   
   C. He confessed he was in flame.
   
   D. He asked for water.
   
   E. He asked that someone be sent to preach to his brothers.
      
      Luke 16:27-28, *Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house:*  
      
      v. 28, *For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.*
When It Is Too Late to Pray
Lesson 17

F. He had at last become interested in others, but his opportunities were over.

4. PRAYER MEETINGS IN HELL
A. People who never attend prayer meetings on earth will take part in them in hell.
B. Some people will pray their first prayer in hell.
C. They will pray in concert.
D. Their prayers will be in vain and unanswered.

5. THE DURATION OF PRAYER
A. Prayer is unending.
B. After praying for one thousand years, prayer will just be starting.

6. WHY WAIT?
A. Why put prayer off until you are in hell?
B. A little praying here would prevent a ceaseless prayer in hell.
C. It is easier, more comfortable, and more convenient to pray here; so, why wait?
READING:
Matthew 4:1-11, *Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*

v. 2, *And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered.*

v. 3, *And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*

v. 4, *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

v. 5, *Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,*

v. 6, *And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

v. 7, *Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*

v. 8, *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;*  

v. 9, *And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

v. 10, *Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

v. 11, *Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.*

INTRODUCTION:
The reason why the devil fears prayer is because prayer is powerful.

Martin Luther said, “What the devil fears more than anything else is the saint upon his knees.”
In prayer, a man talks to God; in turn, God talks to man. When God talks, Satan keeps silent. So, to keep the devil at bay, it is wise to keep talking to God in prayer. Mary, Queen of Scots, feared the prayers of John Knox more than the armies of France and England.

1. THE LIFE OF JESUS PROVES SATAN’S FEAR OF PRAYER
   A. Jesus refused to bow down to Satan.
      Matthew 4:9, *And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*
   B. Jesus rebuked Satan on behalf of others and always won.
      Matthew 17:18, *And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.*
   C. Jesus had to face this fact in Gethsemane.
      Matthew 26:36, *Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Geth-semane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.*
   D. At His resurrection, all power in heaven and earth was given to Him.

2. INCIDENTS IN THE BIBLE TO PROVE THIS
   A. The angels are taught to fight the devil through prayer.
      Jude 9, *Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.*
   B. Disciples of Jesus are called upon to resist the devil.
      James 4:7, *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
   C. The Lord gives us power to resist the devil.
      Luke 21:15, *For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.*

3. PRAY AGAINST THE DEVIL EVERY DAY!
   A. Look into your experiences. Mark the points of testing.
      I Corinthians 10:13, *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*
B. Do not let the devil steal your blessing.

Matthew 13:19, *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

C. Disciples are more than conquerors through Christ.

Romans 8:37, *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerers through him that loved us.*

Philippians 4:13, *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Mark 16:17, * . . . In my name shall they cast out devils. . . *

CONCLUSION:
The devil can only tempt, not conquer. The power is yours to resist. Greater is He who is within you than all who can be against you.

A. The seven sons of Sceva, a Jew, and the chief of the priests tried to cast out devils as Paul had done.

Acts 19:13, 15, * . . . We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.*

v. 15, *And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?*

B. The demons feared only God’s representatives.

The devil will be bound one thousand years. He is afraid of judgment.

Revelation 20:1-2, *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

v. 2, *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.*
PRAYER

Lesson 19

WHAT AND WHOM TO PRAY FOR

READING:
James 4:3, Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Luke 11:1, And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

INTRODUCTION:
The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray.

1. PRAY FOR THE WORLD
   A. Psalm 2:8, Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.
   B. I Timothy 2:1, I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men.

2. PRAY FOR YOUR NATION
Moses prayed for Israel.

Exodus 32:11-14, And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

v. 12, Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

v. 13, Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.
v. 14, *And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.*

### 3. PRAY FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY

I Timothy 2:2, *...for kings, and for all that are in authority.*

### 4. PRAY FOR YOUR CITY

A. Jesus prayed over Jerusalem.

Matthew 23:37, *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!*

B. God heard the prayers of the people of Nineveh.

Jonah 3:5, *So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.*

### 5. PRAY FOR YOUR FAMILY

Abraham prayed for Lot.

Genesis 18:28-29, *Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.*

v. 29, *And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty’s sake.*

### 6. PRAY FOR PROTECTION FROM ADVERSITY

A. Jacob prayed for safety.

Genesis 32:9-11, *And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:*

v. 10, *I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.*

v. 11, *Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.*

B. Moses prayed for victory for Israel.

Exodus 17:11, *And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.*
7. **PRAY FOR WORKERS IN CHRIST’S SERVICE**

Matthew 9:37-38, *Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;*

v. 38, *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

8. **ELIJAH PRAYED FOR RAIN**

James 5:17, *Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: And it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.*

9. **ELISHA PRAYED FOR IRON TO SWIM**

II Kings 6:5-6, *But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed.*

v. 6, *And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim.*

10. **JESUS PRAYED FOR DEMONS TO BE CAST OUT**

Mark 5:8-9, *For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.*

v. 9, *And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.*

11. **THE PEOPLE OF NINEVEH PRAYED**

God heard many people pray.

Jonah 3:4-5, 10, *And Jonah began to enter into the city a day’s journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.*

v. 5, *So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.*

v. 10, *And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.*

12. **KING HEZEKIAH PRAYED**

God added 15 years to Hezekiah’s life.

II Kings 20:5-6, *Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.*
v. 6, *And I will add unto thy days fifteen years.* . .

**13. ZACHARIAS, THE PRIEST, PRAYED**

Luke 1:13, *But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard.* . .

**14. ANNA, A WIDOW, PRAYED**

Anna, a widow of 84 years, prayed daily.

Luke 2:37, *And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.*

**15. CORNELIUS, AN ARMY OFFICER, PRAYED**

Acts 10:30, *And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing.*

**16. DAVID, THE SHEPHERD, PRAYED**

As a shepherd, David loved to pray.

Psalm 40:1, *I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.*
READING:
Psalm 34:6, *This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.*

INTRODUCTION:
This is the most intimate lesson of all.

1. **MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME TO PRAY**
   She prayed simply, easily and in faith.

2. **MY FIRST REAL PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED**
   A. “Lord, heal me and I will preach.”
   B. In California, I prayed to find Howard Carter. I found him in New Zealand.
   C. I prayed for shoes in England and received a pair stuffed with money.

3. **I PRAYED IN CHINA TO FIND MY WAY**
   A Chinese boy directed me.

4. **I PRAYED FOR A LOCATION FOR THE CHURCH IN SOUTH BEND, INDIANA**
   The lot was $45,000. I said I would pay $35,000. I paid $10,000 down and owed $25,000. I sold 100 feet for $29,000 and had $4,000 left over.
5. **MY SADDEST PRAYER**

In Puerto Rico, my wife, Louise Sumrall, contracted malaria and was not expected to live through the night. God answered my prayer and raised her up.

6. **MY MOST DESPERATE PRAYER**

I fasted and prayed for deliverance for a demon-possessed girl in Manila, Philippines.

7. **I PRAYED TO GOD FOR TELEVISION STATIONS**

With each and every one of the television stations that we have purchased, we have had to pray and believe in God for the money.

**A.** We were given our first station in Indianapolis with its debt of $990,000. At one point we needed $10,000 by the next morning. I prayed to God and then I went on TV and asked anyone who heard the Lord speak to them regarding this to call in. One phone rang. A man said that he wanted to give $400. We thanked him. Then the phone rang again. That friend said that he would like to give the amount that the others did not—whatever we needed to get us to $10,000. We thanked him. I only got those two phone calls that night. My mind said, “This can’t work!” But I had prayed already. The next morning the man who promised $400 came in with his money, and then shortly after that a couple walked in.

“How many calls did you get?” The man asked.

“Two,” I said.

“How much was the first one?” He asked.

“Four hundred dollars,” I replied.

All of the sudden the two looked at each other and began to exclaim, “Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!”

“Praise the Lord for what?” I asked. I thought I had given them sad news.

“Well,” explained the husband, “The Lord spoke to us this morning and said that you needed $9,600. We made out the check before we came!”

God answers prayer!

**B.** When we needed money to buy the station in South Bend we prayed and one man gave us $65,000! We could not have bought that station if God had not spoken to that man.

**C.** God supplied the money we needed for the Miami station. One man gave $94,000. I know that was a miracle!
These lessons are in-depth studies of the therapeutic and supernatural powers of prayer. There are methods of prayer which have been proven to be effective for the believer and disciple of Christ.

There are major areas of study in the prayer world. They cover the total needs of humanity.

**LESSON TITLES**

- The Greatest Source Of Untapped Resources
- The Dimensions Of Prayer
- What And Who To Pray For
- Praying In The Holy Ghost
- Divine Healing By Prayer
- The Model Prayer That Jesus Taught
- What Prayer Cannot Do
- How Men Of History Prayed Successfully
- Definitions Of Prayer
- Set Laws Governing Prayer
- The Three Prayer Worlds
- How Jesus Personally Prayed
- Prayer With Fasting
- How Many Times To Pray For One Thing
- The Devil’s Fear Of Prayer
- The Problem Of Unanswered Prayer
- My Personal Prayers Answered

Dr. Lester Sumrall
1913 ~ 1996

The voice of Dr. Lester Sumrall remains prominent in the Christian world today. More than 65 years of ministry in over 100 nations made Dr. Sumrall a respected source of wisdom and understanding. He was an author, teacher, missionary, evangelist, and the pastor and founder of Christian Center Church in South Bend, Indiana. Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Sumrall worked tirelessly to fulfill The Great Commission by carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth. In 1957 he founded LeSEA, a multi-faceted global outreach. Today LeSEA’s outreaches blanket the world through television, satellite, FM and shortwave radio, and LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry®.

Would you like to be a part of feeding the spirit, soul, and body of the hungry? Call today! 1-888-TEAM-FTH / 1-888-8326-384 www.feedthehungry.org