

**GROWING THROUGH PRAYER**

At the conclusion of Matthew in chapter 28, verse 18 we read:

*“Then Jesus came to them and said “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”.*

Now that we know what a disciple is and what is required of one we have begun to look at what we need to be doing to be growing in our walk with the Lord. This lesson puts us in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of a six week study on discipleship were we will continue to look at how we can grow closer to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

***We read in Luke 11:1*** *“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished one of His disciples said to Him “Lord, teach us how to pray just as John taught his disciples.”*

As Christian’s we are all called to discipleship. In becoming a disciple we need to be striving to grow closer to Jesus by doing four things. In this lesson we will look at the third thing we need be doing and that is praying. We will be looking at various scripture for reference and will answer the following questions:

- A. What is prayer?
- B. What is the purpose of prayer?
- C. How do you pray effectively?

Before we start, let’s **PRAY** and ask God’s Holy Spirit to open our hearts to receive His Word and to show us how to apply it in our life.

Let’s look at what prayer is. Prayer is a form of communication with God. It is time spent talking with God, and in a sense fellowshiping with Him. Prayer can be expressed in three basic forms: worship, petition, and intercession. Let’s break the three down:

1. The first basic form of Prayer is worship. What is the definition of this form of prayer?

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2. The second basic form of Prayer is petition. What is the definition of this form of prayer?

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3. The third basic form of Prayer is intercession. What is the definition of this form of prayer?

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*As we pray, using these three basic forms of prayer, we will find ourselves focusing more of our thoughts on those things which are eternal and less on those things which are temporary. As we are faithful in prayer we will find ourselves continuing to grow in our Christian walk and become more Christ like.*

Let's look at the purpose of prayer. Prayer opens the door to allow God to do the things that He desires to do in our lives. Our prayers are not for the purpose of informing God about our situation or others for He already knows all things. The true purpose of prayer is to get God's will done. This is most evident in the petition and intercession form of prayer.

4. Does God really already know our needs before we ask Him?

Matthew 6:8 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What do the following scriptures demonstrate?

Matthew 26:39 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 5:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 10:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Let's look at how to pray effectively. When you pray do you feel that your prayers are answered? The Bible teaches us that every prayer is answered. The key is understanding how they are answered and then learning how to pray in God's will so that your prayers are effective.

6. What type of prayer is effective?

1 John 5:14,15 \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What type of prayer is in-effective?

Matthew 6:5,7 \_\_\_\_\_

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8. What do we need to keep in mind when praying?

Jeremiah 32:17 \_\_\_\_\_

*In conclusion a disciple of Jesus Christ is one who strives to live a life that is pleasing to Him by obeying the commandments He has given us through His word, which we learn by reading His word, the Holy Bible on a consistent basis as well as fellowshiping with like minded believers and being in a state of continual prayer.*