**Lesson #4 PRAYER PART 2- PRAYING EFFECTIVELY**

**I. GENERAL SUGGESTIONS**

 A. Combine your prayer with Bible reading. This is called praying scripturally.

 When you find a promise in God’s Word, claim it for your life or the life of another. When you find a character attribute in the life of an individual mentioned in the Bible, claim that attribute for your own life or the life of a friend. As you read God’s Word, he will show you new and exciting blessings to claim in your “quiet time”.

B. As you read God’s Word, it is difficult to pray for extended periods of time unless you know what the Lord would have you pray about. The Bible is our best guide for learning how to pray effectively.

C. As we study the prayers of great Christians, we see the kinds of requests which the Lord placed on their hearts. As we discover God's numerous promises, we learn the kinds of blessings that God wants us to claim by faith. Praying scripturally is a dynamic form of prayer because it is ever new and constantly refreshing under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

**II. Utilizing a prayer and praise list**

A. The Prayer and Praise lists can be developed in many different ways -- you can pray for person, ministries, events and other areas of need or interest as God leads you. A prayer list is intended merely to assist our memory and to organize the various areas of interest and needs for which you desire to pray. It is important to remember that specific prayer makes possible specific answers!

B. The Prayer and Praise List can be based on the days of the wee, by individual, or free form. Experiment to personally experience which one proves most practical for your prayer life.

C. God is concerned about all our needs -- both large and small. Effective prayer includes trusting Him to reveal and carry out His will in every area of our lives.

D. As God answers prayer it is natural to praise and thank Him! Your faith and fellowship with him will grow daily as you keep your Prayer and Praise Lists.

My personal list has changed over time.

A. I began with a small notebook with loose leaf paper inside. I would have one page for prayer requests and another page for recording of answered prayers.

B. Later I got a bigger notebook and used the top half for prayer request and the bottom half to record answered prayers.

C. In both I made sure I dated the top of the page even though prayer request may be over several days. I would keep adding until either the top half or bottom half became full and then I would transfer all unanswered prayers to a new page leaving the lower part blank until they were answered.

D. I later moved my Prayer and praise list to my computer and kept it there,

E. Some people use a journal format keeping a daily track of not only prayers and praises but also significant spiritual events in their lives.

**III. The list does several things for us:**

1. It keeps us from asking for the same things over and over even when they have already been answered.
2. The requests on that list are more thought out and more specific. Every day we will know what to pray for.
3. A prayer list helps us to keep track of which requests have been answered and which ones are still open.
4. It helps us remember what we specifically asked for and how God specifically answered our prayer helping us t give only Him the thanks and praise.
5. It can be used for great spiritual strength over the years to remind us that God answered prayers then, He can do it now and He will do it in the future.

**IV SCRIPTURAL KEYS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER**

A. We are encouraged to pray

*Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and might things, which thou knowest not.*

1. We are encouraged in the Scriptures to pray. Perhaps the greatest key to effective prayer is simply to begin the practice of praying. Jesus said, "*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. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Luke 11:9-10).*

B. Prayer is our means of asking for forgiveness

*1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

1. Effective prayer is based on a clear unhindered channel of personal communication with God: *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Ps. 66:18)*. It is important to confess our sins, claiming the forgiveness which is already ours in Christ.

C. Prayer is a demonstration of our faith.

1. Expectant faith is an essential ingredient in the prayer life of a Christian. The key here is thanking God for what he has given you in prayer through you do not see it yet except with the eyes of faith.

*Mark 11:22-24 And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be taken up and cast into the sea", and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will" (RSV).*

*"Whoever…believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him" (Mark 11:23b, RSV).* The context of this verse assumes that this kind of prayer is prayed in the will of God.

D. Pray seeking the will of God not our own.

1. Prayer is essentially agreeing with God, claiming by faith those things that are pleasing to Him. We are not to worry or have anxiety about the answers to our prayers. We are simply to make our requests known in a spirit of peace and thanksgiving trusting God to give His specific answer according to His perfect will.

*Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

E. Prayer should be made with the help of the Holy Spirit.

1. First, one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to guide us and assist us in our communication with God. It is important that we not quench the Holy Spirit through unconfessed sin in our lives for this hinders His wonderful work of giving us an effective prayer life. Second, we must be careful not to doubt His presence in our lives as Christians, for our lack of faith can quench the Holy Spirit's ministry in our prayer life.

*Jude 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.*

D. Pray in utmost humility to God.

1. Our attitude is important as we approach God in prayer. Humility means simply coming to the Lord on the basis of His will. We are not to be presumptuous or proud in the requests that we bring to Him in prayer. God does not want prayers of arrogance or prayers that arise from a wrong attitude. Effective prayer is inspired by the Holy Spirit and reflects our love for Christ.

*2 Chron. 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

**“God will take request not orders”**

E. Pray in the power of the name of Jesus.

1. Effective prayer can be accomplished only through the person and work of Jesus Christ. He is our access to the Father *(John 14:6).* To pray effectively we must come to the Father in the name of the Son.

*John 14:13-14. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*

F. Pray knowing that God knows what is best for us.

**AND GOD SAID “NO"**

I asked God to take away my pride, and God said "no." He said it was not for Him to take away, but for me to give it up.

I asked for God to make my handicapped child whole, but God said "no." He said her spirit is whole, her body is only temporary.

I asked God to give me patience, and God said "no." He said he said that patience is a by-product of tribulation, it isn't granted, it's earned.

I asked God to give me happiness, and God said "no." He said he gives blessings; happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain, and God said "no." he said suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow, and God said "no." He said I must grow on my own, but He will prune me to make me fruitful.

I asked God if He loved me, and God said "yes." He gave me His only son who died for me, and I will be in heaven someday because I believe.

I asked God to help me love others as much as He loves me…And God said, Ah ha, finally you have the idea.