

John 14:12-14: *“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;...because I go to My Father. 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 ANYTHING IN MY NAME, I WILL DO IT.”*

Contrary to the thinking of most Christians, PRAYER IS NEITHER

PREFIX - _____

NOR

SUFFIX - _____

- ✓ The Sovereign God has ordained prayer as the tool to get His work done.
- ✓ God works only in concert with the praying of His people.

Great men of God have known this:

John Wesley _____

Charles Spurgeon _____

Oswald Chambers: *“Prayer does not fit us for greater works: prayer is the greater work.”*

Much of the work we are doing has little of the ring of a work with God. It may be a work “for” God, but is surely not a work “with” God. Prayer is working “WITH” Him, not just “for” Him.

Prayer is work , and without prayer there is no work.

E. M. Bounds: “Prayer is not the foe of work; it does not paralyze activity. It works mightily; prayer itself is the greatest work.”

John 5:17-19 Jesus noted that He was only doing what God was doing. He knew what God was up to and got in on it because He frequently communicated with the Father in prayer.

“To the work” — when we are praying, we are doing the main work of the ministry.

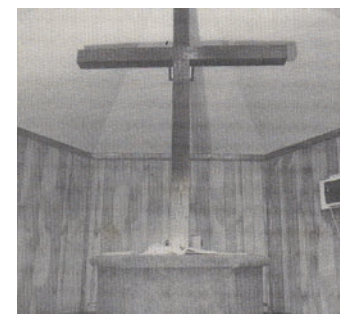
“Striving in prayer” — means TO THE POINT OF EXHAUSTION. **Romans 15:30; Col. 2:1-2; Col. 4:12.**

Acts 12:5 - Intense prayer was made by the church for Peter “without ceasing.” Dr. R.A. Torrey translates “without ceasing” as literally meaning *“stretched-out-ed-ly.”* This represents the soul on the stretch of earnest and intense desire. THAT IS WORK.



The Virginia Prayer Chapel Ministry (see page 30)

There is no need to attempt a corporate Prayer Ministry in a local church until there is a REVIVAL OF PRAYER IN THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS.

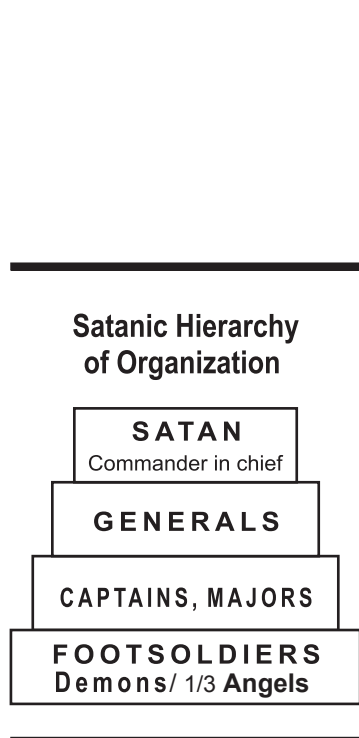


WATCHMAN NEE - “Let us understand that the church’s noblest work, the greatest task she could ever undertake, is to be the outlet of God’s will. For the church to be the outlet of God’s will is for her to pray.”

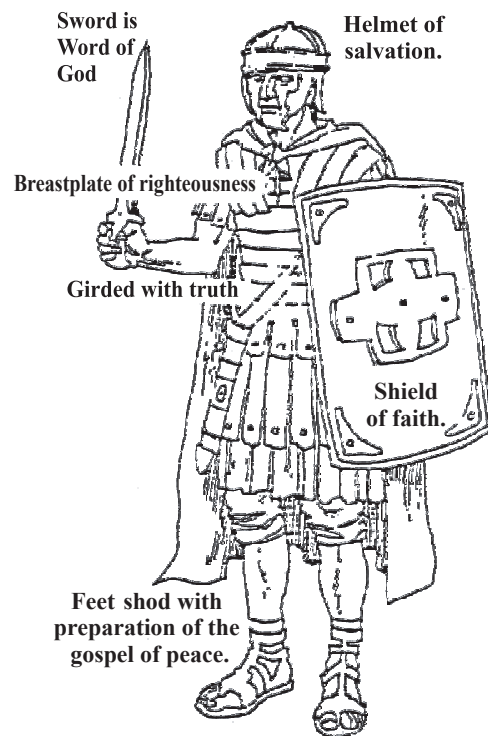
Key Truth: *"I will never win the war if I don't know where the battle is being fought."*

Key Passage: **Ephesians 6:10-18**

SPIRITUAL WARFARE



Understand that when you engage in prayer you are involved in warfare. Master **Ephesians 6:10-18. YOU WILL NEVER WIN THE WAR IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHERE THE BATTLE IS BEING FOUGHT.** The first activity mentioned in v. 18—after you get your armor on—is PRAYER, Expect Satan to put you on his hit list when you become a prayer warrior; he will. However, remember that we are victorious through Christ! The battle has already been won if we will simply enter the battle.



v. 10 Be strong in the Lord

v. 11 "Wiles" a military term meaning strategems.

v. 12 A spiritual hierarchy of organization is given.

vv. 13-17 Put the whole armor on

Only part not covered is _____ ; thus, God doesn't intend for us to turn and run!

v. 18 The verse that tells us WHERE the battle is. It is

"I WILL NEVER WIN THE WAR IF I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE BATTLE IS BEING FOUGHT."

S. D. Gordon: *"The greatest agency put into man's hand is prayer. And to define prayer one must use the language of war. Peace language is not equal to the situation. The earth is in a state of war and is being hotly besieged. Thus one must use war talk to grasp the fact with which prayer is concerned. Prayer from God's side is communication between Himself and His allies in the enemy country. True prayer moves in a circle. It begins with the heart of God and sweeps down into the human heart on earth, so intersecting the circle of the earth, which is the battlefield of prayer, and then goes back again to its starting point, having accomplished its purpose on the downward swing."*

Prayer is giving God a foothold in the battlefield. Prayer throws the battle to the Lord with the victory already won at Calvary. THE PERSON WHO ESPOUSES TO BECOME A PERSON OF PRAYER NEEDS TO BE AWARE THAT HE WILL BE PUT ON SATAN'S HIT LIST.

VI. CONCLUSION.

- A. All our past failure, inefficiency, insufficiency – all our past unfruitfulness in service – can be banished now, once for all, if we will only give prayer its proper place. NOW is the starting time. Don't wait for a more convenient time.
- B. Let's start on our knees letting the Holy Spirit use the Word to search us through and through. Am I sincere? Do I really desire to do God's will? Do I believe His promises?
- C. Mere resolutions to take more time to pray and to conquer our reluctance to pray will require living Spirit-filled lives, which means absolute surrender to the Lordship of Christ. If that step is not taken, you will never become a prayer warrior. A certainty: God wants me to pray and God wants you to pray. The question is, ARE WE WILLING TO YIELD TO THE HOLY SPIRIT SO WE CAN BECOME PRAYER WARRIORS?
- D. Jack Taylor's seven points of perspective:
1. No believer's spiritual life will ever rise to stay above the level of his praying. Prayer marks the level of your genuine Christian life. You are what you are on your knees, nothing more. The effectiveness of a Christian's life is gauged by his prayer life.
 2. No church's ultimate effectiveness will rise to stay above the level of its corporate prayer life – the praying of its members. No part of a church's ministry will rise to stay above the level of its prayer ministry.
 3. No church's corporate prayer life will be greater than the personal prayer lives of those who make up its constituency.
 4. No believer's prayer life will rise to stay above the level of his or her own personal, regular, daily time of worship with God.
 5. No believer's practice of prayer will rise to stay above his view of prayer – thus the need to constantly keep a proper perspective on prayer.
 6. Praise is an indispensable factor in the prayer life – both private & public.
 7. The only way to learn to pray is to pray.
- E. What kind of praying church we have depends on the kind of praying people we have. If every member prayed like me, what kind of praying church would we be?
- F. What will your decision be? You will never have a consistent prayer life until you make up your mind that prayer is important. Actions are a reflection of our beliefs. Think this issue through. It might be helpful if you would get alone and make a list of reasons why you should become a prayer warrior based on the Holy Spirit's work in you during this session. Let me help you get started. I SHOULD PRAY BECAUSE:

1. Relationships that don't talk don't grow.

2. I have been commanded to pray. See Matthew 5:44; 6:6; 9:38; 26:41

3. Christ's own example is unavoidable.

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

GOD HELP US TO AWAKEN!

SESSION TWO

BIBLE EXAMPLES OF PRAYER

Note:

GOD'S WORD ABOUND WITH ✓ COMMANDS ✓ EXAMPLES ✓ PROMISES
✓ ENCOURAGEMENTS TO PRAY

I. Commands in the Bible to Pray

A. Moses commanded Israel to pray

1. **Deut. 26:5** - "Thou shalt speak and say before the Lord."
2. **1 Chronicles 16:11** - "Seek the Lord and His strength".

B. Jesus commanded prayer.

1. **Luke 10:2** - "Therefore said He unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest."
2. **Mark 14:38** -
3. **Mark 9:29** -

4.

C. Paul commanded prayer

1. **Ephesians 1:16-17** - "Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."
2. **1 Thess 5:17-18** - "Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."
3. **Romans 12:12** -
- 4.
- 5.

II. Notice many things about Bible prayers as you study. There is adoration, confession, restitution, thanksgiving, forgiveness, faith, unity, supplication, submission, confidence, persistence, and some other attributes according to the person praying and the nature of the petition.

III. Bible Examples of Prayer. 650 recorded prayers in the Bible other than the Psalms:
450 have recorded answers.

PETITION

PRAYING FOR SELF

IV. JABEZ... an EXAMPLE OF PRAYER. A MAN ALMOST NOBODY KNOWS.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 - "And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that Thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that Thine hand might be with me, and that Thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me. And God granted him that which he requested."

A. Introduction

1. Name tucked away amid 500 names.
2. Compulsion to explain this man above all others.
3. Fewer than 80 words - yet it speaks volumes.
4. Simple facts stated, but no need to further explain.

THREE QUESTIONS

- #1 If God listed our names, would He need to explain any one of us?

<p>B. OBSERVE THE PROMINENCE THAT DESCRIBED HIM.</p> <p>1. More honorable than his brethren.</p>	<p>#2 What if no one else is interested, in prayer, would I be?</p>
<p>C. OBSERVE THE PAIN THAT DESIGNATED HIM</p> <p>His name means “pain.”</p>	<p>#3 What if there’s pain involved?</p>
<p>D. THE PRAYING THAT DISTINGUISHED HIM.</p> <p>1. <i>“And Jabez called upon the God of Israel”.</i> A man is known for what he does the most. To be recognized, he must do more of what he is known for than others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The <u>certainty</u> of his praying. b. The <u>consistency</u> of his praying. c. The <u>content</u> of his praying. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>“Oh, that Thou wouldest bless me indeed;”</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Urgent (b) Personal (c) Daring 2) <i>“AND ENLARGE MY COAST;”</i> 3) <i>“And that Thine hand might be with me;”</i> 4) <i>“And that Thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it might not grieve me.”</i> <p>2. <i>“And God granted him that which he requested.”</i></p>	

V. JESUS**PRAYER: A TOP PRIORITY OF JESUS**

To **prioritize** is to order according to importance.

I. CHRIST'S EXAMPLE**Luke 5:16****Luke 6:12****Matthew 14:23****21**

Mark 1:35 alerts us in the opening verses of his book to the power behind Jesus' ministry: regular, unhurried times for prayer. If Jesus, "Who is the image of the invisible God" (**Col. 1:15**), often felt the need to linger long in prayer, can you and I hope to face the challenges of a day with anything else?

II. CHRIST'S EXPECTATION**Matthew 6:5** Not "If"**6:6** but**6:7** "when"

Our Lord knew prayer is the only answer to our daily confrontations with the enemy. Jesus prayed constantly!

III. CHRIST'S EXPLANATION**A. Sermon on Mount****Matthew 5,6,7** - 10%

on "how to" "how not to" pray

B. Model Prayer

1. "Our Father"

2. Note the pronouns

½ "Thy" ½ "us...our"

C. Parables**Luke 11:5-8****21**1. Shamelessly knocking2. Be specific3. Persistence**IV. CHRIST'S EXHORTATION**

To exhort is to

Plead earnestly

V. JESUS - Praying for us Now1. **John 14:16****PRAY = ASK (God's hand to move)****PARACLETE / COMFORTER / COUNSELOR / HELPER**2. **Hebrews 7:25**3. **Hebrews 9:24**4. **1 John 2:1****ADVOCATE - PARACLETE**5. **Romans 8:34**

"If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference; He is praying for me."

- Robert Murray McCheyne
Scottish missionary/teacher

SESSION THREE

PRAYING IN THE NAME OF JESUS

On September 25, 1982, I was driving from New Jersey to speak at a missionary conference in Mahopac Falls, New York. While crossing over the Hudson River on the Tappan Zee Bridge, I saw a bumper sticker that defines a major problem for many as we approach the Word of God.

The bumper sticker said: “THE BIBLE SAYS IT. I BELIEVE IT. THAT SETTLES IT.”

Had I had opportunity to speak personally with those in the car, I would have told them that their sticker was wrong. To be correct, it should have said “THE BIBLE SAYS IT. THAT SETTLES IT.”

How very humanistic we have become. Whether “I believe it” or not has nothing to do with the truths of God’s Word.

When we come to discuss PRAYING IN THE NAME OF JESUS, one’s personal belief often influences his thoughts and actions. How tolerant we become and how unwilling to take a firm stand on what the Word of God says!

Let’s look at some Scriptures that are but samples of PRAYING IN THE NAME OF JESUS. (Remember the Sevenfold Invitation of Jesus mentioned in Session I on page 4.)

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.”*

JOHN 16:23, 24, 26 - *“And in that day ye shall ask Me nothing. Verily, verily. I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. At that day ye shall ask in My name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you.”*

JOHN 14:6 - *“I am the Way the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”*

ACCESS: Jesus Christ

We should be conscious as Christians that there is only one access to God. You cannot come into the presence of God apart from Christ Himself. A person comes into the presence of God only if and when he breathes the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, a basic and essential prerequisite for effective prayer is for us to say something like this: “Thank you for Jesus Christ and in Him, in His Name I approach You, Father.”

A practical suggestion

We customarily attach “In Jesus” Name” as a suffix to our praying. I have learned that it is a blessing, to acknowledge Jesus immediately as we begin to pray.

“Father, I have come to you in the name of Your Son, Jesus. I know that He is my access to You. I have not come in my own merit or name—only in His wonderful Name.”

Don’t you know that this will please the Father? It will really help your praying. Try it for yourself.

There is no other approach to God except through Christ. Prayer rises or falls with one’s concept of Jesus Christ. The person who holds a light view of the Lord Jesus Christ cannot have a meaningful prayer life, The Scripture is clear!



I. “IN MY NAME” / “IN JESUS” NAME / “IN HIS NAME”

Prayer in the name of Jesus is an appeal to His authority. The name of Jesus is the authority that opens the door into God's presence and gives us the right to be heard.

Only those persons can enter the presence of God who accept the teaching of the Bible concerning the blood of Christ. “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus” (**Hebrews 10:19**).

In the Bible, the name stands for the person. We must pray only for things that are consistent with His name and character. He entrusts us with His name and gives us the signet ring of God so that what we ask in His name becomes divinely authoritative.

Acts 2:36 - “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, Whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 1:11,12 “Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of His calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of faith with power: **THAT THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD MAY BE GLORIFIED IN YOU, AND YE IN HIM, ACCORDING TO THE GRACE OF OUR GOD AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**”

Prayer in the name of Christ has power with God. To pray in Christ's name is to pray in union and communion with Christ Himself. It is not simply using a magical formula to get what we want. It is a means of honoring and glorifying Him.

TO PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS is to ask for things that the Blood of Jesus has secured (purchased) for us. We have “boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.” (**Hebrews 10:19**). There is entrance by no other way.

II. JESUS IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST/OUR MEDIATOR

Under the directions Moses received from God, provision was made for the High Priest to enter the Most Holy Place once a year, and there make an Atonement for the sins of the people, by sprinkling the blood of the unblemished lamb upon the Mercy Seat. And in all matters, pertaining to the spiritual life of God's people, the High Priest became the mediator between God and man. See **Leviticus 16**.

It is quite obvious to every consistent student of the Word of God that the High Priest of the Old Testament was the archetype of Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest. Notice the confirmation of this by the writer of the Hebrews:

“For we have not an High Priest which can not be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” **Hebrews 4:15-16.**

“But this Man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood; Wherefore He is able to save them unto the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them” **Hebrews 7:24-25.**

The particular significance of this brief study of the High Priest is that only through Christ may one reach God and have dealings with Him. To be specific, the ascent of prayer into the presence of God is through the name of Christ and through that Name alone.

III. A WORD OF CAUTION BEFORE WE CONTINUE Study **James 4:3**. Note that it is possible to “ASK AMISS.” What does this mean?
