

Discipleship #8 - Prayer

Accountability

Since we last met...

1. Have you involved yourself in any activity which is disobedient to God?
2. Have you faithfully maintained your personal walk with God?
- 3.
- 4.

Solo Time With God

From your personal time with God...

1. What is one new idea that you have learned?
2. What is one area of your life where God has been growing you?

Topical Study: Prayer

Keeping Jesus Christ at the center of our lives is a two-way matter. God speaks to us through the Bible and we speak with Him in prayer. Prayer is conversation with God. This two-way fellowship with the Lord is a daily necessity. Consider that God gives to us the awesome privilege of intimately knowing Him.

1. How is Moses' relationship with God described? Exodus 33:11
2. In Who's name should we pray? What does this mean? John 14:13,14; Ephesians 3:12
3. Because of our relationship with Jesus, how are we able to enter into God's presence? Ephesians 3:6,11,12
4. How does God assist our prayers? Romans 8:26,27
5. Why does James say we fail to have what we need? James 4:2
6. What is one hindrance to answered prayer? Psalm 66:18
7. According to Ephesians 6:18-20 we should...

To give priority to this wonderful privilege of prayer we should have a plan to make prayer a regular part of our day. Two suggestions are: 1) to keep a regular appointment with God, and 2) to begin a prayer journal or notebook in order to keep track of what you are praying for and how God is answering your prayers. Below is a suggested format for your journal.

<u>Request / Date Prayed</u>	<u>Answer / Date Answered</u>
1. Prayed for help at school - November 6th	1. Took a math test today and I was able to remember all the stuff I studied - November 12th
2. Prayed for mom to get well - November 20th	2. Mom is getting better - still praying - November 22nd
3. Prayed for help with my boss - November 21st	3. The boss got fired - December 3rd
4. Prayed for help loving my wife - December 1st	4. Remembered our anniversary - still working on this one - December 10th

As you pray, consider using some or all of the elements below as a part of your prayers to God. Using these are not a magic formula that will get your prayers heard. But, they will help you to focus your heart on God as you pray.

ADORATION (Nehemiah 1:5; Isaiah 6:3)

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.”
(Psalm 100:4)

Adoration is our opportunity to praise God for who He is and what He has done - to reflect on His greatness, power, majesty, sovereignty and to express our worship, praise, honor, respect, and appreciation of God.



CONFESSION (Nehemiah 1:6,7; Isaiah 6:5)

“If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”
(Psalm 66:18)



Confession is making sure every known sin is acknowledged to God, forsaken, and repented from. Confession comes from the root word meaning “to agree together with.” We need to agree with God as to our sin so that we can experience His forgiveness and cleansing of that sin from our lives (1 John 1:9).

THANKSGIVING (Nehemiah 1:10; Psalm 118)

“Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His loving kindness is everlasting.”
(Psalm 106:1)

Thanksgiving is expressing our appreciation to God. We need to stop and consider all of God’s blessings to us and others. We should remember that each day we can open our eyes is a new blessing. This is our opportunity to thank God for the specific things He has done and is doing.



SUPPLICATION (Nehemiah 1:11; Philippians 4:6,7)

“Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.”
(Psalm 143:8)



God desires for us to speak to Him about the needs of our lives and the concerns we share for others. Supplication is asking for things, earnestly and humbly - asking for others and for ourselves. This is the part of our prayer life where we make our requests known to God and trust that He will, in His time and in His way, take care of them.

“God is always within call, it is true; His ear is ever attentive to the cry of His child, but we can never get to know Him if we use prayer as we use the telephone - for a few words of hurried conversation. Intimacy requires development.”

E.M. Bounds