



SERIES: MY PRAYER LIFE

The Key to Answered Prayer Lesson 2

Life Reference: Matthew 4:1-11

Focus Verse:

"It is written" (Matthew 4:4).

Have you ever wondered why there are so many different religions? Who is right? Don't we all read the same Bible?

Some denominations believe that a prayer of repentance is all that is necessary to receive salvation. Others place emphasis on baptism. Today, many people understand that there is only one God (see Deuteronomy 6:4). Many have also received the gift of the Holy Spirit as experienced by those in Acts 2:38.



It is not up to us to select the parts of the Bible that fit our lifestyle. The Scriptures warn us to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12).

While leaving things to chance may work in many areas of life, the eternal consequence of our souls should not be taken lightly. The Word of God provides the road map to take us from the here-and-now to heaven. It provides the recipe we need to live quality, overcoming, victorious, joyous, and peace-filled lives.



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Life Reflection:

We have studied the character of God. (See *The Keys to Answered Prayer, Lesson 1.*) How do I use the Bible to find out what He expects of me?

Various verses of Scripture reveal glimpses of God's desire for our lives. Taken together we see the whole picture. It is possible to take a certain scripture in isolation and develop a skewed view of God and what He expects. In Isaiah 28:10, we are advised to gather and glean truth from the entire Word of God. Taken in context and balance we are safe from the traps of the enemy.

"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little" (Isaiah 28:10).

Some people ask God for direction, close their eyes, open their Bible, and place their finger on a scripture. Confident they have divine instruction, they are willing to comply with whatever that particular verse says. But what if a hurting person randomly opened the Bible and read the account of Judas hanging himself? (See Matthew 27:5.)

If we have studied God's Word, we know God promises hope for wounded hearts, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20) and "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

Life Reflection:

Am I reluctant to discover what God requires of me?

God knew we would have questions and doubts.



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I John 5:3

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous (burdensome).”

Psalms 103:13-14

“Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.”

Life Reflection:

Do I read God’s Word with understanding?

While Christ told parables in the New Testament to hide His message from the skeptics and unbelievers, those who believed on Him understood.

Isaiah prophesied about the coming kingdom long before Jesus walked on earth.

“And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein” (Isaiah 35:8).

The gospel—the Word of God is simple enough that a child can understand. Let me give you an example of the clarity you will find when you seek God’s will for your life:

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (Micah 6:8).

In one verse we are told three things God requires. We are to do the “right thing” and be merciful and humble as we walk with God. That isn’t complicated, is it? This one Scripture addresses our relationships, character, actions, thoughts, and words.

Life Reflection:

Why is God so concerned about my relationship with other people? I’m okay with Him, isn’t that all that matters?





- James 5:16** "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
- Hebrews 11:6** "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
- Isaiah 65:24** "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."
- John 11:41-42** "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always."
- Psalm 5:3, New King James Version** "My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up."

Life Reflection:

I want God to answer my prayers. How do I gain His approval and blessings?

Obedience to God's Word and an honest heart releases God's blessings into our lives. Below are several Scriptures that reveal His expectations. I suggest you add to this list as you read His Word.

1. "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 29:2).
2. "Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thessalonians 5:17-18).
3. "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 I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14).



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4. "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful to him, and bless his name" (Psalm 100:4).
5. Obey God's commandments relating to God Himself. (See Exodus 20:1-11.)
6. Obey God's commandments relating to man. (See Exodus 20:12-17.)
7. Allow God to work the fruit of His Spirit into our lives. (See Galatians 5:22-26.)
8. Daily put on the armor of God. (See Ephesians 6:10-17.)
9. Study the Beatitudes. (See Matthew 5:1-11.)
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Life Response:

Throughout the Word of God are glimpses of God's character, nature, and preferences. He is concerned about every area of our lives. He has provided guidelines that assist us in our everyday relationships and decisions. How we treat people is important to Him. He looks beyond what we do to the motives behind our actions.

God is approachable. His love is unconditional. Talking to Him is always appropriate. Like any good parent, He longs to be near His children. He listens. He cares and understands. He wants us to trust Him with our lives. No problem is too large or small for His attention.

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



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The more we know about God, the easier it is to align our desires to His. When our heartbeat is to know and please Him, we will find that our prayers are being answered.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

More Prayer References:

Psalm 116:1
Psalm 118:21
Matthew 28:18-20
Luke 6:27-31
John 15:12-17
Ephesians 3:14-21
Philippians 2:14
James 1:19-27

Unless otherwise noted, Bible quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version.

See The Key to Answered Prayer, Lesson 1.

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