



Lesson 11

Prayer and a Thankful Attitude

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Lesson over! Ok, maybe not. Notice again how God gives us everything we need! Isn't that fascinating to you? I love it, obviously. God doesn't leave it there, although He could. As we've seen before, repetition of ideas creates EMPHASIS. Let's explore more of what He's seen fit to teach us on this matter.

Read Psalm 100.

1. Why should we be thankful to the Lord?
2. When you read these verses what emotion do they show?
3. According to Psalm 30:12, how long did David say he would thank God?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18

4. Is saying "thank you" something we do only because we want to?
5. Is it sinful to not be thankful?

Read Ephesians 5:20

6. We give thanks to God in the "name of" who?

7. Do you know what that means?

We are ABLE to give thanks to God BECAUSE of the ACCESS we have to Him THROUGH Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 3:12). If we are not IN Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:27) we do not have this access (John 14:6). It is a precious thing, something in and of itself for which we should be thankful!

8. What is mercy?

9. How long does God's mercy last? (1 Chronicles 16:34)

I want to consider a few specific things regarding prayer. Again – God has given us EVERYTHING WE NEED, we just have to LOOK for it and ACCEPT it as TRUTH.

You may be thinking, "But I don't really know HOW to pray."

Hmm, let's see if the scriptures cover that one. (Some of the following information I found compiled in a book called "Girls, Girls, Girls" by Mrs. A.R. Hill, Sr.)

Luke 11:1 "Lord teach us to pray..." – see someone else needed to know how when Jesus was here teaching.

Use the verses to answer the following:

10. When, or how often, should I pray?

- A. 1 Thess. 5:17
- B. Acts 2:42
- C. James 5:13-15
- D. Mark 1:35
- E. Luke 6:12
- F. Daniel 6:10

11. Where should I, can I, pray?

- A. 1 Timothy 2:8
- B. Luke 5:16
- C. Matthew 14:23
- D. Luke 18:10
- E. Acts 12:12

- F. Luke 3:21
- G. Matthew 26:36 (with John 18:1-3)
- H. Matthew 6:6

12. Who can pray?

- A. James 5:16; Psalm 34:17
- B. James 1:5
- C. Matthew 7:11

13. Did we miss anything? Look up "pray", "prayer", "praying", and "prayed" in your concordance and see what other answers you can find for each one. (A hint for if you're using an electronic concordance, internet site, or application – if you type in pray* - it will give you all the verses that include any form of the word "pray".)

Another question you may ask, are there good prayers and bad prayers, and does it matter?

Again, use the verses to find the answers.

14. Conditions of Acceptable Prayer.

- 1. James 1:6; Hebrews 11:6; Mark 11:24
- 2. John 14:14; James 5:14
- 3. 1 John 5:14
- 4. Matthew 6:12-14

15. Wasted Prayers (prayers that won't be heard)

- 1. Psalm 66:18
- 2. Proverbs 28:9
- 3. Matthew 6:5
- 4. Matthew 6:7
- 5. James 4:3
- 6. Luke 18:9-14
- 7. James 1:6-7

16. Do a search in your concordance for variations of "thank" (thank, thanks, thankful, etc.). You could look for "gratitude" and "grateful" too. How many times does this concept occur in scripture?

17. Choose three verses, (preferably not already in the lesson), for pray* and thank* to add to your Study Builders.

Conclusion:

Praying is not just talking – it's talking to someone important, who deserves that you consider what you say before you speak. There are many other aspects to PRAYER that we haven't touched on here.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

What an AMAZING PROMISE! We've talked before about WHO God is, WHO Jesus is, and the AUTHORITY that GOD has because we are His CREATION. We should say prayers of PRAISE; telling Him how wonderful we KNOW Him to be. We should say prayers of SUPPLICATION to ask for the needs of OTHERS and ourselves. ALL of our prayers should be with THANKSGIVING, ALWAYS.

And as for application, your THANKFULNESS should carry over into all aspects of your life. You should never feel so entitled that you would DARE to walk around feeling unhappy and ungrateful for the life that has been given to you – by the Lord and the hard work and loving care of others. If thankfulness is hard for you and complaining is easy (if you're uncertain as to which is true about you – ask your mother. ☺) – make a list. Write down on one side of a piece of paper all the things you think are not worthy of your happiness. On the other side of that piece of paper, write down all of the things, start with what's within your immediate area, which you have or have access to through NO EFFORT OF YOUR OWN.

Just in case you need an example to help you out –

I don't like...

the comforter on my bed, (the colors aren't "cool" anymore) so I need a new one

Blessings

the bed in my room
mattress
bed covering to keep me warm
pajamas/clothes to sleep in
electricity for light in my room
light bulb in the fixture
pillow
sheets

Do you see where I'm going? For the majority of us, we have far MORE than we NEED. To wake up and feel as though you are owed more just simply does NOT go along with any scripture we've studied thus far. So get up, SMILE, COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, and be THANKFUL to those in your life and to the LORD who gave it to you in the first place!

Study Builders

Use this page to note all the verses from the lesson into one or more of the categories.

<p><i>In Manner of Life</i> <i>In Purity</i></p>	<p><i>In Word</i></p>
<p><i>In Love</i></p>	<p><i>In Faith</i></p>

Additional Notes: