

Growth Track
Module 3: How Do I Grow
Student's Notes

Lesson Four - Prayer

Key Takeaway

You can grow in intimacy with God as you grow in your prayer life.

Introduction

1. Prayer is an awesome privilege that we enjoy as children of God.
2. In prayer, we connect with our Heavenly Father and in so doing, we grow in our love relationship with Him.
3. In prayer, we also get to share what's on our hearts with God and in turn, get to hear what's on His heart and His direction for our lives.
4. Prayer is powerful and much can be accomplished through prayer.

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16b

And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11:9-10

I. MUCH IS ACCOMPLISHED AS WE PRAY

God answers our prayers!

For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11:9-10

We replace our worries with His peace.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

We receive powerful truths about the future.

Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come. Jeremiah 33:3

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We become fruitful as we connect with God in prayer.

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

We have greater joy when we get answers to our prayers

Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full. John 16:24

II. THE BIBLE TEACHES US HOW TO PRAY

Prayer is the expression of our hearts before God.

When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Matthew 6:7

We pray to God our Father, in the name of Jesus, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

1. We direct our prayers to God the Father (Matthew 6:9).
2. We pray in the name and authority of Jesus Christ, through whom we have access to God.
3. We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to help us to pray (Romans 8:26-27).

We pray in accordance with His will (1 John 5:14-15).

We pray in faith (Hebrews 11:6).

We listen in prayer (Matthew 14:23).

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III. WE CAN OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES TO PRAYER

The following are some reasons why we don't receive answers to our prayers:

We pray with the wrong motivation.

And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. James 4:3

We pray without faith.

But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do. James 1:6-8

We pray without resolving sin in our lives.

So if you are presenting a sacrifice^[a] at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. Matthew 5:23-24

We trust in other things more than God.

Conclusion

- Prayer deepens our relationship with God and builds intimacy with Him.
- Earnest and effective prayers make a big difference and a great positive impact on God's Kingdom.