

In order to receive from God we must:

a. **Make sure we are praying according to His will.**
Read *1Jn 5:14,15*. In other words, we need to know what we are entitled to pray for. God's promises show us what we can pray for and know that we are asking according to His will! Sometimes the Holy Spirit will impress something on our heart, and we can pray confidently for that.

b. **Make sure that we are praying in faith.**
What does *Mk 11:23* tell us? _____

What does *v 24* tell us? _____

Faith comes as a result of a word from God,
Rom 10:17, so if we pray according to His revealed will we can pray in faith! *1Jn 5:14,15*.

PRAYING IN TONGUES

Upon receiving the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, you spoke in a new language (as on the Day of Pentecost – *Ac 2:4*). As well as being the initial evidence of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, this new language was given to you as a means of prayer. You can pray in this new prayer language because then the Holy Spirit prays through you, according to God's will.

Read and meditate on *1Cor 14:15,18; Jude 20; Romans 8:26,27*.

No 08

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

Study Eight: Prayer

As breathing is to our bodies, so prayer is to our spirits and souls. It is our instant lifeline to God. It is a glorious means of fellowship and communion with God. In this study we hope to present an overview of the different aspects of prayer in the Christian life.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is a two way communication with God by which the Christian comes to know Him in a progressively more intimate way. It is not primarily man-centred or need-centred; it is God-centred.

THE BASIS OF PRAYER

Read *Heb 10:19-22*. On what basis can we come into God's presence and have fellowship with Him? _____

What does *Ps 16:11* tell us about the presence of God? _____

DIFFERENT KINDS OF PRAYER

We will look at five different kinds of prayer, each of which is spoken of in the Scriptures:

1. **Worship**

Part of worship is "speak His praise", *Ps 34:1-3; Ps 5:11*;

Ps 66:1-9; Is 12:3-6. This is particularly so as far as prayer is concerned. It is human nature to be introspective and conscious of our needs, problems and the pressures of life around us, to the extent that our prayers are man-centred. Meditate on the greatness and glory of God, thinking of the wonder of being in relationship with Him. Pour out your love and adoration to the Christ who hung on the Cross for us and who has saved us from destruction.

2. **CONFESSION** *Is 6:1-5*

When Isaiah came into God's presence, how did he feel about himself? As we come into God's presence and behold His glory what happens to us? *2Cor 3:18*, _____

As we behold the glory of the Lord, we behold our own sin and we are motivated to deal with it in the correct way. In so doing we are transformed more and more into the likeness of Jesus.

John wrote his first epistle mainly to Christians. Read *1Jn 1:7-10*. What do you think the word "confess" means in v9? _____

What does God promise to do if we confess our sins? _____

3. **INTERCESSION**

Intercession means to come before God in prayer on behalf of other people. Jesus Himself is the best example of an intercessor. Read *Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25*. Jesus stands before the Father on our behalf, having totally identified Himself with us and our need, by His death on the Cross. *1Jn 2:1,2*.

Bible examples of intercession include:

- a. Abraham interceding on behalf of Lot,

Gen 18:20-33.

- b. Moses interceding on behalf of the Israelites, *Ex 32:1-14.*
- c. Daniel interceding for the remnant to return to Israel, *Dan 9:2-23; 10:12.*
- d. Nehemiah interceding for the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, *Neh 1.*

4. **THANKSGIVING**

Thanksgiving differs from worship in that in worship we praise God for what He is in Himself, while in thanksgiving we thank Him for what He has done for us. There is always much that each one of us can thank God for! *Ps 103:2-5*. Write down five things we thank God for:

Ps 100:4,5. Write down three things we thank God for:

5. **SUPPLICATION**

What is supplication, as expressed in *Phil 4:6*? _____

Supplication simply means asking God for things that we need. He is willing to supply all our need, *Phil 4:19*, because he is a good Father who delights to give good gifts to His children, *Mat 7:7-11*.