

Lesson 8. S-Basic Gospel Points
Point # 5—Growth, Part 3, Prayer

1. Teaching about Prayers of Request

It must be realized that prayer is not just asking God for things. It also includes repenting of our sins, asking for forgiveness, thanking, praising, and worshiping God. We also pray in response to God after reading His Word. Prayer is a close and enjoyable time of communication with God. But when thinking of prayer, many people put an emphasis on asking God for things, and so we begin this lesson by teaching the Biblical truth about prayers of request.

Fill in the blanks.

1. God knows what is best and does not withhold anything from us if it is good for us. (Ps 84:11b) He knows much more than we do, and thus we trust Him to answer our prayers in the way that is best for us. (Isa 55:8-9)
2. When making requests for others and for ourselves, we should pray according to the will of God, not according to our own _____. (1Jn 5:14) But we do not always know God’s will. Thus when we make requests we should add, “God, not ___will, but Yours be done.”
3. We should not talk to God as if He were our servant, but rather as our wise Heavenly _____ whom we can trust to give us far more abundantly than all we ask or think. (Eph 3:20b) We can trust God to answer our prayers in the way that is best for us. He will answer 1. Yes, if it is good for us, 2. No, if it is not good for us, or 3. Wait, if it will be good for us later, but not now. There are many examples in the Old and New Testament of God’s answering in these ways.

2. Personal Prayer Record

| Date of prayer | Content of prayer | Answer to prayer | Date of answer |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
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1. This prayer record can be copied by hand on an empty page in the back of one’s Bible. Or it can be photocopied and taped in the back of one’s Bible.
2. That way it is handy for keeping a good record of how God answers one’s prayers over the years--even in ways beyond what one asks or thinks. In Ps 77:11-12 we are reminded to remember the great things He has done.
3. If one does not have any record of God’s work in his life, it is easy to forget many of God’s mighty works in one’s life and answers to his prayers.
4. Remember that God answers yes, no, or wait.

3. Monthly Prayer Plan

This monthly prayer plan is designed so that you can fill in each space with one or more names of people for whom to pray. Then on that day of the month you can especially remember to pray for them throughout the day. Another way to do this is to write the names of the people to pray for on your calendar as a prayer reminder.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
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5. Five Finger Method of Prayer

Thumb --- represents those closest to you --- parents, siblings, and friends (pray for them to be saved and for their particular needs.)

Pointing Finger --- represents church pastor, evangelists, the pastor's wife. (pray for God to help them explain his Word clearly, and to live holy lives.)

Middle Finger -- represents government, officials, leaders.. (pray for fairness, justice, and peace.)

Fourth Finger --- represents the weak --- the ill, the hungry, victims of calamities. (Ask God to move us to share physical and spiritual blessings with them.)

Little finger --- represents the last topic, prayer for yourself, thanking God for making you his child through Jesus. (Pray for your own spiritual needs and other needs.)

1. This method can be taught to a new believer in order to help him make his prayers more rounded. This will assure that he does not always pray just for himself and his own concerns.
2. In this method, a person uses his fingers to remind him of various groups of people for whom to pray.
3. This prayer method can also be used to remember to thank and praise God for all these various people and what He has done in their lives.
4. A person can pray this way while walking in the fields or at any time.

5. A Very Important Prayer Matter—Ask God to Make You a Good Servant

It is very important to ask God in prayer to show you how to serve Him, and to give you strength to do as He wills.

Homework Assignment:

1. Fill in the blanks under **Teaching about Prayers of Request**.
 - 1) Personal Prayer Record
 - 2) Copy this Personal Prayer Record in the back of your Bible.
 - 3) Start filling in this record by writing at least three recent prayer requests you have made. One of them should be a prayer request that God already answered with a definite yes, one with a definite no, and one that has not yet been answered.
 - 3) Be ready tomorrow to share one of these requests in class.
2. Review of the five Gospel points
 - 1) Review Lessons 2 to 8 carefully.
 - 2) Suppose you had fifteen minutes in which to share with someone about the Gospel and you wanted to include the five Gospel points in your presentation.
 - a. What parts from these seven lessons would you choose to share with someone?
 - b. Underline those parts in your textbook and be ready to tell in class what you would share and why.

Optional Homework Assignment:

1. Five Finger Method of Prayer
 - 1) Teach this method to a Christian who is not in your class, and then pray together with him using this method. Do not forget to use this method with him to also thank God for the various people.
 - 2) Be ready to give a report in class tomorrow.
2. Use the Monthly Prayer Plan for one month.
 - 1) Fill in each of the days with the name of at least one person. Your plan should include some of the names of the students in your class.
 - 2) Pray on those days for the people whose names you wrote.
 - 3) After one month, be ready to share this prayer experience in class.