

FOUNDATIONS CLASS

On the BIBLE



HEART
transformation
For Kingdom living

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INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE - The Book of Books

What is it?

The Bible is the **inspired word of God**. (2 Tim. 3:16...*all scripture is given by inspiration of God.*) It is composed of the Old Testament (the Hebrew Bible), and the New Testament (Greek & Aramaic). The Old Testament has 39 books, the New Testament has 27 books.

The Old Testament:

It consists of laws, traditions, history, rituals, songs, prophecies (the words of inspired prophets), written in Hebrew and Aramaic in a period of over 1,500 years. The 39 Old Testament Books are divided into 4 groupings.

1. The first five (5) are called the **Books of Moses or the Law**. They are: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. (**Pentateuch** – first 5 books of the Bible))

2. **12 Books** are the **Historical Books** and begin with Joshua and end with Esther. They describe the movement of a nomad people from the lower Euphrates Valley and westward to the Jordan River area and Egypt. Those near Egypt were enslaved until set free by God through Moses about 1200 B.C. It was at this time, Moses received for them from God the 10 Commandments. From 1200 B.C. to 1020 B.C., God guided and aided the Jews conquest and settlement of the Promised Land of Canaan.

From 1020 to 922 B.C., God fulfilled His promises to Israel under Kings Saul, David and Solomon, Israel reached its greatest power, it's borders reaching from Syria to Egypt.

Because of Israel's disobedience to God's covenant with Abraham, and turning from the One True God, Israel faltered and became divided. For 300 years (922 - 587 B.C.) there were two (2) kingdoms, Judah in the south and Israel in the north. Both fell to invaders and many were exiled in Babylonia.

3. The **five (5) Poetic Books**:

One of the poetical books (Psalms) is a collection of 150 poems and was used as hymns by the Jews and also by many Christians today.

4. The **17 Prophetical Books**:

These books describe the rebellious lives of the Israelites and the prophets God assigned to deliver His message to them. They are a recording of the prophets encounters with God, their conversations with Him, and the judgments forthcoming if the Israelites did not repent. Many of these books were written by the prophets whose names they bear, such as Isaiah.

The New Testament:

This marks the birth of Jesus Christ (God with us). By A.D. 200 the four gospels and the epistles of Paul were widely known.

A suggested way to study the New Testament is to separate its 27 books into 4 parts:

- a. **4 Gospels** (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)
- b. **21** books of the **Epistles or letters**
- c. 1 book of **Acts**
- d. 1 book of **Revelation**

The 4 gospels tell of Christ's life and teachings. They were probably written during the last third of the first century A.D. The meaning of the word gospel is "Good News".

- a. the first book is ascribed to Matthew and apparently designed for the instruction of new Christian converts.
- b. the second book is believed to have been written by John Mark, a companion of Peter and Paul and perhaps completed in Rome about 65 or 70 A.D. It concentrates on Christ's birth, childhood, baptism by John, ministry in Galilee, and his miracles
- c. the third book, Luke, is probably written by a companion of Paul and a Greek Gentile. It contains more about Christ's parables and details of His youth.
- d. John: his writings are the simplest and most profound.

The 21 Epistles:

Paul is the author of 13 or 14 of the epistles, written in Greek about A.D. 45-57.

James' epistle, probably written by Christ's brother and addressed to a wide group of Christians, was done about 60 A.D.

Peter's first epistle is generally believed to be written by the apostle Peter.

1,2,3 John & Jude: authorship of their two epistles is not certain.

Acts:

The Acts of the Apostles is a sequel to Luke's life of Christ, dwelling on His ministry through the Holy Spirit and also describes the founding of the first Christian churches. This is also viewed as a summary of the works that were later described in the Epistles.

Revelation:

This is the final and only prophetic book of the New Testament and is also attributed to the Apostle John.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Old Testament

Genesis	1 Samuel	Proverbs	Joel
Exodus	2 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Amos
Leviticus	1 Kings	Song of Solomon	Obadiah
Numbers	2 Kings	Isaiah	Jonah
Deuteronomy	1 Chronicles	Jeremiah	Micah
Joshua	2 Chronicles	Lamentations	Nahum
Judges	Ezra	Ezekiel	Habakkuk
Ruth	Nehemiah	Daniel	Zephaniah
	Esther	Hosea	Haggai
	Job		Zechariah
	Psalms		Malachi

New Testament

Matthew	1 Timothy
Mark	2 Timothy
Luke	Titus
John	Philemon
Acts	Hebrews
Romans	James
1 Corinthians	1 Peter
2 Corinthians	2 Peter
Galatians	1 John
Ephesians	2 John
Philippians	3 John
Colossians	Jude
1 Thessalonians	Revelation
2 Thessalonians	

Bible Translations - History:

The Old Testament written in Hebrew was translated into Aramaic about the 6th century B.C. As this was the common language of the Jews in Palestine and the Middle East after their exile.

About 250 B.C., Alexander the Great, conquered the Eastern Mediterranean Nations and the Scriptures were translated into Greek.

From about A.D. 50 to 150, the Christian writings were in Greek but by A.D. 150 both the old and the new testaments were available in Syriac, Latin and a few other languages.

Early in the 5th century, St. Jerome revised the Latin version of the New Testament, called the Vulgate Latin and is considered the standard for the Roman Catholic Church.

The first English version began about 1300 A.D., soon after the German translation.

The Bible has now been translated into over 1200 languages.

Conclusion: (There is a difference between a Translation and a **Paraphrase** of the Bible: New Living Bible & The Message. These are written with added words for ease of reading) In a translation: each word is translated into another language by taking the most original text available and translating it word for word into the new language, meaning for meaning. In a **Translation:** the purity of the word and meaning has not evolved, it is always taken from the latest original text. It is accurate.)

The Bible is the Word of God. There is much evidence to support that it is **literally accurate**. The Bible is God revealing Himself. In it, man's history is written: how he failed, how he succeeded, and how he can be redeemed in life. If you say you believe in God or want to **know Him**, then how can one overlook **studying its contents**. Not only does one learn about God but also principles of life, business and character building. In 2 Tim 3:16 it says "all scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be **thoroughly equipped for every good work**."

RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE

Uniqueness of the Bible: written over a 1,500 year span, over 40 generations, by more than 40 authors from every walk of life (grandson of a pharaoh, fisherman, philosopher, cupbearer, poet, peasant, herdsman, military general, doctor, prime minister, tax collector, kings, rabbi, shepherd), written in different places (wilderness, dungeon, on a hillside, in a palace, inside prison, while traveling, on a deserted island, in the middle of a battle), written during different moods (heights of joy and depths of sorrow and despair), written on three continents (Asia, Africa and Europe), in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), covering hundreds of controversial subjects and yet the authors speak with complete harmony and accuracy from Genesis to Revelation! Coincidence?

Three tests for the **reliability of a historical document**:

1. **Bibliographical Test**: since we don't have the originals, how accurate are the copies we have in regard to the number of ancient manuscripts and the time between the original and existing copies?

	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	# of Copies
Caesar	100 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000 yrs	10
Plato	347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,200 yrs	7
Aristotle	322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1,400 yrs	49
Sophocles	406 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1,400 yrs	193
Homer	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643
New Testament	100 A.D.	125 A.D.	25 years	24,000

2. **Internal Evidence Test** – was it telling the truth?
 - a. Aristotle's Dictum: "the benefit of the doubt is to be given to the document itself and not aggregated by the critic to himself."
 - b. The truthfulness is determined by the author's closeness geographically and chronologically to the events recorded
 - They were eyewitnesses (Luke 1:1-3; II Peter 1:16; I Jn. 1:3; Jn. 19:35)
 - They appealed to common knowledge (Acts 2:22; 26:24-28, which they could not have done unless it was truly known to all present.)
3. **External Evidence Test** – what sources are there, apart from itself, that substantiate its accuracy, reliability and authenticity?
 - a. Historian Eusebius (A.D. 130) "Mark, having been the interpreter for Peter...made no mistake writing down in this way some things as he mentioned them; for he paid attention to this one thing, not to omit anything that he had heard, nor to include any false statement among them."
 - b. Bishop of Lyons, Irenaeus (A.D. 180) "Matthew published his gospel among the Hebrews when Peter and Paul were preaching in Rome. Mark himself handed down to us in writing the substance of Peter's preaching. Luke, the follower of Paul, set down in a book the gospel preached by his teacher. John, the disciple of the Lord, himself produced his gospel, while he was living in Ephesus.
 - c. Archaeologist Joseph Free "Archaeology has confirmed the countless passages which have been rejected by critics as unhistorical or contradictory to known facts."
 - d. For more archaeological evidence, please see Sean Sears.
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 - g. For more archaeological evidence, please see Sean Sears.

If a person describes the Bible as unreliable, they must discard almost all historical literature.

Does this give you confidence to trust the Bible as a reliable document? (When compared to other documents?) **Why?**

PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Fulfilled prophecy helps verify the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Looking at prophecies which preceded Jesus by hundreds of years and seeing how Jesus fulfilled them in every detail **reveals the authenticity of his claims**. The chart below is a brief list of some of the prophecies made in the Old Testament, thousands of years earlier (B.C.), concerning the Christ and how Jesus fulfilled them in the New Testament (A.D.). Please note: under the Fulfillment column: these events took place approximately 1 A.D. – 50 A.D.

TOPIC	PROPHECY (B.C.)	FULFILLMENT (A.D.)
Place of birth	“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times (Micah 5:2) 700 B.C.	“Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea” (Matthew 2:1)
Born of a virgin	“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14) 700 B.C.	“His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:18)
His triumphal entry	“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9) 500 B.C.	“They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!” Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it.” (John 12:12-14)

Betrayed by a friend	<p>"Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me"</p> <p>(Psalm 41:9) 1000 B.C.</p>	<p>"Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them" (Mark 14:10)</p>
His rejection	<p>"He was despised and rejected by men...like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not" (Isaiah 53:3)</p> <p>700 B.C.</p>	<p>"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him" (John 1:11)</p>
Crucified with sinners	<p>"He...was numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12)</p> <p>700 B.C.</p>	<p>"Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left" (Matthew 27:38)</p>
Hands and feet pierced	<p>"They have pierced my hands and my feet" (Psalm 22:16) 1000 B.C.</p>	<p>"Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side" (John 20:27)</p>
His resurrection	<p>"You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay" (Psalm 16:10) 1000 B.C.</p>	<p>"You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead" (Acts 3:15)</p>
His ascension	<p>"You ascended on high" (Psalm 68:18) 1000 B.C.</p>	<p>"He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight" (Acts 1:9)</p>

Considering the evidence of prophecies given in the Old Testament and the fulfillment of these prophecies in the New Testament (ranging up to 1,000 years in time). **What confidence does this give you about the Bible?**

HOW TO KNOW THE BIBLE

Reasons to Know your Bible:

2 Timothy 2: 15 _____

2 Timothy 3:16 _____

1 Peter 2:2 _____

Psalm 119:11 _____

Psalm 119:38 _____

Psalm 119:105 _____

In your own words, why would you say it's important to know your Bible?

Ways to know the Bible:

Hear it (Romans 10:17) _____

Read it (Revelation 1:3) _____

Study it (Acts 17:11) _____

Memorize it (Psalm 119:9-11) _____

Meditate on it (Psalm 1:2,3) _____

Why do you think God made these different ways available to us?

WHAT THE BIBLE CAN MEAN TO ME

The Bible can mean to me - the foundation of all my family, business and personal life founded on the Word of God.

Joshua 1:8 _____

Psalm 1:1-3 _____

Psalms 19:7,8 _____

Proverbs 3:5,6 _____

Proverbs 4:10 _____

Matt. 4:4 _____

John 10:10b _____

John 14:12 _____

Rom 15:13 _____

Eph 1:3,4 _____

II Tim. 3:16 _____

I John 5:13 _____

Based on what you have learned, what are your thoughts?

Now that you have considered:

- **knowing more about the Bible**
- **the reliability of the Bible**
- **understand that all scripture is inspired by God**

- have the assurance of things prophesied in the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New Testament
- understand how to know your Bible and that God made this all available to you
- understand what the Bible can mean to you

What conclusions can you make?

God desires a **personal relationship with you**. Not only does He know you, but wants you to know Him. As a result of this **intimate relationship**, He will **empower your life**; that you might experience the abundant life. Enjoy knowing Him!

Sons & Daughters OF GOD – Our Identity

Introduction: Followers of Jesus, we are privileged to be freed from our past and born into Eternal Life. There is no more reason for guilt, fear or doubt about our eternal position. We are set free from our old lifestyles. We are **free to live in the blessings** that our Lord offers as a result of being His follower. Rejoice, feel the joy of the Lord in you! We are promised eternal life. Praise the Lord for making it possible!!

In John 10:10b, God wants us to have an **abundant life**. That abundant life gives us the most precious things on earth: overflowing of joy, hope, love & the peace of God, and His power within us. He desires to have fellowship with us, an intimate relationship. He desires to work in partnership with us to change the course of history on earth. He wants to **prosper us** in our heart and **help us** here on earth. He desires that we become **complete in Him, full of the Holy Spirit**; that we might experience every spiritual blessing.

Salvation Keys: So let's look at what our Lord has done: *Romans 5:8, it says that "God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"*. It is **Jesus' love** for us that **frees us**. Yes, thank You God!

1 Peter 3:18, "for Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." This means that Jesus was the righteous person that paid for all the unrighteous. He wants to bring each of us to God so that we can have a life of **fellowship with Him!**

Rom. 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. We have been justified by Jesus; all our debts that would bring us to eternal death have been paid. We have **been freed by Jesus**.

How does our salvation take place? What is required?

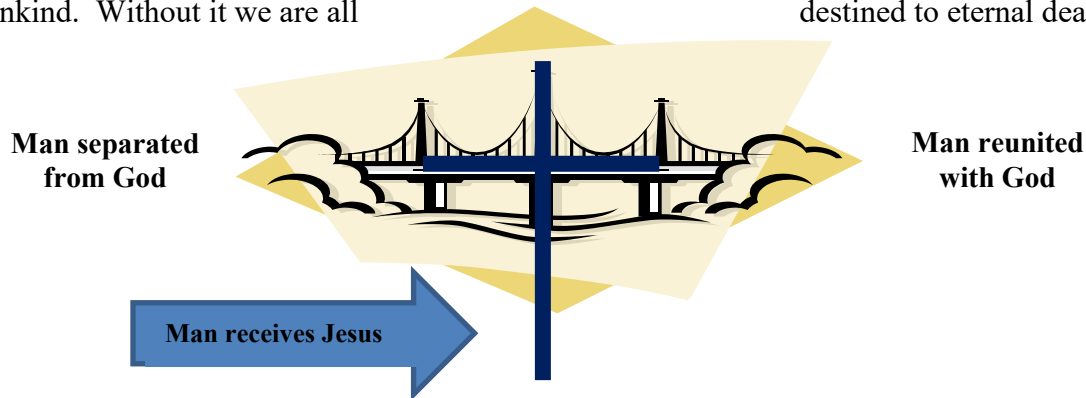
John 1:12 states "yet to all that received Him, to those who believe in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

- "Received" means to "get hold of & entrust our life to". It is taking Jesus into our hearts (temple), asking Him to dwell there. This allows us to live an extraordinary **Kingdom life** here on earth, full of joy and hope.

- The word “Kingdom” here means a heavenly realm. If we allow our heart to dwell in this Kingdom realm, the blessings that heaven has, can be experienced now. We must remember:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

We can't earn our own salvation; we are not righteous and sinless. Our debt had to be paid by a righteous one, Jesus. Jesus did this to save you from eternal hell; he gave the greatest gift known to mankind. Without it we are all destined to eternal death.



Have you received Jesus in your heart? If you have, then you are promised eternal life and fellowship with God because Jesus has become your bridge back to full relationship. If you haven't received Jesus, now is the time!

What confidence of eternal life do you have?

*1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may **know that you have eternal life**. This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."*

We can have **confidence** as a result of taking hold and inviting Jesus into our hearts; that we have eternal life. There is no more concern about what will happen when we die. Since Jesus is dwelling in our hearts, He is making Himself available to us to experience the **Kingdom of God life here** on earth. This is an incredible privilege to be experiencing heavenly things, now! They are merely a foretaste of what we will continually experience in heaven.

*Rom. 8:16 "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that **we are God's children**."*

As a result of receiving Jesus, the indwelling Holy Spirit will testify with our spirit and give us **confidence and peace about our eternal position**.

What salvation has done for us:

*2 Cor. 5:17 "if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!"*

As a result of Jesus' blood purifying us, **we are free**. We are no longer a slave to our past sinful patterns. We have been given the **mind of Jesus**. We have the **Holy Spirit dwelling in us**. Isn't that miraculous?

The Bible states in *Romans 6:22* "*but now you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to **holiness**, and the result is eternal life.*"

We are no longer obligated to the sin patterns of the past; the blood of Jesus has cut the past off. We have been set free from the penalty of sin and **set free** to live like Jesus. Please understand: in order to find **satisfaction** in life, in order to have a **joy** that overflows no matter the circumstance, in order to have the **peace** of God that surpasses earthly threats, in order to have

daily **hope**; these are **only available from God** and the **power of the Holy Spirit** in us. We can't earn those blessings any other way; they are given by the Holy Spirit! That is why we are encouraged to live like Jesus, with authority and power, no longer susceptible to the things of this world. With this new freedom, it is our choice to walk in the Holy Spirit or continue walking in our sinful patterns. If you walk in sinful patterns, they will cut you off from some of the blessings the Lord wants to give you.

Live by the Spirit:

In *Rom. 8:12-14* “*therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. **For if you** live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those **who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**” As a result of living according/by the Spirit, I will no longer desire my sinful patterns; I will desire to please Him. We can live victoriously because we have the Spirit. Almost all of the people in the Old Testament did not have the power of the Spirit in their daily lives, but we do!*

God offers what is humanly impossible: freedom from bondage to sin and freedom to live a life that is full of all the fullness of God. The **Holy Spirit is the secret to this Kingdom life:** His power helps us succeed spiritually. In Ephesians 5:18 it says “Be full of the Spirit”. Jesus was baptized with water and the Holy Spirit. He was then led into the desert by the Spirit. In Luke 4:1, it says “*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit...was led by the Spirit in the desert...40 days*”.

The Book of Acts (the history book of the New Testament) states 25 times that we are to be filled/full of the Holy Spirit. We are encouraged to **live by the Spirit** and the result is that our sinful patterns are put to death. We will later have to learn how to be **led by the Spirit**. If we do live by the Spirit, we are called **a son/daughter of God!** He is our Father. He is our role model, protector, and provider. He blesses us, encourages us, and strengthens us! Isn't that great? This is also stated in *Gal. 3:26,27* “*you are all **sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*”

The rights of beings Sons/Daughters of God:

Matt. 10:1 “*He called His 12 disciples to Him and gave them **authority** to drive out evil spirits and to **heal** every disease and sickness.*” Just as Jesus gave this authority to the disciples (70 disciples), He has given this authority to us as His sons/daughters to **do His will with power.**

Luke 10:17-20 “*the 70 returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name”. ..(19) I give you the **authority to trample** on serpents, and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you...but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.*”

Jesus delegated this **authority** to His Disciples in *Matthew 28: 18-20*. *Before leaving this Earth he **empowered** them saying: “All authority in heaven and on earth **has been given** to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* We have been given His authority!

John 14:12 *Jesus said: “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even **greater things** than these because I am going to the Father.”*

Jesus desires that **we use this authority** as His followers to **bless people** and **free them** from their bondage while sharing with them a new life. The authority that He has given us does not come from our own ability and strength. It comes from God the Holy Spirit!

1 Cor. 3:16, 17 “don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys **God’s temple**, God will destroy him; for **God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.**” We are the very temple of God and because the Holy Spirit dwells there, we have **authority** and we have **power**.

Romans 8:37 No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us. As His children we have been given His authority to do the work of the kingdom.

Where does this power come from?

Acts 1:8 “You will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea & Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” What is this power? This power has been made available to us because we are sons/daughters; **followers!** It is to be used to **draw people to Him**, to bring **glory to our Lord**. It is to be used to bless our lives that we might have great marriages, great families, to be great employees or owners...but ultimately to live in peace!

Our Lord is inviting each of us to be like Jesus, to live like Jesus, to transform the world like Jesus, to be people of influence in this world at whatever level He calls us. One of our goals as a result of being a son/daughter is to be seen as **great in His eyes**. Our spiritual lives are not to be lived out of obligation, but lived with **love, joy, power and thanksgiving** in Him! So go and live like a son/daughter of God, your old identity is gone...release it! Live a **life of God worship** and you will be **empowered**. When you are asked, who you are; **your identity-answer:**

**I am a son/daughter of God with the Holy Spirit as my counselor and power.
He loves and cares for me with all His heart!**

Live a life of impassioned love for God with all your heart!

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
Matt. 22:37

20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain , 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."
Matt 17: 20,21

Praise God !!!

We have a new identity through faith in Jesus Christ as a **son or daughter of God**.

26 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-27 (NLT)

God the Creator and Sustainer of the entire universe has adopted us into **His family** and is now our heavenly Father. God, Himself, initiates and brings fulfillment to this **intimate family relationship**.

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. 4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in

Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. 6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. Eph. 1:3-6 (NLT)

He accomplishes this adoption through the working of **His Spirit** (Holy Spirit) and **desires such intimacy with us** that we may even call Him “**Daddy, PaPa**” (Abba Father)

15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you **as his own children**. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."
16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. Rom. 8:15-16 (NLT)

Now, God our Father knows **everything** there is to know about each one of us.

O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.² You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.³ You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do.⁴ You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord.
5 You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!
7 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!⁸ If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there.⁹ If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans,¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.¹¹ I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night—¹² but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.
13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.¹⁵ You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.¹⁶ You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.
Ps. 139:1-16 (NLT)

In order for us to grow in our relationship with Him, we not only need to know “about Him”, but to actually “**know Him**”, personally and intimately. Our goal and His desire is that we have an eternal **love relationship with Him**.

This happens the same way we develop and grow in our earthly relationships: through **spending time** with someone, talking with them and asking questions about them. We grow in our relationship to our Father by spending time in His Word and talking to Him through our prayers. And because He already knows everything there is to know about us; we never have to be scared, embarrassed, or hesitant in any way to **talk to Him about anything**. He wants to go through life “with us”: **bles, comfort, prosper and protect us**. This is what it means to have a “personal relationship” with God our Father!!

This is all possible through our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten Son!
No one comes to the Father but by Me John 14:6

WHO HE IS!

Jesus demonstrates for us, through His life **what God the Father is like** and shows us Who God is.

8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. John 14:8-10 (NLT)

This is how the Father chose to reveal Himself to the world: in God the Son (Jesus) by the power of His Spirit (Holy Spirit) as **revealed in His Word** (The Bible)

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, He has spoken to us through His Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son He created the universe. The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command. When He had cleansed us from our sins, He sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. Heb. 1:1-3 (NLT)

Today let's look at a few Bible verses that reveal **GOD'S CHARACTER** to us:

God is Love

16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 1 John 4:16 (NLT)

God is Perfect

48 But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect. Matt. 5:48 (NLT)

God is Holy

9 Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain in Jerusalem, for the Lord our God is holy! Psalm 99:9

15 But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. 1 Peter 1:15

God is Good

The Lord is good and does what is right; He shows the proper path to those who go astray. Psalms 25:8 (NLT)

68 You are good and do only good; teach me your decrees. Psalm 119:68

God is Faithful

13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. 1 Cor. 10:13

Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. 24 God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful. 1 Thess. 5:23, 24 (NLT)

There are many others. As you prayerfully study His Word, pay close attention to verses that reveal more of God, His Son, and His Holy Spirit, to you. Make notes as you learn.

Be aware that we do have an enemy that will do all he can to keep us from growing in our relationship with Jesus and God our Father! His schemes include discouragement, doubt, shame, laziness, busyness, fatigue, apathy and even false teachers! Remember his (Satan's) power is limited to what God allows him (Satan) to use in our lives. **Our power is unlimited in Christ through His Holy Spirit!**

Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. 2 This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God. 3 But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here. 4 But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. (1 John 4:1-4)

The other barrier to our growth is sin: those habits and attitudes we may still have from our old lives. The Bible teaches us to cast them aside and to put on or begin to live according to our new life in Christ.

With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. 18 Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. 19 They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

20 But that isn't what you learned about Christ. 21 Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, 22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. 23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. 24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. (Eph. 4:17-24)

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. 5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. 6 Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. 7 You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. 8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. 10 Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. 11 In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us. (Colossians 3:1-11)

God calls us to **live our lives according to His plan** for each of His children. It is called “walking in the Spirit” and allows us to walk in holiness. He has given us His Word, His Spirit, and His Son to guide us and empower us in that walk. He called us out of our old way of life and gives us a new life in His Son Jesus! He has forgiven us all our sins and is in the process of sanctifying or cleaning us up for His divine purposes.

He is doing this to glorify Himself and to bless us here and to prepare us to be with Him in heaven for all eternity! He does it because He loves us and as our Father wants the absolute best for us!!

- He wants to bless us each day to follow and serve Him
- He wants our lives to be joyful, even when things seem bad
- He wants to give us peace even in the midst of turmoil and fear
- He wants us to cry out to Him, even when He seems far away
- He wants us to trust Him, even when we don't understand
- He is faithful even when we are not
- He is God. He is our Abba, Father. He will never leave us or forsake us.

As a result of this relationship; He is charging us to **do the work of the Kingdom.**

37 Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."
Matt 22:37

19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

Continue to grow in the wisdom and knowledge of Jesus Christ, by the **power of His Spirit**, in order to experience and enjoy more of your Father each day!

(Continuing) WHO GOD IS!

SPIRIT

24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:24

LIGHT

This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you:
God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. 1 John 1:5-6

ETERNAL

2 Before the mountains were born, before you gave
birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God. Psalms 90:2

17 All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King,
the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen. 1 Timothy 1:17

OMNISCIENT (Knows Everything)

21 For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths. Proverbs 5:21

OMNIPRESENT (Is Everywhere)

23 Am I a God who is only close at hand?" says the Lord. No, I am far away at the same time. Jeremiah 23:23

UNCHANGABLE

17 Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father,
who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. James 1:17

WISE

27 All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen. Romans 16:27

MOST HIGH

18 Then they will learn that you alone are called the Lord,
that you alone are the Most High, supreme over all the earth. Psalms 83:18

GREAT

10 For you are great and perform wonderful deeds. You alone are God. Psalms 86:10

MERCIFUL

5 O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help. Psalms 86:15

BLESSINGS from God

God is so good to us and we do not recognize just how good. In scripture there are more blessings spoken of than we have been able to comprehend. And yet how many do we really know? That is what this lesson is all about: His blessings. God gives us reasons to live a life totally entrusted (belief) to Him, which means that we will clamor on a daily basis to be in His presence, hear His voice, and to know His plan. The blessings in this study are one's that we each want to possess and they are ours. Hopefully, this will give us an unquenchable desire to walk that deeper walk with Him.

Consider the following questions as you study the verses:

- **As you think about these blessings, what impression do they make?**
- **As a result of reviewing all these blessings, do you really believe that you will receive them?**
- **Do you want these blessings, and are you willing to invest more fully in Him?**
- **As in Psalm 86:11, are you asking God to give you an undivided heart so that your partnership with the Lord is progressing?**

Are there any of these blessings you minimize or eliminate?

- Given every spiritual blessing Eph. 1:3,4
- Be prosperous & successful Josh. 1:8
- Lack no good thing Ps. 34:10
- Give you the desires of your heart Ps. 37:48
- All these things added Matt. 6:33
- Graciously give us all things Rom. 8:32
- Wisdom and knowledge 2Chr 9:6
- Look on you with favor, make you fruitful & increase Lev. 26:9
- Prolong life, bring health Prov. 3:2,8,16
- Years of life be many Prov. 4:10
- Kept in perfect peace Is. 26:3

- Inherit honor..... Prov. 3:35
- Bring wealth & honor..... Prov. 22:4
- The Father loves you..... John 16:27
- Make your paths straight..... Prov. 3:5,6
- Help those who are being tempted..... Heb. 2:18
- Light & protection, favor & honor, no good thing withheld..... Ps. 84:11
- He arms me, makes my way perfect, makes my feet like a deer, enables me to stand, trains my hands, arms can bend a bow of bronze, a shield of victory, your hand sustains me, you stoop down to make me great, broaden path, made my enemies turn their backs in flight, delivered me from attacks, made me the head of nations, avenged me, subdue nations under me, save me from my enemies, exalted me above my foes, from violent men you rescued me..... Psalm 18:32-36,40,43,47,48
- Will forgive..... Matt. 6:14
- Not worry..... Matt. 6:31-34
- Strengthen hearts II Chron. 16:9
- Live in peace I Cor. 7:15,35
- Renew my strength..... Is. 40:31
- Seek & find..... Deut. 4:29
- Hope and a future..... Jer. 29:11
- Receive a hundred times as much in this age...eternal life Mark 10:28-31

GOD’S BLESSINGS FOR HIS CHILDREN

Subject:

Verses:

Blessing:

- Rom. 10:12 _____
- Eph. 1:3,4 _____
- Rev. 1:3 _____
- Rev. 22:7 _____

Prosper:

- Josh. 1:8 _____
- Ps.1:1 -3 _____
- Ps. 34:10 _____
- Prov. 21:21 _____

Prosper:

Matt. 6:33 _____

Mark 10:28-30 _____

Long Life

Prov. 3:2,8,16 _____

Peace:

Is. 26:3 _____

John 14:27 _____

John 16:33 _____

Power:

Acts 1:8 _____

Joy:

Prov. 10:28 _____

Ecc. 5:19 _____

Jn. 15:11 _____

Jn. 16:20 _____

Philemon 7 _____

Honor:

Prov. 3:35 _____

Prov. 13:18 _____

Psalm 84:11 _____

Wealth:

Prov. 3:9,10 _____

Prov. 11:28 _____

Prov. 22:4 _____

**God's Love
for You:**

Psalm 146:8 _____

Prov. 15:9 _____

John 16:27 _____

Eph. 3:17-19 _____

I John 4:16, 19 _____

**Straight
Paths:**

Prov. 3:5,6 _____

Forgiveness:

Matt. 6:14 _____

I John 1:9 _____

**Food &
Clothing:**

Ps. 111:5 _____

Prov. 13:25 _____

Food & Clothing:

Matt. 6:31-34 _____

GOD'S HELP FOR HIS CHILDREN

Strength:

Is. 40:31 _____

Is. 41:10 _____

Phil. 4:13 _____

Safety & Security:

Ps. 32:7 _____

John 17:12,15 _____

Prov. 20:22 _____

II Thess. 3:3 _____

Hope:

Jer. 29:11 _____

Col. 1:27 _____

Temptation:

I Cor. 10:13 _____

Phil. 4:6,7 _____

Shield:

Ps. 18:2 _____

Ps. 115:9 _____

Helps:

Ps. 34:19 _____

Ps. 42:11 _____

Nahum 1:7 _____

John 16:33 _____

Attitude given by Holy Spirit

Gal. 5:22 _____

Guidance

Ps. 32:8 _____

Ps. 73:23, 24 _____

Is. 30:21 _____

WHAT THE BIBLE CAN MEAN TO ME

The Bible is the most remarkable book in history. It is inspired (God breathed). You will find great joy & peace is the fruit of engaging in the Bible. It can transform you into what God has designed you to be. The Bible is designed to lead you to live an abundant life.

The Bible is the Word of God. There is much evidence to support that it is literally accurate. The Bible is God revealing Himself. In it man's history is written: how he failed, how he succeeded, and how he can be redeemed in life. If you say you believe in God or want to know Him, then how can one overlook studying its contents? Not only does one learn about God but also principles of life, business and character building. In 2 Tim 3:16 it says "all scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. The Bible is the inspired word of God. It is composed of the Old Testament (the Hebrew Bible), and the New Testament (Greek & Aramaic). The Old Testament has 39 books, the New Testament has 27 books.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

There are many translations and some are better than others. You need to know that a quality translation comes from the earliest transcripts of the original language. The first English version was in 1300 AD. The Bible has not been translated into over 1300 languages. Some well accepted translations are the NIV (New International Version), NAS (New American Standard), New King James, NLT (New Living Translation), ESV (English Standard Version). These are a few.

The **Bible is useful for all things in life - principles in marriage, parenting, economics....it is God speaking to us, teaching us, leading us.** Most importantly, it is God telling us about Himself. God desires an intimate relationship with us; that we might be transformed into the image of Jesus. If we are living in the image of Jesus, we will live a supernatural life. Let's look at some scripture, that we might be acquainted with the Bible:

Joshua 1:8 _____

Psalms 1:1-3 _____

Psalms 19:7,8 _____

Proverbs 3:5, 6 _____

Proverbs 4:10 _____

Matt. 4:4 _____

John 10:10b _____

John 14:12 _____

Rom 15:13 _____

Eph. 1:3,4 _____

II Tim. 3:16 _____

I John 5:13 _____

Now that you have considered:

- **You know more about the Bible**
- **The reliability of the Bible**
- **Understand that all scripture is inspired by God**
- **Have the assurance of things prophesied in the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New Testament**
- **Understand how to know your Bible and that God made this all available to you**
- **Understand what the Bible can mean to you**

What conclusions can you make? _____

God desires a **personal relationship with you**. Not only does He know you, but wants **you to know Him**. As a result of this **intimate relationship, He will empower your life**; that you might experience the **abundant life**. Enjoy knowing Him!

COMMUNING WITH GOD - PRAYER

What a great opportunity God has given us to commune and communicate with Him through prayer. It is in prayer that we can experience God's presence on an intimate level, and have God confidence in what His will is in situations and life. Prayer is a means to connect with the supernatural God Who will do supernatural things in and through you. Our Lord tells us to pray continually (1 Thess. 5:17); how do we do that? It begins by hungering for "all of Him" in life. It then leads to an ongoing conversation with Him throughout each day; to see and pray Kingdom work and blessing into your family, people's lives and world-wide transformation. For us to enter His presence, we must be free of contamination, sinfulness, and have a desire to be holy. Once in His presence, He will listen to us, give us ideas, respond to our requests and perform great and mighty miracles.



One of the ways God accomplishes His will is through our prayers. He waits in anticipation for us to humbly call on Him in prayer to bring forth His plan. What a privilege that God has called us to such a strategic role. Prayer in our hands is as powerful as we allow, based on our faith in Almighty God and whether we choose to be His agents in prayer.

What we desire is being in the Presence of God. When there, in the Holy of Holies with Him, within our spirit, we are guarded from evil being able to touch us, frustrate us, or hold us back. We get to experience His righteousness, peace, joy, love, unquenchable hope in life and His other blessings. We can be in His Presence like this anytime we desire it; praying His will and awaiting His answer. Prayer is not something that should be embraced out of obligation or as some badge you've earned after being on a prayer team. Our Lord desires to do great and mighty things in you and through you.

Praying is strategic to being in union with Him, one with Him. This is the key place where we meet God. He will inspire, encourage, direct and empower us. He will not fail us. We must enter into prayer with a long term view of never giving up on the Lord answering our prayers. Too often, we spend most of our praying time asking for our needs and wants. A prayer process will help us to be in God's presence, praying His will and purposes. He wants everything for us and around us, that will draw us closer to Him and His will for the sake of all eternity.

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, the harvest is plentiful
but the workers are few. Ask for the Lord of the harvest, therefore,
to send out workers into His harvest field." Matt. 9:37,38

As we see in this verse, the Lord knows that the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few. He desires us to come and ask, continuing to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers. He is telling us that He will send them out if that is our hearts desire and not just an annual request. He will come to answer our prayers in the proportion to which we are asking and yearning for Him to hear them.

"What we really lack is a passion to call upon the Lord
until He opens the heavens and shows Himself powerful."
Jim Cymbala

"The great people of the earth today are the people who pray."
S. D. Gordon

Consider these thoughts:

- Through prayer, we can travel farther than the stars, far beyond anything we can see and into God's theatre of operations.
- God is looking for strategic players to enter into the prayer arena to help change the course of history.

- Prayer is our access to God and completes the circuit of God’s action in the world.
- Prayer makes your Christian life supernatural, just as in the Book of Acts
- God gets His work done as we humbly submit ourselves and cry out in prayer.
- Praying in His name, means praying with His total power.
- The prayer of a righteous man is praying God’s will into action.

Unfortunately, the opposite is true here as well. Prayerlessness short circuits the working of God because we communicate we don’t need Him. The way you regard prayer may be the way you regard God. Too often, prayer is viewed as a duty or badge of spiritual accomplishment vs. one of the strategic ways He unleashes His will and power – He is waiting for you and I to engage.

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. For where 2 or 3 come together in my name, there am I with them.”
Matt. 18:19,20

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”
Col. 4:2

“With all prayer and supplication, pray at all times in the Spirit...”
Eph. 6:18

Remember, prayer is not just communion with God, but union with God. The first thing is to get to God and then allow God to get to you. It is pouring our lives, thoughts, & longings into God and receiving the power, character, mind, heart and authority of Christ Jesus. He desires to invade you, take possession and then pours out His very prayer through you. Prayer is spiritual power flowing from our union with God.

“When all is said and done; more is said than done when it comes to prayer.” Dick Eastman

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for 3 ½ years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produces it’s crops.” James 5:15, 16

One of the conclusions that we can draw from this verse is that our prayers are to be powerful and effectual, like Elijah’s. As a result of being a righteous person, your prayers can be answered just as dramatically as Elijah’s. Scripture gives us a model for effectual prayer:

We also know that God desires us to:

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions.” Eph. 6:18

When we are in His presence and one with Him, He will reveal His heart to us, so we can powerfully pray His desire. We can pray what He has already given us as His will and desires in scripture.

King David gives us understanding about praying because many of his Psalms are prayers. Remember David was the only man honored by God as “a man after God’s own heart”. To have effectual prayer, it requires seeking God’s heart; an attitude that it is all about Him, not me. It’s about His Kingdom and His will being done. It’s about our relationship with the Lord, intimacy with Him, of being one with Him. Having a deep love for God and communing with Him, opens the door to effectual prayer as He cares for His child. Let’s begin a prayer time by putting ourselves in His presence and entreating Him to come and manifest Himself.

As his child, He cares about you personally; wants to bless you, encourage you, strengthen you and protect you! Therefore, praying for your own needs, according to His will, is an important part of prayer as well.

Here is a **PRAYER GUIDE**:

We begin with an attitude of being saturated with His presence: dripping, full of Him including overflowing, full of His purposes, full of the Holy Spirit and thus full of His power, grace, faith, wisdom and love. As a result, we will exhibit His godliness to the full in us & through us.

“Therefore I exhort you first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving thanks be made for all men, for kings, and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and reverence.

1 Tim. 2:1

PRAYER PROCESS: 1 Tim. 2:1

- **Make Supplication**
 1. Entreating the Lord
 2. Thanks be to God for what He has done
 3. Praise/Adore Him
 4. Listening to what God wants us to pray
- **Prayers**
 1. Forgiveness
 2. Praying Scripture
 3. Concert of Prayer
 4. Listening
- **Intercessory Prayer**
- **Personal Prayer**



Thanks be to God for what He will do.

Make Supplications

In 1 Tim. 2:1, our Lord exhorted us to first of all make supplications. Supplication means to make petition, and to call, to ask, to plead, and welcome Him to come and hear, listen, and answer His child – you. Making supplications will include Entreating Him, Thanking Him for what He has done & is already doing, Praise & Adoring Him for Who He Is, and Listening to what He is saying to us. Here are some verses that reinforce this idea from David’s hand, our most prolific prayer model.

Supplication 1 - Entreating Him (Appeal, welcome Him)

Ps 4:3 Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord will hear when I call to him.

Ps 27:7 Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.

Psalms 30:1-3 I will exalt you, O Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. O Lord my God, I called to you for help and you healed me. O Lord, you brought me up from the grave; you spared me from going down into the pit.

Supplication 2 - Thanks Be to God for What He Has Done

We often find David's prayers are "conversational" between he and God. One thing he declares is thanks to God, but not in a general way. He gives thanks for rescuing him, protecting him, saving him, delivering him and many other things. We often pray without carefully observing whether God has answered our prayers. To have this intimate relationship, it means that you are giving thanks for not only being saved, but how God has worked in you and what He has done for you & through you. Here are some verses that reflect this thankfulness idea. You will find in 2 Cor. 4:15 that thanksgiving is to overflow to the glory of God. May that resound from your heart. At the end of these verses, please stop and give the Lord thanks for what He has done and is doing in your life, and be specific. Have a great time honoring the Lord.



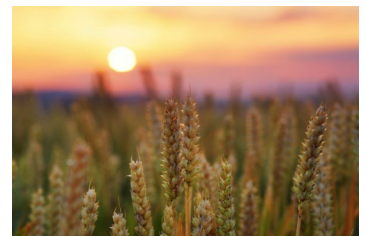
Psalm 107:28 Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. 29 He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed 30 They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. 31 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. 32 Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.

Phil 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God.

We have so much to give thanks for: salvation, redemption, atonement, health, life, friends, family, protection, deliverance, freedom to worship. Add personal things the Lord is doing in your life. From the depths of your heart, give thanks & recognize what He is doing in you and through you!

Supplication 3 - Praise/Adore Him

When we have love for someone, isn't it easy to praise them, adore them and honor them; telling them what they mean in our lives? That is true with the Lord as well. But, it shouldn't come from empty, memorized words but rather from your relationship with Him. Our Lord is magnificent, awesome, and personal. The way David does this in Psalm 86 is wonderful: "I am devoted to You... You are my God... You are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to You...no deeds can compare with Yours...all the nations You have made will come and worship before You...they will bring glory to Your name...You are great and do marvelous deeds...You alone are God...for great is Your love toward me." These are not empty words from David. God & David intensely walked together daily. We must understand that praise is an overwhelming principle in David's Psalms. Praise for God is mentioned more than 340 times in scripture. David's praise is personal, coming from the depths of his heart. As you consider the following verses, make it personal. At the end, praise Him for what you have seen in Him.



Psalms 148 Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights above. 2 Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. 3 Praise him, sun and moon ,praise him, all you shining stars. 4 Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. 6 He set them in place forever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away. 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, 8 lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, 9 you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, 10 wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, 11 kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, 12 young men and maidens, old men and children. 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. 14 He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord.

Psalms 150 Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. 2 Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. 3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the

harp and lyre, 4 praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, 5 praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

PRAISE: Honoring and remembering God's characteristics

- You are magnificent and mighty, throughout all the ages
- You are light, love and life itself
- You are all powerful, all-knowing, everywhere at all times
- You are eternal, unchanging, and perfect
- You are infinite, 3 in 1, and majestic
- You are merciful, righteous, wrathful and just
- You are gracious, patient, tender and forgiving
- You are faithful and pure
- You are our Creator and Sovereign
- You are the Good Shepherd
- You are peace and loving
- You are holy
- You are full of glory

Thank you for being my Father, God, Savior and Helper!

Supplication 4 - Listening To What He Wants Us to Pray:

Before we launch into praying the things on our mind, we must seek to hear & understand what He wants us to pray about and how to pray it. Prayer is not a monologue to God but a dialogue. In silence, ask the Lord what He has to say & focus on it. Ask Him how He would like you to pray. Now, "listen to Him"! For you, your family, work, church, community and nation.

Prayers

1. Forgiveness – to receive or give freedom, pardon.

"This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, Hallowed by your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. **Forgive us our debts, As we also have forgiven our debtors.** And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one." Matt. 6:9-13 (NIV)

Oh, most merciful Father, forgive us for we have sinned. Forgive us Lord...our nation, city, church and myself:

- For how we have neglected You and not thirsted and hungered for You
- For not standing up for our faith and holding firm
- For not loving You the way You have loved us
- For our loving the world and allowing it to take Your place
- Forgive us Lord for embarrassing You because we exhibit so little of Your power, grace, peace and love
- For our lusts, envying, pride; living as though we don't need You

- For our lack of trust in You and not relying on You and Your power
- For our grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit because of our disobedience
- For our apathy and complacency
- For not loving and living the truth
- For not loving one another
- For living our spiritual life with our lips and not our hearts and lives
- For not seeking You with all of our heart
- For our self-indulgence
- Forgive our nation for not staying with our spiritual roots

Have mercy on us!

Personal Forgiveness:

How can we think that the Lord would hear our prayer if we regard sin in our hearts?

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear. Ps 66:18 (NKJV)

If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar
and his word has no place in our lives. 1 John 1:10 (NIV)

We must seek sincere forgiveness not give a casual apology. God hates sin. If we harbor sin, it will hinder His work in us, including hearing and answering our prayers. Stop right now and consider:

Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind Psalm 26:2

Rest before Him now and confess your sins! Record your sins and seek forgiveness.

Remember:

“No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning.
No one who continues to sin has either seen Him or known Him.” 1 John 3:6

Ps. 88:1,2 O Lord, the God Who saves me, day and night I cry out before You.
May my prayer come before You; turn Your ear to my cry.

Forgiving others: giving freedom and pardon

Now consider forgiving anyone who has sinned against you.

“If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” John 20:23

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may
have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Col 3:13

List those you are forgiving and for what you forgive them:

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Matthew 5:8

As you have sought forgiveness and have forgiven, the Lord has given you a pure heart. You now can move into the presence of God and He hears your prayers. Remember:

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” James 5:16

Thank you Lord, for dying on the cross for me, paying for and forgiving my sins.

2. Praying Scripture

Your kingdom come and Your will be done!



We pray that we would be transformed into fulfilling what God intends us to be: the Body of Christ being holy, blameless and pure, full of the Spirit and overflowing with the Fruit of the Spirit, exhibiting the fullness of God within us!

By the power of God, we would exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit most of the time:

- having a joy & peace that passes all understanding, no matter my circumstance
- having a love for God that is full of affection & passion for His presence
- having a faith that moves mountains & heals my broken heart as well as others
- having a patience that is long suffering & steadfast without selfish agenda
- having a meekness/humility and mildness that cares for God's people naturally
- having a goodness that comes from an upright heart
- having a gentleness from moral goodness and integrity
- having self-control [being without excessiveness in thought, action or feeling]

We would experience every spiritual blessing

- That we would be full of good deeds and godliness
- That we would powerfully proclaim the Good News
- That we live humble lives before God
- That we crave God's presence
- That we live out Your love and love others as You have loved us
- That we would love You Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength
- That our daily lives would be full of passion and purpose for Your Kingdom
- That we have one hope in us for the return of Jesus
- That we live daily for Your Kingdom and Your glory
- That we love one another deeply, not out of obligation but in unconditional love
- That the divorced and unwed mothers would be built up, served & cared for
- That the poor and down-trodden be served, developed and made strong in You
- That widows and single parents would be covered & cared for to fulfill their purpose in You
- That orphans would be shepherded and blessed
- That we live lives of mercy and peace
- That we make choices that leave margin in our lives to listen, obey and follow You
- That You would give strength to the persecuted, and multiply Your work, and free them according to Your will
- That we would bear Kingdom fruit: 30, 60, 100x's more
- That harvesters for the Kingdom be raised up in my community, including me
- That oneness in You Lord, and oneness in our church be realized and fulfilled
- That we have hearts yearning only for You, everyday
- That we be saturated with Your divine Presence
- That we would repent of sin and live for Your Kingdom in all we do
- That You would help us to fulfill Your desire to live holy, blameless and pure lives, not out of human effort and perfection but by continually walking in the Spirit
- That we would demonstrate our transformation by lovingly serving our family, church, & community

4. Listening Prayer

Most often, when we pray, we are busy doing the thinking and the talking. We are to pray "in the Spirit on all occasions", so praying scripture and praying the will of God is consistent. The Lord desires to reveal things to us, giving us thoughts we are to pray, apply personally or do. We

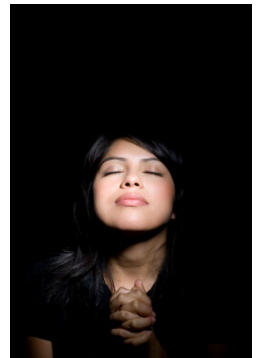
advocate that God wants to reveal to you His personal will, purposes and love for daily life. He also desires to heal our hearts of wounds & sin patterns. He desires to do this for us while we are alone with Him, worshipping. If we are talking and thinking, we are not listening. He is going to reveal, not just things to you, but also how to pray and what to pray. It can be regarding you or those for whom you are interceding. You must rest before Him and focus on the name of Jesus. You are going to experience lots of “noise” in your mind...just continue to stay focused on Jesus. Don’t allow yourself to be distracted. Listen for messages that He has for you, record godly thoughts, scripture verses that come to you. You may even be stimulated by asking God a question or telling Him a problem. Remember that whatever is revealed by God will be consistent with scripture. Enjoy this time in silence and union with God.

Intercessory Prayer

“I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before Me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none. Ezek. 22:30

“As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning...Ex. 17:11

List the people God has laid on your heart for you to stand in the gap in prayer. Please consider that praying for God to fix people’s problems is good, but shallow. Praying for people that they move closer to the presence of God through and within their circumstance, praying that they grow in their love for God and their maturity is being “Kingdom minded”. Interceding for someone before God is an incredible opportunity and a demonstration of love. Make this a part of your listening prayer as well. What does the Holy Spirit impress upon you to pray for this person? Praying for these people’s needs is also important. Enjoy blessing these people with your prayers!



Personal Prayer

The most important thing that God wants for your life is that you are saturated with Him. He wants to bless you in every way possible that doesn’t distract you from being saturated with Him. This is a great place to be praying about the things God wants to do in you and through you. Always remember that you are fitting into God’s plans; He is not fitting into yours. He has great and mighty things for you to be and do; taking many different shapes and forms. Enjoy the privilege of presenting all your petitions before Him.

Isn’t this a beautiful picture? The Lord is telling us that if we have simple and complete faith in Him, we will be like Him and do even more of the things He did. Why? Because of His power resulting from our total faith in Him! Prayer is union with God and in that union with God, we become like Him and care about what He cares about...thinking the things He thinks...pursuing what He wants pursued.

Remember, that He is sovereign, all powerful, all knowing and everywhere. You can have confidence that when you ask, He will do it! Have a new expectation of what God is going to do through your prayer life. It’s going to be different and more, if you continue in the process of being in union with Him, daily being Saturated by His Presence, and never giving up - He will answer!

In closing,

“...to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all the ages, now and forever more! Amen”

Jude 25

Praise be to God. Hallelujah!!

The Hebrews writer emboldens our prayer life in this way:

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Hebrews 4:14-16)

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Finally:

God created us for His glory!

Isaiah 43:7

Everyone who is called by My Name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.

We were created by God to bring glory to Him in every area of our lives. How do we do that, if we do not know Him? This Foundations Study was created for each person to begin an intimate relationship with Him. True intimacy is communing with Him daily. Every day He has something for you & will help you. By communing with Him, you are telling Him you want His help! You are welcoming Him into your life.

Enjoy the journey with God.

He will help you and bless you:

- some of the time if you commune with Him some of the time
- OR**
- He will bless you fully & help you all the time if you walk with Him **ALL THE TIME.**

May the Lord bless your journey!