

DRAW
ME
CLOSER,
LORD

MARSHA HUBLER



DEDICATED . . .

to the Lord Jesus Christ, Who taught us to pray.

Draw Me Closer, Lord:

A Woman's Guide to a Meaningful Prayer Life

© 2003 Regular Baptist Press • Arlington Heights, Illinois

www.RegularBaptistPress.org • 1-800-727-4440

RBP5266 • ISBN: 978-0-87227-665-9

Sixth printing—2020

All rights reserved. Except as permitted under U.S. Copyright Law, no part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

CONTENTS

Preface	5
LESSON 1	The Privilege of Prayer	7
LESSON 2	The Importance of Prayer	16
LESSON 3	Our Example in Prayer	23
LESSON 4	“I Can’t Find the Time!”	32
LESSON 5	Your PART in Prayer	43
LESSON 6	Prayer in the Home	55
LESSON 7	Prayer and the Church	65
LESSON 8	Turning Gossip Sessions into Prayer Meetings	74
LESSON 9	If God Is Sovereign, Why Pray?	84
LESSON 10	Does God Answer Prayer?	94
Leader’s Guide	110

Preface

REDUCED TO ITS simplest definition, prayer is conversation. It is conversation between a child of God and the Heavenly Father. This is an amazing thought: God desires to have a personal relationship with us! This relationship is possible through the only Mediator between God and man, Jesus Christ.

We tend to think that the heroes of the faith were different from us, but the Bible asserts that they were “subject to like passions as we are” (James 5:17). From Abraham—who conversed with God about the destruction of Sodom (Genesis 18)—to Paul and Silas—who prayed in a Philippian jail (Acts 16:25)—prayer has been an important part of believers’ lives.

Down through the ages, God’s people have been praying people. It was said of John Knox that his prayers “terrified tyrants.” Martin Luther said he had so much to do that he had to spend three hours a day in prayer.

The supreme example of prayer is the Lord Jesus Himself. The Gospels record the prominence of prayer in His life from the start of His ministry (Mark 1:35) all the way to the Cross (Luke 23:46).

Is it your desire to draw closer to the Lord and enjoy a meaningful prayer life? We can learn from the Scriptures how to fulfill that desire. May this study lead each of us to a more disciplined, purposeful, and fulfilling prayer life!

Prayer changes things. It changes people. Will you allow prayer to change you?

LESSON

1

The Privilege of Prayer

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

D ID YOU KNOW that the presidential fund-raiser was held in a private home just a couple of miles from here? I can’t imagine having the president of the United States in my house! I’d have to clean for a year!” exclaimed Cheryl to her friend.

That would be quite a privilege, wouldn’t it? To have a famous person visit us is probably something most of us don’t even dream about. But have you ever considered that you can have a privilege far greater than that enjoyed by the family who hosted the presidential fund-raiser? You can have an audience with the God of the universe! In fact, God wants you to come to Him! Let’s look at what God’s Word says about this awesome privilege, the privilege of prayer.

Since the beginning of time, when God made Adam and Eve and placed them in the beautiful Garden of Eden, the Creator has desired to have fellowship, or companionship, with the ones He made from the dust of the earth. The first two humans had the highest privilege ever awarded to mankind: walking and talking with the Lord, Who had created them for that very reason.

But Satan, in the form of a serpent, tempted the first couple, and Adam and Eve sinned. Genesis 3:8 tells us that when the man and woman heard the voice of the Lord God, they hid themselves instead of running into His arms, begging for forgiveness and restoration of fellowship. Because of their sin, they were driven from the Garden and were separated physically from God's holy presence.

Ever since that terrible day, sin's curse has infected mankind like a terminal disease, bringing physical and spiritual death. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). Every human being except Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God, has been born in sin, automatically separated from the Father. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5). Sin is the great separator. It not only has alienated us from God on this earth, but it also has set us on the path of self-destruction toward an eternity in Hell separated from Him.

1. Read Genesis 3:8–10. How did Adam and Eve feel about their relationship with the Lord after they willfully sinned?

But there is good news. Even before He laid the foundation of the universe, God, in His infinite wisdom and foreknowledge, knew that people would sin. Therefore, He planned for people to be able to fellowship again with Him by allowing them to repent of sin and trust in a Savior Who would come to conquer sin and death.

Genesis 3:15 is God's first promise of a Redeemer. Eve's "seed" would "bruise" the head of the serpent, or defeat Satan and all of his evil forces. God's own Son, Jesus Christ, became our Mediator, the only way for us to approach the throne of God.

2. Read Genesis 3:21–24. The first blood sacrifice of an animal by

God Himself covered Adam and Eve's nakedness. Describe their new relationship with God.

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, we humans have struggled with a rebellious nature and the emptiness that goes with it. We have tried to satisfy ourselves with material possessions, fame, or human relationships, which are often shallow and crumble at the slightest offense. The emptiness can be filled only by the love of a personal and caring God. And the longing for peace is satisfied only when people yield to God and seek to know Him through His Word and prayer. But fellowship with God is often the farthest thing from their minds.

3. What does 1 Corinthians 2:14 tell us about the "natural" (unsaved) person's opinion of the things of God?

4. Read 1 John 2:1 and 2. Look up the meaning of "advocate" and "propitiation," and explain these verses in your own words.

Because of Christ's willingness to offer Himself as the only perfect sacrifice for our sin and become our "lawyer," our fellowship

with God can be restored when we receive Christ as our Savior (John 1:12). Not only are we born into His family, but we also are given eternal life. The sin that separated us from a holy God is washed away, cleansed by the blood of His Son. His righteousness covers our own “filthy rags” of good works.

Do you desire intimate fellowship with a loving God? If you have never received Jesus Christ as your Savior, you do not have the privilege of approaching God’s throne through prayer as one of His children. You have no advocate. But today you can ask Him to save you, and you can become part of the family of God. You might want to pray something like this: “Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I realize I need Your forgiveness. I believe Your only Son, Jesus Christ, died in my place on the cross for my sins. I receive Christ as my Savior. Thank You for hearing my prayer.”

If you have asked the Lord to save you, record the date and tell someone about the life-changing decision you have made. Welcome to God’s family! Eternal life, peace, and access to God’s throne are now yours.

5. Read Hebrews 10:17–19 and 1 John 1:7. Summarize these verses in your own words.

What happens when we sin after we become God’s children? We do not lose our position in His family, but we break our fellowship with our Father. Like Adam and Eve, we may choose to run and hide from God. But the Heavenly Father loves us and gives us the opportunity to restore our relationship with Him.

6. Read 1 John 1:9. (a) According to this verse, what do we need to do when we sin?

(b) What does the verse promise that God will do?

7. Summarize the promises in the following verses.

(a) 2 Chronicles 7:14

(b) Psalm 3:4

(c) Jeremiah 31:3

8. What does Job 23:12 say about the importance of fellowship with our Heavenly Father through His Word?

As we daily fellowship with the Father, He gives us strength and guidance. If the God Who rules the universe loves us so much and is concerned about our most trivial needs, shouldn't we make it our goal to spend time with Him each day?

9. How does the Bible present God's concern for us and our needs? Read Luke 12:6 and 7.

“But I don't have time to pray,” you might say; or, “I'm involved in ministry.” Maybe you have complained, “I'm a mother with three small children. I don't even have time to eat!” God knows all about our schedules, and He cares. If your heart is willing and you endeavor to make the time, God will honor your effort. Your decision will not be without its struggles; but its rewards will have temporal (here and now) and eternal results. In moments of fellowship with God, we find that our hearts are cleansed, that He gives direction through His Word, and that we have peace in the midst of the storms of life.

10. Read each of the following verses and note some reasons why we should pray.

(a) Luke 6:12

(b) Luke 18:1

(c) James 5:13–15

(d) Psalm 39:4, 7

(e) Psalm 65:2

11. List some things that may keep you from your daily prayer time.

12. How can you rearrange your schedule to reserve a special time for prayer?

13. What happens when we try to go through the day without God's help and guidance?

Prayer is a gift from God for our benefit. As we cast our burdens on the Lord, He gives us strength to mount up as eagles, to spiritually "soar" above our troubles, and to gain victory over them.

14. What does Isaiah 40:31 tell us?

Prayer is a twofold process. It involves listening to our Father as well as pouring out our hearts to Him. He is able to minister to us during these quiet moments.

15. How does God minister to our quieted spirits?

(a) Psalm 46:10

(b) Isaiah 57:15

16. How does God respond when we pour out our hearts to Him?

(a) Psalm 34:15, 17, 18

(b) Psalm 55:22

Victorious Christians know that time alone with God becomes a source of power from the throne of grace. And they know the truth of James 5:16: “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” The time that we have with our Creator gives strength for today and hope for tomorrow. Prayer is the key to spiritual success. Prayer is the privilege we have as God’s children.

The privilege of prayer every morning
’Tis sweet as the fragrance of rain,
When I bring all my burdens to the Father,
I know that He is always the same.

My heart—in such anguish—He touches
And heals all the pain in my soul;
He whispers, “Fret not, I still love you”;
His words gently render me whole.

I reach out to Heaven for answers
To questions that trouble me so;
The still, small voice from the Spirit
Gives peace, and contentment doth flow.

Our friendship is bonded in worship;
I treasure the moments we share
When I open my heart to God's presence
And cherish the privilege of prayer.

—Marsha Hubler



Put the TRUTH into PRACTICE

1. Do you know for sure that you are God's child? How do you know?
2. Designate a special time and place to meet with the Lord on a daily basis—even if you have only a few minutes.
3. If you already have a defined prayer time, try to increase the length of time.
4. If you have difficulty scheduling a regular prayer time, ask God to give you wisdom in how you use your time. Also ask your family members for their help and cooperation.