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Christian Living Study Guide 8: “Principles for Effective Prayer”



How to
SPEAK
so God will Listen...
&
LISTEN
so God will Speak

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Every Christian needs

Prayer is not only the vital link of communication between God and His people, it is also the breath of Heaven. While studying from the Scriptures is spiritual eating, prayer is spiritual breathing. Understanding this helps us gain perspective on how important it is to have a vital prayer life. With it, we are truly alive in Christ! The Bible tells us that effective prayers are strong against the enemy, accomplishing much. "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much," James 5:16. In this lesson, we'll be learning how to have an effective prayer life.

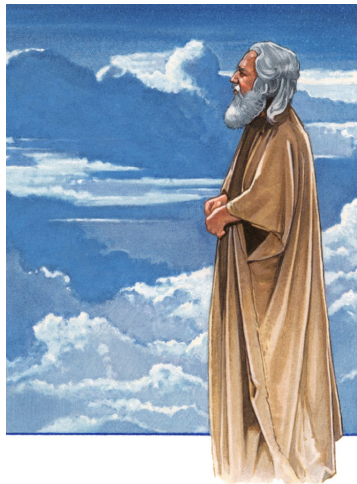
1. Isn't all prayer equal in power and effect?

ANSWER: No! As we read in James 5:16, a righteous man's fervent prayers are effectual. But when we continue to do evil, God does not respond with equal power in answer to our prayers.

1 Peter 3:12 "For the Eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."

When we read that a righteous person's prayers are effective, most of us just give up the idea of having an effective prayer life. We aren't righteous! So, apparently the goal of effective prayer is beyond our reach. If this were true, no human would have ever had an effective prayer life. Every man, woman, and child on this planet, who has ever lived has committed sin (done evil), as it says in Romans 3:10 & 23:

"... There is none righteous, no, not one... ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."



Yet, Esther prayed and God turned the heart of a king; Daniel prayed and God stopped the lions' mouths; Elijah prayed and fire fell from Heaven; and numerous others have prayed effectively and with power.

LESSON STUDY—8 continued

3) What does it mean to ask amiss? (pg 4) _____

- 4) What are three ways we can ask amiss? (pg 4)
- ◆ We are asking for something God has not _____
 - ◆ We ask for something God has promised... but we have not met the _____ for receiving the _____
 - ◆ We ask for something that we don't fully _____ to _____

5) What are the ten ingredients in the Saviour's Prayer "Recipe?" (pgs 6-8)

1- _____	2- _____
3- _____	4- _____
5- _____	6- _____
7- _____	8- _____
9- _____	10- _____

6) What are the two elements of prayer which make it a true experience in communication with God? (p 9)

- ◆ _____ Prayer
- ◆ _____ Prayer

7) Why is it vital to hear God's Voice? (pg 10) _____

8) What are the two tests to discern God's Voice from the enemy's? (p 11)

- ◆ Test the Message by the _____
- ◆ Test the _____ of the Message.

9) What are four ways God speaks to His people? (pg 12) _____

10) What are five ways to hear God's Voice more clearly? (pg 14):

- ◆ _____
- ◆ _____
- ◆ _____
- ◆ _____
- ◆ _____

before the salesman called! Shauna repented of her naughtiness, used the funds for college as her parents had hoped, and saw the abundant blessings of God for it. At college she met her husband, Mark, and had a life-changing opportunity to go as a student missionary. None of these experiences were worth losing for any car!

4. **Finally, God speaks through listening prayer.** Listening prayer is the quiet communion that goes on continuously between God and His people. It is the Father's "still, small Voice." God speaks to everyone. But, if we disregard His voice through disobedience, or choose not to take the time to listen, His Voice grows quieter and quieter. When we do listen, we will hear His Voice, for He has promised that His sheep hear His Voice (John 10). The authenticity of His Words are tested by His Word and by His Fruit. Once we are certain it is His Voice, we need to obey. To do otherwise is to slowly silence Him!

11. How can you Hear God's Voice more Clearly?

ANSWER: There are several things that you can do to hear God's Voice more clearly:

- 1) **MAKE A TIME**—Plan for quiet appointment times with God for prayer and worship. The best time of day is the morning as it says in Psalm 5:3.
- 2) **MAKE A PLACE**—Set aside a special place and time where you can be alone with God, without interruption, as it says in Matthew 6:6.
- 3) **INVITE GOD TO SPEAK**—Then INVITE God to speak to you, by coming before Him with an open heart, asking for His guidance and truly wanting it (1 Samuel 3:9).
- 4) **OBEY HIM**—When God speaks to you in one of the four mentioned ways, by His Grace obey His instructions every time. Then He will make you His special treasure, as He promises in Exodus 19:5.
- 5) **MEDITATE UPON HIS WORD**—Open a channel for God to communicate with you by meditating upon His Word, especially the Law (Hebrew word "Torah," which includes the first five books of the Bible) as it says to do in Psalm 1:1-2.

LESSON STUDY— 8

- 1) What kind of person's prayers does God especially respond to? (pg 2)

- 2) How can you become such a person? (pg 3) _____

2. How can a Failing Sinner Become Righteous and have Effective Prayers?

ANSWER: Righteousness is not earned, it is imputed by the life and death of our Saviour. This means that Christ's quality of living a righteous and obedient life is accounted to the record of any sinner who claims His salvation by faith.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 *"But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: that, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."*



The righteousness of Christ is a free gift to all. But, this does not mean that everyone is made righteous. We have a part to play in receiving it. The Bible tells us that if we will repent from and confess our past sins, that we will be clothed in the righteousness of Christ. (1 John 1:9 and Isaiah 61:10.)

Repentance for our past sins involves us humbling ourselves before God. We are to wholeheartedly seek after Him, truly be sorry for our rebellion, and turn away from our sinful attitudes, thought-patterns, and behaviors. When we do this, Christ's righteousness clothes us, and He establishes an open prayer-line. This is how to have effective prayers.

2 Chronicles 7:14 *"If My people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My Face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

Jeremiah 29:11-13 *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon Me, and ye shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart."*

It is only when we don't fully seek God and repent that we can't pray with power. But we cannot afford to keep limping along with weak, milk-toast, mamby-pamby, prayers. It's time to become effectual prayer warriors! God wants His people to pray with such power that even the gates of hell cannot prevail (Matt 16:18)! Such prayers transform lives and glorify God.

3. But what if you're too busy to pray?

ANSWER: Prioritize and MAKE time for it! Get up at 4:00 or 5:00 AM, if necessary, in order to have a vital prayer life. You cannot be a real Christian, fully alive in Christ, without breathing (praying)! Christ, our Example in all things (1 Peter 2:21), had a vital prayer life. He would often spend entire nights in prayer. It was from this prayer time that the Saviour was strengthened to minister and to meet Satan's temptations without sin. If Christ needed to pray, how much more do you and I need to do it? To help in the process of prioritizing, consider what it means to be too busy to pray:

B - BURDENED
U - UNDER
S - SATAN'S
Y - YOKE

4. I've Accepted Christ and Repented for my Sins. Why doesn't God Answer my Prayers?

ANSWER: If you believe that you have truly confessed and repented for sin and have turned away from continuing in it; and if you are seeking God with your whole heart; God WILL answer your prayers, unless you are asking amiss.

James 4:3 *"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."*

The word "amiss" means "evilily, or wrongly." But, let's be a bit more specific. Here are the ways the Bible teaches that we may ask amiss:

- 1) **We are asking God for something He has not promised to give.**
- **Example:** "God, please let me win the lottery!"
- 2) **We ask for something God has promised to give, claiming His promise, but we have not met the conditions for receiving the promise.**
- **Example:** "Give me peace, but I don't want to love or meditate upon your Law." (God promises peace if we love His Law—see Psalm 119:165).
- 3) **We ask for something that we don't fully want to receive.**
- **Example:** "Give me the Holy Spirit, but let me keep a few of my cherished sins." (see Acts 3:19).

2. **God also speaks to us through people.** There are many ways in which this takes place. One example, in our family, is the following: Shauna Manfredine was writing the Testimony of the Moon book and reached the section on the two silver trumpets, blown on the Feast of Trumpets by the Children of Israel. Its significance was critical to the spiritual message of the book. However, Shauna could not understand it. Having exhausted every method of Bible study and resource she knew, Shauna was still at a loss to finding the spiritual meaning.

Unable to proceed, Shauna prayed, asking God to show her the prophetic significance in those trumpets. The very next morning Shauna received a phone call from a person she had not spoken with for over a year. The purpose of the call? To share an exciting Bible study on the prophetic significance of the two silver trumpets! Praising God for His answer through this unsuspecting person, Shauna continued writing the book on schedule.

3. **God speaks to us through circumstances.** Here is an example: Upon graduating from high school, Shauna was informed that her parents had saved up money to give her. It was intended for college, but the funds were hers to use as she saw fit. To her parents' chagrin, Shauna was leaning towards using the funds for a new car rather than a college education. But, true to their word, Lou and Danette were prepared to allow Shauna to use the money even for the purchase of a new car. Lou asked only that Shauna pray a "fleece" (like Gideon in the Bible) regarding how to use this money.

Shauna chose a foolish fleece, asking that if God wanted her to use the funds for college that it would be impossible to buy the specified car on the one day she and her father went to the car dealership. Secretly (for which she is ashamed), Shauna believed that there was no way she wouldn't get a car in one day, after all, she and her father were car shopping in the Bay Area of California. Even if the selected car dealer didn't have her desired car, he could surely get it from a few hundred other dealers. Someone was bound to have the car! In spite of the immaturity of her prayer and the selfish choice of "fleece," God still lovingly intervened.

When Shauna and her father went into the Napa dealership, nothing the very motivated salesman could do could get the desired car **that** day. After hours on the phone with dealers throughout the whole Bay Area, he admitted defeat. More than 20 cars had sold **that day**, some minutes

10. How does God speak to us?

ANSWER: God speaks to us in four main ways:

- 1) through the Bible,
- 2) through people,
- 3) through circumstances,
- 4) through listening prayer

1. **God gives us special messages through His Word.** To show how this works, consider some of the most dynamic examples of how God has communicated with my family through Scripture. God used a special verse to encourage my father, Lou Davis, when his truck broke down several years ago.

Having lived in North Pole, Alaska, Lou Davis and his family were moving back to California. His wife, Danette, and daughter, Shauna, had gone on ahead earlier in the week. Mid-week, Lou was following along driving a medium-sized, International truck containing the family furniture and belongings. Lou had just reached Prince Rupert, in British Columbia, when the truck's clutch plate broke. By the mercy of God, Lou found himself stranded on the side of a hill. But thankfully, he was only two blocks from a truck repair place. Lou easily walked the distance and the manager of the repair shop immediately responded by trying to find the needed parts to repair the truck. After trying all of his connections, the manager of the repair shop informed Lou that it would be impossible to get the parts quickly. It looked like there was no way for Lou to reach California by Friday, as planned.

Concerned, Lou cried out to God in prayer. God impressed him to read in Isaiah Chapter 41. As Lou's eyes fell on the following verse, his heart leaped with joy! It was just the assurance he needed to know that the Heavenly Father was going to fix the truck in time. (Parenthetical notes are added to the verse to show the personal meaning God gave to Lou).

Isaiah 41:15 *“Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument (International was first developed making harvesting equipment) having teeth (the working parts needed for the clutch assembly): thou shalt thresh the mountains (as he was stuck on the side of a hill), and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff.”*

Overjoyed, Lou shared the Father's message with the skeptical auto-repair manager. Then Lou was impressed to go to the bus depot as they had International buses. The man there told him where to go (a place about 20 miles away). The manager of the auto repair shop was able to get the parts and fix the truck. The next day, Lou was “threshing” the mountains with his fully-functioning truck. Just as God promised, he did reach California on time!

5. How did the Saviour pray, and what can I learn from it?

ANSWER: After observing Christ's dynamic prayer life and witnessing the power He derived from it, the disciples asked Jesus (Yahshua) to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1). The Saviour responded by giving them a prayer “recipe” in what is now called, “The Lord's Prayer.” You can read this prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 or in Luke 11:2-4.

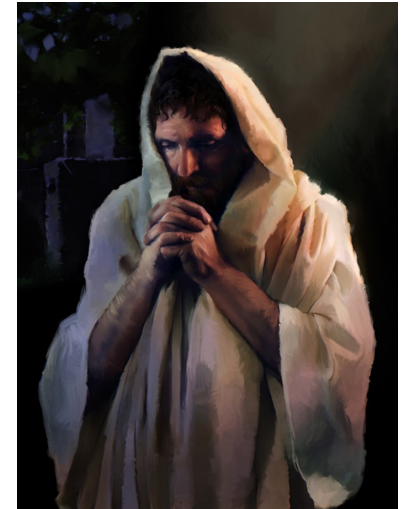
There is great blessing from just memorizing and praying this prayer. But, if we were just to pray it over and over again by rote, even the Lord's Prayer would become repetitious to us, losing its meaning. The Saviour Himself said we aren't to pray with “vain (meaningless) repetitions (repeating the same thing over and over).”

Matthew 6:7 *“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking (saying the same thing many times makes it more likely to be heard and answered).”*

Rather than simply repeating the Lord's Prayer over and over, we are more blessed to use it as a FORMAT for dynamic prayer, just as Christ said:

Matthew 6:9-13 *“After this manner therefore pray ye (in this format, or fashion, pray...): Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever. Amen.”*

Let's take a moment to look at the format given by the Saviour in The Lord's Prayer, that we may understand the full blessing of prayer He was trying to teach His followers. To do this, we need to examine the prayer point-by-point, learning how to personalize each “ingredient” in His prayer “recipe.” In so doing, we'll gain vital insights into the elements needed to make our own prayers vital and effective with Heaven.



6. What are the “ingredients” in the Saviour’s “Recipe” for Prayer?

ANSWER: There are ten “ingredients” in Christ’s prayer “recipe.” We will experience vital prayer communication with Heaven when we pray using all ten “ingredients.” They are:

♦ **Prayer Ingredient #1: ADORATION—Honor God for Who He is to You**

⇒ How Christ demonstrated this: “Our Father, Which art in Heaven...”

⇒ Consider this: On a daily basis, God reveals Himself to His children through personal encounters in a variety of ways. Each personal encounter with Him teaches us another Name for Him, based upon the Roles He fulfills in our lives. To keep your prayer life fresh, consider the personal Roles the Father performs in YOUR life. Who is He to you? To help you get started, there is a list of a few of the many Roles God fulfills in the lives of His children. Check the ones which have



the most personal meaning to you. Then use them in your prayer.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creator | <input type="checkbox"/> Protector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> King of kings | <input type="checkbox"/> Giver of Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Almighty One | <input type="checkbox"/> Everlasting Father |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lord of All | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruler of the Universe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Source of Wisdom | <input type="checkbox"/> Our Righteousness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Way & the Truth | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock of Stability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alpha & Omega | <input type="checkbox"/> The Great I AM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> El Shaddai | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

⇒ Example of how this prayer ingredient might look in your prayer: “Gracious Heavenly Father, I honor You for being my Rock of Stability in this changing world...”

♦ **Prayer Ingredient #2: PRAISE—Praise His Holy Name**

⇒ How Christ demonstrated this: “...hallowed be Thy Name...”

⇒ Example of how this prayer ingredient might look in your prayer: “Your Name is holy above all other names. I praise You for sharing Your Name with me, by offering me a place in Your Family.”

9. If God speaks to us, does the Devil also speak? How can we tell the difference?

ANSWER: Yes. The devil does also speak. The Bible talks about the voice of the enemy in Psalms 55, where David cried out to God for protection against the oppressive voice of the enemy.

Psalm 55:1 “...Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not Thyself from my supplication. Attend unto me, and hear me: I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise; because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked...”

Since both God and Satan speak to mankind, it is critical to know the difference between their voices! Abraham obviously KNEW God’s Voice, beyond question. For when God spoke to him and told him to offer up his only son, Isaac, Abraham recognized God’s Voice and acted immediately to obey (Genesis 22:1-3). Certainly Abraham would not have been willing to sacrifice his beloved son if he weren’t sure he was hearing God’s Voice!

How can we know for sure we’re hearing God’s Voice? There are two tests given in the Scriptures to which we must test every voice:

1. **Test the Message by the Bible.** God’s Voice will not speak Words counter to the Scriptures. Nor will His Voice ever go counter to His Character, as given in His Law (Isaiah 8:20).
2. **Test the Fruit of the Message.** God’s Commands and Counsel will always bear the beautiful Fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). If there is nothing lovely in it, you can tell immediately that it is the voice of the enemy (Matthew 7:15-20).

Here ways to recognize the voice of the enemy:

- ♦ Satan speaks to deceive you—Revelation 20:7-8
- ♦ The enemy brings oppression and discouragement—Acts 10:38, Num. 32:6-10
- ♦ Satan brings confusion and doubt—Acts 19:32, Hebrews 3:12
- ♦ He incites bitterness and division—Colossians 3:19, Mark 3:25
- ♦ The devil causes us to rationalize sin and disobedience—Isaiah 5:20, Joshua 5:6
- ♦ He inspires rage, anger, and malice—Ephesians 4:31
- ♦ Satan incites fear—Mark 4:40
- ♦ He causes us to lose hope—Job 7:1-15
- ♦ The enemy inspires us to be ashamed of the Gospel—Mark 8:38
- ♦ Listening to him will result in losing the ability to hear God’s Voice—John 10

8. Why does God speak to His people?

ANSWER: In every age, the main reasons God speaks to His children is to give them guidance, direction, and Truth.



Isaiah 30:21 “*And thine ears shall hear a Word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and... left.*”

The Father speaks to us to help us safely navigate through the “mine field” of this world. Every decision, every conversation, every relationship is laced with potential “land mines.” We may say or do the wrong thing.

Perhaps we will step on the “land mines” of a person’s prejudice through poorly chosen words. Or maybe we will stumble through a seemingly small decision, only to later learn it was life-altering. Truly making decisions and determining our conduct on our own is a deadly game, much like obliviously dancing through a field of land mines. As we comprehend this reality, we come to understand that **never**, at any time, can we safely disconnect from God’s Presence, Guidance, and Will. With Divine guidance inspiring every word, even the most seemingly insignificant conversation becomes an opportunity for salvation to the hearer. Such is the fruit of speaking prayerfully and only under the unction of the Holy Spirit. Clearly then, there are no “insignificant” conversations or experiences, where God’s Guidance is no longer needed and we are secure to “go-it-alone.”

For this reason, a vital part of developing our skill in listening prayer and communing with God is the awakening awareness that we NEED to hear His Voice. As we listen for and obey His lovely Voice, we are guided safely through any “mine field.” This continual communion with God is what it means to ABIDE in Him.

John 15:5 “*I Am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.*”



- ◆ **Prayer Ingredient #3: SEEK DIVINE INTERVENTION**—Ask God to quickly put an end to sin in you and in the world. Ask Him to quickly establish His Kingdom, in your heart and in the world.

⇒ How Christ demonstrated this: “...Thy Kingdom come...”
⇒ Example of how this prayer ingredient might look in your prayer: “You desire to come quickly and put an end to the reign of sin and death. Help me to have this same desire, and to work with You today to accomplish this purpose. Please set up Your Throne in my heart, today. Put an end to my love for sin, as you promised in Genesis 3:15.”

- ◆ **Prayer Ingredient #4: SUBMIT YOUR WILL**—Ask God to reveal His Will to you, and to help you walk in it.

⇒ How Christ demonstrated this: “...Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven...”
⇒ Example of how this prayer ingredient might look in your prayer: “Let me not be caught up in my own earthly plans. Instead, help me to be aware of what You are doing and are planning to do. Help me to do Your will today, and not my own.”

- ◆ **Prayer Ingredient #5: SEEK GOD’S PROVISION**—Ask God to meet all your needs, both physical and spiritual.

⇒ How Christ demonstrated this: “...Give us this day our daily bread...”
⇒ Example of how this prayer ingredient might look in your prayer: “Please fill my soul with the living Bread of Your Word. Help me to hide it in my heart, so that it will strengthen me (Psalm 119:11). Please also help me to do well in all that I find to do. May my work bring honor and glory to Your Name, and be blessed, that I may provide for the needs of my family.”

- ◆ **Prayer Ingredient #6: ASK GOD’S FORGIVENESS**—Ask God to forgive and cleanse away all your sins, covering your life in the Blood of the Lamb.

⇒ How Christ demonstrated this: “...And forgive us our debts...”
⇒ Example of how this prayer ingredient might look in your prayer: “I confess and repent for my sin of _____. I humbly ask that Christ’s precious Blood be applied to my life and the record of this sin. May my record before Heaven be cleansed by Your Mercy and Grace.”

- ◆ **Prayer Ingredient #7: ASK GOD TO HELP YOU FORGIVE OTHERS**—Pray to forgive those who’ve wronged you.

⇒ How Christ demonstrated this: “...As we forgive our debtors...”

⇒ Example of how this prayer ingredient might look in your prayer:
“Please help me to forgive _____ for _____. I also ask that if I can be used to draw this person closer to You, please use me.”

⇒ Consider this: Remember to apply the principles for overcoming bitterness, as taught in the fifth study of this Bible study course: “Overcoming Bitterness & Triumphant in Suffering.”

◆ **Prayer Ingredient #8: ASK GOD FOR GUIDANCE AND STRENGTH—Pray that God will give you strength to obey Him and resist temptations. Ask Him to lead you into all Truth.**

⇒ How Christ demonstrated this: “...lead us not into temptation...”

⇒ Example of how this prayer ingredient might look in your prayer:
“I am weak in the area of _____. Please help me to obey You, rather than failing in this area. Help me to remember to pray for help and use Your Weapons when I’m tempted, so that Your Strength will empower me to victory. Please also lead me away from temptations throughout this day.”

◆ **Prayer Ingredient #9: ASK GOD FOR DELIVERANCE FROM EVIL—Recognize that Satan’s plans are evil and ask God to deliver you from them on every front (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual).**

⇒ How Christ demonstrated this: “...Deliver us from Evil...”

⇒ Example of how this prayer ingredient might look in your prayer:
“Satan is working in many ways to destroy me and my family. I ask You to deliver me from all his evil plans. May his curses and efforts to destroy me be brought to nothing. May Your Name be glorified in my life.”

◆ **Prayer Ingredient #10: GLORIFY GOD—Recognize and Praise God for His full Authority and Rulership over you**

⇒ How Christ demonstrated this: “...for Thine is the Kingdom...”

⇒ Example of how this prayer ingredient might look in your prayer:
“Praise You, Father, that You, Who are King of the Universe, desire also to be King in my heart! I give you my heart for this new day. I ask that all my life will bring You honor. May Your power and glory shine forth from my life, today and forever.”

REVIEWING THE KEYS TO POWERFUL PRAYER: Confess, repent of, and turn away from all sin in your life. Follow the prayer recipe given by the Master. Seek the Father’s help to fulfill the conditions of His promises. Finally, ask for the things He has promised in His Word. **This is how to speak so Heaven will listen.**

7. Is effective prayer only about speaking to God, or is there more to it?

ANSWER: A conversation is a two-way “street.” So is prayer. This means that we are to both speak (as explained already in this lesson) and we are to listen to Him speak to us. Have you ever tried to hold a conversation with a person who talks too much? They carry on a monologue of words which flow forth so rapidly you can’t get in much more than an “uh-huh.” If you have ever been the recipient of such a one-sided gush, you probably found yourself bored and eager for the experience to end. You almost seemed unnecessary. The “conversation” could carry on quite nicely without your presence.

Could this be how God feels about our prayers when we do all the talking? Listening and letting God talk also is a vital element to having a real, thriving RELATIONSHIP with God. Listening is the other half of the prayer experience—the most important half. The Bible talks about these two parts of prayer:

◆ **Intercessory Prayer**—asking God for needs, as Moses did in Numbers 21:7.

◆ **Communing Prayer**—listening to God, as it says to do in Exodus 25:22.

Exodus 25:22 “*And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the Mercy Seat...*”

The word “commune” is from the Hebrew word *dabar*, meaning, “to speak, to teach,” (**Strong’s Concordance** #H1696). Therefore, we see that the Heavenly Father communes with His people through speaking to and teaching them. The Bible is filled with verses which teach that God speaks to His people. In fact, discerning His Voice is one way to know whether or not you are a true “sheep” belonging to the Good Shepherd. For the Bible says that God’s sheep hear His Voice. The Bible is filled with examples of His people, hearing God’s Voice and communing with Him.

John 18:37 “*...Every one that is of the Truth heareth My Voice.*”

John 10:27 “*My sheep hear My Voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*”

