PRAYER MOVEMENTS
Leading to Spiritual Movements Everywhere

Seminar 1

Understanding God’s Heart for Prayer
- Explore Prayer from God’s Perspective -

Instructor’s Guide

Prayer Leadership Seminars
Prepared by Great Commission Global Prayer Movement
a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ
Greetings!

Welcome to a global network of people who seek the kingdom of God through *Prayer Movements Everywhere* for our desperately needy world.

The Prayer Leadership Seminars are a set of biblical studies designed to motivate and multiply intercessors and prayer leaders. The set includes:

- Seminar 1  "Understanding God’s Heart for Prayer"
- Seminar 2  "Growing Strong in Prayer"
- Seminar 3  "Winning Spiritual Battles"
- Seminar 4  "Igniting a Prayer Movement"

This seminar has been prepared for Christian believers who want to grow in communing with God, and for those who want to help others to do so.

Let us pray that through this training seminar, God will open doors of multiplying service in your personal sphere of influence.

May God empower you by His mighty Spirit to develop *spiritual movements everywhere* and to help fulfill Christ’s plan for the world!

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Campus Crusade for Christ (Website: www.ccci.org)
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# Introduction

## Suggested Schedule for a One-Day Seminar

(9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td>Welcome, Prayer, Opening Remarks, and Song</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>Session 1: God's Purposes for Prayer</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td><em>Break</em></td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15</td>
<td>Session 2: God's Wonderful Plan for Prayer</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Session 3: Developing Intimacy with God in Prayer</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45</td>
<td><em>Break</em></td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td><em>Concert of Fasting and Prayer (or Lunch Time)</em></td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td><em>Transition Time</em></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15</td>
<td>Session 4: Praying in the Holy Spirit</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td><em>Break</em></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15</td>
<td>Session 5: Praying in the Authority of Jesus</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>Dedication Prayer Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:50</td>
<td>Closing Song and Prayer of Blessing</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Dismissal</td>
<td></td>
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Total Seminar Time: 7 hours

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This seminar may also be arranged in other schedules such as an evening and the following day, every evening for a week, or one evening per week for five weeks.
Notes to the Instructor

1. The quality of these sessions will depend greatly on your spiritual preparation. Ask the Lord for His cleansing and special anointing upon you.

2. Enlist people to pray, as much as a month before, during, and following this seminar. Ask the Lord:
   a. To remove all spiritual hindrances from the personnel and facilities
   b. To protect, guide, and empower the instructor and other leaders
   c. To fill the participants’ hearts and minds with the Holy Spirit and wisdom
   d. To enable the participants to understand, apply the truths presented, and be transformed by these truths.

3. The following general time frame for each session can be adjusted as the instructor considers it necessary:

   ![Time Frame Table]

4. **Teaching Guidelines:**
   a. Write the purpose of each session on a board or transparency at the start of the session. It is related to the closing Response Time. As you teach, keep a question in mind: “What outcomes should result in the lives of these participants?”
   
   b. Your task in each session is to prepare mini-talks centered around the points of the outline. Familiarize yourself with the lesson so you will not be bound to the printed text. Gain freedom in delivery by writing out main points of the sessions beforehand in your own handwriting. Limit casual comments so you can cover all critical concepts and concluding exercises.
   
   c. Avoid unnecessary repetition in trying to emphasize important points. Make that emphasis, rather, by speaking deliberately (not too rapidly), reading the listed Scriptures, and allowing participants time to write out their notes.
d. Hearing is just one activity by which participants learn. The more creative activities you can use for their involvement -- such as viewing, writing, praying, moving about -- the better they can respond and remember.

e. Some words have been deleted in the Participant’s Guide in order to provide opportunity for participants to write the words themselves. These words are underlined and enclosed in brackets in the Instructor’s Guide. Ask participants to write these words into the blank spaces in their manuals.

f. In most cases, the participant’s manual page numbers are different from those of the instructor’s manuals. Make sure to direct participants to the correct page numbers in their manuals.

5. Preparation Guidelines:

a. Arrange a registration time before the seminar in order to provide name tags and materials and to obtain participants’ names and addresses for follow-up.

b. If you are led to arrange a time of fasting and prayer for special needs during the noon hour, include this information in the publicity prior to the seminar.

c. Increase class participation by inviting them in the reading of Scripture. If power point is available to you, invite participants to join in reading Scriptures audibly. Where a power-point projector is not available, use one of the following procedures.

1) If the class is small enough for participants to hear each other easily, write the references on slips of paper. Distribute the slips to individual participants at the beginning of each session. Ask the participants to have those Scriptures ready to read from their Bibles when their reference is called.

2) If the class is large, write out the Scriptures, with references, using the equipment that may be available to you: a blackboard or whiteboard, an overhead transparency, or duplicated sheets of paper. When you come to a Scripture portion in the lesson outline, invite the class to join in reading it aloud together.

d. Prepare a verse or two of a familiar hymn or song for the class to sing at appropriate times during the sessions. Provide printed words or hymnals.

e. Order copies of the booklet, Have You Made the Wonderful Discovery of the Spirit-Filled Life? (written by Dr. Bill Bright), and distribute them to each participant during Session 4 (see page 17). To order these booklets, contact New Life Resources: 1-800-827-2788 (U.S.A.)

   website: www.campuscrusade.org
Seminar 1

Understanding God’s Heart for Prayer

Notes to the Instructor (Continued)

6. **Opening the Seminar**
   a. First, welcome all the participants. Then include this thought: “The purpose of this seminar is to understand prayer from God’s perspective, and to worship Him for the greatness that He has created in prayer. Prayer is immense because it deals with a limitless God. It is hoped that this seminar will encourage many of you to teach it to others in the future.”

   b. Thank the hosts and organizers for helping to sponsor the seminar, and introduce any other helpers who might be involved.

   c. Open the seminar with a brief prayer. This will be a good opportunity to invite a pastor or a local Christian leader to offer the prayer.

   d. 1) Introduce yourself. Write out your name so all can read it.
      2) If the class is not too large, invite participants to introduce themselves.

7. **Review the Day’s Schedule** (see page 3):
   a. Mention that each session will allow time for prayer.
   b. Explain noon-hour arrangements for lunch or *Concert of Fasting and Prayer*.

8. **Stand to Sing a Familiar Hymn or Song of Adoration**.

9. **Opening Remarks by Instructor**:
   a. Prayer has been created by God to bring pleasure to Him and great benefit to His creation. Prayer is like a valve in the vast reservoir of God’s life, as illustrated by the graphic on the cover of this manual. God uses prayer as release channels for His grace, large enough to change the course of nations, or small enough to transform a person’s life.

   b. God, as we know, is infinitely larger than a hydro-electric dam. Prayer has greater potential, therefore, than a release opening for a water reservoir. Prayerlessness is a blockage of that release, caused by sin in our hearts and lives.

   c. This seminar is designed to help you grow in releasing the flow of God’s loving, powerful action in the world in which we are called to serve Christ.

   d. “Now, let us turn to Session 1.”
Session 1

God’s Purposes for Prayer

Opening Prayer

Theme: Prayer flows from the heart of God.

Biblical Foundation: Genesis 1:26-28

(Note: Have the class read the following passage in unison.)

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over . . . all the earth . . . and subdue it . . .”

(\textit{NKJV} \textsuperscript{v}v. 26,28)

The Purpose of This Session is to examine the marvel of prayer.

Introduction: We, human beings, are created with a capacity to communicate with the God of the universe. That capacity is called prayer. The sin of our first parents resulted in a cutting of that communication between the human race and our holy Creator. The outcome was global disaster. Thankfully, God, from eternity, had already launched a major rescue operation through His Son, our Lord Jesus, to restore His relationship and communication with us (Romans 5:10). The level of our praying is determined by our understanding of God.

God Created Prayer for Four Reasons:

A. God is a Person, and wants our [fellowship].
   1. People are created in God’s image, with special capacity for personal relationship with Him. – “\textit{Let us make man in Our image.”} \textit{NKJV} \textsuperscript{Genesis 1:26}
   a. “Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.” \textit{NKJV} \textsuperscript{1 John 1:3b}
   b. The fellowship (communion) of the Holy Spirit with God’s people is mentioned as a benediction in 2 Corinthians 13:14.
   2. God has put His heart into communicating with us. \textit{Acts 17:26,27}
   3. He chose and called us to pray. \textit{John 15:16}
   4. God created us to have two-way conversations with Him, which includes both speaking and listening. \textit{Jeremiah 33:3}

B. God is a Father, and wants our [love].
   1. He loves us, and wants us to come to Him (1 John 3:1a; John 7:37-39).
   2. In His love, He waits to be asked. Love does not force benefits on a loved one.
   3. Prayer is our special, unique way to invite Him into our hearts and service.
C. God is the King, and wants our *obedience*.
   1. As *the King of all the earth* (NKJV™ Psalm 47:7), God is fulfilling His world plan through prayer. Psalm 65:2
   2. Jesus taught us to ask the Father to effect His will. Matthew 6:10
   3. Prayer is Christ’s way to mobilize workers for harvest. Matthew 9:37, 38
   4. Praying is training for reigning with Christ. We will rule with Christ as *priests*, through prayer, worship, and praise. Revelation 20:6

Illustration:
God’s working in China illustrates the greatness of God’s working in answer to prayer. It is becoming a major story in church history.

The Chinese Communist Revolution, starting in 1949, launched a cruel 50-year campaign to destroy the worship of God. Churches were closed, Bibles burned, pastors imprisoned and millions of Christians were martyred.

Scattered Christians cried out to God in prayer in secret home meetings. Evacuated missionaries prayed fervently. A movement of prayer for China accelerated worldwide. Results were amazing. An estimated one million Christians lived in China when the "Bamboo Curtain" fell in 1950. When the Curtain lifted in the 1990s, that number had grown to 80 million, mostly meeting in house churches, according to the late Hong Kong researcher, Jonathan Chao.

The house-church movement continues expanding, and pursuing two goals:
   1. To evangelize the entire nation without foreign funds or personnel
   2. To evangelize Central Asia, bringing the gospel of Christ "Back to Jerusalem"

The story of China illustrates a principle that when we draw near to God in prayer, He, in His greatness, will draw near to us (James 4:8).

D. God is the Source, and awaits our *requests*.
   1. *Every good gift and every perfect gift . . . comes down from the Father . . .* NKJV™ James 1:17
   2. Prayer is our way to receive God’s gifts. Mark 11:24; James 4:2b
   3. Our asking is God’s way to draw needed provision from Christ, our Vine. John 15:5, 16

   a. For our own well-being as His branches
   b. For production of life-giving fruit through us for others
Conclusion: God created prayer as a channel of release for the flow of His life and power to His people.

Response Time: Have participants:
1. Write answers to the following two questions: (use blank space below)
   a. Which one of God’s purposes of prayer (see points A, B, C, or D above) needs most development in my praying?

   ____________________________

   b. What step shall I take this week to grow in that purpose?

   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

2. Share their answers with a partner.
3. Keep a written record of progress this week in their response to question 1-b, above. (This is called “journaling.”)

Prayer Time: Have prayer partners pray for each other about their answers to question 1-b (in Response Time above).

Teaching Evaluation:
1. Did you accomplish your stated purpose for this session?
2. This evaluation can be both subjective and objective:
   Subjective: by observing student participation, responses, and prayers in class; and
   Objective: by free-time discussions with participants.
Session 2
God’s Wonderful Plan for Prayer

Opening Prayer

Theme: God uses our prayers to accomplish His work in the world.

Biblical Foundation: Romans 8:26,27

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

NKJV™

The Purpose of This Session is to value prayer as God does.

Introduction:
The above Scripture -- Romans 8:26,27 -- is the basic text for this seminar.

These verses picture prayer as a huge circle, like the face of a clock.

The circle shows the Process of Prayer – God’s action in human affairs.

The Process of Prayer:

A. God the Father is the Originator of Prayer: “according to the will of God” (NKJV™ Romans 8:27)

1. Prayer begins in God the Father – the 12 o’clock position in the diagram above.
   cf., Romans 11:36
2. The importance of prayer originates in the nature of God. Psalm 65:2
   Because He loves us, He draws us to [seek Him] (cf., Jeremiah 29:11-13).
B. Three intercessors are involved in the prayer process:

1. The Holy Spirit, at the 3 o'clock position in “the Process of Prayer” diagram, 
   [prays] for us, weak-praying Christians, and entrusts His groanings (intense 
   longings) to us. Romans 8:26,27

2. We Christians are at the 6 o'clock position in “the Process of Prayer” diagram. 
   “We do not know what we should pray for as we ought . . .” (NKJV™ Romans 8:26) 
   -- Our prayers are imperfect, but very important!

3. The third intercessor, at the 9 o'clock position, is the Son of God who searches 
   the minds and the hearts of people (Revelation 2:18,23). The Lord Jesus has 
   chosen to hear the Spirit’s intercession in the hearts of His praying people 
   (Romans 8:27)! Then, Jesus mingles these prayers with His own intercession 
   to the Father. Romans 8:34

We conclude, therefore, that praying Christians are [vital] connectors between 
the mighty intercessory ministries of the Holy Spirit and Christ Jesus! We will 
examine more details of these three intercessors during the next three 
sessions.

C. A complete overview of prayer, in Romans 8:26,27, involves four cosmic 
actions:

1. God the Father releases His [purposes] to the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:10

2. The Spirit groans for and expresses these purposes in hearts of praying people -- 
   for personal, church, community, and world concerns (cf., Ephesians 6:18).

3. We express those groanings by praying to the Father, as the Holy Spirit guides us, 
in the name (authority) of Jesus. Jude 20; John 16:24

   He presents our prayers in His intercession to the Father, and sees that they 
   get done (John 14:13).

In this way, the circuit of God’s spiritual action is completed in the world.
Seminar 1  Understanding God’s Heart for Prayer
Session 2  (Continued)

Conclusion: Three wonders about prayer are revealed in our text (Romans 8:26,27):
1. Prayer is more than something we do. It is something God does through us.

2. When we pray, we cooperate in the functioning of the Godhead!
   (cf., Philippians 2:13)

3. Our prayers do not change God’s will; they are His way to accomplish His will.
   cf., Matthew 6:10

Response Time: Have the participants answer these questions:
1. What value, on a scale of 1 to 10, did you give to prayer in the past? ____
2. What value can you give to it now? ____
3. What prayer concept is most impressive to you? ________________
   Why? _______________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

Prayer Time:
1. Invite participants to silently ask the Lord for enabling to walk in the light of truth He is giving now.
2. Close by asking God for increased sensitivity to the leading of His Holy Spirit in prayer.

Teaching Evaluation: How clearly did you communicate the “Process of Prayer”? Did the class grasp the meaning of the Scriptures? Did you allow enough time at the end of the session for participants to pray?
Seminar 1  
Understanding God's Heart for Prayer

Session 3  
Developing Intimacy with God in Prayer

Opening Prayer

Theme: Make your life a school of prayer.

Biblical Foundation: 2 Corinthians 4:6  
For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.  
NKJV™

The Purpose of This Session is to learn intimate, person-to-person communication with God.

Introduction: When Moses died, God paid tribute to him with this special epitaph, recorded in Deuteronomy 34:10, "SINCE THEN THERE HAS NOT ARISEN IN ISRAEL A PROPHET LIKE MOSES, WHOM THE LORD KNEW FACE TO FACE."  
(NKJV™ emphasis added)

Moses' greatness came from something more than the mighty plagues in Egypt, or from the fiery reception of the Law on Mt. Sinai. In this Deuteronomy passage, it is as though God is letting us in on the secret of Moses' fame in both earth and heaven: his face-to-face fellowship with God. His greatness came from his praying! We, too, have been given the privilege of the same kind of person-to-person communication with the living God as Moses enjoyed.

OUR PRIVILEGE:  
1. God's people are called to gaze on His face! Psalm 27:8
2. We receive the knowledge of God's glory by beholding the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6
3. Face-to-face fellowship with Christ will be a central splendor of heaven for us. Revelation 22:4

Four Ways to Seek His Face:  

A. Provide adequate [time].  
1. [Pause] until you can sense His presence. Psalm 46:10
   This may require extra time at first because we need spiritual conditioning, like an athlete who needs physical conditioning in order to compete. 2 Timothy 2:5 (cf., "Exercise yourself rather to godliness." -- NKJV™ 1 Timothy 4:7b)
2. Schedule and maintain a regular [**daily**] time for prayer, sufficient to cover your schedule. Martin Luther was noted for his daily time alone with God. He is reported to have said at one time, "I had so much to do today that I had to rise three hours earlier to pray."

**B. Develop lists of your heart burdens for prayer.**  
1. **Anxieties:** The Holy Spirit entrusts challenges to us that are bigger than we are. They draw us to prayer, and thus reveal the greatness of our Heavenly Father.  
   Philippians 4:6,7

2. **Goals:** The vision or calling God gives to a person, as was true of Moses, almost always exceeds his or her capacity. In this way, He motivates us to pray for fulfillment of our life calling.  
   2 Timothy 1:9

3. **Responsibilities:** Healthy service to God soon grows to exceed our strength. Christ invites over-loaded people to bring their burdens to Him. Matthew 11:28-30

4. **Distractions:** Frequently, it is difficult to concentrate in prayer. Write out and pray over the things that interrupt your meditation and prayer. Since your attention is already drawn to them, expressing them to the Father will help you to quickly move back into His fellowship.  
   1 Peter 5:7

**C. Pray [**Scriptures**] back to God (Scripture Prayer).**

1. Read a Bible phrase or verse.

2. Turn that Scripture unit into a prayer.  
   First, address God in your customary way. Then pray the prayer that rises in your heart out of that Scripture portion.

3. By this procedure, your prayers immediately become intimate, two-way communication with God.

4. As days go by, proceed through the passage, a chapter, and even an entire book.

**Benefits in Praying Scriptures Include:**

a. You focus attention immediately on God.  
b. Your prayer becomes two-way conversation. You learn to listen.  
c. You uncover oceans of prayer material.  
d. Your mood changes to the emotional flow of Scripture.  
e. You explore the Bible, seeing it from God’s viewpoint.  
f. You explore and experience the nature of God revealed in the Bible.
D. **[Remove] barriers to effective prayer.** (cf., Psalm 66:18; Romans 6:14)

1. Keep your conscience **[clear]**. 
   
   a. With God: Practice spiritual breathing. 
      
      1) Breathe out impure air of sin by confession and repentance.  
      1 John 1:9  
      2) Breathe in God’s pure air of the Holy Spirit’s power by faith.  
      John 20:22  
      
   b. With people: Remove all offenses. 
      
      1) Ask forgiveness from people who feel offended by you.  
      Matthew 5:23,24  
      2) Forgive people who have offended you.  
      Ephesians 4:32  
      3) Look for ways to minister, in the Spirit of Christ, to people who exhibit offensive behavior.  
      Galatians 6:1  

2. Is there someone with whom you have a strained or broken relationship? 
   Let us pray about this problem now, following these helpful steps: 
   
   a. Confess your part of the wrong to God and receive His forgiveness.  
   (Have the class pause for confession.)  
   
   b. Tell God that you will go to that person and:  
      1) Tell him or her, "I have come to realize that I wronged you by __________."  
      2) Ask him or her, "Will you forgive me for this wrong? I am a Christian, and want to be right with God and with you."  
      3) When he or she says, "I forgive you," your conscience will become clear.  
      If the other person refuses, leave the matter to God. In either case, that barrier to prayer will be removed.  
      Romans 12:18  
      
   (Instructor, now lead the class in a reconciling prayer.)

**Conclusion:** Talking with God face to face is a transforming experience --  
"from glory to glory" -- for every Christian.  
2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:6  

**Response Time:** Write a personal plan for meeting with God face to face. Include:  
1. Time: Arrange a daily prayer time for a week, using guidelines in sections A, B, and C above.  
2. Bible: Pray through a favorite Bible chapter -- a few verses daily.  
3. Conscience: If your fellowship has broken with someone, take steps to make peace with that person.  

**Prayer Time:** Lead the class in prayer for God’s grace to complete this project (in Response Time above) with joy!  

**Teaching Evaluation:** Do you sense that the Lord is drawing your participants into intimate fellowship with Himself? Do they seem eager to develop a personal prayer plan?
Session 4
Praying in the Holy Spirit

Opening Prayer

Theme: Our prayers are channels for the praying of the Holy Spirit.

Biblical Foundation: Jude 20,21
But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. NKJV™

The Purpose of This Session is to help us be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Introduction: We Christians cannot pray as we should without help (Romans 8:26).
1. [The Holy Spirit] lives in Christian believers to help us in our praying. Romans 8:15
   a. The Day of Pentecost marked a new, wonderful period in God’s world plan.  
   b. On that day, the Holy Spirit moved His seat of administration from heaven to His Church on earth (John 16:7-13).
2. Today, He is “joining to help us” (literal translation of Romans 8:26) in our prayer weaknesses. How does He do that?

A. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26).
   1. “The Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with [groanings] that are not uttered.” (literal Greek translation, Romans 8:26)
   2. He is “the Spirit of grace and supplication.” NKJV™ Zechariah 12:10

B. The Holy Spirit intercedes in us (Romans 8:27).
   1. The Holy Spirit expresses His intercession to Jesus in the prayers of God’s people.
   2. “He who searches the hearts [of His praying children] knows what the mind of the Spirit is.” NKJV™ Romans 8:27
   3. Our highest potential is to pray the burdens (urgent needs, problems) that the Holy Spirit lays upon our hearts. In this way, we pray in the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 6:18
Illustration:
Seeking to discern the mind of the Spirit, a leader asked a prayer group, "What burden is on your hearts this evening?" One person said, "Our church young people." Another said, "That is my burden, too." Soon it was discovered that the concern was common to the entire group, and became the objective for prayer for most of that meeting.

The same group a week later found that they shared the same spiritual longing, and so continued for a second time with the same objective in prayer. At the close, one of the intercessors suggested that some of the young people themselves be invited to share their prayer concerns at the next prayer meeting. This was done, and five leading young people joined the adults in a time of clarified intercession. In this way, the Holy Spirit expressed His groanings in prayer for the needs of that youth group. Before long, a new youth leader was supplied, young people became committed to the Lord Jesus Christ, and new young people became involved with the ministry of that fellowship.

This illustration shows us that general agreement is an important way to get "the mind of the Spirit" in corporate prayer, and thus to pray the will of the Father into effect.

C. The Holy Spirit intercedes through us (Romans 8:27).

1. The third Intercessor, our Lord Jesus, receives the Spirit’s requests through praying believers.
2. A vital element in prayer is to sense “the mind of the Spirit.”
3. When we walk through life in fellowship with Jesus, our prayer burdens will express the groanings of the Spirit (see also John 15:7).
4. Our strongest resource for prayer is to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Conclusions:
1. The Spirit entrusts His groanings to us in the form of prayer burdens.
2. Effective prayer expresses those burdens which the Spirit stirs within our hearts.
3. Fullness of the Spirit enables us to reach our highest prayer potential.

Response Time:
1. Distribute the Campus Crusade booklets, Have You Made the Wonderful Discovery of the Spirit-Filled Life? Call attention to key points of the booklet.
2. Pray individually or together to be filled with the Spirit. Use the prayer suggested on page 12 of the booklet.

3. Encourage the participants to practice “Spiritual Breathing” (booklet page 15) as a 30-day experiment that can lead to a life pattern.

Prayer Time: Instructor may close the time with a prayer of thanksgiving to God for answering the participants’ prayers for the infilling of the Holy Spirit on the basis of 1 John 5:14,15.

Teaching Evaluation: Did your participants understand the infilling of the Holy Spirit? Did they freely pray to be filled with the Spirit? Do they know how to proceed alone if they need more time with God?
Session 5
Praying in the Authority of Jesus

Opening Prayer

Theme: Power for praying comes from uniting our prayers with the praying of Jesus to whom God has given all authority in heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18).

Biblical Foundation: Hebrews 7:25

\[\text{Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost [completely] those who come to God through Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them.} \quad (\text{NKJV™ emphasis added})\]

The Purpose of This Session is to understand the unlimited resources available to us in the praying of Jesus.

Introduction: The Christian exercises awesome authority by praying in the name of Jesus. Our Bible passage above, Hebrews 7:25, establishes four foundational facts about prayer as follows.

A. Christ in you has supreme power and [authority].
   1. He is able to save completely -- past, present, and future. Matthew 28:18
   2. Total authority is His in heaven and earth. Matthew 28:18
   3. The Father has put all things under Christ's rulership. Christ is Head over all things to us, the Church, His Body on earth. Ephesians 1:22,23
   4. From the moment we receive this amazing Christ, we have access to the greatness of the loving Father! John 16:26,27

B. Christ is using His supreme power to pray:

   "\text{He ever lives to make intercession...} \quad (\text{NKJV™})

   1. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, accomplishing the Father's will [by prayer]. Romans 8:34
   2. Jesus blends our prayers to the Father with His own prayers in seven ways. He:
      a. Aligns them with the Father's will Romans 8:27
      b. Authenticates them John 15:16
      c. Expands them Ephesians 3:20
      d. Intercedes for them Romans 8:34
      e. Empowers them Hebrews 7:25a
      f. Continues them Hebrews 7:25b
      g. Sees that they get done John 14:13,14
C. Christ is praying for people who pray.
   1. He is praying for people who come to God.
      “Coming to God” is a Bible synonym for prayer.
   2. When we pray in Jesus’ name, we transfer our concerns into His praying!
      He receives our prayers, prays them with His supreme authority, and
      accomplishes them at the right hand of the Father.
   3. Thus, God uses our prayers to make righteous changes in human affairs.

D. Believers are authorized to pray in Jesus’ name (“come to God through Him”
   NKJV™ Hebrews 7:25).
   1. When we pray in Jesus’ name, according to His word, we use His authority
      (John 14:14).
      The Father regards those prayers as coming from Jesus Himself.
   2. Praying in Jesus’ name means that Christ has given us “power of attorney.”
      Christ has committed Himself to guarantee [answers] to our prayers as we
      [abide in Him] and [His words] abide in us (John 15:7).
   3. The closer we live in communion with Christ, the better we can appropriate
      His authority. John 14:23

Conclusion: The powerful part of our praying is to love Jesus and to transfer
our burdens into His praying.

Response and Prayer Time: Move the class immediately into the Dedication Prayer
Time on the next page.

Teaching Evaluation: Did you accomplish your stated purpose for this session?
This evaluation can be both subjective and objective:
Subjective by observing a noticeable sense of worship and humility among participants
during the closing Dedication Prayer Time; and
Objective by receiving informal written and oral comments from the class about the
seminar after the class is dismissed.
Dedication Prayer Time

Note: The Dedication Prayer is printed on page 15 of the Participant’s Manual.

Remarks by the Instructor:
“Our study has provided biblical information about God’s heart for prayer. We now have a great responsibility to use it for the glory of God. Thankfully, we can ask for God’s enabling to develop faithfulness in our praying, for our flesh is weak. Let us resolve to draw our prayer life from Jesus, as branches draw their life from their vine (John 15:4,7,16).

“I invite you to join me in a prayer covenant with our Lord Jesus, asking His enabling to grow strong in prayer. May we sincerely pray the following prayer together in unison?”

(Unison Prayer)
“Heavenly Father, I desire to live a life of genuine communion with You -- abiding in You; depending on You; obeying You; and experiencing the fullness of Your presence. I am not able to live a life of prayer by myself. I battle conflicting desires that compete for intimate, consistent time with You.”

Remarks by the Instructor:
“Now let us pause for a few moments to privately repent of prayer sins that the Lord has uncovered in this seminar.” (Pause for silent prayer.)
“Let us continue in the following united prayer.”

(Unison Prayer, Continued)
“Father, I thank You for forgiving my prayer sins and removing them by the shed blood of Jesus. I surrender control of the throne of my life, anew to You. I receive afresh the fullness of Your praying Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus.

“Lord, renew me daily in prayer. Keep me sensitive to Your love for me. Use my failures in prayer as learning opportunities to grow stronger. Teach me to know You better, to grow in Your fellowship, and to trust You as my Source for everything. Help me to remember and apply the prayer lessons You are teaching me.

“This prayer I offer to You receptively and gratefully, in the name of my Lord Jesus. Amen.”

Closing the Seminar:
- To conclude this dedication time, you might invite the participants to come forward and kneel for a closing prayer, led by you or an invited spiritual leader.
- Upon rising, invite them to join in singing a song of dedication to Christ.