PRAYER MOVEMENTS
Leading to Spiritual Movements Everywhere

Seminar 2

Growing Strong in Prayer
- Experience God’s Power through Prayers of Faith -

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!

Ben A. Jennings, Th.B., D.D.
Anna (Joung Ae) Lee, M.A., Ed.S., D.Min.

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Website: www.globalprayermovement.org
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>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Welcome, Prayer, Opening Remarks, and Song</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>Session 1: Overview: Faith Receives God’s Power</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15</td>
<td>Session 2: Step 1 GOD IS! Worship Him.</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Session 3: Step 2 GOD CAN! Ask Him.</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Concert of Fasting and Prayer (or Lunch Time)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45</td>
<td>Transition Time</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Session 4: Step 3 GOD DID! Thank Him.</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45</td>
<td>Session 5: Step 4 GOD DOES! Obey Him.</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>Session 6: Step 5 GOD WILL! Await Him.</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>Dedication Prayer Time</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:55</td>
<td>Closing Song and Prayer of Blessing</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Dismissal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Seminar Time: 7 hours

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 six 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening (Session Title, Prayer, Theme, Biblical Foundation, &amp; Purpose)</td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Teaching</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response and Prayer Time</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Session Time</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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. To increase participation, invite participants to read Scripture portions aloud together. These Scriptures are provided in the power-point presentation (available at www.globalprayermovement.org). 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. Prepare enough copies of Personal Prayer Plan worksheets (p.18) for Session 3 to distribute two sheets to each participant during Response and Prayer Time (p.16).
6. Opening the Seminar
   a. First, welcome all the participants. Then include this thought: “The purpose of this seminar is: (1) to learn spiritual possibilities that God has given to His praying people; and (2) to live increasingly in His supply through Christ Jesus. 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 the Instructor:
   a. People pray for two reasons:
      1) God’s greatness: “With God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26
      2) Human helplessness: “Without Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5
   b. People hesitate to pray because of three questions:
      1) A question of results: “Can my prayer really accomplish anything?”
      2) A question of pleasure: “How can I enjoy praying?”
      3) A question of worthiness: “How can God accept my prayers?”
   c. God is concerned with this question: “How is your faith? He is looking for hearts that trust Him.
   d. “Now, let us turn to Session 1.”
Session 1

Faith Receives God’s Power
(Overview of the Steps of Faith)

Opening Prayer

Theme: Faith in God and His Word can change the world.

Biblical Foundation: 1 John 5:4

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith. [NKJV™]

The Purpose of This Session is to learn to apply believing prayer to major needs.

Introduction: Faith is vital for three reasons:
1. Praying in faith draws upon God’s supernatural power. Mark 11:22,23
2. Faith is a vital part of our spiritual growth. 2 Thessalonians 1:3
3. Our faith makes both us and our prayer pleasing to God. Hebrews 11:6

Faith means trust in God, involving an [understanding] of His nature and [commitment] of our life to His will.

Faith does not mean trusting our prayers, our abilities, or our circumstances. It means trusting God alone.

Illustration: The Apostle Paul wrote Bible letters from a prison in Rome 2,000 years ago. The Holy Spirit continues to transform human hearts through those letters today. Did you know that Paul came close to dying on his voyage to Rome? The miracle of his arrival there is found in Acts 27.

An angel of God spoke to him in a terrible storm at sea saying, “Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.” Paul shared that word with the ship’s fearful crew and passengers with this bold announcement: “Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.” (NKJV™ Acts 27:24,25; emphasis added)

Drawing on God’s supernatural power by faith, Paul got to Rome, wrote those letters, and finished his course with joy!

A. Christians Have Tremendous Potential in Faith.

1. Biblical faith is more than ability to cope with a challenge.
   a. It is a transfer of burdens from ourselves to Christ. 1 Peter 5:7
   b. We make this transfer through [prayer]. Mark 11:24
2. The better we **know** God, the more we can trust Him. 2 Timothy 1:12
It is more important to meet the Answerer than to obtain answers.

B. Healthy Christians **Grow** in Faith (cf., Luke 17:5).

1. Faith is like ascending a ladder. (We begin at the bottom step.)

2. We will explore five steps of faith in this seminar. Each step has three components:
   a. A fact about God
   b. A Scripture foundation
   c. A prayer-action step

Conclusion:
The higher we grow in faith, the better we can **overcome** the world.

Response Time: Have each participant write out a major prayer need facing him or her.

Prayer Time: Read Mark 9:23 and 24. Lead participants to:
   a. Thank God for His marvelous promise in this Scripture.
   c. Ask God to strengthen their acquaintance with Him.
   d. Ask God to supply the major prayer need written out during **Response Time** above.
   e. Conclude with a well-known song of praise to God.

*Teaching Evaluation:* Were you able to manage time to include all major points of the lesson? Do you sense that participants are becoming aware of the importance of their faith? How are they responding in their facial expressions, questions, and prayers?
Session 2
GOD IS! Worship Him.
(Step 1 in the Ladder of Faith)

Opening Prayer

Theme: By worship, we get acquainted with God and increase our confidence in Him.

Biblical Foundation: John 4:23,24

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. 
(NKJV™)

The Purpose of This Session is to grow in faith by growing in worship.

Introduction:
1. Worship means to revere and respond to God as we [adore] the many qualities of His nature.
2. Hebrews 11:6 describes two essential elements in worship:
   “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (NKJV™ emphasis added)
   a. God exists.
   b. God rewards.

A. Basic Truth: GOD IS!

This is the first step in our faith.

“He who comes to God must believe that He is.” (NKJV™ Hebrews 11:6, emphasis added)

1. Worship focuses attention on Almighty God.
   The foundation of faith is to meet with the true, [living God].

2. Faith begins when we receive Jesus as our personal Savior.
   When we [open] our heart to Him, God becomes real to us by personal experience.
Illustration:
Do you remember the words of the youthful David to King Saul when the giant Goliath was terrifying the armies of Israel? You find them in 1 Samuel 17:37, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." NKJV™

David slew that giant by the faith he had in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel. David did it "that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel" (NKJV™ verse 46).

Where did David get enough faith to handle lions, bears, giants, and kings? We get a clue from the way he worshipped the Lord while he was watching his sheep in the wilderness. Psalm 8 gives us a glimpse into the way David prayed and sang to Jehovah:
"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? . . . You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen -- even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!" (NKJV™ verses 3-9)

David admired and worshipped the God of all creation. He came to know God as bigger than any earthly challenge he would ever face. This is the power of worship!

3. We grow in faith as we learn to worship and praise Him. Gaze on Him in your heart until He draws you into His presence and shows you that He is able and loving enough to answer your prayers.

B. Scripture: Hebrews 11:6

Notice three truths in this verse:
1. God is [pleased] with our faith.
2. Faith is expressed by “coming to God” (praying).
3. We grow in faith through continual [fellowship] with our heavenly Father.
4. Faith also grows through receiving prayer answers from God.
C. Prayer Action: **Worship Him.**

1. Discuss: “What are some ways in which to worship the Lord?”
   
   *(Write suggestions on a chalk board or transparency, if available.)*

2. Turn to “God’s Attributes” section on the next page. Lead them to personal prayer time, saying, “Let us now individually worship the Lord by praying over one of His attributes which you may choose. Look up and include the Scripture reference in your praying.”

**Conclusion:** The more we worship God, the better we know Him. The better we know Him, the more we can trust Him.

**Response Time:** Ask participants to recall the prayer need they wrote down at the end of Session 1, during Response Time (p.8). Then ask them to place a check mark at each attribute of God (on the next page) that can help them in praying with faith for that need.

*To review, Instructor may ask the class, “What is the first step of faith?”*  
– (Correct Answer: *God is! Worship Him.)*

**Teaching Evaluation:** Did you make clear the relationship between worship and faith? Were you able to teach this truth with personal conviction?
God’s Attributes*

- **A personal spirit**  Psalm 25:14 -- Therefore, I can have intimate fellowship with Him.

- **All-powerful or omnipotent**  Jeremiah 32:17 -- Therefore, He can help me with anything.

- **Ever-present or omnipresent**  Psalm 139:7-10 -- Therefore, He is always with me.

- **All-knowing or omniscient**  Romans 11:33 -- Therefore, I can go to Him with all my questions and concerns.

- **Sovereign**  1 Chronicles 29:11,12 -- Therefore, I will joyfully submit to His will.

- **Holy**  Exodus 15:11 -- Therefore, I will devote myself to Him in purity, worship, and service.

- **Absolute truth**  John 18:37 -- Therefore, I will believe what He says and live accordingly.

- **Righteous**  Psalm 145:17 -- Therefore, I will live by His standards.

- **Just**  Jeremiah 17:10 -- Therefore, I can be sure He will always treat me fairly.

- **Loving**  Ephesians 3:17,18 -- Therefore, He is unconditionally committed to my well-being.

- **Merciful**  James 5:11 -- Therefore, He forgives me of my sins when I sincerely confess them.

- **Faithful**  Psalm 89:8 -- Therefore, I can trust Him to always keep His promises.

- **Never changing**  James 1:17 -- Therefore, my future is secure and eternal.

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Session 3

GOD CAN!  Ask Him.
(Step 2 in the Ladder of Faith)

Opening Prayer

Theme: In love, God often waits to release His supply until we ask Him.

Biblical Foundation: Matthew 7:7,8

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. NKJV™

The Purpose of This Session is to grow in asking and receiving the resources that God has prepared for us.

Introduction: Prayer is God’s supply channel for Christ’s world rescue plan.

1. Christ alone can save the lost. John 14:6
2. Christ’s assignment to us has two purposes. John 15:16
   He has chosen us to:
   a. Go and bring forth permanent fruit.
   b. Ask the Father (for that fruit).
3. Christ’s plan for evangelism in Acts 1:8 is therefore an ideal plan for prayer: “… you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” NKJV™

In this session, we explore the magnitude of God’s answers to our prayers.

A. Basic Truth: GOD CAN!

Knowledge of God’s power strengthens our faith.

1. We must [believe] that God exists (God is!). Hebrews 11:6

We must also believe that God is able to [answer] us (God can!). Ephesians 3:20
2. God’s answers are powerful, according to Jeremiah 33:3. He guarantees
to do three things when we pray:
   a. **Answer us:** “I will answer you”  
   b. **Act powerfully:** “show you great and mighty things”  
   c. **Astonish us:** “things, which you do not know”

3. God can do everything that we need.  
   2 Corinthians 9:8

4. God [*waits*], because He loves us, He will not impose Himself on us.  
   James 4:2b; John 16:26,27

B. Scripture:  **Hebrews 7:25**

   “Therefore He is also able to save to
   the uttermost those who come to God
   through Him, since He ever lives to
   make intercession for them.”  

1. Christ is able to save completely.  
   That ability includes:
   a. Deliverance from all *wrongs*  
      2 Corinthians 5:21  
   b. [*Provision*] for all that is *right*  
      Philippians 4:19

2. Christ’s ability is released to
   [*praying*] people -- those “who
   come to God through Him,”  
   (NKJV™) initially and continually.

3. **Illustration:**
   Why did Israel, God's chosen people, go into captivity and slavery after reaching
   a historic pinnacle of glory under Kings David and Solomon? Was it because of
   their nation-wide sins? Yes, but there is more. Ezekiel tells us in chapter 22 of
   his prophecy that no one in that whole nation would accept responsibility to
   intercede for the sinning people.

   “So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap
   before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.
   Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with
   the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,'
   says the Lord God.”  

   Knowing the enormous power God has given us in prayer places a mighty
   obligation upon us to use that power in prayer!
C. Prayer Action: **Ask Him.**

1. Read John 15:5,7 in unison. These verses tell us that asking in prayer is the primary way in which we, branches, draw life from the Lord Jesus, our Vine.

2. Bring your needs to Him as you really feel them! Give priority to the needs that press upon you the most.

3. Hold your needs before Him **[until]** you can transfer them to His praying, and He gives you peace.

   a. Praying is **[asking]** and receiving. This is asking according to the **revealed** will of God. When we know God’s will, we can simply ask and receive.  
      1 John 5:14,15
   b. Praying is also seeking and **[finding]**. This is asking God concerning His **unrevealed** will. When we do not know His will, we can simply ask Him to guide us, and follow His leading.  
      James 1:5,6
   c. Praying can involve **[knocking]** and opening. This kind of praying in the name of Jesus tackles enemies that resist the will of God. This praying persists until God tears down those strongholds.  
      2 Corinthians 10:4,5

**Conclusion:** Asking is our response to God’s generosity. God is continually entrusting increasing goals and needs to His people in order to reveal more of His greatness. Asking, in itself, is an important level of faith, because it builds on Step One (*God is! Worship Him.*)

*Take time for review:* Ask the class, “What is Step 1 in our Ladder of Faith?”  
-- (Correct Answer: *God is! Worship Him.*)

“What is Step 2?” – (Correct Answer: *God can! Ask Him.*)
Response and Prayer Time:

1. Have each participant:
   a. Refer back to the big burden that he or she wrote down in Session 1.
   b. Write out an encouragement from this session to trust God for that burden:

   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

   c. Share that encouragement with a partner, and pray in pairs for each other.

2. Explain the Sample Personal Prayer Plan (see next page). After distributing two blank worksheets (see page 18) to each participant, ask them to fill in the first worksheet now. Encourage them to fill in the second blank worksheet after this session to refine and use.

Teaching Evaluation: Did you sense the participants’ growing eagerness to pray due to their increased faith in God’s power and goodness?
### Personal Prayer Plan

**Sample One-Week Prayer Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acts 1:8</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>My Jerusalem</strong> (local sphere)</td>
<td>Personal walk with God</td>
<td>Personal ministry</td>
<td>Family and friends</td>
<td>Home church</td>
<td>Local churches and ministries</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>City and county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>My Judea</strong> (state and nation)</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Nation</td>
<td>Education system</td>
<td>Courts</td>
<td>Evangelism in the state</td>
<td>Evangelism in the nation</td>
<td>Growth of churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>My Samaria</strong> (mission fields)</td>
<td>Critical needs in the world</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>North America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>My Frontiers</strong> (uttermost parts)</td>
<td>Unreached areas</td>
<td>Intercessors</td>
<td>Laborers for the gospel</td>
<td>Receptivity of the gospel</td>
<td>Evangelism</td>
<td>Discipling</td>
<td>Funding</td>
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# Personal Prayer Plan Worksheets

## One-Week Prayer Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acts 1:8</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
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<td>My Judea (state and nation)</td>
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<td>My Samaria (mission fields)</td>
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<td>My Frontiers (uttermost parts)</td>
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Session 4
GOD DID! Thank Him.
(Step 3 in the Ladder of Faith)

Opening Prayer

Theme: God has answers prepared and waiting for all the prayers that we pray.

Biblical Foundation: Hebrews 4:3
For we who have believed do enter that rest . . . the works were finished from the foundation of the world. (NKJV™ emphasis added)

The Purpose of This Session is to develop thanksgiving for all of the answers God has already prepared for us.

Introduction: Our Biblical Foundation in Hebrews 4:3 assures us that:

2. He [prepared] His answers for us from the time of creation. Hebrews 4:3b
3. He is not limited by time. He exists in one eternal “now.” Psalm 90:2

A. Basic Truth: GOD DID!

1. God has already [accomplished] all that He is going to do (see Section B on following page).
2. Answers to believing prayers are [ready] for you to receive. Mark 11:24

“Believe that you have received now, while praying, the thing you ask for. Faith says confidently, ‘I have received the promise.’ Patience perseveres in prayer until the gift bestowed in heaven is seen on earth. Between the ‘have received’ in heaven, and the ‘shall have’ on earth, believe; believing praise and prayer is the link.” (From Day by Day with Andrew Murray, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1961, p.47)

3. Plant your faith in God, not in your ability to believe.
B. Scripture: Ephesians 1:3

1. Answers to our prayers have already been supplied to us by Christ Jesus.

   “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” (NKJV™ emphasis added)

2. This Scripture declares that His provision involves the entire heavenly realm -- a reservoir far greater than earthly resources.

3. Praying is partaking of answers that are available now.

4. Our faith grows by knowing that answers are waiting in heaven.

C. Prayer Action: Thank Him.

1. Thank God for already [providing] your answers.
   1 Corinthians 2:9,10

2. Praise Him for His works in the past.
   Psalm 145:10-12

3. Thank Him for His future guaranteed answers.
   Ephesians 3:20,21

   Note: Illustrate this Prayer Action with a life situation that you may recall.

Illustration:
Thankfulness plays a very large role in believing prayer. Armies of three nations were marching to attack Judah in 2 Chronicles 20. King Jehoshaphat took the courageous step of calling a national day of prayer and fasting. The Lord answered with an assuring message through a Levite named Jahaziel. "The battle is not yours, but God’s," he said. "You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you. . . . Do not fear or be dismayed." (NKJV™ verses 15,17)
The king trusted the word of the Lord so deeply that he sent his army to meet the invaders, led by a national choir! What happened? "When they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated" (NKJV™ verse 22). Thanksgiving to God turned the enemy’s attack into a victory for Israel.

The Apostle Paul instructs us to handle all our anxieties by prayers and supplications with thanksgiving! Then we will enjoy a peace that goes beyond our understanding. (Philippians 4:6,7)

Conclusion: Thankfulness [opens] our hearts to receive God’s prepared supply.

Take time for review:
- Step 1: God is! Worship Him.
- Step 2: God can! Ask Him.
- Step 3: God did! Thank Him.

Response Time: Invite participants to share their questions about God’s accomplished answers. Invite comments from the class on each question. You, as the instructor, can point back to Scriptures used in this session in providing a brief, Spirit-led summary to the questions.

Prayer Time: Invite several participants to audibly thank the Lord for answers received in the past. Then, invite others to thank Him for answers still to come for their biggest needs.

Sing a well-known hymn or song of praise to the Lord.

Teaching Evaluation: Judging by the Response Time and Prayer Time, are participants grasping the truth of God’s prepared answers?
Session 5
GOD DOES! Obey Him.
(Step 4 in the Ladder of Faith)

Opening Prayer

Theme: Loving obedience to God places us in position to receive His immediate and long-range answers.

Biblical Foundation: 1 John 3:22
And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. NKJV™

The Purpose of This Session is to help us grow in prayer by discerning and obeying instructions from God.

Introduction:
1. Answers begin as soon as we start praying. Daniel 10:12
2. Our loving [obedience] to God is a vital part of His answering procedure. 1 John 3:22

A. Basic Truth: GOD DOES!

Our faith grows when we realize that God uses our [prayers] as channels for His action.

“For everyone who keeps on asking for something to be given, keeps on receiving. And he who keeps on seeking, keeps on finding. And to him who keeps on reverently knocking, it shall be opened.” (Matthew 7:8; Wuest’s translation)

1. This literal translation shows that God [works] through our praying.

2. God answers while we are praying. Our prayers become supply lines for His powerful working! Acts 13:2,3
Illustration:
Daniel, chapter 10, shows how God answers prayer while His people are praying. Daniel prayed with fasting for three weeks for the release of his people who were captives in Babylon. He saw no results during those 21 days. His anxiety for his people kept him praying.

A heavenly messenger then informed him that his praying had launched a gigantic heavenly war! Verses 12 and 13 summarize the chapter this way: "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days." (NKJV™ emphasis added)

Notice three factors that Daniel's prayers have in common with ours:
1) God launched His answer on the very day Daniel started praying.
2) Demonic and angelic forces engaged in a war that delayed the answer.
3) God worked through Daniel's continued praying to give His answer for Daniel's people.

The message to Daniel indicated that the answer would have been stopped, if Daniel had stopped praying. The messenger said, "I have come because of your words." (NKJV™ verse 12, emphasis added)

3. Watch for indicators of His action.

B. Scripture: Ephesians 3:20

   "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."
   NKJV™
God’s answers to prayer are more powerful than an atomic bomb, but have a totally opposite effect. God’s answers are constructive, not destructive. They are life-giving, not deadly. They are available everywhere, and not limited geographically.

C. Prayer Action: **Obey Him**.

1. The size of God’s answers is limited by the power of God that we allow to work in us.
   Ephesians 3:20

2. Our obedience affects God’s answers.
   1 John 3:21,22

3. God’s action is limited by our sinful attitudes and activities that:
   a. Grieve the Spirit
      Ephesians 4:30
   b. Quench the Spirit
      1 Thessalonians 5:19
   c. Doubt the Lord
      Matthew 13:58

4. God gives us instruction through His Word, through our conscience, or through godly counsel while we are praying. Doing what He tells us to do allows Him to guide us in prayer. Refusal to do so prevents further progress.
   James 2:17; Titus 1:16

Peter made his biggest catch of fish when he **obeyed** Jesus.
**Conclusion:** Our growth in faith is affected by our cooperation with Him.

*Take time for review:* Step 1-4: God is! Worship Him.  
God can! Ask Him.  
God did! Thank Him.  
God does! Obey Him.

**Response Time:**  
During a period of private reflection, ask participants to write down area(s) of disobedience (including incomplete obedience) in their lives that may be blocking answers to their prayers. Our faith grows in a marvelous way when our hearts are cleansed.

**Prayer Time:** Have participants:  
1. Confess the listed point(s) of disobedience to God as sins.  
2. Repent by turning back to the Lord and His way.  
3. Thank Him for fresh cleansing and renewed flow of His answers to prayer.  
4. Make a personal commitment to obey God in daily living.

*Offer a closing prayer, and have the class sing a familiar song of praise for the cleansing blood of Jesus.*

**Teaching Evaluation:** Using the Prayer Time as an indicator, do participants seem prayerful and responsive to the convicting of the Holy Spirit?  
Two indicators are:  
1. A spirit of brokenness and repentance, or  
2. A spirit of peace and thanksgiving.
Session 6  

GOD WILL! Await Him.  
(Step 5 in the Ladder of Faith)

Opening Prayer

Theme: Give God room to answer in His own time and way.

Biblical Foundation: Psalm 62:5,6  
_My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved._  
NKJV™

The Purpose of This Session is to help us learn the enormous value of waiting on God for His answers.

Introduction: All of us want to know that God is going to answer our prayer in the future. However, such assurance involves an important responsibility on our part.

We need to learn to **wait on the Lord**. Waiting on the Lord in prayer, for a short or long time, gives God time to complete three vital actions:
1. Accomplish important parts of His answers. e.g., Psalm 37:7-9; Galatians 4:4
2. **[Prepare]** us to receive His answers. Isaiah 30:18
3. **[Teach]** us to listen and learn about Him and His ways. Habakkuk 2:1

A. Basic Truth: **GOD WILL!**

Assurance that God will answer our prayer is the level of faith that we all desire.

1. God guarantees **[answers]** to all prayers. “**Everyone who asks receives.**”  
   NKJV™ Matthew 7:8

2. His answers may be different than expected.  
   (e.g., 2 Corinthians 12:7-9)

3. The more our prayers **[agree]** with God’s will, the closer His answers will match our prayers. 1 John 5:14,15
4. Delays are not denials. They allow time for God to do five important things:
   a. Change us.
   b. Change circumstances.
   c. Win spiritual battles.
   d. Accomplish details that are related to our requests.
   e. Provide greater answers than we expected. (e.g., John 11:21-23)

Illustration:
Dr. Bill Bright was the beloved founder of Campus Crusade for Christ. Midway in the 20th century, God gave to Dr. Bright a vision to bring forth a high-quality film on the story of Jesus. All efforts to produce the film ended in failure -- for 30 years! Through all of those years of disappointment and seeming failure, however, Dr. Bright kept waiting on the Lord about the film in believing prayer.

We can see now that God used that prayerful waiting to develop elements that are essential to the amazing impact of the “Jesus” film upon global harvest:
   1. Technology to translate the film rapidly into hundreds of languages
   2. Support personnel, funding, and facilities to handle a global movement
   3. International networks to distribute the good news of Jesus to all nations

75% of 1 million new churches planted worldwide in recent years have resulted from using the “Jesus” film. (Reported by DAWN -- Discipling A Whole Nation)

WHAT IF DR. BRIGHT HAD NOT WAITED IN PRAYER FOR GOD’S TIMING?

B. Scripture: Isaiah 40:31

By [waiting] on the Lord, we draw many spiritual benefits from Him.
We:
   2. Receive His strength. Psalm 27:14
   3. Experience fulfillment in life. Psalm 37:34
   4. Receive God’s deliverance and guidance. Psalm 40:1, 2
   5. Grow in acquaintance with God and His glory. Psalm
C. Prayer Action: **Await Him.**

1. Give God the time that He desires. Praying in faith means believing that God can. The “prayer of faith” believes that God will. (cf., James 1:6 and 5:15)

2. We pray the prayer of faith when we [cast] all our care upon Him. 1 Peter 5:7 We can now restfully praise and thank Him.

3. When you have difficulty in believing that God will, review Steps 1-5 in the Ladder of Faith to find likely reasons.

**Conclusion:**

1. God’s delays allow time for all parts of His answers to get completed.
2. Time spent in waiting on God provides more time to be with Him, to become conformed more to Christ’s likeness, and to receive greater answers.

*Take time for review: Have participants answer a group oral quiz:*

“What are the five steps of faith?”

Step 1: God is! Worship Him.
Step 2: God can! Ask Him.
Step 3: God did! Thank Him.
Step 4: God does! Obey Him.
Step 5: God will! Await Him.

**Response Time:** Have each participant:

1. Write out the major prayer request that he or she recorded during Session 1, **Response Time** (p.8).

   Major prayer request: ____________________________________________

2. Enter here the faith-ladder step that he or she has reached so far regarding that major prayer request.
3. Write out and pray about the Prayer-Action Step (in the Ladder of Faith) that he or she needs to take to move to the next level.

Teaching Evaluation: How well did the participants remember the five steps of faith?

Prayer Time: Proceed to the Dedication Prayer Time on the next page.
Dedication Prayer Time

Note: The Dedication Prayer is printed on page 21 of the Participant’s Manual.

Remarks by the Instructor:

“Our purpose in this seminar has been to apply believing prayer to major personal, family, church or ministry needs. Experiencing answers to believing prayer can and should be a permanent, joyful journey for you -- in both little and big situations. We are often attracted to living independently, however, and to neglect our supernatural life-connection of prayer.

“May we, therefore, ask the Lord to grant us all a life of consistent, daily prayer? May we gather together in this area (at the front or another area if preferred) for a concluding united petition to God? Our prayer will include three parts:
1. A renewed surrender of our heart to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith;
2. A request for strong development of our faith that will be pleasing to Him; and
3. A resolve to develop our faith by expanding daily fellowship with our Lord.”

Instruction:

Have class move to prayer area. Read the following Scripture.

Remarks by the Instructor:

“King David declared in Psalm 116, ‘I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.’” NKJV™

Instruction:

Have the class stand or kneel.

Remarks by the Instructor:

“As I read the phrases of the prayer one by one, repeat after me. Now let us pray.”
Dedication Prayer in Unison:

“Heavenly Father,
thank You for Your amazing love, wanting to have fellowship with me.
Grant grace to me to maintain a consistent life of prayer with You.
Here and now, I surrender the throne of my heart to You, my King and my God.

“Lord Jesus,
You have started me in a life of faith; I ask You now to develop me in that journey.
You are the Author and Finisher of my faith.
Make me the intercessor You want me to be.

“Holy Spirit,
lead me forward in prayer.
Enable me to grow in the faith lessons you are teaching me.
Sustain me in practicing the Steps of Faith as a life pattern.
I offer this prayer receptively, in the name of Jesus.”

Closing the Seminar:

- Close this time with prayers of thanksgiving, praise, and worship.
- Encourage the class with Hebrews 12:2 to look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.
- Sing a final song of victory together.