

Lesson No 19

What Does the Bible Say About Prayer?

1. What is prayer?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- *(a) *Psalm 19:14*. Let **the words of my mouth** and **the meditation of my heart** be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.
- (b) *Psalm 10:17*. LORD, You have heard **the desire** of the humble.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

Prayer is speaking to God

- (A) With heart and lips, or only
- (B) With the heart.

2. What should move us to pray?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a b) *Matthew 7:7*. Ask, and **it will be given** to you.
- *(a b c d) *Psalm 50:15*. Call upon Me in the day of **trouble**; **I will deliver you**, and **you shall glorify Me**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN--

We should be moved to prayer by

- (A) God's command;
- (B) His promise;
- (C) Our own and our fellow men's need;
- (D) Gratitude for blessings received.

3. What are the qualities of true prayer?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) *Matthew 4:10*. You shall worship **the Lord your God**, and **Him only** you shall serve.
- (a) *Isaiah 63:16*. Doubtless You are our Father, though **Abraham was ignorant of us**, and **Israel does not acknowledge us**. You, O LORD, are our Father; our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name.
- *(b) *John 16:23*. Whatever you ask the Father **in My name** He will give you.
- (c) *Matthew 6:7*. And when you pray, **do not use vain repetitions** as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their **many words**.
- (d) *James 1:6,7*. But let him ask **in faith**, with **no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let **not** that man suppose that he will **receive anything from the Lord**.
- (e) *1 John 5:14*. Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us.
- (e) *Luke 22:42*. Father, **if it is Your will**, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless **not My will, but Yours, be done**.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) True prayer must be addressed to the true God. Prayers spoken to false gods, the Virgin Mary, and other saints, are false prayers and are not heard.
- (B) True prayer must be uttered in the name of Jesus. Only when we believe in Him as our Savior and approach God in such faith are our prayers acceptable.

- (C) True prayer must be spoken thoughtfully and sincerely. A mechanical recitation is not pleasing to God.
- (D) True prayer must be offered with the confidence that God will hear us. Unless we expect an answer, we ask amiss.
- (E) True prayer must be made in accordance with God's will. The things which God has promised in the Scriptures (spiritual gifts, such as forgiveness of sins) we should ask for without condition. The granting of those things which God did not expressly promise (temporal gifts, such as health and prosperity) we should leave to the Lord's wisdom and add, "Not my will, but Thine be done."

4. Does God really answer every true prayer?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **2 Corinthians 12:8,9.** Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times **that it might depart from me.** And He said to me, **My grace is sufficient** for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.
- (b) **John 2:4.** **My hour** has not yet come.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

God answers every true prayer, but

- (A) In His own way, and
- (B) At His own time.

5. What else do the Scriptures teach of prayer?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **1 Timothy 2:1.** Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made **for all men.**
- (a) **Matthew 5:44.** Pray for **those who spitefully use you and persecute you.**
- (a) **Hebrews 9:27.** And as it is appointed for men to die once, but **after this the judgment.**
- (b) **1 Timothy 2:8.** I desire therefore that the men **pray everywhere.**
- * (b) **Matthew 6:6.** But you, when you pray, go **into your room,** and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is **in the secret place;** and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.
- (b) **Psalms 26:12.** **In the congregations** I will bless the LORD.
- (c) **1 Thessalonians 5:17.** Pray **without ceasing.**
- (c) **Psalms 50:15.** Call upon Me **in the day of trouble.**

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) We should pray for ourselves and for all other people, even for our enemies; but not for the souls of the dead.
- (B) We should pray everywhere, especially in private, that is, when we are alone, and in public worship.
- (C) We should pray at all times, especially in time of trouble.

6. How does our Lord Jesus Christ teach us to pray?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4.

In this manner, therefore pray: *Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER.

The Lord's Prayer may be divided into the Introduction, the Seven Petitions, and the Conclusion.

"Our Father in heaven": Our Father, almighty Ruler over all things, we, Your beloved children by faith in Christ Jesus, pray to You.

"Hallowed be Your name": Let us not dishonor You by false teaching and ungodly living, but help us to cling faithfully to Your pure and precious Word and to lead a life which is well-pleasing to You.

"Your kingdom come": Grant us a steadfast faith in our Savior that we may always remain members of Your kingdom, the holy Christian Church. Fill our hearts with a passion for souls, and bless the work of all who preach and spread Your saving Word, that Your kingdom may grow and prosper.

"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven": Bring to nothing the schemes of the devil and other enemies who seek to rob us of our soul's salvation. Help us in all things to obey You as gladly as do the angels in heaven. When You lead us in ways which seem dark and mysterious, grant that we may cheerfully submit our wills to Yours.

"Give us today our daily bread": Give us each day the things we need for this life, and make us truly grateful for them. Let us cast all our care upon You, for You care for us.

"And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us": Forgive us our many sins for Jesus' our dear Savior's sake, and, moved by Your great love to us, we promise readily and heartily to forgive all who wrong or grieve us.

"And lead us not into temptation": Do not let the devil and other foes tempt us, and if for our own good You permit them to do so, make us strong and victorious. Also help us to remember that we must never willfully expose ourselves to temptation.

"But deliver us from evil": Shield us from harm; and if in Your wisdom You place a cross on us, help us to bear it with Christian patience and trust, and finally take us to our home in heaven.

"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever": You alone are our King from whom we seek help. You alone have the power to grant our desires. You alone shall have all glory now and in eternity for what You have done for us.

"Amen": It shall be so.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The Lord's Prayer is the most excellent of all prayers

- (A) Because in few and simple words it expresses our every need of soul and body;
- (B) Because it places the emphasis on our spiritual needs.

Before the Next Lesson

FILL OUT Work Sheet No 19.

MEMORIZE the Bible passages marked with an asterisk (*)



READ Romans, chapters 5-11.

Work Sheet No. 19

1.

(A) We sing, "Prayer is the Christian's vital breath". What does this mean?.....

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(B) The Bible tells us to "Pray without ceasing". How can we do that?.....

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(C) Why does God find it necessary to urge us to pray?.....

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(D) When we are praying for bodily blessings we should add, "If Thou wilt". Why?

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2.

Give two reasons

(A) Why only a Christian can really pray;

(1)

(2)

(B) Why praying the rosary is not in harmony with the Bible;

(1)

(2)

(C) Why most lodge prayers must be condemned.

(1)

(2).....

3.

Mention some postures or attitudes of prayer (folding of hands, etc.) which you have noticed in Lutheran churches. Also explain, if you can, their meaning and purpose.....

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4.

We are to use "free prayers", in which we talk to God in our own words. At the same time we should make daily use of "fixed prayers," such as the Lord's Prayer. (You should have a good prayer book for daily use. If you do not have one, don't hesitate to ask the pastor to secure one for you.)

(A) Which book of prayers did God give us in the Bible?.....

(B) Mention, if you can, one or more other good prayer books.....

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