

Prayer, Conversations with
God

Pray For Necessities

Lesson Eleven

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Scriptures: I Chronicles 4:9, 10; Matthew 6:9-13; Acts 4:23-31; James 5:17, 18;

Lesson Goal: To encourage learners to pray for God's provision of the necessities of life.

Memory Verse: "You may ask Me for anything, in My name, and I will do it." John 14:14

We have said previously, in this study on prayer, that we have an open invitation from God to ask anything. That, obviously, would include things that we need to live and accomplish God's will on earth. He promised that not only would He honor our requests, but that He would be with us anywhere and everywhere, as long as the world is in existence. (Matthew 28:20) *

Jesus taught His disciples to pray for daily bread. (Mathew 6:11) By so doing, Jesus involved God in the provision of our food. This is not an invitation to sit quietly, refuse to work, and depend on God for all your food. The Bible is very clear that we are expected to work with God in providing all the necessities of life. Could it be that Jesus' prayer was, like all other things in His model prayer, an invitation for us to join God in provision of those things that make our world a better place and make our lives better? In that prayer, He said that when we pray, we should honor the name of God. He said that we should pray for God's Kingdom to come on earth. God has already come and His Kingdom is all that we know anything about. Our prayer then, is one of praise for who God is. He said that we should pray that God's will would be done. That is accomplished as God's people live out God's will. He said that we should ask for forgiveness of sin and that we should expect that to happen as we forgive those who sin against us.

So, when we pray for necessities, such as food, we can expect God to join us in our desire to be fed. God doesn't want anyone to be hungry. Therefore, not only are we to work at feeding ourselves, with His help, but we can be used by Him to feed others who are hungry.

A good question at this point is, "What are the necessities of life?" Rather than create a list of necessities, why don't we list some qualifications for necessities:

1. Necessities are things that sustain life...food, clothes, shelter...
2. Necessities are things that provide good social relationships...love, compassion, hope...
3. Necessities are things that provide spiritual life...salvation, prayer, God's Word...
4. Necessities are things that help us grow intellectually...education, reading, exchange of ideas...
5. Necessities are things that provide for healthy living...employment, safety, Christian joy...

Pray, Always:

To God
Through Jesus
By God's Holy Spirit

In Thanksgiving
With Joy
For Others

For Forgiveness
For Salvation
To Confess

For Necessities
For Ability

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God wants to be involved with us in these necessities. The way we get out of the will of God is to expect God to be with us beyond the necessities. Jesus didn't suggest that we pray for daily banquets of the richest food and drink. We make a mistake when we expect God to bless us beyond the necessities. Jesus, in His model prayer, didn't suggest that we call on God for forgiveness without condition. Our part is to be forgiving, just as we expect God to forgive.

One of the necessities we mentioned is spiritual living. Peter and John were put in prison, and upon their release, told not to speak about Jesus. They went back to the church and together they prayed for courage to continue their witness to Jesus. We can and should pray for ability and courage to share God's Word and work in our world. (Acts 4)

Healthy living is another necessity. Elijah got depressed. He was alone and afraid. God wasn't angry with Elijah for being depressed. Elijah carried on a dialogue with God in his depressed state. God came to him and challenged him and encouraged him. God brought him out of depression, showing him that he wasn't alone and giving him a new vision. We can and should pray for wisdom and joy to carry on our responsibility in God's will.

One of the most important Scriptural teachings related to prayer comes from John, the beloved apostle. He said, "Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from Him anything we ask, because we obey His commands and do what pleases Him." (I John 3:21, 22) God wants to give us all that we need. He does that best when we are in tune with His will and ready to receive His blessings.

Do some folks do better than others? Do some have much more than the necessities? Yes! Most of the time, someone has paid the price for their wealth. God obviously doesn't limit His children to bare necessities. One would only have to consider the wealth of Solomon to see that.

*Underlined sentences in the Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

Pray, like Jesus:

When Jesus was preaching the Sermon on the Mount, He said, "This, then is how you should 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 today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'" Matthew 6:9-13

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Student Worksheet

Pray For Necessities

Memory Verse: “You may ask Me for anything, in My name, and I will do it.” John 14:14

>God promised that not only would He honor our _____, but that He would be with us anywhere and _____, as long as the _____ is in existence. (Matthew 28:20)

>The Bible is very clear that we are expected to work with God in _____ all the necessities of life.

>When we pray for necessities, such as _____, we can expect God to _____ us in our desire to be fed. God doesn't want _____ to be hungry. Therefore, not only are we to work at _____ ourselves, with His help, but we can be _____ by Him to feed others who are _____.

>Some qualifications for the necessities of life are:

Necessities are things that _____ life...food, clothes, shelter...

Necessities are things that provide good _____ relationships...love, compassion, hope...

Necessities are things that provide _____ life...salvation, prayer, God's Word...

Necessities are things that help us _____ intellectually...education, reading, exchange of ideas...

Necessities are things that provide for _____ living...employment, safety, Christian joy...

>We can and should pray for ability and _____ to share God's word and work in our world. (Acts 4)

>We can and should pray for _____ and _____ to carry on our responsibility in God's will.

>God obviously doesn't limit His _____ to bare necessities.

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be ready to live for Him all the rest of your life.