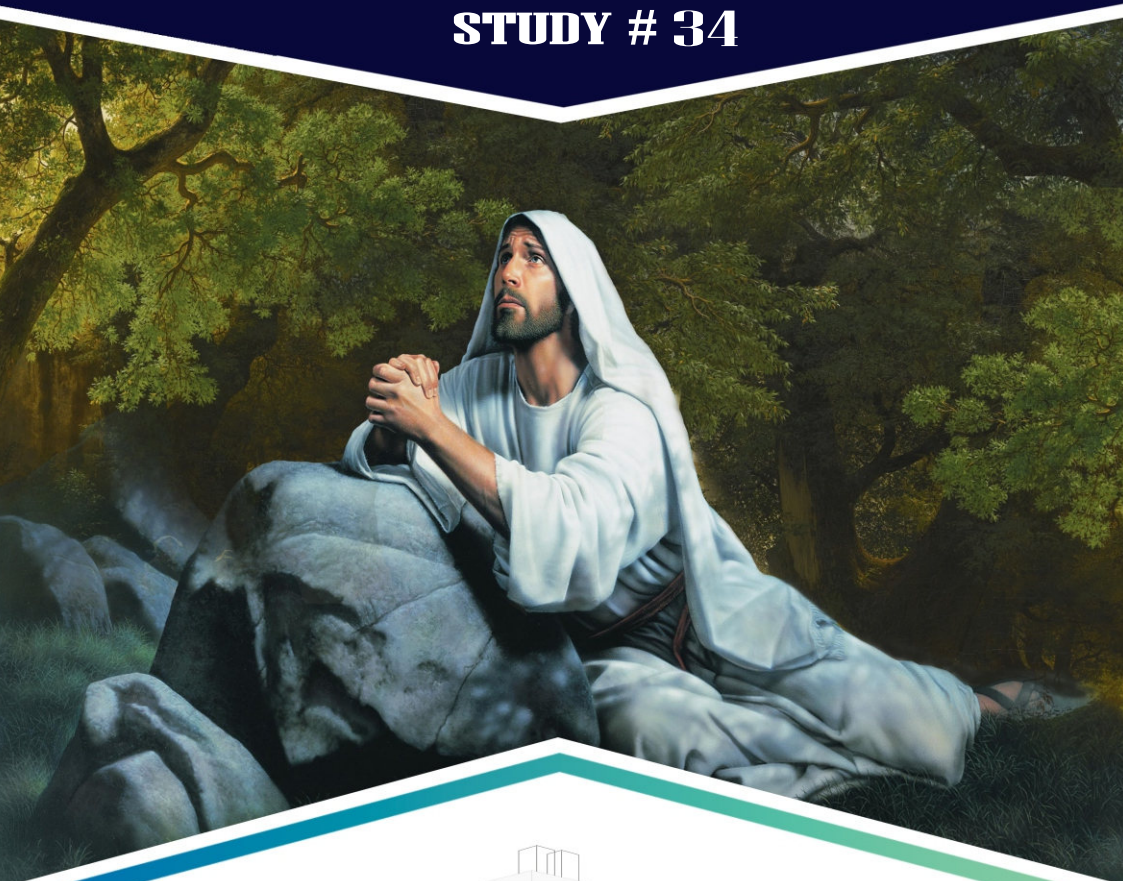


Lessons on Prayer

STUDY # 34



**THE GREAT TRUTHS OF
THE BIBLE**

"Thy word is truth" ...John 17:17



THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY : # 34

LESSONS ON PRAYER

PLEASE NOTE: Kindly refer to your Bibles for every scripture reference and read thoroughly.

MOST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ARE QUOTED FROM THE AUTHORISED KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

Today we will take up the study of a subject **VERY DEAR** to most Christians but very generally....**NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD!**

Yes! Today we will be studying lessons about Prayer:-

WHAT IS MEANT BY PRAYER ?

And, **WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH** about prayer?

Today we see **ALL** peoples of the world and of various religions **PRAYING** or claiming to



2

have a **COMMUNION** with **GOD**.

Even Christians of **ALL** the various denominations and churches give a lot of **TIME** and **IMPORTANCE** to prayer.

➡ Infact, **PRAYER** has come to be considered as **EVEN MORE IMPORTANT** than even Bible study !!

Thus it is that we see -

**PRAYER MEETINGS, FASTING &
PRAYER, ALL NIGHT PRAYERS, CHAIN
PRAYERS ETC.**



SO, WHAT REALLY IS PRAYER ?



PRAYER is a general term used to describe all manner of **PRAISE** or **THANKSGIVING** or **PETITIONS** or **REQUESTS** unto God.

**YES ! IT IS
PERSONAL AND
DIRECT
COMMUNICATION
WITH GOD.**



This much we **ALL** know about prayer !

3

Now we are going to study about something **WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT PRAYER !!**



Yes ! From the **BIBLE POINT OF VIEW** PRAYER is a **PRIVILEGE** which as the word itself implies is **OPEN** and **AVAILABLE** to.....only a **SELECT FEW !!**



THIS MAY COME AS A SURPRISE FOR MANY !

But let us learn from the Master Himself !
He never EVER asked the crowds that He spoke to and preached to **DAILY** to **PRAY !!**



WHY WAS THAT ?

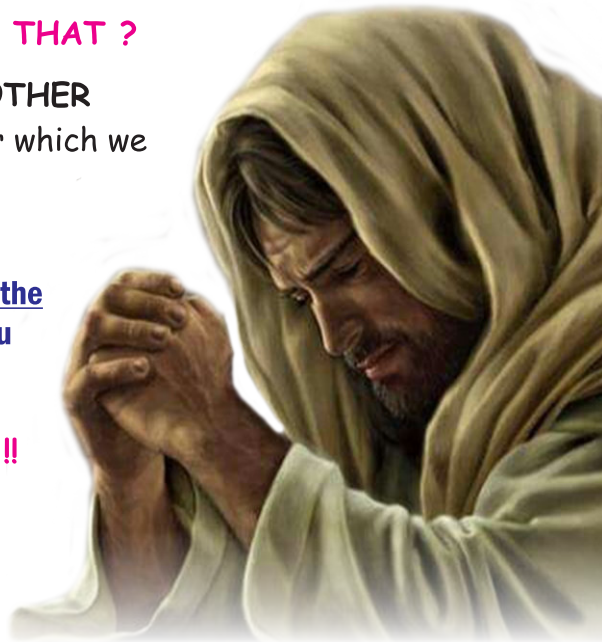
And now notice **ANOTHER ASTONISHING** matter which we read in -

John 17:9

“ I pray for them: I pray NOT for the world but for them which thou hast given me..”



JUST LOOK AT THAT !!



The **SAVIOUR** of the **WORLD** Himself **DOES NOT** pray for the world !!

Can you believe it ? !

WHY DID JESUS SAY THIS ????

4



Because there is something SPECIAL to be UNDERSTOOD about PRAYER in the Bible !

To understand this matter clearly we must **FIRST** study the **HISTORY** of the relationship between *God* and *Man* !!

We read from the scriptures in -

Genesis 4:14

“Behold thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and FROM THY FACE shall I be hid....”

Yes ! These words of **CAIN** represent the CONDITION of fallen mankind -

“...from thy face shall I be hid..”

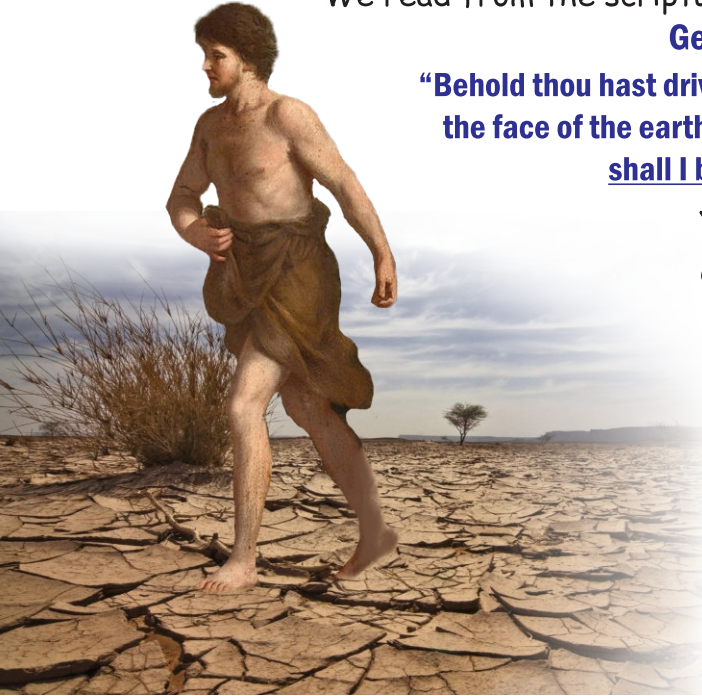
THIS REPRESENTS.....A SEPARATION FROM GOD !!

AND INDEED ! ALL MANKIND SINCE THEN HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM GOD AND HAVE FORGOTTEN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR CREATOR !!

Thus it is written of the world during God's kingdom when their “eyes of understanding” will be **OPENED** in -

Psalms 22:27

“All the ends of the world shall REMEMBER and turn unto the LORD...”



5



Thus **GENERALLY** all mankind have **LOST SIGHT OF** and
..... **FORGOTTEN**their **GOD** and **CREATOR** !

But there were certain exceptions !!



But these were **mere INDIVIDUALS** !!



There was **ENOCH** and **NOAH** and
ABRAHAM and **ISAAC** and **JACOB** and
JOB. These had the **KNOWLEDGE** of
God and prayed to Him !!

Then after the death of Jacob, God then
said to the children of Jacob thus in -

Amos 3:2

“You only have I know of all the families of the earth.....”

Yes ! God then **RECOGNIZED** and **COMMUNICATED**
to not just **INDIVIDUALS** but a whole
NATION.....THE NATION OF ISRAEL !

God **RECOGNIZED** them through a **COVENANT**
which we read about in -

Exodus 19:5

**“Now therefore if ye will obey my voice indeed , and keep my
covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar**



treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.

Yes ! This was the **LAW COVENANT** given to them through Moses on Mount Sinai !

In this special **COVENANT** relationship God gave to Israel the **AARONIC PRIESTHOOD** to serve between God and the people and their **SINS** were **ATONED** for annually through the **ATONEMENT DAY SACRIFICES** which we see recorded in the 16th chapter of the **BOOK of LEVITICUS**.



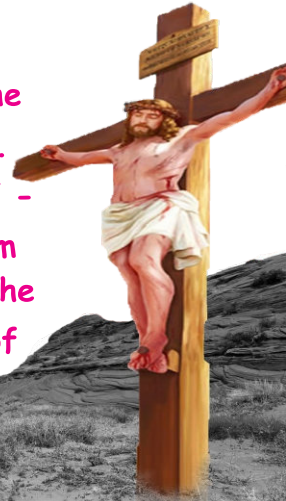
Thus being "cleansed" and in covenant relationship with God the **NATION OF ISRAEL** could then approach God in prayer !



They **ALONE** had the **KNOWLEDGE** and the **PRIVILEGE !!**



This was during the period called.....
THE JEWISH AGE -
and extended from Jacob's death to the
FIRST ADVENT of
Our Lord Jesus
Christ.



B.C. 1813 to A.D. 33

Thus it is that we read in -

John 4:22

"Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship:

for salvation is of the Jews.”



These are the words of Jesus Christ to the Samaritan woman at the well !

Jesus is speaking on behalf of the **“JEWS”** - the name given to the people of **“JUDAH. “or”JUDEA”**

Notice Jesus said that the JEWS KNEW GOD whom they worshiped.



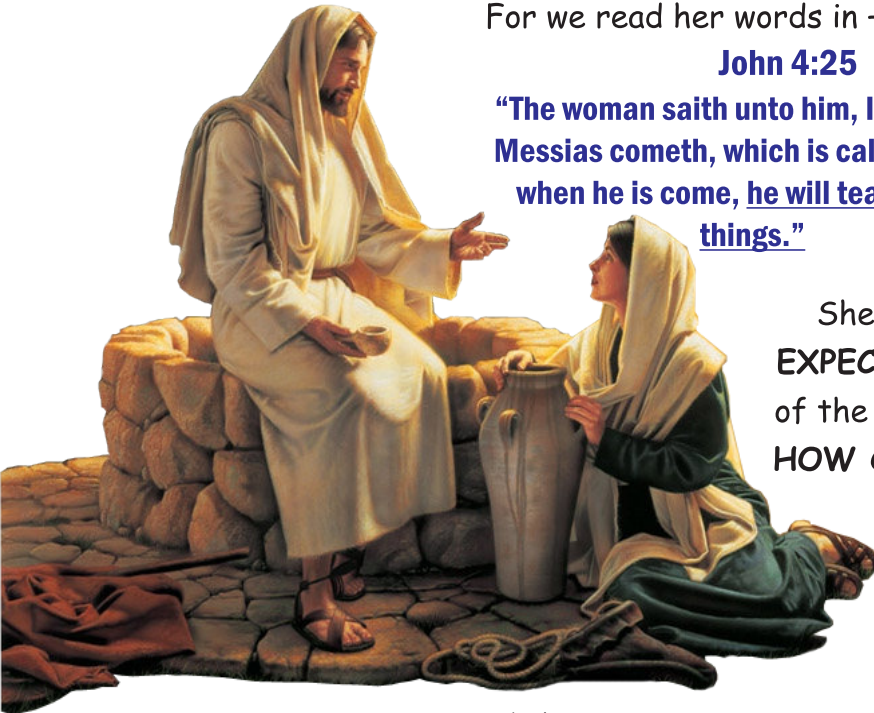
But who is this “Samaritan” woman ?

For we read her words in -

John 4:25

“The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will teach us all things.”

She was in
EXPECTATION
of the Messiah !
HOW COME ? !



We read the answer in -

John 4:12

“Art thou greater than OUR FATHER JACOB, which gave us the well....”

Yes ! The Samaritan claims to have Jacob as her “father” !

HOW COME ? AND HOW IS IT POSSIBLE ?

Yes! the Samaritan woman was also of Israel; **BUT OF THE SEPARATED 10-TRIBE NATION OF ISRAEL** whose capital was Samaria !

Though they worshiped God it was a blind worship of rituals, without much knowledge.

They had become almost like the gentiles.



At the end of the Jewish age **ISRAEL** were in two parts
- the nation of **JUDAH** and the nation of **ISRAEL**.

God's blessings and favor was upon Judah who is represented as the "rich man" in the parable of the **RICHMAN & LAZARUS !!**



But soon after, the Jewish Age ended as we read these words of Jesus in -

Matthew 23:37,38

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not ! Behold, your house is left unto you DESOLATE....."

These words were spoken by Jesus in the year 33 A.D. a little before **HE DIED !!**

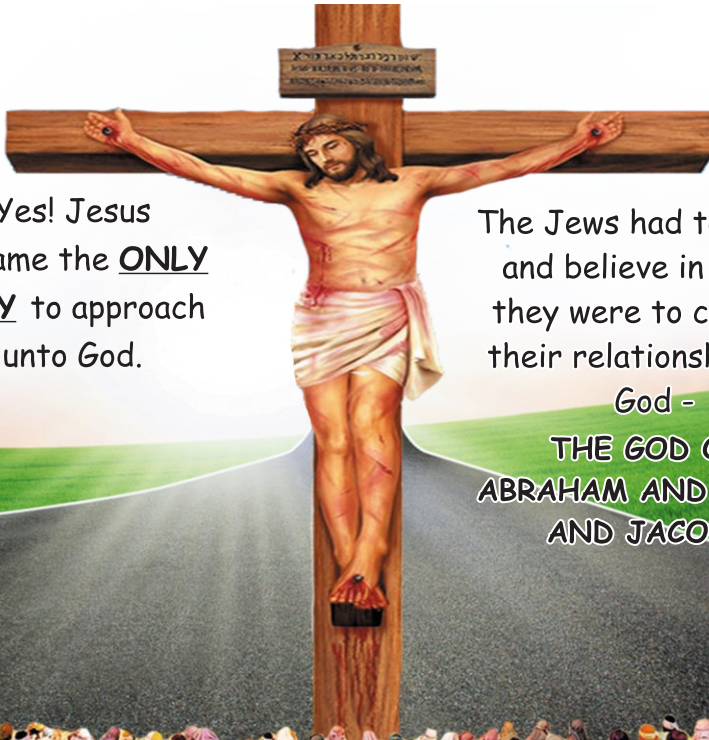
In that same year about 8-10 weeks later on the day of **PENTECOST BEGAN** a **NEW** Age in God's Plan.

...AND THE TERMS TO KNOW AND ENTER INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD HAD CHANGED !!

About the new "conditions" we read in

John 14:6

"I AM THE WAY.....no man cometh to the Father, but BY Me....."



Yes! Jesus became the **ONLY WAY** to approach unto God.

The Jews had to accept and believe in Him if they were to continue their relationship with God -

THE GOD OF ABRAHAM AND ISAAC AND JACOB !

They could **NO MORE DIRECTLY** approach God as they had been doing until then.

They now had to **ACKNOWLEDGE** and come through **JESUS** who was... **"the way."**

10

But the great **MAJORITY REJECTED** "the way"



and they were cut off from favor and fellowship with God
as represented by -

"the gulf"

In the parable of the "Rich Man and Lazarus"
which we read in -

Luke 16:26

"And besides all this between us and you there is a great gulf fixed..."

Nevertheless the **FEW** that believed entered into **THE
SPECIAL FAVOR OF GOD** -

THE CHRIST - IAN BLESSING !

This favor and "calling" was later extended even to the non-
jews - **THE GENTILES !**

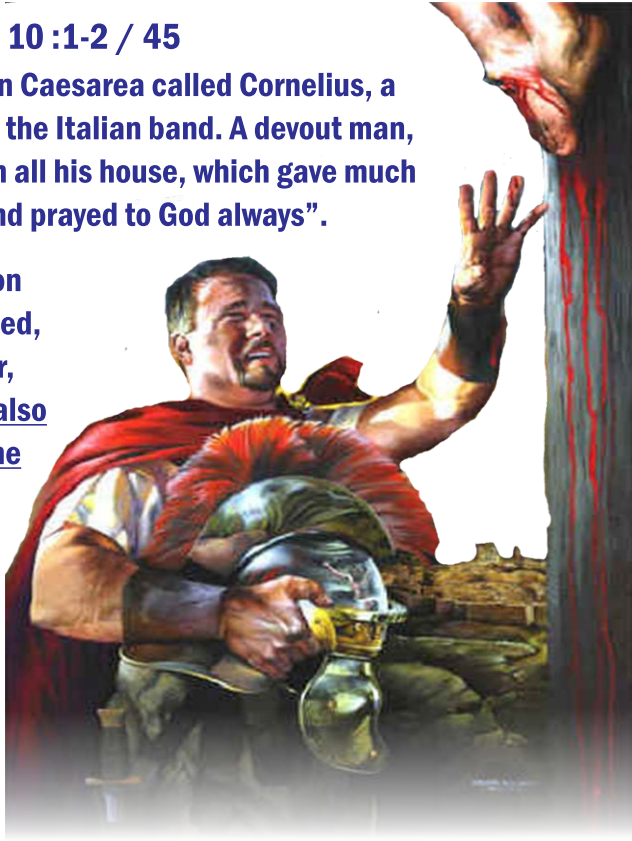
We read of the details of this very clearly in -

Acts 10 :1-2 / 45

“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band. A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always”.

“And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the gentiles also was poured out the gift of the holy Ghost.”

Yes ! Cornelius and his family were the **FIRST** of the gentiles to be accepted !!



ALL "believers" HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYING TO GOD- THROUGH JESUS.

But the "believer" stage is only the **FIRST** stage of the Christian "walk of life" and is the early stage of being "babes" (I Peter 2:2) spiritually !!

Christian "believers" of Jesus are "CALLED" to be.....
"FOLLOWERS" of HIM as we read in -

I Peter 2:21

“For even hereunto were ye called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should FOLLOW HIS STEPS....”



**BUT VERY FEW AMONG CHRISTIANS
UNDERSTAND THIS MATTER**

**“.....for MANY are called, but FEW
are chosen”**

(NIV) Matthew 22:14



**It is for THESE FOLLOWERS
that the PRIVILEGE of prayer
is offered during this Gospel
Age!**

This we read very clearly in -

Hebrews 4:16

**“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may
obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”**

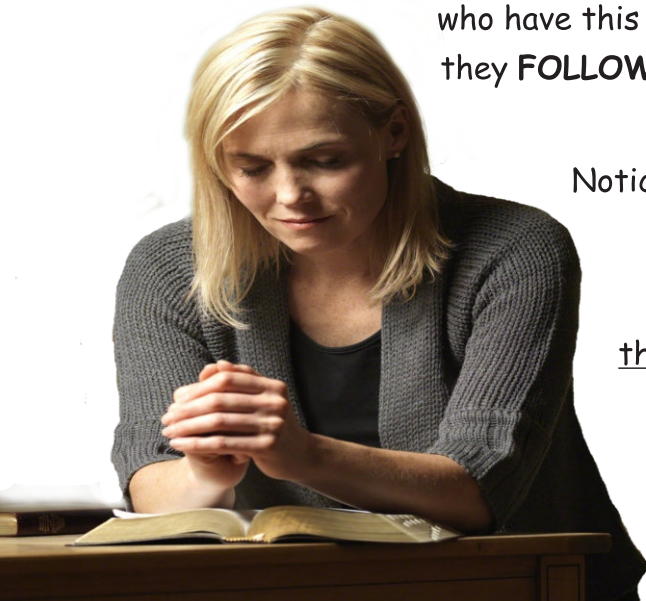
Here the “us” refers to that **CLASS** of.....“**FOLLOWERS**”

who have this **PRIVILEGE** of prayer as
they **FOLLOW** in the footsteps of the
Master...!!

Notice their **PRAYER** is for -

“mercy” ←

**the FORGIVENESS of
their SINS and the cleansing
of their **ROBES** of
RIGHTEOUSNESS
(Isaiah 61:10)**



➔ **“grace to help”**

the **SPIRITUAL STRENGTH** to withstand **TRIALS** and **TESTINGS** in the Christian walk.

Yes! **PRAYER** is **VERY IMPORTANT** for their **PROGRESS** “daily” and “hourly” in the **NARROW WAY** !!



But for many Christians the **QUESTION** asked is the **SAME ONE** asked by the disciples so many years ago which we read in -

Luke 11:1

“...one of His disciples said unto him, Lord teach us to pray..”



Yes! **HOW DO WE PRAY ?**

ISN'T THAT YOUR QUESTION TOO ?

In reply Our Lord begins the **LESSON** on how to pray in -

Matthew 6:9

“After this manner pray ye...”

Yes! This is as the Lord tells us - a “manner” or **METHOD** of prayer !



This is **NOT** a prayer to repeat again and again but rather is an **OUTLINE** or **MODEL** of prayer.

Now let us learn of the Lord the **LESSONS ON HOW TO PRAY.**

We begin by-



MATTHEW 6:9

“.....Our Father which art in Heaven.....”

Yes ! All prayer must be **FIRST** of all properly addressed to **“the Father”**, of whom and regarding whom Jesus said in -

John 17:3

“that they might know thee THE ONLY TRUE GOD....”

Yes ! And again the Apostle Paul taught us the same in -

I Corinthians 8:6

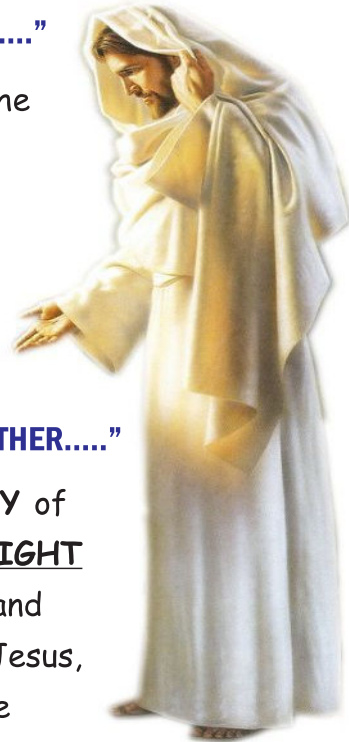
“To us there is BUT ONE GOD, THE FATHER....”

Yes ! And again the Apostle Paul taught us the same in -

I Corinthians 8:6

“To us there is BUT ONE GOD, THE FATHER....”

Today a great **MAJORITY** of Christians **HAVE LOST SIGHT** **OF** this **“great truth”** and address their prayers to Jesus, thinking him to be the Father.....and **GOD HIMSELF !!**



It is a privilege to know God and to call Him, "Father" for the Jews had **NO SUCH PRIVILEGE** for the great privilege of "sonship" was only given to, as we read in -

John 1:12

"But as many as received him to them gave he POWER to become the SONS of GOD"

DID YOU SEE THAT ??!... "gave He POWER...."

Yes ! And again the Apostle John writes of the same in -

I John 3:1

"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the SONS OF GOD.."

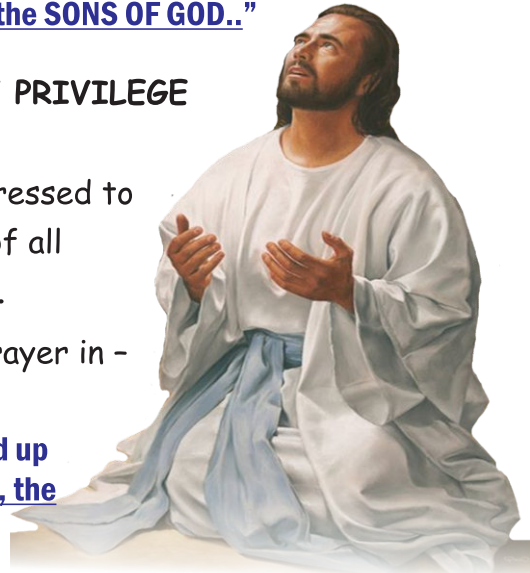
OH ! WHAT AN AWESOME PRIVILEGE WE HAVE !!

Yes ! All PRAYER must be addressed to **THE FATHER** and **GOD** of all (Ephesians 3:14, 15).

Note Jesus own example of prayer in -

John 17:1

These words spake Jesus and lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, Father, the hour is come..."



And the next lesson after that is -

2.

MATTHEW 6:9

"....Hallowed be they name....."

Yes ! Having addressed the Father-the **GOD** of all creation and the Universe we must look unto Him

in ADORATION and PRAISE.



There is SO MUCH TO PRAISE IN GOD

Yes ! His PERFECTION.....in justice, wisdom, power and love and of His unimaginable glory -



“...who lives in unapproachable light....”

SOME EXAMPLES OF PRAISE, IN ADDRESSING THE FATHER ARE -



Isaiah 57:15 - “the High and Lofty one that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy”
(ISAIAH)

“the God of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of Glory...” - **Ephesians 1:17**
(APOSTLE PAUL)



James 1:17 - “...the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning...”
(APOSTLE JAMES)

I will praise thy name forever and ever. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised and His greatness is unsearchable....” - **Psalms 145:2, 3**
(KING DAVID)



Nehemiah 9:6 - “You alone are the Lord you made the heavens even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them..”
(NEHEMIAH)

“There is none holy as the lord; for there is none beside thee; neither is there any Rock like our God !” - **I Samuel 2:2**
(HANNAH)



YES ! THUS ONE CAN GO ON...THE LIST IS ENDLESS !

Ah ! And after praising and adoring God the Father, the next lesson is -

3.

MATTHEW 6:10

“.....thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

The next thought that must come to mind is God's Word and in it the glorious **DIVINE PLAN FOR MAN** and **THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM**.



We recognize that kingdom “to come” is in its **EMBRYONIC** stage -

in the **ONGOING** development process of the church in the flesh !

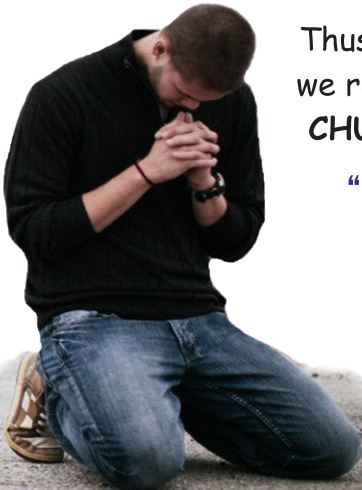


Thus it is that we read of the **CHURCH** in -

Colossians 1:13

“...and hath translated us into the Kingdom of his dear son.”

Yes ! the church is being selected to be of the **SPIRITUAL INVISIBLE PHASE** of the Kingdom of God under the rulership of Jesus -





..... the “King of kings and Lord of lords”.

Thus the prayer for **ALL** members of this church and their
**DEVELOPMENT** and..... **THE WORK OF THE
 HARVEST** is the praying of

“...thy kingdom come,...”

Every passing day brings us **CLOSER** and **CLOSER** to the
 coming of this Kingdom and the complete fulfillment
 of this prayer.

“.....thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.”

Yes! The **ACTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS KINGDOM**
 on **EARTH.....**at the **SECOND COMING** of **JESUS** is the
 fulfillment of this part of the prayer.

Now we come to the **FOURTH** lesson in -

4.

MATTHEW 6:11

“Give us this day our daily bread”

Many mistake this request for the **LITERAL** bread of
 food and sustenance.

But **NOTE** the Master's commands
 on this matter in -

Matthew 6:8

“Be **NOT** ye therefore like unto them: for
 your Father knoweth
 what things ye have need of, before ye ask
 him.”

(Please also read **Matthew 6:31,32**)



Yes ! We are to **TRUST** God for **ALL** of our temporal needs of **food**, **clothing** and **shelter** for it is written in -

Hebrews 13:5

“.....for he hath said, I will NEVER leave thee NOR forsake thee....”

(Please also read **Isaiah 33:16**)

Yes ! What a most wonderful **ASSURANCE** from the **LORD GOD** Himself !

Then **WHAT** is the “daily bread” being referred to over here ?

It is the **SPIRITUAL** “bread” of God's word as we read in -

Jeremiah 15:16

“Thy words were found, and I did eat them...”

Yes ! The **CHURCH DAILY** needs God's **WORDS** of **GUIDANCE** for.....**SPIRITUAL GROWTH** and.....**LIFE**.

This “daily bread” also signifies a **DAILY** seeking for the Holy Spirit of God as we read in -

Luke 11:11-13

“...how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him.”

Yes ! The **HOLY SPIRIT** must be prayed for **DAILY** as the “oil”



that brings forth the "light" from the "lamp" of God's Word.

PLEASE NOTE : The words "give us" and "our" **CLEARLY** suggest that prayer be for the **WELFARE** and **PROVIDENCE** of the whole Body of Christ as a family rather than **ONLY** for self !

Now we come to the **FIFTH** of our lessons in Prayer -



MATTHEW 6:12

"....and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.."



What is meant by these "debts" ?

They refer to our **SINS** !

Thus this refers to the **CONFESSION** of sins and **THE SEEKING FOR FORGIVENESS.**

Having received the "heavenly gift" which we read in **Hebrews 6:4** of **JUSTIFICATION** from sin through.....faith in Jesus' sacrifice,

the Christian is said to be thus wearing a "robe of righteousness" (**Isaiah 61:10**)



But this "spotless" robe is "soiled" (made dirty) with **EVERY SIN COMMITTED AFTER THAT !!**



These "marks" must be washed away.

HOW, YOU MAY ASK? !

We read of how in -

I John 1:9-10

“If we CONFESS our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to CLEANSE us from all unrighteousness....”

Yes ! Forgiveness of sins is gained by a Christian through the
CONFESSON OF THE SINS COMMITTED.

This must
be.....**DAILY** and
even.....**MANY** times
a day !



But in asking for the “forgiveness of our debts” - **SINS** -
we must keep one principle in mind as recorded in the
words of the Lord in -

Matthew 6:14,15

**“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also
forgive you. But if ye forgive NOT men their trespasses, neither will
your father forgive your trespasses.”**

Yes ! Here is God's **CONDITIONS FOR THE
FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS** -



.....TO FORGIVE those who have sinned against you !!

INDEED ! WHAT A MARVELLOUS PRINCIPLE !!!



But here God makes it clear that the more forgiveness we seek from him -

- CORRESPONDINGLY
THE MORE WE NEED
TO FORGIVE OTHERS
AND THEIR WRONGS
DONE UNTO US.



Just think about this !



Just **CLOSE** your eyes for a moment.....and think about all the **SINS** of yours that you need **GOD** to **FORGIVE** you and then.....think about all the **WRONGS** and **SINS** others have done unto you and which you have the **OPTION** to **FORGIVE** !



WILL you FORGIVE ?

A LITTLE BIT ? Or ALL !!

Then **YOUR SINS** too TO THAT EXTENT will find **FORGIVENESS** with God !



Imagine how much of **TENSIONS, BLOOD PRESSURE PROBLEMS, HEART ATTACKS** and **STROKES** can be

AVOIDED if one only PUT..... THIS PRINCIPLE OF GOD INTO PRACTICE !

This principle helps to develop the "golden" - **GODLIKE** - grace of.....MERCY towards one's fellow men.

Now we reach the SIXTH lesson of prayer -



MATTHEW 6:13

"...and lead us NOT into temptation, but deliver us from evil"

Here there are TWO thoughts implied in the TWO PARTS OF THIS VERSE.

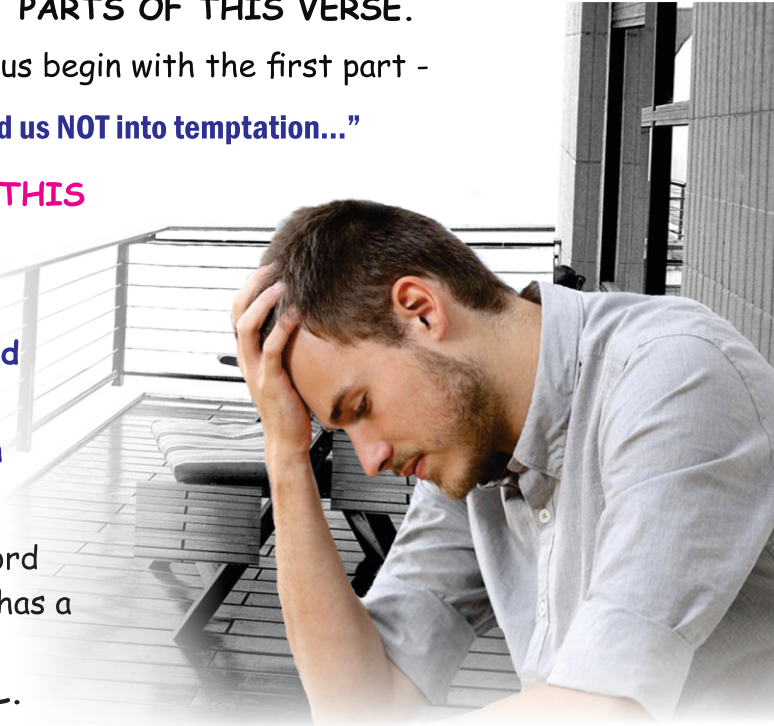
Let us begin with the first part -

".... lead us NOT into temptation..."

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?

Is it that we must pray to God to be NOT led into temptation at all ??

Here the word "temptation" has a meaning of.....TRIAL.



And we read of the EXPERIENCES of a Christian in the "narrow way" in -

James 1:2,12

“My brethren, count it all JOY when ye fall into divers temptations.”

“BLESSED is the man that endureth temptation...”

And again in the words of Apostle Peter in -

I Peter 4:12

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the FIERY TRIAL which is to try you...”

and again in -

I Peter 1:6

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations....”

Yes ! All these scriptures speak of

REJOICINGLY.....entering into “temptations” !!

But before we understand the DEPTH of this matter let us

NOTE that there are TWO MEANINGS of “temptation” in

this first chapter of James and their

MEANINGS.....GREATLY DIFFER !

Let us see that verse in -

James 1:13

“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God CANNOT be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.



This “temptation” mentioned here refers to THE FALLEN AND DEPRAVED DESIRES of the flesh and.....the PLEASURES of sin.

DESSENSION
 DRUNKENNESS
 IDOLATRY
 DRUNKENNESS
 DISCORD
 IMPURITY
 SEXUAL IMMORALITY
 JEALOUSY
 FITS OF RAGE
 HATRED
 WITCHCRAFT
 SELF AMBITION
 HATRED
 SELF AMBITION
 DEBAUCHERY

 Yes! This is a temptation that **DOES NOT COME FROM GOD !!**

But the "temptation" from God to the **Christian** is one of **TRIAL** to **TEST**.....and.....**PROVE FAITH** and.....to develop **CHARACTER ATTRIBUTES.**

Now coming back to the scripture it seems to say
"lead us NOT into "trials"



IS IT TRUE ?

Do we pray to God to **NOT** give us any **TRIALS** ?
Or to **TAKE AWAY** all the **TRIALS** ??



Most **DEFINITELY NOT !!**

For, remember the words of the Apostle James in Chapter 1 and verse 2 and 12 where he says it is **GREAT JOY** to fall into **TRIALS** and a great **BLESSING** too - because **THROUGH** those very **TRIALS** one becomes **WORTHY** to receive the "**CROWN OF LIFE**" !!



THEN WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THIS SCRIPTURE OVER HERE ?

Here the word "lead" could be better translated as -
"abandon" or



"....ABANDON us NOT into temptation" (TRIALS).

Yes! This is a reference to the **PLEA** for the promised **"GRACE TO HELP"** from the Lord in those **TRIALS** as found in His precious **PROMISES** in His word in -

Hebrews 13:5

“for he hath said, I will NEVER leave thee nor forsake thee...”

and again in -

Matthew 28:20

“...I am with you always, even unto the end of the world...”

YES ! IS'NT IT VERY CLEAR ?

Thus the Apostle Paul wrote to every fellow Christian in the midst of his/her **TRIALS** and “temptations” to pray for **GRACE** as we read in -

Hebrews 4:16

“... come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain MERCY and find GRACE to help in time of need.”

Yes ! Isn't it **VERY CLEAR** that the prayer is **NOT** to **TAKE AWAY** the “temptations” but rather for the **STRENGTH** to **BEAR** and **OVERCOME** the **TRIALS** !!



**And now we come to the second half of the verse -
“...but deliver us from evil...”**

What does this mean?

This refers to the evil **WITHIN OURSELVES** -

Yes ! The **WEAKNESSES OF THE FLESH**, for which the Evil One, Satan, is always looking for an opportunity to arouse in us as we read in -

Matthew 26:41

“Watch and pray that ye enter NOT into temptation, the spirit indeed is **WILLING, but the flesh is weak....”**

This refers to all the sins and weaknesses of our **FLESH**

and MINDfrom which the Lord ALONE can deliver us
and give us the VICTORY !



Each one of us knows ONE'S own particular weakness and
we must FIGHT A GOOD FIGHT over it and NOT SAY-

"I AM LIKE THIS ONLY."

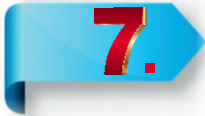
Then only will one get the GRACE from the LORD to
OVERCOME !



YES ! IT IS A BATTLE UNTO DEATH !!

Here TOO we see the word "us" showing that the prayers
must also include the thought of other members of the Body
of Christ IN SIMILAR CONDITIONS.

The SEVENTH AND LAST lesson in prayer and a very
important one is found in -



Colossians 3:17

**"And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all
IN THE NAME of the Lord Jesus...."**

Yes ! The concluding thoughts of ALL prayer MUST be to
remember the Master who was the one who gave us the
great PRIVILEGE to approach the Father and to "ask" in
prayer as we read very clearly in -

John 16:23,24

**"Verily, Verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father IN MY
NAME, He will give it youask, and ye shall receive,
that your joy may be full."**

Yes! It is ONLY THROUGH THE SON
that one can reach the Father !

For we are NEVER to forget the
words of the Lord in -

John 15:5

“.....for without me you can do NOTHING...”

Thus the CONCLUDING THOUGHT
of all prayer to God is to remember
and acknowledge the Son and the
great HEAD (Ephesians 1:22)
of us all.



**It is but appropriate that ONE BEGINS his/her prayers
by looking to THE FATHER and..... CONCLUDES by
looking to THE SON !**



For are NOT ALL things OF the Father
and....THROUGH the Son ?



FINALLY IN CONCLUSION

we turn to the words of the
Apostle Paul to the
Thessalonians in -

I Thessalonians 5:17

“...pray without ceasing...”

**WHAT DOES THAT
MEAN ?**



Does that mean we pray **ALL THE TIME.....DAY AND NIGHT** and
**NEGLECT** all other duties of family and work ?

→ MOST DEFINITELY NOT !!

For we very clearly read of the duties to family
 and loved ones in -

I Timothy 5:8

**“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own
 house, he hath denied the faith and is worst than an infidel.”**

Yes ! It is a **CHRISTIAN DUTY** to look after the needs
 of one's family.



Then what is the thought here of -

“praying without ceasing...”

Here the thought is that **PRAYER** is to become



A CEASELESS PART OF THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE

in the form of -

....PRAYER AS A CHURCH (GROUP) ←

....FAMILY PRAYER ←

....INDIVIDUAL PRIVATE PRAYER. ←



**YES ! WE ARE TO
 BE.....PRAYING (“without
 ceasing”) CHRISTIANS !**



This "praying without ceasing" **COULD ALSO** represent a **PRAYERFUL MANNER** of living one's life - always seeking the Lord's **GUIDANCE** and **WILL in every matter** of the day to day life !!



Yes !LOOKING UNTO the Lord always !

In this we have **A MOST WONDERFUL EXAMPLE** in Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, of whom it is written in -

Hebrews 5:7

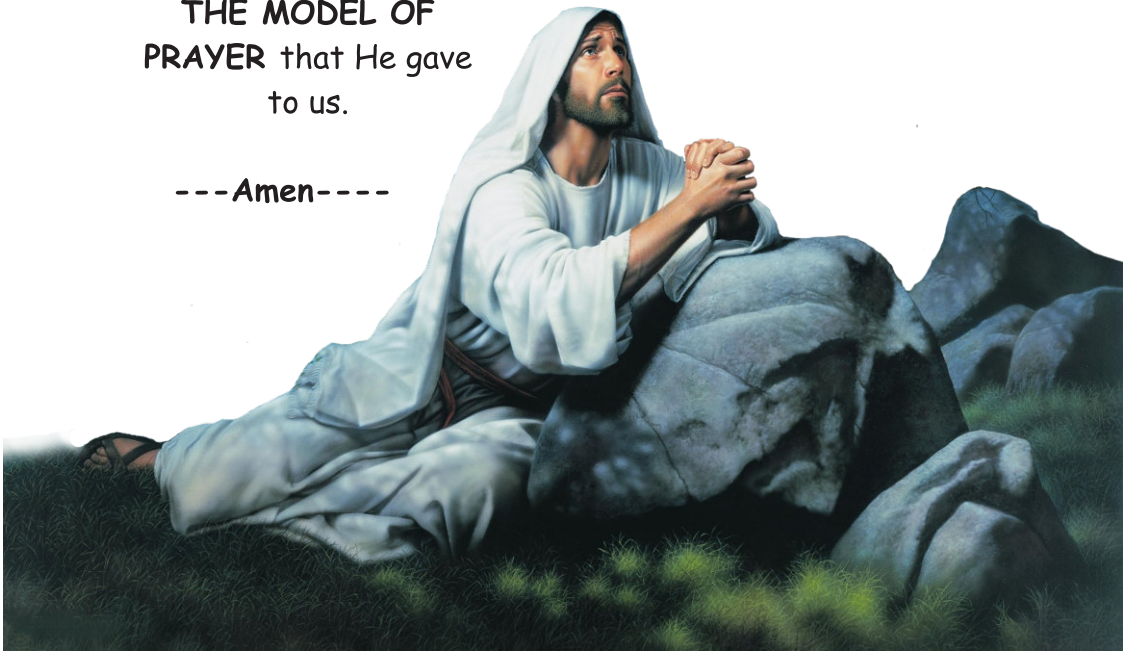
"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared."

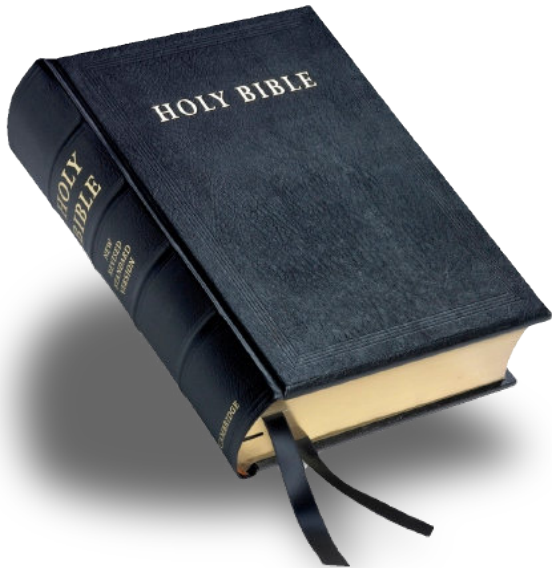
YES ! WHAT AN EXAMPLE TO LEARN FROM !

Yes ! Dear brethren and sisters TODAY we did learn someLESSONS ON PRAYER from the Lord Himself and from

THE MODEL OF PRAYER that He gave to us.

---Amen---





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