

## Lesson 1- Developing A Walk With God

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**T**his first lesson is probably the greatest lesson of all, because in it we will consider what Jesus taught as most important. When asked "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus replied:

***"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul. And with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment."***

***Matthew 22:37,38***

If Jesus states this as the greatest commandment, then anyone who hopes to lead as He did must become a worshipper of God. In John chapter 4, Jesus explains this to a woman who had a few problems:

***"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers 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."***

***John 4:23,24***

Her problem:

She had a void in her life and longed for intimacy.

She tried to find it through one relationship after another but was unsuccessful.

She needed this "void" to be filled by God.

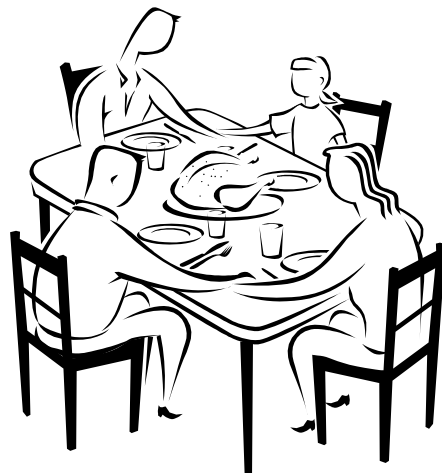
She had so much religion that she could not understand what it really meant to become a worshipper of God.

The answer:

Jesus brought her to "true worship"

These verses highlight two very important things. First, that the Father is actually seeking individuals who are "true worshippers", or in other words, are not hypocrites or simply "religious" in their expression of worship. Second, that those who are true worshippers **MUST** worship Him in spirit and truth. What do you think that "true worship" is? What does worshiping in "spirit and in truth" mean? How serious are you about becoming a "true worshipper"?

Lets deal with that first question: What is worship? Basically, worship is *honour given to a superior being* - specifically to do with what



one is. In other words, we worship God because of who He is. It is our response to his character and nature. Worship says that you are greater than I am and I honour you.

There is also a difference between worship and praise. Praise is *to express admiration or approval for - specifically to do with what one does*. In other words, we praise God because of what He has done for us. It is our response of admiration or approval, based on what he had done.

What is the difference? Praise is **the acknowledgement of what God has done** for us, but worship is far deeper. It recognises **who He is** and honours Him regardless of what he does.

### **Conclusion**

God is looking for true worshippers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. We may praise Him and thank Him for all the great things that He does, but our main goal should be to become true worshippers who give honour to Him simply because of who He is.

## Lesson 2 - Developing A Walk With God (part 2)

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The following are 10 suggestions from the scriptures to encourage a lifestyle of true worship. These are not hard fast rules, but simply guidelines to encourage a life of intimacy with the Father. Learn each heading with at least one scripture reference in order to begin to draw near to God.



1. Wake up with God

Greet God every day with a cheerful "Good morning". That sets the atmosphere for the day and our sights on things above. Matthew 6:21; Colossians 3:1,2.

2. Spend quality time with Him each day

This includes regularly reading through the bible, and prayer. Try writing down each day what God is saying to you. Isaiah 40:31; 2 Timothy 2:15. Why not spend time during your lunch period with Him. Daniel 6:10; Psalm 55:17.

3. Talk to Him throughout the day

Learn to practice His presence, the way that you would think of a friend that is traveling with you on a journey. Instead of talking to yourself, talk to God. Psalm 139: 1-7; Psalm 55:17.

4. Pray when something happens during the day

Do you hear a siren, are work mates in an argument, is something happening in the news? Pray! Ephesians 6:18; 1 John 5:14,15.

5. Have a worshipful, thankful heart

Remember to find something to thank God for each day. Dwell on the positives and negate the negatives. 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Psalm 149:6-9. Rom. 8:28.

6. Memorise God's word

It will give you a well to draw from! James 1:21; Psalm 119:11; Hebrews 2:1.

7. Love your neighbour

When we make an effort to love others as ourselves, we are fulfilling one of the greatest commandments. Matthew 5:43-48; 22:39.

8. Share Christ with others

When you really love Him, you will want others to know Him as well.  
Matthew 28:19,20; 1 Peter 3:15.

9. Take time for silent meditation in His word

Taking time to meditate on God's word will draw you closer to God.  
You will also be able to hear from Him much better. Psalm 46:10; 1  
Timothy 4:15.

10. Have a clear conscience

- a. Don't allow anything to hinder your relationship between God and men. This can mean dealing with past issues where either you have hurt others or when others have hurt you. Anytime we know something is wrong, it must be corrected immediately through confession and, if necessary, restitution. We then forget it and move on, not allowing our guilt feelings to molest us once the Lord has forgiven us. Acts 24:16; Luke 24:32; Ecclesiastes 11:9,10.

**Conclusion**

As stated in our introduction, these are guidelines to follow, not hard fast rules. You could easily start these things and then get discouraged or in bondage to them. Don't try to keep every detail to the letter but simply use these to point you in the right direction. Tell the Lord that you are serious about seeking Him. A life of walking in fellowship with Him will add a new dimension to every area of your life.

## Lesson 3 - Prayer

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**O**ne common thread in every religion or faith group is prayer. All over the world you will find people who pray in different ways in an effort to somehow talk to God. People pray standing, sitting, bowing, kneeling, with eyes open and shut, in churches, cars, homes, offices, even at sporting events. They also direct their prayers in different ways. They pray to idols, animals, the earth, ancestors, saints, holy people, relatives, even demons! Can we just pray to anyone or anything we feel like and expect God to hear us?



### *Who should we pray to?*

First of all, it is important to understand that when people pray they are appealing to someone who they believe is **greater than themselves** and who has the **ability** to help them in their request. Whenever someone prays they are actually putting their **faith** in something or someone; or in other words, they trust that that being is able and willing to help them.

Next it is important to know that your faith is only as good as the one you put your faith in. I may ask a good friend to give me £1000 to help me out of debt, but no matter how much I ask, that friend can only give me the money if he has the ability to do so. If my friend has no money, my friend cannot help me! Therefore if you pray to someone or something that is unable to help you, you will not receive help no matter how much you try.

Here are a few things that are both basic and vital to prayer:

- Only God, the Almighty Creator, is greater than all and has the ability and desire to help us. We can trust in a lot of beings or people, but only God can really answer us.
- We now can go directly to God through Jesus Christ, who shed his blood for our sins and made us children of God. We have access to him through faith in him! (See Romans 5:1,2; Ephesians 2:17-19; Ephesians 3:12). He is the only one that can save us from our sins and the only way to the father is through him. Look at what The apostle Peter said in Acts 4:9-12 about Jesus after doing a great miracle in His name:  
*"...If we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the*

*stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

- It doesn't really matter how much faith we have. What is really important is ***whom our faith is in***. Suppose you were in a burning building on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor with no chance of escape. Suddenly paramedics arrive with a trampoline and tell you to jump. You may have a very firm belief that they will catch you and jump immediately, or you may be so frightened and fearful about jumping out of a building that you hesitate for several minutes or even hours. What really matters is that you jump. If you don't jump, you burn. When the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith he said:

*"If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.*

## **Conclusion**

God is our creator who is greater than all and has the desire and the ability to help us. We have access to Him through Jesus Christ, who shed His blood for our sins. Because of Jesus, we can talk to God in prayer about anything and have access to His help and protection

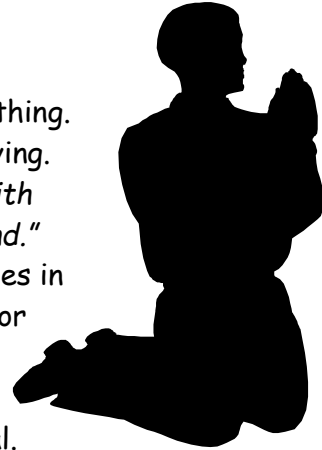
## Lesson 4 - Prayer (part 2)

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**W**e learned in our last lesson that when we become a Christian we have **access** to God through Jesus Christ. This means that we can pray any time anywhere and God will hear us. But why is it that our prayers often seem to go unanswered? To answer this question, we need a better understanding of what prayer is and then we can explore some of the reasons why some find it difficult to pray.

### **What is prayer?**

Prayer is simply talking to God about anything and everything. Whenever we begin a conversation with God, we are praying. We read in Exodus 33:11 that "*The LORD would speak with Moses face-to-face, just as someone speaks with a friend.*" Just as we communicate different ways at different times in earthly conversations, so it is the same when we pray. For example, When I am talking to my boss in a meeting I may address him a bit more formally, but when we are relaxing on a break, our conversation is much more casual.



I address him completely differently when asking him for a raise! In the same way, there are times when I may address our heavenly Father a bit more formally and other times when I may speak to Him in a much more casual way. I come to Him respectfully, yet with great expectancy when I am asking Him to supply a need. In each of these instances I am communicating with God - I am praying!

Prayer is the way that we gain access to heaven (the realm of God) to influence things on earth. God could do everything all by Himself, but he chooses to work with us through prayer. We are told to ask, seek, knock, (Matthew 7:7,8) and to pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We are encouraged to pray for all people asking for God's help as we pray and to be watchful (Ephesians 6:18). If we want the things on earth to become more like heaven, we must pray (Matthew 6:9,10).

### **Why do we find it difficult to pray?**

- **Discouragement** - sometimes we become discouraged when it seems that God doesn't answer us and eventually give up (Galatians 6:7,8).
- **Religious Attitudes**- to some, prayer can be no more than a religious exercise with no depth or sincerity (Luke 18:9-14).
- **Doubt** - we can't please God if we don't trust him (Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6-8).
- **Lack of intimacy** - it is difficult to talk to someone that you don't really know well (Ephesians 3:17-19).

- **Wrong motives**- sometimes what we are asking for is not good for us (James 4:3)
- **Ignorance** - we are used to something different - we are not accustomed to talking to someone that we cannot see (1 John 4:20).
- **Bitterness**- holding grudges against others will hinder our prayers (Hebrews 12:15).
- **Un-forgiveness** - If we do not forgive those who have wronged us, how can we expect to be forgiven of our own wrongs? (Mark 11:24-26)

**How can we make it better?**

- Ask God to forgive you of any sin and accept his forgiveness (James 5:16-20).
- Be truthful and honest as you talk to Him. Tell Him what you are really thinking! (Psalm 51:6).
- Begin to talk to God normally in a private place (Matthew 6: 5-15).
- Start with a little and add to it as you begin to get closer to God (James 4:8).
- Ask God to help you as you pray (Romans 8:26).
- Don't give up! (Luke 18:1-8)

**Conclusion**

When it comes down to it, talking to God can be pretty much like talking to anyone else, except for the fact that you cannot see Him. Do you ever talk to yourself? Try instead to direct the same conversation to God. The more you get used to it, the closer you will get to Him!



## Lesson 5 - Prayer (part 3)

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**A**s you begin to grow in your prayer life, you will discover that there are several types of prayer mentioned in the bible. In 1 Timothy chapter 2 there are four words used to describe different types of prayer mentioned in the first verse alone! In this lesson we will look at two of these: supplication and intercession.

### What is supplication?

Definition: humble earnest petition; entreaty, solicitation (Webster's Third New International Dictionary). When we make supplications, we are bringing **specific requests** to God with a humble and sincere heart. There is also the sense of earnest, which implies an eager pursuit and longing of a thing.

The bible encourages us to bring this type of request to God regularly:

- Philippians 4: 6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.
- Ephesians 6: 18 - "...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."

### What is intercession?

Definition: To mediate; to interpose; to make intercession; to act between parties with a view to reconcile those who differ or contend; usually followed by with.

In other words, to intercede means **to stand between** parties with the aim of sorting out their differences. Here are a few examples of people in the bible who interceded on the behalf of others:

- In Genesis chapter 18 we read that three angels came to Abraham and told him of God's plan to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham interceded for the people of the two cities. He stood between them and God, pleading on their behalf.
- Moses interceded for the children of Israel on many occasions (see Numbers 14:1-5; 16:42-48).
- Samuel also prayed on behalf of the children of Israel (1 Samuel 12:18-25).



- In Acts chapter 12, Peter was imprisoned and probably would have been killed, but the church interceded on his behalf. Peter was miraculously released.
- Our greatest example of intercession is Jesus, who even now intercedes for us (Romans 8:34).

### Conclusion

Here we have looked briefly at two ways in which we can be much more direct and effective in our prayers. We can bring our earnest and specific request (supplications) to God and we are able to stand on behalf of others. Now comes the most exciting part; doing it!

## Lesson 6 - How To Read The Bible With Understanding

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I can remember in my early years as a Christian making an attempt to read through the bible from cover to cover. As I read through the book of Genesis I found the stories of the lives of people very exciting and I was making great progress. Exodus was even better, until I came to chapter 21, when I became completely lost with the various laws and rules that made no sense to me. It was at that point that I lost my focus, and eventually gave up.

There were other problems as well. Often when I tried to read the bible I would fall asleep or lose concentration. After a while I found myself putting off my reading of the scriptures until what I called "a more convenient time". I was also very easily distracted by almost anything. I would find myself listening to the conversation of others around me or my eyes would wander towards the television.

Does this sound familiar? In this lesson I want to explore several practical suggestions to help you get the most out of reading the bible.



### Have the right attitude

I believe that the first and probably most important thing that must change is our approach to the bible. Three things to consider:

- The bible is a spiritual book - 1 Corinthians 2: 14 says, "...the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." To understand the things in the bible, you must **pray for understanding** and wisdom. It must be approached prayerfully.
- God speaks through the bible - Some read the bible only for information, to prove a point, or even to contradict it. Even the devil knows the bible, but he has not acquainted himself with it for the same reason as us. When we read the bible we are **trying to hear what God is saying to us**. God will reveal truth to you when you seek Him.
- The bible must become your priority. When you really **make up your mind to seek God** through the bible, you will find Him. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the bible and is all about seeking God's word.

### Find the right place and time

Believe it or not, the environment and time you choose makes a big difference. First, choose a place that you can go to that is quiet and private. It is important

to be at a place and time with as little distraction as possible. When Jesus taught about prayer these were his suggestions:

*"... When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*

*Matthew 6:6*

I have found that reading the bible first thing in the morning works best for me. If I have had a good rest I am alert and ready to receive. It also sets my mind for the rest of the day. God's word encourages us to seek Him early (see Psalm 63:1 and Proverbs 8:17). Even when you are away from home, you can find a "closet" type place to read a bit of the word each day. Try a bit during your lunch break or even on the bus or train as you travel.

### **Have the right tools**

Often we have trouble understanding the bible when we are unfamiliar with the circumstances surrounding the passage. This is why it is good to get a few bible tools to help you when you are reading, particularly when reading some of the more difficult parts of the bible. Two quick suggestions:

- Purchase a good reference bible - reference bibles have notes within the margins that will tell you about the history and important facts surrounding the passage you are reading. Some even give spiritual lessons that will help you to apply what you are reading. Bibles that translate the scriptures into modern English are also very helpful.
- Use our notes - later in this course we will begin to outline the entire bible book by book. We have notes available that explain the essentials of each book and give a brief outline as well. We will go over this in greater detail in later lessons.

### **Conclusion**


When you sit down to read the bible, make sure you are in a quiet place where you can comfortably be alone with God. Be prepared with your good bible and a notebook, so that you can write down anything that God says to you. Spend a few moments in worship, thanking God for who He is and think of something to praise Him for. Then pray for understanding and for the ability and desire to apply the things that He says to you. By doing these simple things you are well on your way to understanding the scriptures and hearing what God has to say to you.

## Lesson 7 - The Power Of The Spirit

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**I**t seems to me that the Holy Spirit is the most misrepresented and misunderstood part of the Godhead. Some Christians almost seem to live as if He has very little to do with their lives, while others attribute many things to Him that He has nothing to do with. We will do a much more thorough study of the Godhead when we look at bible doctrine later, but in this study we are going to look at He who is known as the third person in the Trinity.

Why are we looking at the Holy Spirit now? Because we need the power of the Holy Spirit to live! He is the one that lives in us, reveals truth to us, strengthens us, and empowers us to overcome sin. He gives us the desire to do God's will and the ability to do God's will. Just before His death, Jesus spoke to His disciples about the Holy Spirit in this way:



*If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you*

*John 14:15-18*



*"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: "of sin, because they do not believe in Me; "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.*

*John 16:7-14*

### Who is the Holy Spirit?

Here are a few very vital things that you should know about the Holy Spirit:

- *The Holy Spirit is a person, not a thing or force -this means that He has all the characteristics of a person:*
  - He knows (1 Corinthians 2:11),
  - He wills (1 Corinthians 12:11),
  - He understands (1 Corinthians 2:11),
  - He searches (1 Corinthians 2:10),

- He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30),
- He can be lied to (Acts 5:3)
  
- *The Holy Spirit is God* - this means that He has all the characteristics of God. Here are a few:
  - He is all-powerful (Romans 8:11)
  - He is eternal (Hebrews 9:14),
  - He is all-knowing (1 Corinthians 2:10,11)
  - He is everywhere at once (Psalm 139:7-10)

### Conclusion

If we understand who the Holy Spirit is, we will not be afraid of what he does and allow him to work in and through us. In our next lesson, we will consider what he does.

## Lesson 8 - The Power Of The Spirit (part 2)

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**W**hat actually does the Holy Spirit do? Does he take over our intellect, our will, and make us do strange and unusual things (as some say). Not quite! It is true that a person can do amazing things by the power of the Spirit, but so many things are attributed to the Holy Spirit that are either from human or demonic origins. The Holy Spirit is holy, so anything that is unholy is not of him. He is a gentle Spirit and will not force his will on anyone. We need him to form Christ in us!

### What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

He makes us alive in Christ. You cannot become a Christian without the Holy Spirit.

*You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

Romans 8:9



He gives us the power to live right. You cannot live a godly life without the power of the Holy Spirit.

*For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

Romans 8:13-14

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.*

Galatians 5:16-25

He gives us gifts to serve with. You cannot receive spiritual gifts without the Holy Spirit.

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

### Conclusion

When we think of the Holy Spirit we should not think of some force or energy, but simply as the Spirit of God who lives in you and makes you what you need to be. He is the one that Jesus said would guide you into all truth and live with you. He makes you able to do all that is commanded us to do and he gives unusual gifts to serve with.



## Lesson 9 - The Power Of The Spirit (part 3)

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In our last lesson we had a brief look at what the Holy Spirit does. In this lesson we will consider how to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

**How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?**

1. Believe that the promise is for you - Acts 2:38,39.
2. Ask in faith - Luke 11:9-13; James 1:6-8 (in quiet confidence that your Father will do it.)
3. Thirst - John 7:37-39.
4. Remember, it is a gift - a gift is not to be worked or bargained for, only received.

**What prevents me from being filled with the Holy Spirit?**

1. No conversion.
2. Unbelief or negative attitude.
3. Reliance on feelings and emotions.
4. Fear.
5. Sin.
6. Ignorance.



How much do you remember?

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Give a definition of worship

What is the difference between worship and praise?

What three practical suggestions were discussed to help get the most out of reading the bible?

What is intercession?

Seven reasons were given as reasons why we find it difficult to pray. Can you list three of the seven?

Twelve suggestions were listed to develop our walk with God. Can you remember four of the twelve?

Can you list two of the three things mentioned that the Holy Spirit does for us?

What are some of the things that prevent people from being filled with the Holy Spirit?

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