

Prayer: Conversations with God

# Pray Always

Lesson Two

# Prayer: Conversations with God

## Pray Always

**Scriptures:** I Thessalonians 5:16-18; Ephesians 6:18; Psalm 139

**Lesson Goal:** To provide the learner with the understanding that God is always ready for our prayer.

**Memory Verse:** “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Have you ever taken a long trip in a car? When there was someone traveling with you it provided many opportunities for direct communication. A discussion might be about where you will eat lunch. Or maybe, you would talk about some mutually interesting topic: the scenery, the activities expected when you arrive at the destination, the weather, road conditions, or even life issues or religious topics. There might be long periods of quiet...comfortable in the knowledge that when someone has something to say, the other will be readily available.

When a person asks Jesus to come into their life, God enters that person. God’s Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in his or her life. At that moment, a journey begins and there are always two participants on the journey. Those two participants are God’s Holy Spirit and the one placing their faith in Jesus.

Every step we take, every breath of our lives, every move we make, every moment of our days, God’s Holy Spirit is with us. This means that any time of day, any time of night, anytime, we can speak to God. Ephesians 6:18 says, “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests...”

The one hundred thirty-ninth Psalm begins with the understanding that God knows everything about us. It continues with listing things God knows and how God is with us at all times. We find there assurance that God knows when we sit down and when we rise up. We find that God knows even our thoughts and the paths we take. We find that even before we say a word, God knows what that word is and that we are going to say it. We find that if we go as high as there is to go, God is there; if we go to the bottom of all there is, God is there; if we get up early and fly as far as we can fly, God is there; if we consider darkness and light, God inhabits them both and will lead us through; if we consider who we are, God made us and knew us even before we were born.

There is never a time when prayer is inappropriate in the life of the believer. There is no preparation time required...no “make ready” necessary. Sometimes our most effective and meaningful prayers are spoken on the spur of the moment, in crisis. However, prayer should never be a thoughtless rushing into God’s presence with no consideration for who He is and how much He deserves our respect.

### 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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So, when Paul, as recorded in our memory verse, urged the believers at Thessalonica to pray continually, he was not only telling them that they should always be in the attitude of prayer...on their knees all the time... eyes closed at all times, but that they should continually acknowledge the presence of God and include God in all that was happening in their lives.

We started out with the thought that on a road trip, you may have a passenger. The person doesn't come and go like someone on your cell phone. They are always there. And, so it is with God. If we say something good, God is pleased. If we say something bad, God is not pleased. If we should utter a curse, God suffers pain.

When we go places that are good, God is right there with us to enjoy it. When we go places that are not good, God is right there, even though it is painful for Him to be there.

"Praying always," means that we know God is with us at all times, that we acknowledge His presence at all times, that we speak directly to Him often during the day, and that we include Him in our plans for each day.

In other words, prayer is behavior as much as it is words. Since we live in God's presence all the time ...since we take His indwelling Spirit with us everywhere...what we do is first-hand knowledge to Him. Thus, our behavior is our communication with Him more than our words spoken with bowed head, closed eyes and beginning with, "Our Father."

\*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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**Memory Verse:** “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” I Thessalonians 5:16-18

>When a person asks Jesus to come into their \_\_\_\_\_, God \_\_\_\_\_ that person.

>Every step we take, every \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives, every moment of our \_\_\_\_\_, God’s Holy Spirit is with \_\_\_\_\_.

>Ephesians 6:18 says, “And pray in the \_\_\_\_\_ on all occasions with all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_...”

>There is never a time when \_\_\_\_\_ is inappropriate in the life of the \_\_\_\_\_.

>Prayer should never be a thoughtless \_\_\_\_\_ into God’s presence with no consideration for \_\_\_\_\_ He is and how much He deserves our \_\_\_\_\_.

>If we say something good, God is \_\_\_\_\_. If we say something \_\_\_\_\_, God is not pleased. If we should utter a curse, God \_\_\_\_\_ pain.

>“Praying always,” means that we know God is with us \_\_\_\_\_, that we acknowledge His \_\_\_\_\_ at all times, that we speak \_\_\_\_\_ to Him often during the \_\_\_\_\_, and that we include Him in our \_\_\_\_\_ for each day.

>Since we live in God’s \_\_\_\_\_ all the time...since we take His indwelling \_\_\_\_\_ with us everywhere...what we do is first-hand \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

### 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.