

Prayer: Conversations with God

Pray By God's Holy Spirit

Lesson Four

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Scriptures: Romans 8:12-17, 26, 27; I Corinthians 3:16; 12:1-3

Lesson Goal: To explain that our prayer should be by God's Holy Spirit.

Memory Verse: "...We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express." Romans 8:26

Another way to state our memory verse for today is found in The Message translation, "...God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans."

Have you ever wondered if your prayers get any higher than the ceiling? Do you wonder if God understands the unclear way you express yourself in prayer? Do you feel inadequate to speak the "prayer language" you have heard older Christians speak?

The answer to all of the above is that God's Holy Spirit is with you, actually in you and joins you in praying. He becomes our prayer partner. Many times in life we need a partner. We need someone who knows us well enough to speak for us. Sometimes we feel something, think something or act out and don't have the words to describe what's going on. Sometimes we pray for something without an understanding of how it will fit into God's will.

At times like those, God's Holy Spirit, who knows us better than anyone else ever could, fits our prayer to God's plan and purpose. He speaks to God and to us in a way that brings harmony to (makes sense of) the prayer of our hearts.

Job prayed, "I know that You can do all things, and that no plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know." Job 42:2-4. Job finally acknowledged that he wasn't privy to God's plans and had spoken out of turn, thinking that he could know God's plan. He quotes God as accusing him of ignorantly confusing the issue. Job was confessing his lack of confidence in God's compassion and protection. Job needed to depend on God's Holy Spirit as a prayer partner.

Another Old Testament story is of Hannah. The first chapter of I Samuel tells about her prayer for a son. At first she prayed out loud. Then the High Priest, Eli, saw her mouth moving and nothing coming out. She was still praying, but the Bible says she was "praying in her heart." I Samuel 1:13 God's Holy Spirit

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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was with her, speaking the passionate prayer of her heart for the gift of a child. She did not need to pray out loud.

Acts 4:23-31 reveals a prayer by the early church. It is a prayer for boldness. God's Holy Spirit led Peter and John and the rest of the church to pray for boldness to give testimony of God's gracious gift of His Son. They had been warned by the Jewish religious leaders not to speak publicly in Jesus' name. They faced the threat of beating, prison or worse. God's Holy Spirit was with them and led them to pray for and exhibit boldness. They did give public testimony and they did it in the power of the Spirit.

God's Holy Spirit who lives in us, placed there by God the Father, will guide our prayers and give us strength to accomplish what we pray for in Jesus' name. He knows us better than we know ourselves. It is He through whom God grants us spiritual gifts and who blesses us with the fruit of the Spirit.

When we can't even form clear thoughts about what we need, God's Holy Spirit interprets and expresses the wordless noises in our minds and hearts to God on our behalf.

*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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>God's Holy Spirit is with _____, actually _____ you and joins you in _____.

>God's Holy Spirit, who _____ us better than _____ ever could, fits our _____ to God's _____ and purpose

>Job was confessing to his lack of _____ in God's compassion and _____. Job needed to _____ on God's Holy Spirit as a prayer _____.

>God's Holy Spirit was with Hannah, speaking the passionate _____ of her heart for the _____ of a _____.

>God's Holy Spirit led _____ and John and the rest of the church to pray for _____ to give testimony of God's gracious _____ of His Son to _____.

>They did give _____ testimony and they did it in the _____ of the Spirit.

>God's Holy Spirit who _____ in us, placed there by God the Father, will _____ our prayers and give us _____ to do what we pray for in Jesus' _____.

>God's Holy Spirit _____ us better than we _____ ourselves.

>It is His Holy Spirit through whom God _____ us spiritual gifts and who blesses _____ with the _____ of the Spirit.

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.