

Prayer: Conversations with God

Pray With Joy

Lesson Six

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Scriptures: Psalm 28:6-9; 30; 68:3, 4; 89:15, 16; Philippians 1:4

Lesson Goal: To encourage believers to be filled with joy when praying.

Memory Verse: “But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.”
Psalm 68:3

There are so many reasons to pray with joy:

We can experience joy when we realize that in prayer we enter into the presence of God, Himself. When you pray, you are in conversation with the one who created you. He created everything you know anything about. This holy, eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing God is listening. He has, through His grace, invited us to come to Him with anything that is of concern to us. We often rejoice when we are privileged to converse with old friends, family members, someone who can offer us help, and/or someone of great importance. How much more should we be joyful when we are in the presence of God.

Another reason, which we often overlook, is the sharing of the joy of our salvation and Christian life with God. God makes all this possible. He gives us new life...eternal life...life in Christ...life which is ours because of His great mercy and grace. It is good to thank God and praise Him for this great and wonderful gift. As you would express appreciation for a wonderful gift from another human, you can and should do so with God. As you share the joy of life with a friend or marriage partner, you can do so with God.

We pray with joy because we know that our prayer will be heard. Do you ever talk to someone and know that they are not really listening. They may be nodding, or responding with an “umm-hum” now and again, but you know that they are not really listening. It’s frustrating, isn’t it? Well, we know that God is listening. Jesus once told His disciples that God is aware when even a sparrow falls to the ground. (Matthew 10:29) If He knows that, He certainly knows when you call His name. You have no thought, definitely utter no prayer, that God is not aware of and willing to know. Isn’t that a happy thought?

We find joy in our communication with God because He knows us so well. There is nothing about us that He doesn’t know: our past, our present and our future. Ezekiel 11:5 quotes God as saying that He knows what is going through the mind of Israel’s leaders. Since He knows our thoughts, we have nothing to hide and everything to share with Him. Even our painful thoughts...our fearful thoughts...our shameful thoughts...our hopeful thoughts...our thoughts of confession...our happy thoughts, we share with Him.

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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Prayer is sometimes a shouted, "Yes!" That happens when we realize that a prayer has been answered, or a challenge has been met, or direction has come from God, or any other happening that we are wise enough to see as a result of our communication with God. Victory is a moment of shared joy with our Heavenly Father. After all, He is the reason for all our victories. Scripture says, "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 15:57)

There is great joy in prayer as we thank God for His permanent presence in our lives. When we understand that God is our protector and that "no weapon forged against" us will be strong enough to conquer us, we rejoice. (Isaiah 54:17) We can celebrate with God in our prayer His personal presence in our lives and His deep compassion for us and for our welfare. No enemy can defeat the real person we become when God's Holy Spirit comes into our lives. Oswald Chambers reminds us that when we are saved, God's Spirit is not like a "guest in a house. He invades everything." Paul explained that he was no longer living, but that his life was now God's life. (Galatians 2:20) So, the enemy can destroy the body, but he cannot destroy the real person. God possesses the real person and what a great joy it is to thank God for that each time we talk to Him.

We can sing for joy and praise our God with others. This is also prayer. When we join together in worship with other Christians, when we unite our voices and focus our hearts on God, we are lifting up prayers of joy and thanksgiving.

What a wonderful experience we have as His children to pray with joy!

Both the twenty-eighth and thirtieth Psalms contain prayers of joy. Read such prayers often...pray such prayers often.

*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: “But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.”
Psalm 68:3

>We can experience _____ when we realize that in prayer we enter into the presence of God, Himself.

>We share the _____ of our _____ and Christian life with God in prayer.

>We pray with _____ because we know that our prayer will be _____.

>We find _____ in our communication with God because He _____ us so well.

>Our _____ thoughts...our _____ thoughts...our _____ thoughts...our _____

thoughts...our thoughts of _____ ...our _____ thoughts, we share with Him.

>Prayer is sometimes a _____, “Yes!”

>Victory is a shared _____ with our Heavenly _____.

>There is great _____ in prayer when we thank God for His _____ in our lives.

>When we understand that God is our _____ and that “no weapon forged against” us will be
_____ enough to conquer us, we _____. (Isaiah 54:17)

>Oswald Chambers reminds us that when we are _____, God’s Spirit is not like a “_____ in
a house. He invades _____.”

>When we join together in _____ with other Christians, when we unite our _____ and focus
our _____ on God, we are lifting up prayers of _____ and thanksgiving.

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.