

The Life-Changing Power of Prayer
T. W. Hunt

Philippians 2:5 (NASB) [Theme verse for the "Mind of Christ" study]

⁵ *Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,*

T. W. Hunt on page 7: "From the soft voice of a child's first prayer to the whispered prayer of an aged Christian's last breath, prayer is the greatest privilege of life and is the greatest source of power on earth."

Page 129: "Perhaps what we need are models. If, in the churches where this book is taught, godly men and women would determine that their families could become models for other families, a movement might develop."

Chapter 1: The Foundation of Prayer: The God Who Cares

Learning Goals

Participants will have a better understanding of prayer and of the way prayer is related to God's nature.

1. Use Scripture to demonstrate that God is near to help us
2. Describe meaningful experiences with prayer
3. Identify two attributes of God that have been meaningful in their prayer lives
4. Identify answered prayers in Scripture
5. Praise God for His love and mercy.

Exercise 1:

1. To me prayer is
2. The best time of day for me to pray is
3. My favorite place to pray is
4. My most recent answer to prayer is
5. My greatest answer to prayer was
6. A prayer of mine that God has not yet answered is

Exercise 2:

1. What are your earliest childhood memories of prayer?
2. How did you learn your first childhood prayer?
3. Which attribute of God did you think of most when you were a child?
4. Which attribute of God is most meaningful to you today?
5. What is the most meaningful thing to you about prayer?

I. Prayer is universal

a. Universal in time

- i. We read in the Bible about men praying (Hezekiah, Paul), women praying (Miriam, Anna), and children praying (Samuel, Josiah).
- ii. The Bible starts with Adam and Eve having face to face conversations with God.
- iii. The Bible ends with a prayer; **Revelation 22:20-21 (NASB)** ²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. ²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

b. Universal in space

- i. Prayer knows no geographical, racial, or ethnic lines.
- ii. In other religions I discovered superstitions, stringent laws, sometimes multiple gods, and even manipulation of the gods but not interaction with their gods on a consistent personal level.

II. Prayer is based on God's nature

- a. In most of the divine encounters in the Bible, the first attribute of God recognized by those who met Him was holiness.
- b. It seems illogical that a God so terrifyingly holy could also be so "plenteous in mercy" (Ps 103:8 KJV). Yet this verse implies that the Lord is wealthy in mercy!
- c. Prayer can have no meaning unless it takes into account God's total nature. He is holy; we come to Him on those grounds. He is love; we pray knowing that He is concerned about our needs. Because He is merciful, God understands and cares about human need.

III. Prayer is effective

- i. Prayer is effective because God relates to human need.
- ii. Prayer is effective in the Old Testament
- iii. Prayer is effective in the New Testament
- iv. Prayer has been effective throughout Christian history.
- v. Prayer is effective today.

Chapter 2: Our Example and Our Helper in Prayer

Learning Goals

Participants will have a better understanding of Jesus' practice of and teaching on prayer and of the Holy Spirit's work in relation to prayer.

1. Identify occasions when Jesus prayed
2. Summarize what Jesus taught about prayer
3. Describe the Holy Spirit's work in relation to prayer

John 17:1-26 (NASB) ¹ Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ² even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. ³ "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ **"Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.** ⁶ "I have manifested Your name to the **men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.** ⁷ "Now **they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You;** ⁸ for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. ⁹ **"I ask on their behalf, I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours;** ¹⁰ and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and **I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.** ¹² "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³ "But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. ¹⁴ **"I have given them Your word;** and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ **"I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one;** ¹⁶ "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ **"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.** ¹⁸ "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ **"For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.** ²⁰ "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹ **that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.** ²² "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, **that they may be one, just as We are one;** ²³ I in them and You in Me, **that they may be perfected in unity,** so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. ²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also, **whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.** ²⁵ "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have

known You; and these have known that You sent Me; ²⁶ and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

John 17:

1. Verses 1-5 Jesus' prayer for Himself
2. Verses 6-12 Jesus' petitions on behalf of His disciples reveal a parallel between His sense of identity with the Father
3. Verses 12-22 The identity of His disciples with Himself

Jesus interwove five specific petitions for the disciples

1. "Holy Father, keep them in Your name" (11) more specifically stated in verse 15 "keep them from the evil one"
2. "Sanctify them in the truth" (17)
3. "that they also may be in Us" (21)
4. "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am" (24)
5. "that they may all be one" (21, repeated as concomitants of other facts in vv. 11, 22-23.)

George Newton (1602-81), a Puritan pastor in England said in a sermon on John 17, "Our prayers shew our hearts to Christ; his prayer shews his heart to us."

- Explain what you think Newton meant
- Based on the prayer Jesus prayed in John 17, how would you describe His heart?
- Now consider the first part of Newton's statement "Our prayers show our hearts to Christ." Based on your prayer life this past week, how would you describe your heart as Jesus sees it?

Jesus gives two prohibitions for prayer in Matthew 6:5-14.

1. A disciple is not to pray like religious hypocrites—for display
2. and a disciple is not to pray like pagans—babbling meaninglessly.

The Holy Spirit, Our Helper in Prayer

"It is more important to know God than to understand God."

1. **The Holy Spirit is the Indwelling Presence of Christ.** John 14:16-17 (NASB) ¹⁶ "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. Ephesians 2:18 (NASB) ¹⁸ for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.
2. **The Holy Spirit Continues the Work of Christ** John 16:12-14 (NASB) ¹² "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.
3. **The Holy Spirit Helps Us Know God's Will** 1 Corinthians 2:10-11 (NASB) ¹⁰ For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.
 - a. We can know God's will through the Bible 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB) ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
 - b. We can know God's will through prayer Colossians 1:9 (NASB) ⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

4. **The Holy Spirit Is Our Guide and Helper Romans 8:26-27 (NASB)** ²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷ and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **James 1:17 (NASB)** ¹⁷ Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Chapter 3: Prayer That Transforms

Learning Goals

Participants will have a better understanding of different types of prayer they can use to relate to God.

1. Recognize five types of prayer and identify biblical examples
2. Pray more meaningfully, using each type of prayer

Matthew 6:9-15 (NASB) ⁹ "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ 'Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]' ¹⁴ "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

1. Prayers of Adoration (Matt. 6:9)
 - a. Worshiping God for His attributes
 - i. God is infinite
 - ii. God is transcendent
 - iii. God is unique
 - iv. God is wise
 - v. God is completely perfect
 - b. Worshiping God for His creative power
 - c. Worshiping God for His role in history
 - d. Worshiping God for His work in Christ
 - e. Thanking God for His goodness
2. Prayers of Intercession (Matt. 6:10)
 - a. Ask in the Spirit
 - b. Ask according to His will
 - c. Ask with the mind
 - d. Ask in Jesus' name
 - e. Ask while abiding in Christ
 - f. Ask in faith
 - g. Ask in humility
 - h. Ask in sincerity
 - i. Ask with perseverance
3. Prayers of Petition (Matt. 6:11) **Matthew 7:7-8 (NASB)** ⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
 - a. Dependence
 - b. Earnestness
 - c. Persistence
4. Prayers of Repentance (Matt. 6:12)
 - a. Forgiving others
 - b. Receiving God's forgiveness

5. Prayers of Deliverance (Matt. 6:13)

- a. Deliverance from temptation **1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)** ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.
- b. Protection A Christian may ask for general protection and safety.

Chapter 4: Answers to Questions About Prayer

Learning Goals

Participants will have greater competency in answering common questions about prayer

1. Answer in their own words some of the most common questions about prayer
2. Help someone who has questions about prayer
3. State what it means to pray in Jesus' name
4. Name characteristics of someone whose prayer God answers

The questions:

- I. If God already knows everything, why should we pray?
 - a. God could move on His own
 - b. God could move without our cooperation
 - c. God could work without prayer
- II. If people are free to make choices, what good is praying for others?
 - a. **John 15:16 (NASB)** ¹⁶ "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.
 - b. **Acts 1:24 (NASB)** ²⁴ And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen
 - c. **Matthew 19:22 (NASB)** ²² But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.
- III. For what is it proper to pray?
 - a. **Philippians 4:6 (NASB)** ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
 - b. **James 4:1-3 (NASB)** ¹ What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? ² You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.
- IV. Does God hear the prayers of non-Christians?
 - a. Fact 1. God loves all persons, wants them to come to Him, and introduces factors into their lives to bring them to Himself. (2 Kings 5:15-17)
 - b. Fact 2. Jesus tenderly spoke of God's love for the Gentiles when His townspeople of Nazareth rejected Him. (Matt. 15:21-28)
 - c. Fact 3. God is free to use Christian, non-Christian, Jew, or Gentile to accomplish His purposes as He sees fit. (Book of Daniel)
 - d. Fact 4. Israel was given special instructions to love aliens and to include strangers in their national life. (Deut. 10:18-19)
 - e. Fact 5. All life and all provision come from God. (Psalm 145:15)
 - f. Fact 6. The model prayer demonstrates the fact that God always puts His business and His purposes ahead of all concerns any of us might have, whether we are Christian or non-Christian.
 - g. With all of these things in mind, we can conclude that God is sovereign. He is not limited by anything we believe about Him. Simply because He is God, He answers prayer according to His own wisdom.

- V. Why do Christians pray in Jesus' name?
- Jesus' name is our legal authorization for prayer.
 - Jesus' name establishes our identity.
 - Jesus' name appropriates all God has done for us in Christ.
 - Jesus' name appropriates all that is in God's revealed character.
 - Jesus' name is the intensifying agent of unity in the body of Christ.
 - Jesus' name indicates reverence for His divinity.
- VI. How can a Christian pray without ceasing?
- Our prayers should be regular and continuous.
 - Our prayers should reflect a constant attitude of relating everything in life to God every hour of the day.
- VII. How is fasting beneficial?
- A discipline that has faded from special prayer efforts but has proved effective in the past is fasting.
 - The value of fasting lies in the concentration of our will on God.
 - Fasting is best undertaken when we are free from duties and other cares and can concentrate on prayer.
 - Matthew 6:16-18 (NASB)** ¹⁶ "Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do; for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ¹⁷ "But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face ¹⁸ so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.
- VIII. What is the purpose of prayerwalking?
- Prayerwalking is a fast-growing movement practiced by thousands of believers.
 - God has especially blessed prayerwalking in the work of missions around the world.
- IX. Does God always answer prayer? "Not all prayers in the Bible were answered."
- Moses: As the Israelites once more rebelled in the wilderness, Moses petulantly asked to die (Num. 11:11-15)
 - Saul: King Saul's inquiry of the Lord about the Philistines camped at Shunem was not answered (1 Sam. 28:6)
 - David: David's prayer for his son by Bathsheba to live was not answered (2 Sam 12:15-20)
 - Elijah: Elijah's prayer to die (1 Kings 19:4)
 - Salome, James, and John: Their prayer that the two sit at the right and left of Jesus was made from wrong motives (Matt. 20:20-21)
 - Jesus' parables and teachings
 - Luke 16:19-31
 - Luke 18:9-14
 - Matt. 6:5
- X. What if your prayers are not answered?
- If our prayers are not answered, we have two choices: desist or persist.
 - 2 Cor. 12:7-8 is an example of desist
 - Daniel 10 is an example of persist.
 - These two mighty men of God were so in tune with God that they knew when to persist and when to desist.
- XI. Does prayer change God's mind?
- Biblical examples
 - 1 Sam 15:29
 - Mal. 3:6
 - Jas. 1:17

b. The attributes, purposes, and mind of God do not change, and we must be careful not to read into varying circumstances a purpose for God that would attribute change to Him.

XII. When is it right to pray for a miracle? Miracles in the Bible had certain factors in common.

- a. They brought glory to God rather than human beings.
- b. Sometimes they validated God's claims or identity.
- c. They significantly advanced the divine work.
- d. Capricious or whimsical motives are totally absent.

XIII. Does God hear one person more than another?

- a. Although the Bible indicates that these beloved of the Lord received unusual answers to prayer, their answers did not indicate favoritism.
- b. It is also evident that experienced prayer warriors can see factors, pray more intelligently, and weigh spiritual evidence in a way that prayerless people cannot.

Chapter 5: Overcoming Hindrances to Effective Prayer

Learning Goals

Participants will have a better understanding of the primary hindrances to prayer.

1. Commit to spend time in prayer each day
2. Identify an action to increase their faith
3. Take actions to abide in Christ
4. Confess sins that hinder their prayers
5. Identify the greatest hindrance to prayer in their lives
6. Take at least one action to overcome hindrances to prayer in their lives.

Ephesians 6:18 (NASB) ¹⁸ With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

Hindrances to Prayer

I. Prayerlessness

- a. The heart: If a person is cold and indifferent toward the things of God, prayer will hold little interest. (Matt. 6:33)
- b. Time: Some people think they are too busy to take time to pray.
- c. Priorities: Sometimes a person's life is too cluttered and disorganized, without a personal schedule based on godly priorities.
- d. Discipline: Some Christians have never developed the habit of prayer.
- e. The sin of prayerlessness is the most serious of all the hindrances to prayer.

II. Wrong Motives

- a. **James 4:3 (NASB)** ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.
- b. **1 Corinthians 10:6 (NASB)** ⁶ Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.
- c. Selfishness brings into our experience a danger so great that God knows He cannot coddle us with answers that are hostile to the very thing He is working to achieve in us.

III. Lack of Faith

- a. A fear that God does not want to give.
- b. A fear that what we are asking is too great or too difficult.
- c. Faith is the basis of our relationship with God.

IV. Not Abiding

- a. **John 15:7 (NASB)** ⁷ "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- b. **Romans 2:6-7 (NASB)** ⁶ who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: ⁷ to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;

- c. *Why is abiding important?*
 - i. *It is one aspect of endurance.*
 - ii. *It is proof of faithfulness.*
 - iii. *Only in abiding is importunity, or persistence, a real option.*
 - iv. *Abiding demonstrates a part of our character that is like God, whose "righteousness endures forever" (Ps 111:3) and whose name is everlasting (Ps 135:13)*

V. *Rebellion and Sin*

- a. *Unconfessed sin hinders prayer (Isa. 1:15-17)*
- b. *Idolatry hinders prayer (Ezek. 14:3)*
- c. *Neglect of the Bible hinders prayer (John 15:7)*
 - i. *Prayer and Scripture are inseparably linked. At least four qualities of Scripture make it valuable for prayer.*
 - 1. *The Bible provides preparation for prayer.*
 - 2. *Scripture provides guidance. Scripture provides God's wisdom.*
 - 3. *Scripture provides subjects for prayer.*
- d. *Hypocrisy hinders prayer (Matt. 12:38-40)*
- e. *Self-righteousness hinders prayer (Isa. 57:15)*
- f. *Anger hinders prayer (James 1:20)*
- g. *Broken relationships hinder prayer (Matt 5:23-24)*
- h. *An unforgiving spirit hinders prayer (Matt. 18:22)*
- i. *Indifference to the needs of the weak and helpless hinders prayer (James 1:27)*
- j. *Withholding tithes and offerings hinders prayer. (Mal 3:8-10)*

VI. *Lack of Persistence*

- a. **1 Samuel 7:8 (NASB)** ⁸ *Then the sons of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines."*
- b. **Ephesians 6:18-19 (NASB)** ¹⁸ *With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, ¹⁹ and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,*

Chapter 6: *Participating in God's Plan Through Prayer*

Learning Goals

Participants will have a better understanding of the way they can participate in God's plan through prayer.

1. *Summarize the role of prayer in the early church*
2. *State the importance of prayer in the church today*
3. *Name benefits of family devotions and list ways to improve theirs*
4. *Identify key factors in an effective prayer life*
5. *Outline plans for strengthening their church's prayer life and their personal prayer lives.*

"Prayer in our lives today is a significant way God shapes us for His use now and through eternity."

I. *Prayer in the Early Church*

a. *Examples of prayer in Acts*

- i. **Acts 2:43 (NASB)** ⁴³ *Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.*
- ii. **Acts 2:47 (NASB)** ⁴⁷ *praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.*
- iii. **Acts 6:4 (NASB)** ⁴ *"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."*
- iv. **Acts 16:13-15 (NASB)** ¹³ *And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. ¹⁴ A woman*

named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

b. *Prayer sustained the early Church in Crisis*

i. **Acts 4:31 (NASB)** ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness.

ii. **Acts 12:5-11 (NASB)** ⁵ So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God. ⁶ On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. ⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands. ⁸ And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he ⁹ said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." ⁹ And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. ¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

iii. **Acts 16:25 (NASB)** ²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

c. *Prayer fueled the Missions movement*

i. **Acts 13:2-3 (NASB)** ² While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

ii. *Paul's prayers for the church* **Ephesians 2:16-19 (NASB)** ¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. ¹⁷ AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; ¹⁸ for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, **Colossians 1:9-12 (NASB)** ⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

II. *Prayer in the Church Today (1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NASB)* ¹ First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.)

a. *Prayer together*

b. *Prayer on intercession*

c. *Prayer for guidance*

d. *Prayer for Christ's work*

III. *Prayer in the Home*

a. **Ephesians 2:19 (NASB)** ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

b. **Luke 19:9 (NASB)** ⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham.

c. **Acts 16:33 (NASB)** ³³ And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.

d. **1 Peter 3:7 (NASB)** ⁷ You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

IV. Prayer in the Believer's Life

a. Prayer that is shaped by the Word

- i. Scripture quickens its hearers
- ii. Scripture is a teacher
- iii. Scripture clarifies God's intention
- iv. Scripture points to Christ as the center of our faith

b. A time and a place for prayer

- i. A time for Prayer
- ii. A place for Prayer
- iii. Prayer tools
 - 1. Organizing our thoughts in prayer
 - 2. A notebook for prayer needs and guidance
 - 3. List of answered prayers
 - 4. Posture may make a difference in attitude
- iv. Anytime, anywhere

c. Willingness in prayer

- i. Willingness to accept and do God's will
- ii. Willingness automatically rules out rebellion, anger, and bitterness
- iii. Willingness is saying to God, "I think I know what is best, but I know that You know what is best, I prefer Your judgment to mine."
- iv. Willingness means that we always participate in God's greater purposes, as Christ did in His Gethsemane prayer.

d. Listening to God

- i. All three conversations between God and Noah found Noah listening to God
- ii. God will not work in patterns foreign to the patterns revealed in the Bible

e. Expectancy in prayer

- i. **Psalm 25:5 (NASB)** ⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.
- ii. **Philippians 1:19-20 (NASB)** ¹⁹ for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

f. Praying in Christ's character

- i. Jesus owned little and never expressed a desire for anything other than His Father's will.
- ii. Our prayer must match our lives and our lives should match our prayer.
- iii. We become like what or whom we spend time with.
- iv. We are part of a plan grander than the greatest minds can conceive, holier than any prophet can describe, richer than human language can explore.

All written scripture is taken from the New American Standard Bible (1995) This outline is taken for the most part directly from the words of T. W. Hunt and are not my thoughts.