



BIBLE STUDY 7

CHAPTER 5: ASKING ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

SCRIPTURE LESSON: I JOHN 5:13-17

OBJECTIVE: To know that you are able to ask of God, as long as you understand that it's according to His will.

INTRODUCTION

Scriptural Example: Moses - Exodus 3:7-12

Moses was eighty years old leading the children of Israel. Our responsibility is to hear God's call, timing is God's doing. In verse eleven, Moses' response to God should have been, "Yes God, I will" versus asking, "Who am I?"

God's Will For Our Lives:

Knowing the will of God is like traveling down I-95 to I-20 going to Atlanta. Along the way you may run into detours, accidents, and traffic jams. In order to get to Atlanta you must endure these unexpected events. You begin the journey and you keep traveling until you reach Atlanta because you have committed yourself to the journey.

God's will is the same way. We commit ourselves to walk with God. Along the way we do not know what we may encounter, we must simply leave it to God to make His will known as we live and serve Him.

Our assignment is to ask God what He is doing and join Him in doing it, by using our talents, abilities, gifts, and passions.

The Role of Prayer:

Understanding prayer is simply learning that God is your friend. What people consider to be major theological barriers to understanding God can be reduced to understanding that God is your friend, and He wants friendship with you through prayer. Unlike our friends who may think they know a lot about life and living, compared to God they don't know much at all. Thus, the friendship we have with God is having a friend who is omniscient, He simply knows everything.

Knowing that God knows everything answers the question, why would one even pray? The answer is simple, because man is finite and God is infinite. God knows ALL, man knows very little.



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Also commit yourself to pray because of God's original plan for man. When God created man, He had in mind a relationship with continual conversation with Him as our Creator. The reason we should pray is found in Genesis 1:26-28, "God said, Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness." God's original plan was for His people to be representatives of Him to build His Kingdom and manage the earth.

We should pray and seek God because, God desires fellowship with us through prayer. God walked with Enoch, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph (Genesis 3:8; 4:26; 5:24; 12:25). Jesus also walked and taught the disciples. For the early disciples, prayer was their lifestyle.

The love of God should be a motivating reason to pray. Our prayer life should stream out of an overflow of love towards God and the love He has for His children. Therefore, we pray for direction, guidance, and understanding of purpose in order to do His will.

LESSON IDEAS

Read I John 5: 13-17

Let's discuss two ideas that make God listen

I. What Makes God Listen?

A. **Believing** in the name of the Son of God, vs. 13

Read John 20:31

If you want God to react to your prayers, first believe in His Son.

- Matthew 16:16 – the Son of the living God

Believe the knowledge of Jesus:

- John 1:1-3
- Hebrews 1:1-3
- Colossians 1:15-17

When one knows about Jesus it informs and strengthens their **Believing**; and one's **Believing** requires **Faith**; and **Faith** requires a **Belief** that leads one to action.

Let's agree that prayer is calling upon the Lord. It is depending upon the Lord. In prayer, God wants to see your heart and know that you have a heart of love towards Him. What makes God listen to our prayers, is our calling on the Lord!



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B. Calling on the Lord

Read Jeremiah 29:11-13 – Call because He has plans for you!

So how will you know what the plans are if you do call upon and ask the Lord?

Our desire is to seek God in prayer asking Him to come into our lives so we may discern what He is desiring for us.

Jeremiah 33:3 – God is desiring to do great and mighty works in your life.

Call Upon – God what is the mighty work you want to do in my life?

APPLICATION: Times when you call upon the Lord

1. In times of worship – worship is about acknowledging God
2. In the time of need – What is your need, there is no need too large or small for God
3. In times of seeking God about your future
4. In your specific time of prayer
5. All the time

II. What Grants Access to His Will?

A. Confidence – I John 2:28 – Boldness to come to God

- a. Believing in His name
- b. Willingness to do His will – Matthew 26:39

Be willing to use your Spiritual Gifts

B. Willingness to ask according to His will

- a. Matthew 7:7 – Ask
- b. John 14:13 – Believe in what you Ask
- c. I John 3:22 – Be obedient

C. Expect to hear, vs. 15

- a. Know that God hears you
- b. Know that we have the requests of that which we have asked

QUESTION: Are you willing to ask God about His will? And are you willing to do it?

QUESTION: What has God spoken to you about lately?



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Additional Knowledge on Prayer

III. Going Into the Spirit

The Spirit is where you need to enter to really hear from God. There is ultimate victory in the Spirit. Spiritual warfare that comes up against you on a daily basis is won in the Spirit. Therefore, we must learn to acknowledge the Spirit in prayer.

The Spirit is a life-giving force that comes from God:

1. The Lord – 2 Corinthians 3:17
2. The Indwelling person of Jesus Christ – I Corinthians 6:19
3. The Comforter – John 14:26

The Spirit is then an advocate for the truth of Christ, so that we may not sin against His word. The wind, the spirit advocates for our righteousness, He wants us to do right and be aligned with God's word.

A. To Pray in the Spirit: Put on the Belt of Truth

The Belt of Truth – Ephesians 6:14

Truth must be placed around your life

Feelings cannot enter into the equation of reality, when you are determining what is truth.

Feelings are important, just not always true. God's truth is the guide for us to gage whether or not we are connecting with His spirit

What should affect the truth? Read John 17:17

The Holy Spirit's role is to reveal – **Read 2 Corinthians 2:10-12**

What does the Holy Spirit do? _____

What is preventing you from being transformed in your mind? **Read Romans 12:2**

List some examples: _____

B. You Need Righteousness to Pray in the Spirit

Read Romans 3:21-26



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Righteousness is doing the right thing – Romans 8:19-22

Sin disrupts righteousness. Sin impacts the glory of God for us.

Sin prevents believers from hearing the truth

God credits to us righteousness – Romans 4:1-10

KEY NOTE: Satan cannot take away your righteousness.

We must practice righteousness – I Peter 2:11

C. Now go into the Spirit – Ephesians 6:18

1. Elements to praying in the Spirit

a. Go into the Spirit with truth

b. Go into the Spirit with righteousness

The goal is to hear from God

2. Know that God is at work within you – Philippians 1:6

Your desire is to know what God is up to and how He wants to use your life

Write down a prayer where you are seeking God's guidance:

Now ask yourself two questions:

1. What is the truth according to your prayer request?

2. What is righteousness according to your prayer request?

Now write what do you think God is saying to you about the prayer:

Write a Concluding Thought:



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IV. Faith is The Absolute Requirement For Prayer

Read Mark 11:22

Prayer is an issue of _____.

When you go to God, you must go absolutely believing that it will happen.

Faith is going to be a battle in your spirit. Your capacity to believe in God will determine how far you go in your unleashed potential.

You must use your faith when you cannot use any other vehicle to get you to where you need to be and go in Jesus.

Vs. 22: Three important facts about faith: Romans 12:3 God allotted a measure of faith.”

1. Believe in God
2. Do not doubt in your heart – regardless of the mountain
3. Believe it’s going to happen

God gives you faith. Faith is a divine impartation from God.

Choose to ***operate in areas where you believe to maximize*** your potential and effectiveness. When you pray, believe you shall have it. If you don’t believe it, then don’t pray for it.

Vs. 24: Know what you desire (Whatever you desire)

1. Desire is the craving and what you require to do, what you need to do.
2. You have to have a desire.

God will put desires in your heart – Psalm 37:4

He will put a passion in you for certain things.

He will take away old desires that do not align with your purpose and put new desires in you.

3. The desire is the potency you need for your prayer life.

Read I Corinthians 2:9

4. God shows you things to come, the desires of your heart.
5. The Spirit extracts your carnal desires, so you can pray in the Spirit and receive power for the things you desire in your Spirit
6. You have a passion/desire for that which has not happened.

Read Joshua 1:2

7. God showed Joshua that which had not been revealed yet.
8. Christians should walk in the Spirit to get what God has put in you as a desire.



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QUESTION: How do you birth/passion that's in you, or what has not yet come to pass?

When you pray in the spirit: BELIEVE

9. Your ability to pray as if you have received, is your ability to have it. In essence, you get it before you have it.
10. This is why you have to rebuke every negative, doubting thought and spirit when you pray.