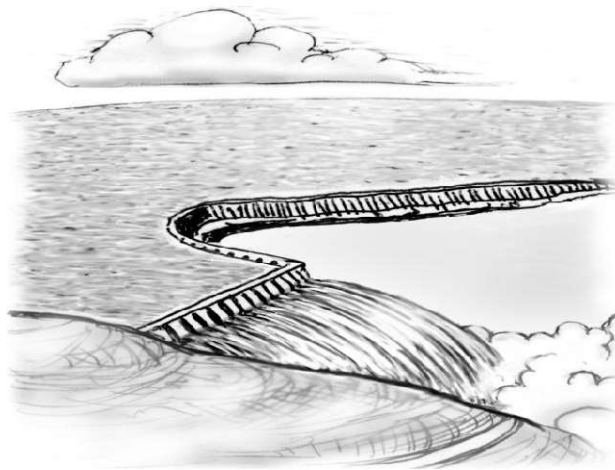


**PRAYER MOVEMENTS**  
***Leading to Spiritual Movements Everywhere***

***Seminar 1***

**Understanding**  
**God's Heart for Prayer**

*- Explore Prayer from God's Perspective -*



**Participant's Guide**

**Prayer Leadership Seminars**

*Prepared by Great Commission Global Prayer Movement  
a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ*

# Greetings!

Welcome to a global network of people who seek the kingdom of God through **Prayer Movements Everywhere** for our desperately needy world.

You are holding one of several Prayer Leadership Seminars. It is designed to motivate and multiply intercessors and prayer leaders throughout countries, ministries (including their departments), and churches served by Campus Crusade for Christ.

Let us pray that through this training seminar, God will open doors of multiplying service for you. You can be a joy to God's heart and a great blessing to others by using your spiritual gifting (Romans 12:6-8): publicizing, helping, teaching, organizing, giving, and encouraging people who do not feel qualified, or reaching out to those who are timid and fearful.

May God empower you by His mighty Spirit to develop **spiritual movements everywhere** and to help fulfill Christ's plan for the world!

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## Session 1

### God's Purposes for Prayer

**Theme:** Prayer flows from the heart of God.

**Biblical Foundation:** Genesis 1:26-28

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over . . . all the earth . . . and subdue it . . ."*

(NKJV™ vv. 26,28)

**The Purpose of This Session** is to examine the marvel of prayer.

**Introduction:** We, human beings, are created with a capacity to communicate with the God of the universe. That capacity is called prayer. The sin of our first parents resulted in a cutting of that communication between the human race and our holy Creator. The outcome was global disaster. Thankfully, God, from eternity, had already launched a major rescue operation through His Son, our Lord Jesus, to restore His relationship and communication with us (Romans 5:10). The level of our praying is determined by our understanding of God.

#### God Created Prayer for Four Reasons:

##### **A. God is a Person, and wants our \_\_\_\_\_.**

1. People are created in God's image, with special capacity for personal relationship with Him. – *"Let us make man in Our image."* NKJV™ Genesis 1:26
  - a. *"Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."*  
NKJV™ 1 John 1:3b
  - b. **The fellowship (communion) of the Holy Spirit** with God's people is mentioned as a benediction in 2 Corinthians 13:14.
2. God has put His heart into communicating with us. Acts 17:26,27
3. He chose and called us to pray. John 15:16
4. God created us to have two-way conversations with Him, which includes both speaking and listening. Jeremiah 33:3

##### **B. God is a Father, and wants our \_\_\_\_\_.**

1. He loves us, and wants us to come to Him (1 John 3:1a; John 7:37-39).
2. In His love, He waits to be asked. Love does not force benefits on a loved one.
3. Prayer is our special, unique way to invite Him into our hearts and service.

**C. God is the King, and wants our \_\_\_\_\_.**

1. As *“the King of all the earth”* (NKJV™ Psalm 47:7), God is fulfilling His world plan through prayer. Psalm 65:2
2. Jesus taught us to ask the Father to effect His will. Matthew 6:10
3. Prayer is Christ's way to mobilize workers for harvest. Matthew 9:37,38
4. Praying is training for reigning with Christ. We will rule with Christ as priests, through prayer, worship, and praise. Revelation 20:6

**D. God is the Source, and awaits our \_\_\_\_\_.**

1. *“Every good gift and every perfect gift . . . comes down from the Father . . .”*  
NKJV™ James 1:17
2. Prayer is our way to receive God's gifts. Mark 11:24; James 4:2b
3. Our asking is God's way to draw needed provision from Christ, our Vine. John 15:5,16
  - a. For our own well-being as His branches
  - b. For production of life-giving fruit through us for others

**Conclusion:** God created prayer as a channel of release for the flow of His life and power to His people.

**Response Time:**

1. Write answers to the following two questions: (Use blank space below.)
  - a. Which one of God's purposes of prayer (see points A, B, C, or D above) needs most development in my praying?

\_\_\_\_\_

- b. What step shall I take this week to grow in that purpose?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Share your answers with a partner.
3. Keep a written record of progress this week in your response to question 1-b, above. (This is called “journaling.”)

**Prayer Time:** Pray with the same partner about your answers to question 1-b (in **Response Time** above).

## Session 2

### God's Wonderful Plan for Prayer

**Theme:** God uses our prayers to accomplish His work in the world.

**Biblical Foundation:** Romans 8:26,27

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.* NKJV™

**The Purpose of This Session** is to value prayer as God does.

**Introduction:**

The above Scripture -- Romans 8:26,27 -- is the basic text for this seminar.

These verses picture prayer as a huge circle, like the face of a clock.

The circle shows the Process of Prayer -- God's action in human affairs.

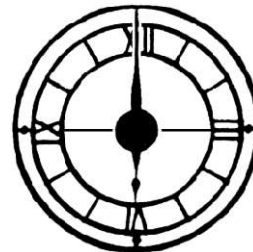


**The Process of Prayer:**

**A. God the Father is the Originator of Prayer:**  
*"according to the will of God"*

(NKJV™ Romans 8:27)

1. Prayer begins in God the Father – the 12 o'clock position in the diagram above.  
 cf., Romans 11:36
2. The importance of prayer originates in the nature of God. Psalm 65:2  
 Because He loves us, He draws us to \_\_\_\_\_ (cf., Jeremiah 29:11-13).



*Note: Pause now and worship the Father for His loving condescension in wanting to meet us in prayer!*

**B. Three intercessors are involved in the prayer process:**

1. The Holy Spirit, at the 3 o'clock position in "the Process of Prayer" diagram, \_\_\_\_\_ for us, weak-praying Christians, and entrusts His groanings (intense longings) to us. Romans 8:26,27
2. We Christians are at the 6 o'clock position in "the Process of Prayer" diagram. ***"We do not know what we should pray for as we ought . . ."*** (NKJV™ Romans 8:26)  
-- Our prayers are imperfect, but very important!
3. The third intercessor, at the 9 o'clock position, is the Son of God who searches the minds and the hearts of people (Revelation 2:18,23). The Lord Jesus has chosen to hear the Spirit's intercession in the hearts of His praying people (Romans 8:27)! Then, Jesus mingles these prayers with His own intercession to the Father. Romans 8:34

We conclude, therefore, that praying Christians are \_\_\_\_\_ connectors between the mighty intercessory ministries of the Holy Spirit and Christ Jesus! We will examine more details of these three intercessors during the next three sessions.

**C. A complete overview of prayer, in Romans 8:26,27, involves four cosmic actions:**

1. God the Father releases His \_\_\_\_\_ to the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:10
2. The Spirit groans for and expresses these purposes in hearts of praying people-- for personal, church, community, and world concerns (cf., Ephesians 6:18).
3. We express those groanings by praying to the Father, as the Holy Spirit guides us, in the name (authority) of Jesus. Jude 20; John 16:24
4. Christ receives the Spirit's praying in the hearts of praying Christians. He presents our prayers in His intercession to the Father, and sees that they get done (John 14:13).  
In this way, the circuit of God's spiritual action is completed in the world.

**Conclusion:** Three wonders about prayer are revealed in our text (Romans 8:26,27):

1. Prayer is more than something we do. It is something God does through us.
2. When we pray, we cooperate in the functioning of the Godhead!  
(cf., Philippians 2:13)
3. Our prayers do not change God's will; they are His way to accomplish His will.  
cf., Matthew 6:10

**Response Time:** Answer these questions:

1. What value, on a scale of 1 to 10, did you give to prayer in the past? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What value can you give to it now? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What prayer concept is most impressive to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer Time:**

1. Silently ask the Lord for enabling to walk in the light of truth He is giving now.
2. Instructor may close by asking God for increased sensitivity to the leading of His Holy Spirit in prayer.

### Session 3

## Developing Intimacy with God in Prayer

**Theme:** Make your life a school of prayer.

**Biblical Foundation:** 2 Corinthians 4:6

*For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.* NKJV™

**The Purpose of This Session** is to learn intimate, person-to-person communication with God.

**Introduction:** When Moses died, God paid tribute to him with this special epitaph, recorded in Deuteronomy 34:10, "SINCE THEN THERE HAS NOT ARISEN IN ISRAEL A PROPHET LIKE MOSES, WHOM THE LORD KNEW FACE TO FACE." (NKJV™ emphasis added)

Moses' greatness came from something more than the mighty plagues in Egypt, or from the fiery reception of the Law on Mt. Sinai. In this Deuteronomy passage, it is as though God is letting us in on the secret of Moses' fame in both earth and heaven: his face-to face fellowship with God. His greatness came from his praying! We, too, have been given the privilege of the same kind of person-to-person communication with the living God as Moses enjoyed.

OUR PRIVILEGE:

1. God's people are called to gaze on His face! Psalm 27:8
2. We receive the knowledge of God's glory by beholding the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6
3. Face-to-face fellowship with Christ will be a central splendor of heaven for us. Revelation 22:4

### Four Ways to Seek His Face:

**A. Provide adequate \_\_\_\_\_.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ until you can sense His presence. Psalm 46:10

This may require extra time at first because we need spiritual conditioning, like an athlete who needs physical conditioning in order to compete. 2 Timothy 2:5 (cf., "**Exercise yourself rather to godliness.**" -- NKJV™ 1 Timothy 4:7b)

2. Schedule and maintain a regular \_\_\_\_\_ time for prayer, sufficient to cover your schedule. Martin Luther was noted for his daily time alone with God. He is reported to have said at one time, "I had so much to do today that I had to rise three hours earlier to pray."

**B. Develop lists of your heart burdens for prayer.** Psalm 55:22

1. Anxieties: The Holy Spirit entrusts challenges to us that are bigger than we are. They draw us to prayer, and thus reveal the greatness of our Heavenly Father. Philippians 4:6,7
2. Goals: The vision or calling God gives to a person, as was true of Moses, almost always exceeds his or her capacity. In this way, He motivates us to pray for fulfillment of our life calling. 2 Timothy 1:9
3. Responsibilities: Healthy service to God soon grows to exceed our strength. Christ invites over-loaded people to bring their burdens to Him. Matthew 11:28-30
4. Distractions: Frequently, it is difficult to concentrate in prayer. Write out and pray over the things that interrupt your meditation and prayer. Since your attention is already drawn to them, expressing them to the Father will help you to quickly move back into His fellowship. 1 Peter 5:7

**C. Pray \_\_\_\_\_ back to God  
(Scripture Prayer).**

1. Read a Bible phrase or verse.
2. Turn that Scripture unit into a prayer. First, address God in your customary way. Then pray the prayer that rises in your heart out of that Scripture portion.
3. By this procedure, your prayers immediately become intimate, two-way communication with God.
4. As days go by, proceed through the passage, a chapter, and even an entire book.



**Benefits in Praying Scriptures Include:**

- a. You focus attention immediately on God.
- b. Your prayer becomes two-way conversation. You learn to listen.
- c. You uncover oceans of prayer material.
- d. Your mood changes to the emotional flow of Scripture.
- e. You explore the Bible, seeing it from God's viewpoint.
- f. You explore and experience the nature of God revealed in the Bible.

**D. \_\_\_\_\_ barriers to effective prayer.** (cf., Psalm 66:18; Romans 6:14)

1. Keep your conscience \_\_\_\_\_. Acts 24:16
  - a. With God: Practice spiritual breathing. cf., 1 John 3:21-23
    - 1) Breathe out impure air of sin by confession and repentance. 1 John 1:9
    - 2) Breathe in God's pure air of the Holy Spirit's power by faith. John 20:22
  - b. With people: Remove all offenses. cf., John 13:34,35
    - 1) Ask forgiveness from people who feel offended by you. Matthew 5:23,24
    - 2) Forgive people who have offended you. Ephesians 4:32
    - 3) Look for ways to minister, in the Spirit of Christ, to people who exhibit offensive behavior. Galatians 6:1
2. Is there someone with whom you have a strained or broken relationship?  
Let us pray about this problem now, following these helpful steps:
  - a. Confess your part of the wrong to God and receive His forgiveness.
  - b. Tell God that you will go to that person and:
    - 1) Tell him or her, "I have come to realize that I wronged you by . . . ."
    - 2) Ask him or her, "Will you forgive me for this wrong? I am a Christian, and want to be right with God and with you."
    - 3) When he or she says, "I forgive you," your conscience will become clear. If the other person refuses, leave the matter to God. In either case, that barrier to prayer will be removed. Romans 12:18

*(Take time for a reconciling prayer.)*

**Conclusion:** Talking with God face to face is a transforming experience --  
"from glory to glory" -- for every Christian. 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:6

**Response Time:** Write a personal plan for meeting with God face to face. Include:

1. Time: Arrange a daily prayer time for a week, using guidelines in sections A, B, and C above.
2. Bible: Pray through a favorite Bible chapter -- a few verses daily.
3. Conscience: If your fellowship has broken with someone, take steps to make peace with that person.

**Prayer Time:** Pray for God's grace to complete this project (in **Response Time** above) with joy!

## Session 4

### Praying in the Holy Spirit



**Theme:** Our prayers are channels for the praying of the Holy Spirit.

**Biblical Foundation:** Jude 20,21

*But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.* NKJV™

**The Purpose of This Session** is to help us be filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Introduction:** We Christians cannot pray as we should without help (Romans 8:26).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ lives in Christian believers to help us in our praying. Romans 8:15
  - a. The Day of Pentecost marked a new, wonderful period in God's world plan.
  - b. On that day, the Holy Spirit moved His seat of administration from heaven to His Church on earth (John 16:7-13).
2. Today, He is "joining to help us" (literal translation of Romans 8:26) in our prayer weaknesses. How does He do that?

#### A. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26).

1. "The Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with **[groanings]** that are not uttered." (literal Greek translation, Romans 8:26)
2. He is "*the Spirit of grace and supplication.*" NKJV™ Zechariah 12:10

#### B. The Holy Spirit intercedes in us (Romans 8:27).

1. The Holy Spirit expresses His intercession to Jesus in the prayers of God's people.
2. "*He who searches the hearts [of His praying children] knows what the mind of the Spirit is.*" NKJV™ Romans 8:27
3. Our highest potential is to pray the burdens (urgent needs, problems) that the Holy Spirit lays upon our hearts. In this way, we pray in the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 6:18

**C. The Holy Spirit intercedes through us** (Romans 8:27).

1. The third Intercessor, our Lord Jesus, receives the Spirit's requests through praying believers.
2. A vital element in prayer is to sense "the mind of the Spirit."
3. When we walk through life **in fellowship with Jesus**, our prayer burdens will express groanings of the Spirit (see also John 15:7).
4. Our strongest resource for prayer is to be \_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit.

**Conclusions:**

1. The Spirit entrusts His groanings to us in the form of prayer burdens.
2. Effective prayer expresses those burdens which the Spirit stirs within our hearts.
3. Fullness of the Spirit enables us to reach our highest prayer potential.

**Response Time:**

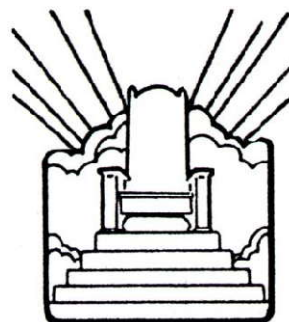
1. Look over the key points of the Campus Crusade booklet, ***Have You Made the Wonderful Discovery of the Spirit-Filled Life?***
2. Pray individually or together to be filled with the Spirit. Use the prayer suggested on page 12 of the booklet.
3. Practice "Spiritual Breathing" (booklet page 15) as a 30-day experiment that can lead to a life pattern.

**Prayer Time:** Instructor may close the time with a prayer of thanksgiving to God for answering everyone's prayers for the infilling of the Holy Spirit on the basis of 1 John 5:14,15.

## Session 5

### Praying in the Authority of Jesus

**Theme:** Power for praying comes from uniting our prayers with the praying of Jesus to whom God has given all authority in heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18).



**Biblical Foundation:** Hebrews 7:25  
*Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost [completely] those who come to God through Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them. (NKJV™ emphasis added)*

**The Purpose of This Session** is to understand the unlimited resources available to us in the praying of Jesus.

**Introduction:** The Christian exercises awesome authority by praying in the name of Jesus. Our Bible passage above, **Hebrews 7:25**, establishes four foundational facts about prayer as follows.

**A. Christ in you has supreme power and \_\_\_\_\_.**

1. He is able to save completely -- past, present, and future.
2. Total authority is His in heaven and earth. Matthew 28:18
3. The Father has put all things under Christ's rulership. Christ is Head over *all* things to us, the Church, His Body on earth. Ephesians 1:22,23
4. From the moment we receive this amazing Christ, we have access to the greatness of the loving Father! John 16:26,27

**B. Christ is using His supreme power to pray:**

*"He ever lives to make intercession . . ."* NKJV™ Hebrews 7:25b

1. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, accomplishing the Father's will \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 8:34
2. Jesus blends our prayers to the Father with His own prayers in seven ways. He:
  - a. Aligns them with the Father's will Romans 8:27
  - b. Authenticates them John 15:16
  - c. Expands them Ephesians 3:20
  - d. Intercedes for them Romans 8:34
  - e. Empowers them Hebrews 7:25a
  - f. Continues them Hebrews 7:25b
  - g. Sees that they get done John 14:13

**C. Christ is praying for people who pray.**

1. He is praying for people who come to God.  
"Coming to God" is a Bible synonym for prayer.
2. When we pray in His name, we transfer our concerns into His praying!  
He receives our prayers, prays them with His supreme authority, and accomplishes them at the right hand of the Father.
3. Thus, God uses our prayers to make righteous changes in human affairs.

**D. Believers are authorized to pray in Jesus' name ("come to God through Him")**  
NKJV™ Hebrews 7:25).

1. When we pray in Jesus' name, according to His word, we use His authority (John 14:14).  
**The Father regards those prayers as coming from Jesus Himself.**
2. Praying in Jesus' name means that Christ has given us "power of attorney."  
Christ has committed Himself to guarantee \_\_\_\_\_ to our prayers as we \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in us (John 15:7).
3. The closer we live in communion with Christ, the better we can appropriate His authority. John 14:23

**Conclusion:** The powerful part of our praying is to love Jesus and to transfer our burdens into His praying.

**Response and Prayer Time:** Move to the **Dedication Prayer Time** on the next page.

## Dedication Prayer Time

### The Dedication Prayer

#### Unison Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
I desire to live a life of genuine communion with You -- abiding in You;  
depending on You; obeying You; and experiencing the fullness of  
Your presence. I am not able to live a life of prayer by myself.  
I battle conflicting desires that compete for intimate, consistent time  
with You.

*( Remarks by Instructor )*

#### Unison Prayer, Continued

Father, I thank You for forgiving my prayer sins and removing them  
by the shed blood of Jesus. I surrender control of the throne of my life,  
anew to You. I receive afresh the fullness of Your praying Holy Spirit  
in the name of Jesus.

Lord, renew me daily in prayer. Keep me sensitive to Your love for me.  
Use my failures in prayer as learning opportunities to grow stronger.  
Teach me to know You better, to grow in Your fellowship, and to trust  
You as my Source for everything. Help me to remember and apply  
the prayer lessons You are teaching me.

This prayer I offer to You receptively and gratefully, in the name of  
my Lord Jesus. Amen.