

# Prayer Leadership Seminars

# Seminar 1

Seminar 1

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

**Explore Prayer from God's Perspective**

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Session 1

# God's Purposes for Prayer

# **Theme:**

Prayer flows from the heart of God.

# **Biblical Foundation:**

“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...’”

Genesis 1:26,28 NKJV™

# **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 a 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.

“For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Romans 5:10 NKJV™

# **God Created Prayer for Four Reasons**

**A. God is a Person, and wants our fellowship.**

1. People are created in God's image, with a special capacity for personal relationship with Him.

## Genesis 1:26

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’”

Genesis 1:26 NKJV™

a. **Our fellowship is with the Father  
and with His Son Jesus Christ.**

“...that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

1 John 1:3 NKJV™

**b. The fellowship (communion) of  
the Holy Spirit**

“The grace of the Lord Jesus  
Christ, and the love of God, and  
the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all. Amen.”

2 Corinthians 13:14 NKJV™

2. God has put His heart into communicating with us.

“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.”

Acts 17:26,27 NKJV™

3. He chose and called us to pray.

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

John 15:16 NKJV™

4. God created us to have two-way conversations with Him, which includes both speaking and listening.

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”

Jeremiah 33:3 NKJV™

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

He loves us, and wants us to come to Him.

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!”

1 John 3:1a NKJV™

“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

John 7:37-39 NKJV™

**C. God is the King, and wants our [obedience].**

1. As “the King of all the earth” (Psalm 47:7 NKJV™), God is fulfilling His world plan through prayer.

“O You who hear prayer,  
To You all flesh will come.”

Psalm 65:2 NKJV™

2. Jesus taught us to ask the Father to effect His will.

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Matthew 6:10 NKJV™

3. Prayer is Christ's way to mobilize workers for harvest.

“Then He said to His disciples,  
‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’”

Matthew 9:37-38 NKJV™

4. Praying is training for reigning with Christ. We will rule with Christ as priests, through prayer, worship, and praise.

“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

Revelation 20:6 NKJV™

**D. God is the Source, and awaits  
our [requests].**

1. “Every good gift and every perfect gift...comes down from the Father...”

James 1:17 NKJV™

2. Prayer is our way to receive  
God's gifts.

“Therefore I say to you,  
whatever things you ask when  
you pray, believe that you receive  
them, and you will have them.”

Mark 11:24 NKJV™

“Yet you do not have because you do not ask.”

James 4:2b NKJV™

3. Our asking is God's way to draw needed provision from Christ, our vine.
  - a. For our own well-being as His branches
  - b. For production of life-giving fruit through us for others

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing... You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

John 15:5, 16 NKJV™

# **Conclusion:**

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

# **End of Seminar 1**

## **Session 1**