

Session 3

**Developing
Intimacy with
God in Prayer**

Theme:

Make your life a school of prayer.

Biblical Foundation:

“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.”

2 Corinthians 4:6 NKJV™

The Purpose of This Session

is to learn intimate, person-to-person
communication with God.

Introduction:

“SINCE THEN THERE HAS NOT
ARISEN IN ISRAEL A PROPHET LIKE
MOSES, WHOM THE LORD KNEW
FACE TO FACE.”

Deuteronomy 34:10 NKJV™ (emphasis added)

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!

“When You said, ‘Seek My face,’ my heart said to You, ‘Your face, Lord, I will seek.’”

Psalm 27:8 NKJV™

2. We receive the knowledge of God's glory by beholding the face of Jesus Christ.

“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.”

2 Corinthians 4:6 NKJV™

3. Face-to-face fellowship with Christ will be a central splendor of heaven for us.

“They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.”

Revelation 22:4 NKJV™

Four Ways to Seek His Face:

A. Provide adequate [time].

1. [Pause] until you can sense His presence.

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Psalm 46:10 NKJV™

This [**pausing**] may require extra time at first because we need spiritual conditioning, like an athlete who needs physical conditioning in order to compete.

“And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.”

2 Timothy 2:5 NKJV™

(cf. “Exercise yourself rather to godliness.” 1 Timothy 4:7b NKJV™)

2. Schedule and maintain a regular [**daily**] time for prayer, sufficient to cover your schedule.

B. Develop lists of your heart burdens for prayer.

“Cast your burden on the Lord,
And He shall sustain you; He shall
never permit the righteous to be moved.”

Psalm 55:22 NKJV™

1. Anxieties:

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6,7 NKJV™

2. Goals:

“Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,”

2 Timothy 1:9 NKJV™

3. Responsibilities:

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV™

4. Distractions:

“...casting all your care upon Him,
for He cares for you.”

1 Peter 5:7 NKJV™

C. Pray [Scriptures] 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.

D. [Remove] barriers to effective prayer.

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.”

Psalm 66:18 NKJV™

“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

Romans 6:14 NKJV™

1. Keep your conscience [clear].

“...I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.”

Acts 24:16 NKJV™

a. With God: Practice spiritual breathing.

“Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”

1 John 3:21,22 NKJV™

1) Breathe out impure air of sin by confession and repentance.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9 NKJV™

2) Breathe in God's pure air of the Holy Spirit's power by faith.

“And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

John 20:22 NKJV™

b. With people: Remove all offenses.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34,35 NKJV™

1) Ask forgiveness from people who feel offended by you.

“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

Matthew 5:23,24 NKJV™

2) Forgive people who have offended you.

“And be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just
as God in Christ also forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32 NKJV™

3) Look for ways to minister, in the Spirit of Christ, to people who exhibit offensive behavior.

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

Galatians 6:1 NKJV™

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.

“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

Romans 12:18 NKJV™

Conclusion

Talking with God face to face is a transforming experience – “from glory to glory” – for every Christian.

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV™

“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.”

2 Corinthians 4:6 NKJV™

End of Seminar 1
Session 3