

**THE LIFE-CHANGING POWER OF PRAYER**

**By T. W. Hunt**

**LESSON 1**

**THE FOUNDATION OF PRAYER: THE GOD WHO CARES**

**Prayer is Universal**

Universal in Time

Universal in Space

Praise God for your desire to study the Bible. We welcome you to join our Wednesday Night Bible Study sessions at FAME, 7:00 – 8:00 PM before the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

*Directions: Please read and study the scripture lesson and any other scripture references, the Illumination section, and the Observation section, than answer the questions in the Exploration section. When you submit your answers on the answer sheet a Bible study teacher will review your answers and provide comments within 2 weeks of submission. These comments will enrich your Bible study experience and is not intended to grade or judge your knowledge or understanding.*

Scripture Lesson	Illumination
<p><b>Genesis 3</b></p> <p><i><b>The Fall of Man</b></i></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" <sup>4</sup> "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. <sup>8</sup> <b>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"</b></p> <p>Genesis 4</p> <p><sup>25</sup> Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." <sup>26</sup> Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Prayer</b> – In the Old Testament the Hebrew word “<i>qara</i>” is used which means to cry out, to call aloud. It is an action verb. In the New Testament the common root Greek word is “<i>kaleo</i>” from which the word church/ekklesia comes. It means to call and church mean the called-out ones.</li> <li>❖ <b>Enosh</b> – the son of Seth who is the son of Adam and Eve.</li> </ul>

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**Observations**

- ❖ Prayer is many things:
  - A relationship with God
  - A conversation between us and God
  - Talking with God
  - Listening to God
  - Communicating with God
  - Asking and Receiving
  - The cry of the human heart to the great God of the universe.
  - The voice of a child to the loving Heavenly Father
  - The expression of our need to the loving Father, who is ready to help.
  - Inviting God into our busy lives.
  - Precious gift from God.
  - Expressing our love and adoration of God
- ❖ Prayer is not a one-sided communication with a distant God.
- ❖ God wants our love and wants us to be in fellowship with Him so that we can know experience His love and presence. Deut. 6:5
- ❖ Prayer is universal – old as humankind, has been done throughout history, common to all people.
- ❖ Prayer is universal in time.
  - God, Adam and Eve walked in the Garden of Eve and enjoyed fellowship before the Fall. Gen. 3:8
  - From the time of Enosh onward God’s people called out to Him. Gen. 4:26
  - Abraham called on the name of the Lord. Gen. 12:8
  - Moses encouraged the people to call on the Lord, stay close to the Lord and keep His commandments. Deut. 4:1-40
  - Samuel reminded the people when they cried out to the Lord that the Lord heard and answered. I Sam. 12
  - Jabez called on the God of Israel with his petition and God granted it. I Chronicles 4:10
  - Elijah called on the Lord with his great contest with Baal I Kings 18:24.
  - David was a man of prayer:
    - Praised the Lord , II Sam. 22:4
    - Bold in his prayers, Psalm 4:1
    - Called out to God when hurt by betrayal, Psalm 55:16-17
    - Seeking forgiveness, Psalm 86:5
- ❖ Prayer is universal in space – no geographical, racial or ethnic boundaries. Romans 10:13; I Kings 8:41-43
  - God is in all times and places.
  - God wants us to call to Him where we are in our life.

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**Exploration**

Consider the book, "The Life-Changing Power of Prayer", the Illumination section and Observation section for your answers.

1. How would you define prayer?
2. How would you explain prayer to your children?
3. Do you pray today? Why or why not?
4. Do you want to increase your prayer life? Why or why not?
5. Read the following scriptures to learn what they are saying about prayer:
  - a. Psalm 102:1-2
  - b. Psalm 105:1-2
  - c. Psalm 145:18
  - d. Psalm 116:1-2
  - e. Psalm 50:15
  - f. Isaiah 55:6
  - g. Psalm 79:6
6. Are there limits to time and space where you can pray? Why or why not?

**Thought For The Week:** God is universal

