

THE LIFE-CHANGING POWER OF PRAYER

By T. W. Hunt

LESSON 2

THE FOUNDATION OF PRAYER: THE GOD WHO CARES

Prayer is Based on God's Nature

Prayer is Effective

Relates to human needs

Old Testament effectiveness

New Testament effectiveness

Throughout Christian history effectiveness

Today's effectiveness

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 3rd and 4th 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>Psalms 103⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. ⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; ¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; ¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. ¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; ¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. ¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children- ¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts. ¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.</p> <p>Psalms 51¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. ⁶ Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. ⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. ¹⁴ Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. ¹⁸ In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.</p> <p>Exodus 15:22-26 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) ²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" ²⁵ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. ²⁶ He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sovereignty – having supreme, independent authority ❖ Nature - refers to natural and moral attributes/characteristics.

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Observations

- ❖ Prayer is based on the sovereignty and nature of God.
 - God is holy. Isaiah 6:3; Exodus 3:5-6, Leviticus 19:1-2, 11:44
 - God is merciful. James 5:11; Psalm 103:8-19
 - God is love. John 3:16; Matthew 7:7-12
 - God is omnipotent. He has all power. Genesis 1; Luke 1:37; Jeremiah 32:17
 - God is omnipresent. He is everywhere. Genesis 1
 - God is omniscient. He knows everything. Genesis 1; Psalms 139:2; Isaiah 46:9-10
 - God is unchanging. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. James 1:17
 - God is timeless. Isaiah 46:9-10; Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 22:13
- ❖ God hears all prayers, yet He hears the prayers of His children in a special way.
 - I Peter 3:12
 - Romans 8:26
 - Matthew 21:22
 - John 17
- ❖ Prayer is effective because God relates to human needs. God is personal and relates to us in a personal way. God wants to have fellowship with us. Psalm 51; Exodus 33
- ❖ Prayer was effective in the Old Testament.
 - The Old Testament records God's relationship with His chosen people – the Israelites.
 - The Israelites cried out to their God, their Father when they were in bondage to the Egyptians. Exodus 2:23-25
 - God delivered the Israelites out of bondage in spite of their complaining and disobedience because Moses and Joshua prayed for them. Exodus 15:22-26
 - God continued to deliver the Israelites in the Promised Land. They would forget God. God would allow their enemies to conquer them. They would cry out to the Lord and God would appoint a judge/leader to deliver them. Judges 3:9; 4:3; 6:7; 10:10
- ❖ Prayer was effective in the New Testament.
 - The Book of Acts record the beginning of the church and prayer was important. Acts 1:14; 4:13-31; 6:1-4; 9:36-43; 10:9-16; 12:1-10; 13:1-3; 16:25-34
- ❖ Prayer has been effective throughout Christian history.
- ❖ Prayer is effective today.

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Exploration

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

1. Why is prayer based on the sovereignty and nature of God?
2. What is the nature of God?
3. Why does God hear the prayers of His children in a special way?
4. Provide examples of prayer being effective in the Old Testament, the New Testament, and today. Also share with the class a prayer warrior from your past.

Thought For The Week: God is sovereign, yet He still desire to have fellowship with you. Fellowship includes communication.

