



Prayer That Works

Grace Growth Group

Review

From last week:

- Resources: did you take advantage of the resources?
- Application Steps: did you apply the principles from the previous session? If so, how did you and what did you find?

Study Guide

Prayer That Works

- Opening thoughts
- Why pray?
- What is prayer?
- When should we prayer?
- Where should we pray?
- How should we pray?
- **What are the keys to effective prayer?**
- How can we pray for an hour?

Keys to Effective Prayer

Pray in the
Holy Spirit

1. Pray in the Holy Spirit.

Scripture:

Eph. 6:18 Praying always with all **prayer and supplication in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Jude 20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, **praying in the Holy Ghost**.

1. Pray in the Holy Spirit.

Scripture:

Romans 8:26-28 Likewise the Spirit also **helpeth our infirmities**: for **we know not what we should pray for** as we ought: but **the Spirit itself maketh intercession** for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And **he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit**, because he maketh intercession for the saints **according to the will of God**. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

1. Pray in the Holy Spirit.

How to pray in the Spirit?

- Surrender self.

Praying in the Spirit is praying with self surrendered to God.

Surrender your will and desires to God.

1. Pray in the Holy Spirit.

How to pray in the Spirit?

- Surrender self.
- Submit to the Spirit.

Praying in the Spirit is
praying through the Spirit.

Submit to the Spirit's
help in your prayer.

1. Pray in the Holy Spirit.

How to pray in the Spirit?

- Surrender self.
- Submit to the Spirit.
- Sense the Spirit's leading.

Praying in the Spirit is praying with the Spirit.

Sense the Spirit's leading in your prayer.

1. Pray in the Holy Spirit.

“Let me call your attention to our dependence on the Holy Spirit in all our praying, if we are to accomplish anything by our prayers. It is the Holy Spirit, as we saw in our study of the first phrase, who enables us to really pray ‘unto God,’ who leads us into the presence of God and makes God real to us. It is the Holy Spirit again who gives us the intense earnestness in prayer that prevails with God. Still again it is the Holy Spirit who brings us into unity so that we know the power of really united prayer. And it is the Spirit who shows us the definite things for which we should definitely pray.”[1]

[1] R. A. Torrey, *The Power of Prayer and the Prayer of Power*, Zondervan Books: Grand Rapids, MI, 1971, 70-71.

Pray in Jesus'
Name

2. Pray in Jesus' Name.

Scripture:

John 15:12-14 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

2. Pray in Jesus' Name.

Scripture:

John 14:13-14 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

2. Pray in Jesus' Name.

“This is one of the most familiar, most wonderful, and at the same time most commonly understood promises in the Bible regarding God’s willingness to answer prayer.”[1]

[1] R. A. Torrey, *The Power of Prayer and the Prayer of Power*, Zondervan Books: Grand Rapids, MI, 1971, 96.

2. Pray in Jesus' Name.

This promise is for believing Christians.

How to pray in Jesus' name?

- Be a Christian.

John 15:12-14 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me**, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

2. Pray in Jesus' Name.

This promise is with conditions.

How to pray in Jesus' name?

- Be a Christian.
- Know the conditions.

“Prayer is to be in accordance with all that the name stands for. [1]

[1]Leon Morris, The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Gospel According to John Jason Ehmman, Teach Us to Pray, Positive Action for Christ, Inc.: Whitakers, NC, 43.

2. Pray in Jesus' Name.

As a believer, we have access to the presence and promises of God:

“To pray in the name of Jesus Christ is to recognize that we have not claims on God whatever, that God owes us nothing whatever...but, believing what God Himself tells us about Jesus Christ's claims upon Him, we ask God for things on the ground of Jesus Christ's claims upon God. And when we draw near to God in that way we can get 'whatsoever we ask,' no matter how great it may be.” [1]

1] R. A. Torrey, The Power of Prayer and the Prayer of Power, Zondervan Books: Grand Rapids, MI, 1971, 105.

2. Pray in Jesus' Name.

This promise is for Christlike claims.



How to pray in Jesus' name?

- Be a Christian.
- Know the conditions.
- Be Christlike in your claims.

Pray with Jesus'
Words in Us

3. Pray with Jesus' Words in Us.

Scripture:

John 15:7-8 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

3. Pray with Jesus' Words in Us.

The Bible must be the basis for our prayers:

- Read/Listen
- Study
- Meditate
- Memorise

Prayer Is...

“There is no true prayer without study of the Word of God, and there is no true study of the Word of God without prayer.”[1]

[1] R. A. Torrey, *The Power of Prayer and the Prayer of Power*, Zondervan Books: Grand Rapids, MI, 1971, 17.

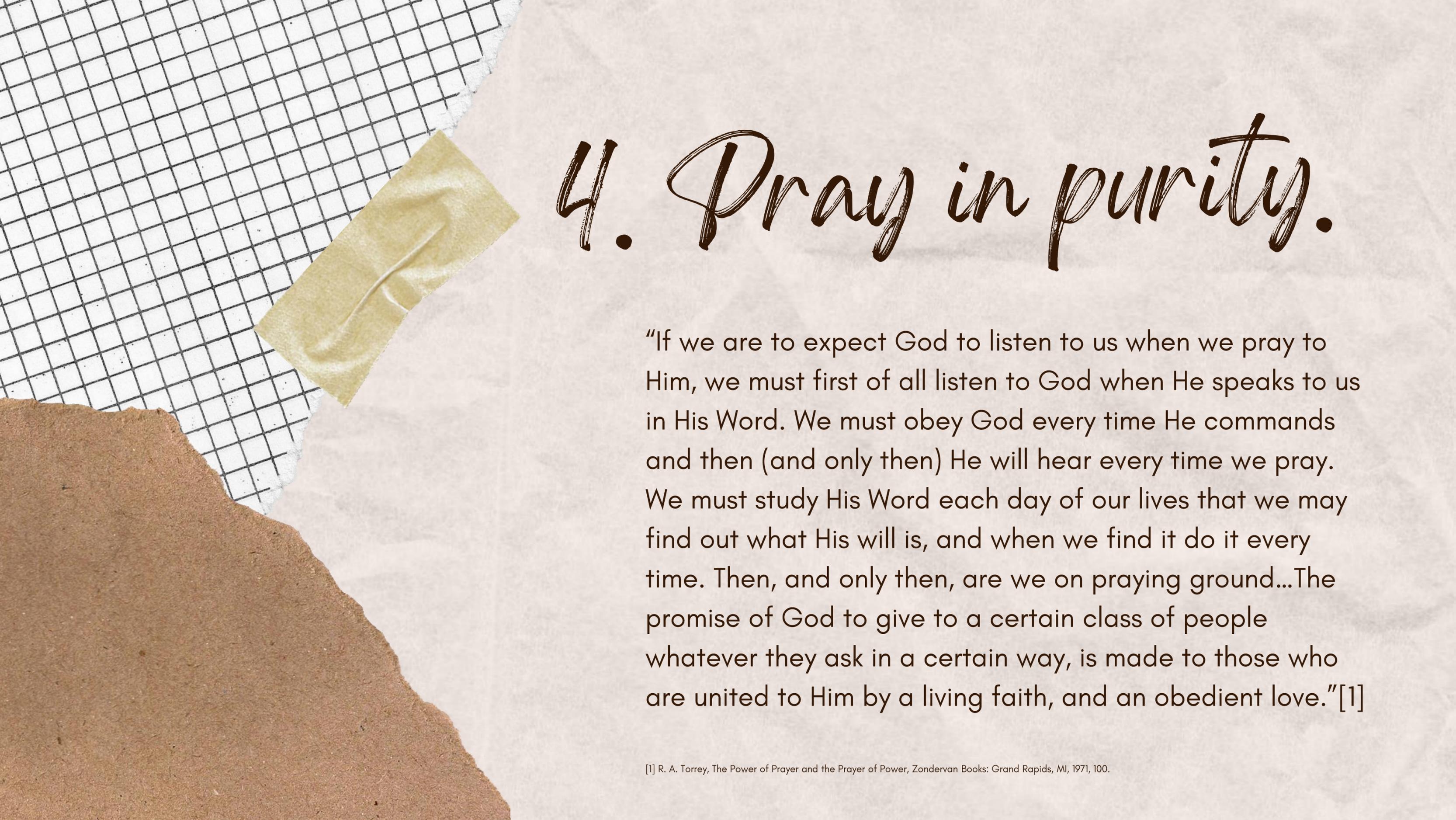
Pray in Purity



4. Pray in purity.

Scripture:

1 John 3:22, 22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we **keep his commandments**, and **do those things that are pleasing in his sight**.



4. Pray in purity.

“If we are to expect God to listen to us when we pray to Him, we must first of all listen to God when He speaks to us in His Word. We must obey God every time He commands and then (and only then) He will hear every time we pray. We must study His Word each day of our lives that we may find out what His will is, and when we find it do it every time. Then, and only then, are we on praying ground...The promise of God to give to a certain class of people whatever they ask in a certain way, is made to those who are united to Him by a living faith, and an obedient love.”[1]

[1] R. A. Torrey, *The Power of Prayer and the Prayer of Power*, Zondervan Books: Grand Rapids, MI, 1971, 100.

Pray in
Perseverance

5. Pray with persistence.

Scripture:

Col. 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.

Eph. 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

5. Pray with persistence.

Luke 11:5-8 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

5. Pray with persistence.

Importunity means “shamelessness...it sets forth the persistent determination in prayer to God that will not be put to shame by any apparent refusal on God’s part to grant the thing that we ask.”[1] Importunity understands God wants to give us good things and keeps asking.

[1] R. A. Torrey, *The Power of Prayer and the Prayer of Power*, Zondervan Books: Grand Rapids, MI, 1971, 130.

Conclusion

- What are the keys to effective prayer?
- What do the concepts of praying in the Holy Spirit and in Jesus' name mean?
- Do purity and persistence describe our prayer lives?

Prayer in Practice



This week...

- Review this lesson and included Bible verses.
- Use the lesson to guide your prayers this week.
- Read this week's memory verses every day.
- Listen to one of the recommended audio resources on prayer.