

# Lesson 3

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## Praying for our Teens by Jan Patterson

*Remember the Word to your servant,  
in which YOU have made me hope.*  
~ Psalm 119:49

### **Introduction**

1. Prayer is WORK.

*Genesis 32:26, I will not let You go unless You  
bless me.*

2. As our children get older, there is less and less we can do or say to affect them, but we can ALWAYS pray.
3. YOU will learn and grow perhaps more than your children through this ministry.

### **What the Bible Says About It**

***There is no command in the Bible that tells us  
to pray for them! Why?***

1. Maybe it goes without saying?
2. We are told to “pray for ALL” and “pray without ceasing.”
3. If you don’t, who will?

***Bible prayers of parents for children — there are none! But this precedent:***

1. Job interceded for his children, IN CASE they had sinned (Job 1:5).
2. Paul prayed for his spiritual children, Jesus prayed for those the Father had given Him, and we have inherited this “**spiritual priesthood.**”

“The distinguishing favors  
we have received from God,  
especially those  
of the *spiritual priesthood* . . .  
will be remembered against us . . .  
if we profane our crown  
and betray our trusts.”  
~ Matthew Henry



## Praying the Scriptures

### Why?

1. We are told to pray according to the will of God, and our desires may not be the same as His.
2. Our thoughts and ways are not God's ways (Isaiah 55:8-9).
3. Our faith is strengthened when we see God's Word fulfilled.

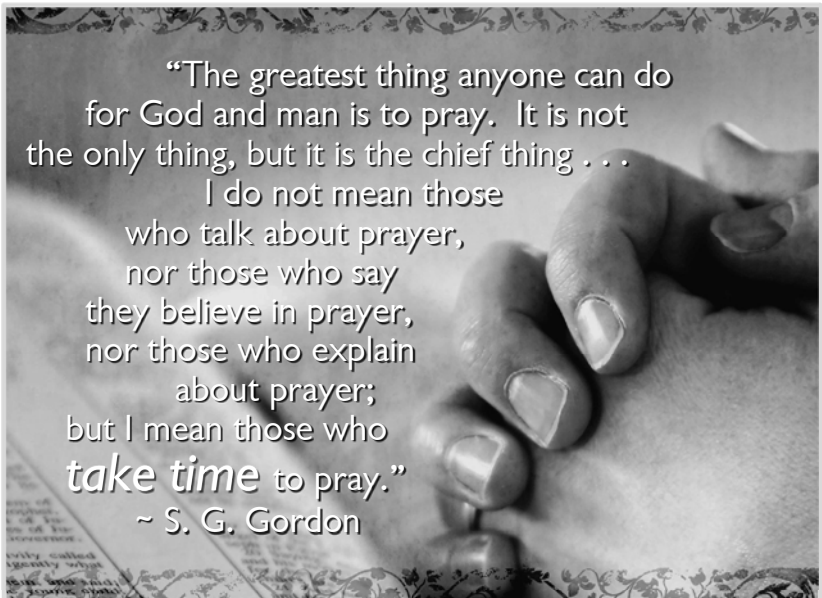
### How?

1. Proverbs
  - a. This book reveals the basic needs and temptations of young people of all ages and all places. "My son(s)" occurs 34 times, and those passages help us know how to pray for our teens.
  - b. The word "hear" found in many of those verses means to heed diligently, to comprehend, and to listen obediently.
  - c. The overall theme of the verses is wisdom. How do they get it and what are its effects on the life?
    - Heeding parents' instructions
    - Responding humbly to discipline and reproof
    - Purity of heart and body
    - Avoidance of alcohol
    - Choosing the right friends and associates
    - Diligence
    - Respectfulness toward others

2. Bible characters – these were specially blessed and used because of what the Lord had worked in their hearts and lives.
  - a. Abraham, who was “the friend of God.”
  - b. Moses, who was “very humble, more than any man . . .”
  - c. David, who was “a man after God’s own heart.”
  - d. Solomon, who was “wiser than all men.”
  - e. Job, who was a man of integrity and “spoke right of God” unlike his friends.
  - f. Apollos, who was “mighty in the Scriptures.”
  - g. Isaiah and Jeremiah, who were “consecrated from the womb.”
  - h. Enoch, who “walk with God” and “was pleasing to God.”
3. Helpful lists of verses/prayers –
  - a. Handout of NT prayers for “All Believers”
  - b. Handout of *Using the Word to Pray for Teenagers*
4. Your own time in the Word is your best resource. This matter is all about YOU AND THE LORD in fellowship over His Word and your young people. If HE gives you verses or passages, how can He not answer? **Psalm 119:49, Remember the Word to your servant, in which YOU have made me hope.**

## Examples of Parents Who Prayed With Effect

1. John Paton
2. Adoniram Judson
3. Hudson Taylor
4. John Newton



## What About “Unanswered” Prayer?

***There are several aspects to prayer that affect God’s answers, things we do not understand and over which we do not have any control.***

1. God’s timing is not ours. He is infinitely wise and powerful.
2. God deals with *wills* and *hearts*. We cannot change those but He can.
3. God’s purposes for *eternity*, for *His kingdom*, and for *His glory* are His own jurisdiction. There may be other people and situations we know nothing of that have a part in His answers to us, and we often have no knowledge of how He is working all those details.

“Prayer is *pulling with God*  
in His plan for a world.”

~ S. G. Gordon

***There are things to keep in mind about God Himself that affect our prayers.***

1. He is infinitely, powerfully, and comfortingly **GOOD.**
2. He is **ALWAYS right.**
3. He is just as concerned about your own heart as He is about your child’s.
4. He is not restricted to our understanding of Him, or even our understanding of what we think His Word says. We cannot “put Him in a box,” or define the parameters within which He can or should act.

## **God does “hear” our prayers!**

See Hebrews 5:7. How was it that our Lord was “heard?” Didn’t He still suffer? Didn’t He still die? This word “heard” means more than simply “hear.” It means heard with the effect of acceptance and result or benefit. Jesus was heard in this way. His prayer was answered, in God’s way and time. He still had to go through suffering, but the Father’s answer was 3 days later at the Resurrection. The Father’s wise and good and *eternal* way.

## **Sometimes answers come in ways different from what we are expecting, often in “quieter” ways.**

So watch for answers, ask the Lord to open your eyes to them. He IS at work (Habakkuk 1:5b).

## **Conclusion**

1. Matthew 7:7-8, Jesus Himself *told us* to pray. He would not do that if there was to be no effect or reason for it.
2. Often the hardest part is waiting. Psalm 37:7a says, *Rest* (be still, cease striving) *in the Lord and wait patiently* (longingly) *for Him . . .*
3. May we all by God’s goodness be able to say, *I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in truth* (3 John 4).

*Come, my soul, with every care;  
Jesus loves to answer prayer.  
He Himself bids you to pray  
And will never turn away.  
You are coming to a King –  
Large petitions with you bring;  
For His grace and pow'r are such,  
None can ever ask too much.*  
~ John Newton



## **Sources Used**

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[www.simusa.org](http://www.simusa.org)  
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