



Young Mothers 2018

November 25, 2018 | Lesson 12

Assignment:

Devotional Life: Prayer

(MBW Single Women, 2009, 2013)

Praying Scripture for Your Family

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Memory Passage: Colossians 4:2

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.

How can we change things by prayer? How can we “move” a sovereign and omnipotent God? We do not understand. We simply obey because it is a law of the universe, as we obey other laws of the universe, knowing only that this is how things have been arranged: the book falls to the floor in obedience to the law of gravity if I let go of it; **spiritual power is released through prayer.**

Elisabeth Elliot, 20th century missionary and writer, Passion and Purity

“Prayer is the offering up of our desires unto God,
for things agreeable to his will,
in the name of Christ,
with confession of our sins,
and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.”

1. Perspectives

A. Eternal

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:2

“. . . Here is a soul to train for God; and the body in which it dwells is worthy all it will cost, since it is the abode of a kingly tenant. I may see less of friends, but I have gained one dearer than them all, to whom, while I minister in Christ's name, I make a willing sacrifice of what little leisure my other darlings had left me. Yes, my precious baby! you are welcome to your mother's heart, welcome to her time, her strength, her health, her tenderest cares, to her life-long prayers! Oh, how rich I am! how truly, how wondrously blest!”

Elizabeth Prentiss, 19th century Pastor's wife and writer, Stepping Heavenward, p. 282

B. Temporal

. . . For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. James 4:14

“God delights in hearing any of His children pray in any way at any time.” Pastor Mark Minnick

11. Problems

A. Lack of faith

*But without faith it is impossible to please him: **for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.** Hebrews 11:6*

“Prayer is the exercise of faith.” John Calvin
“The primary way you show you have faith, is by praying. It’s God’s design that we focus on Christ for every need that we have.” Pastor Mark Minnick

B. Lack of Obedience

*Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
John 14:15*

“. . . But just as far as you obey Him, just so far, depend upon it, you love Him . . .”
Elizabeth Prentiss, Stepping Heavenward, p. 28

C. Husband/wife relationship

*Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; **that your prayers be not hindered.***
1 Peter 3:7

D. Unlawful requests

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. James 4:3

E. Adversary/spiritual warfare

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. I Peter 5:8

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places . . .

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. Ephesians 6:12, 18.

III. PROVISIONS

A. The Spirit of God / Our Interpreter

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. Romans 8:26

B. The Word of God / Our Authority

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

C. Christ Himself / Our Mediator

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; ³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” Luke 22:31

IV. Practical Applications

Prayers for Our Children

1. Salvation to every generation till time shall be no more.
(Romans 10:1; Psalm 78:6-7)

“. . . we desire humbly to plead it with thee. They are thine; save them; enable them, as they become capable, to make it their own act and deed to join themselves unto the Lord, that they may be owned as thine in that day when thou makest up thy jewels.”

Matthew Henry, A Method For Prayer, p. 183

- *2. Pray that our children will fear the Lord and serve Him.
(Deuteronomy 6:13)
- *3. Pray that our children will hate sin. (Psalm 97:10; 119:104)
***Through thy precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.* (Psalm 119:104)
- *4. Pray that our children will be caught when they are guilty. (Psalm 119:71)
- *5. Pray that our children will respect those in authority over them. (Romans 13:1)
- *6. Pray that our children will desire the right kind of friends and be protected from the wrong kind.
(Proverbs 1:10, 15)
- *7. Pray that our children will be kept from the wrong mate and saved for the right one. (II Corinthians 6:14)
- *8. Pray that our children and their prospective mates will be kept pure until marriage; I add – and after marriage remain faithful until death parts them. (I Corinthians 6:18-20)

- *9. Pray that our children will learn to submit totally to God and actively resist Satan in all circumstances. (James 4:7)
- *10. Pray that our children will be single-hearted, willing to be sold out to Jesus – a “good soldier”. (Romans 12:1-2; II Timothy 2:3-4)
- *11. Pray that our children will be hedged in so they cannot find their way to wrong people or wrong places, and that wrong people cannot find their way to our children. (Hosea 2:6-7)
- *12. Pray that our children will have quick, repentant hearts. (Psalm 51:1-3)
- *13. Pray that our children will honor their parents, so all will go well with them. (Ephesians 6:1-2)
- *14. Pray that our children will be teachable and able to take correction. (Isaiah 54:13; Proverbs 13:1)
- *15. Pray that our children’s lives will bear the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- *16. Pray that our children will live by the Spirit and not gratify their flesh. (Galatians 5:16)
- *17. Pray that our children will trust in the Lord for direction in their lives, including their occupation. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- 18. Pray that our children would learn obedience through the things that they suffer. (Hebrews 5:8)
- 19. Pray for a spirit of gratitude. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- 20. Pray that our children will delight in the holiness of the Lord’s Day. (Isaiah 58:13-14)

*The above requests were adapted from a book, *The Stay At Home Mom*, by Donna Otto, pp. 51-54; I added Ps. 119:104 on Number 3, and “a good soldier. . .” on number 10.

Prayers for us as Parents

1. Pray that as parents we might be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. (Colossians 1:9b, James 1:5)
2. Pray that we train our children in faith and not fear; that we faint not. (II Timothy 1:7; Luke 18:1)

"The content of any effectual faith is His Word."

~ Pastor Mark Minnick

3. Pray that as parents we will train up our children in the way they should go so that when they are old they will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)
4. Pray as parents we will have an awareness of when to say "no" to our children because of our own propensity to particular sins; in order that we do not aid in leading them into temptation, but help in delivering them from evil. (Numbers 14:18; Matthew 6:13)
5. Pray that as parents we will not provoke our children to anger so that they will not be discouraged. (Colossians 3:21)
6. Pray that we as parents would remember that a soft answer turns away wrath, and that grievous words stir up anger. (Proverbs 15:1)
7. Pray the prayer of Solomon. (I Kings 3:9)
8. Pray that Lord would teach us as parents those things that we see not; and when we have sinned, to repent. (Job 34:32)

9. Pray that as parents we will have discernment in living a simple life, so that our children's minds be not corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (II Corinthians 11:3)
10. Pray that we would take heed and keep our souls diligently lest we forget the things which our eyes have seen, and lest they depart from our heart all the days of our life: and to teach them to our sons, and our sons' sons. (Deuteronomy 4:9)
11. Pray that as parents we will be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath. (James 1:19-20)
12. Pray that as parents we would be channels of blessing, equipped to do the Lord's will. (II Timothy 2:21b)

“To wait on God, is to make His will our rule.”
Matthew Henry, A Method for Prayer, p. 224

“It is not enough for us to begin every day with God, but on Him we must wait every day, and all the day long.”
Matthew Henry, A Method for Prayer, p. 220

Here is a start, so you can take it from here and continue your own Bible prayers for the rest of your life! 🙏

🙏 Welcome to the ranks of motherhood! Get your knee pads on and begin your mark in history as a shaper of destiny through the lives of your children as you faithfully bring them before the Lord. Remember those eternal things that we desire the most for them can only be done by God. 🙏

Tag Teaming Teaching List

Resources from our MCBC website

I. Mentoring Biblical Womanhood Sunday School –

Go to

→ MBW Mothers of Adults 2016: Ann Dykstra’s Lesson 3 on Prayer, 9/18/16 – An excellent overview of all parts of prayer – a *must* listen.

You are what you obey; not what you know.

II. Sermons – Go to

→ **Sermon Series: Prayer: Taught by Church History to Pray (preached by Pastor Mark Minnick)**

***Tertullian on the Lord’s Prayer** (January 21, 2015)

***Augustine on Prayer** (February 18, 2015)

“The Lord our God wants us to petition Him not in order to inform Him, but in order that by our prayer we might exercise that desire by which we are prepared to receive what He wants to bestow upon us.” (Augustine)

Luther’s Reasons to Pray (March 11, 2015)

“We are commanded to pray.”



Review of first Four Teachers on Prayer (April 08, 2015)

1. Isaac Watts – compares the delight of children learning to talk to their father, even stammering words, but delights as they learn how to converse on a mature level.
2. Tertullian – days of persecution – pray for the delay of the final end. Jesus Christ teaching on prayer is new wine stored in new bottles.
3. Augustine – In the darkness of this world Christians feel themselves desolate and continue in prayer.
~ Pray for a happy life.~
4. Martin Luther – gave us reasons to pray:
commanded to pray – not because we are lazy only – but because we are fearful to pray. Come as you are, PRAY. God doesn't hear us because of our holy prayer, but because we are in Christ.

John Calvin on Prayer (April 15, 2015)

“The primary way you show you have faith is by praying. It's God's design that we focus on Christ for every need that we have.” Pastor Mark Minnick

***Richard Sibbes on Prayer, Part I (May 06, 2015)**

The Knot of Prayer

“There's more mercy in Christ than sin in us.”

Richard Sibbes

***Richard Sibbes, on Prayer, Part II (May 13, 2015)**

The Knot of Prayer Loosed

Acts 27 – by the wreck of the ship God performs His promise (paraphrase).

Kind of Faith that Prays Confidently (May 27, 2015)

“The content of any effectual prayer is His Word.”

Pastor Mark Minnick

Thomas Goodwin – Praying to Your Friend

(June 10, 2015)

Go to the Lord for fellowship . . . without asking for anything. You just want to commune with Him – as a friend, like Moses did. Enlarge upon your love for Him (paraphrase).

***Thomas Goodwin: The Return of Prayers**

(June 17, 2015)

Watch as a merchant by the seashore for the return of your prayers (paraphrase).

Wilhelmus a Brakel on Praying Your Desires

(July 8, 2015)

“The greatest responsibility of a pastor is praying not preaching.” Brakel paraphrase

Praying at His Command (August 26, 2015)

Isaac Watts on the Spirit’s Aid in Prayer

(September 23, 2015)

The holy skill of conversing with God.

→ Sermon Series: 2018 Sermons (preached by Pastor Mark Minnick)

The Perfect Prayer for Other Believers

(August 19, 2018)

What Profit to Pray? (August 22, 2018)

Answering Disillusioned Prayerlessness

(August 29, 2018)

***Discouraged By Delay (September 5, 2018)**

“... delay of answer is no denial . . . the grace to persevere in that prayer was the very richest answer you could have. You knew it only afterward.” Ichabod Spencer

* Titles with an asterisk are some of my favorites.

“I realized that
the deepest spiritual lessons
are not learned by His letting
us have our way in the end,
but by His making us wait,
bearing with us in love and patience
until we are able to honestly to pray
what He taught His disciples to pray:

Thy will be done.”

Elisabeth Elliot