

The Godly Man as a Disciple *The Wheel – Vertical Spokes*

So many, many Christians today are still spiritual babes instead of the mature Christians they should be. They spend little or no time in the Bible and are unlearned and ignorant regarding the Word of God - and therefore know little of the God of the Word! They spend little time in prayer and therefore know little of the faithful, gracious God who delights in answering prayer. We trust your class will not be in this category after studying this lesson.

Will you meditate prayerfully over the **Object Of The Lesson** and ask God to enable you by His Holy Spirit to communicate to these men the rich treasures that await them as they come into an intimate knowledge of God and communion and fellowship with God through His Word and prayer. Perhaps you would like to set the atmosphere for today's lesson by sharing the following:

Found In Evangelist Billy Sunday's Bible:

With the Holy Spirit as my guide, I entered the wonderful temple of Christianity:

I entered the portico of Genesis, walked down through the Old Testament art galleries, where pictures of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Isaac, Jacob, and Daniel were hung on the walls.

I passed into the music room of Psalms, where the Spirit swept the keyboard of nature until it seemed that every reed and pipe in God's great organ responded to the tuneful harp of David, the sweet singer of Israel.

I entered the chamber of Ecclesiastes, where the voice of the preacher was heard; and into the conservatory of Sharon, where the Lily of the Valley's sweet scented spices filled and perfumed my life.

I entered the business office of Proverbs, and then into the observatory room of the Prophets, where I saw telescopes of various sizes, pointed to far-off events, but all concentrated on the Bright and Morning Star.

I entered the audience room of the King of Kings, and caught a vision of His glory from the standpoint of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; passed into the Acts of the Apostles where the Holy Spirit was doing His work in the formation of the infant Church.

Then into the correspondence room where sat Paul, Peter, James and John penning their Epistles.

I stepped into the throne room of the Revelation, where towered the glittering peaks, and got a vision of the King sitting upon the throne in all His glory, and I cried:

All hail the power of Jesus' Name, Let angels prostrate fall, Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.

A. Object Of The Lesson

1. To show the Word of God as a necessity in our lives for it is the very foundational spoke of effective Christian living and is God's means of communicating Himself and His truths to us.

2. To show the necessity of prayer for communication with our heavenly Father; for provision for our needs; and for showing our dependence upon and trust in God.

B. Discussion Questions

Questions On The Word:

1. How does the Word of God build faith? (Romans 15:4, Phillips)
2. How could loving God's laws (Psalm 119:165) bring peace?
3. In I Peter 2:2, what is the significance of the Word being referred to as "milk"? (food for spiritual babies.)
4. Using Hebrews 5:11-14, explain the difference between the "meat" and "milk" of the Word.
5. Is one's spiritual "age" determined by the number of years he/she has known Christ? (no - by his intake and application of the Word. One may have known Christ for many years and still be a spiritual babe because he/she has never fed upon the Word of God by which we grow.)
6. What is the objective of taking in the Word of God? (James 1:22 - to change our lives.) (*The Word is emphasized more in detail in Chapter V*)

Questions On Prayer:

1. Define prayer.
2. What are some reasons for praying other than the ones listed in your study?
3. What does it mean to pray "in Jesus' name"? (This is the validating signature on the bank account of heaven. It means asking in accord with Him; asking what you - to the best of your knowledge - believe to be in accordance with His will and His Word.)
4. Why do you think prayer is such hard work?
5. If we have prayed about something a few times and have not gotten an answer, should we conclude we didn't have enough faith and stop praying? (No. Matthew 7:7 - Jesus says to keep on asking, keep on knocking - and to do that and wait is the expression of faith, not quitting after praying once or twice. Luke 18:1)
6. What are some reasons people don't pray? (sin, laziness, etc.)
7. Why do you think God instituted prayer as a way to meet our needs? (Because He is God and that's what He wanted to do, so that we'd learn to depend upon Him and have the joy of being a part of the answer.)
8. Is prayer the act of getting God to agree with our desires? (No, it is submitting to His will and asking Him to do His desires. I John 5:14,15)
9. If prayer is asking God to do what He wants done anyway, then what is our part? (Being a cleansed spirit-filled channel that He can use to accomplish His will.)

(Isaiah 59:1,2) All spiritual prayer originates in heaven and comes to us through the Holy Spirit.

10. What should you do when you don't feel like praying? (Admit it to God and pray anyway.)

11. What do you feel is the greatest hindrance to your prayer life?

12. What ways have you found to use a prayer list?

13. What is the primary prerequisite for answered prayer? (Matthew 6:33)

14. What does it mean to "honor" one's wife?

15. How does not honoring her hinder prayer? I Peter 3:7 (Causes bitterness, an unforgiving spirit, bad attitudes, etc. that need to be corrected before prayers may be answered. Matthew 5:23)

C. Suggestions For Conclusion

1. Your lesson stated three reasons the Word of God is ineffective in a life. Do you remember these reasons? (Page 17 - neglect, doubt, disobedience) If the Word is ineffective in your life, which of these reasons apply?

2. Perhaps your problem is a lack of appetite for the Word. Several things can cause loss of appetite. For instance:

(1) Eating (taking in Spiritual food), without exercise (giving out to others). Are you sharing the Word with others?

(2) Lack of "fresh air" (prayer) also dulls the appetite.

(3) Substitutes take the edge off our appetites. Are you substituting good things for time with the Lord in His Word?

(4) Eating alone also dulls the appetite. We need fellowship with others of like mind to whet our appetites.

(Notice how all three spokes - witnessing, prayer, fellowship - affect the Word spoke)

Quietly spend a few moments meditating on these reasons why the Word of God is ineffective in your life or why you have no real appetite or hunger for it. Then invite the men to talk to God about these needs as you spend time in prayer. Share the following with them:

"Thou are coming to a King Large petitions with thee bring For His love and power are such None can ever ask too much." *(Author unknown)*

D. Additional Scriptures

II Corinthians 3:18; Psalm 119:9, 11; Mark 11:24

E. Possible Projects

1. Start an organized Bible reading program of your own, if not already doing it.
2. Make a prayer list and look for a verse of scripture to fit each request.
3. Choose a prayer partner and share with that one something from the Word or an answer to prayer this week.
4. Listen to audio 262 by Jim Downing entitled, "Prayer." List his practical points to praying and apply two of them in your own prayer life this week.

F. Extra Helps

Power through Prayer *by E. M. Bounds*

Master Secrets of Prayer *by C. V. Thompson, Back to the Bible Publishers*

Prayer or Pretense *by J. A. Hanne*

Sense and Nonsense *by Lehman Strauss*

Audio 2257 - "Prayer"

Audio 262 - "Prayer"