

# **FUNDAMENTAL FACTS FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS**

## *Lesson Four* **PRAYER**

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

**Ephesians 6:18**

There can be no doubt, that of all praying people, Jesus was the master **PRAY-ER**.

Many people have read “The Lord’s Prayer” without recognizing the **POWER** and **DEPTH** contained therein.

In this model prayer we now know as “The Lord’s Prayer,” Jesus enumerated topics and instructed, “After this manner therefore pray ye:” (Matthew 6:9)

*And he said unto them, When ye pray, say...*

**Luke 11:2**

Is it not amazing then, that when most people pray they say **ANYTHING** and **EVERYTHING** but what the Lord told them to say?

We memorize the Lord’s prayer, we quote it, we sing it, but few pray it, using the Lord’s prayer as a group of six topics, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Allow me to list these six topics:

- (1) Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
- (2) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done.
- (3) Give us this day our daily bread.
- (4) Forgive us our debts (sins) as we forgive our debtors.
- (5) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
- (6) For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

If we will take each of these topics before the Lord, patiently, carefully, we will find it difficult **TO NOT SPEND** at least **ONE HOUR** in prayer each day. (See enclosed prayer guide)

*And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could*

**YE NOT WATCH** with me one hour?

**Matthew 26:40**

Could it be that Jesus is asking that same question of the church today?

Along with our Lord Jesus Christ, I find it extremely interesting to listen in on the prayers of the Apostle Paul. Here is a man who knows how to pray.

It seems Paul continually prayed for his converts. It appears he prayed more for saints than for sinners.

Could it be that Paul was such a great man in the pulpit because he was such a great man in the prayer closet?

I have long been intrigued by Paul’s personal statement concerning speaking with tongues.

*I thank my God, I **SPEAK WITH TONGUES MORE** than ye all:*

**YET IN THE CHURCH** I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

**1 Corinthians 14:18-19**

*What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*

**1 Corinthians 14:15**

*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue **EDIFIETH HIMSELF**; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.*

**1 Corinthians 14:4**

## Fundamental Facts-Lesson 4-Page 2

Paul evidently spent much time ***BUILDING HIMSELF UP*** by praying. Lest that sound selfish or carnal, we need to realize we cannot give to someone else something we ourselves do not possess.

If Christians ever come to realize the power of prayer, it may be difficult to get them to do much else.

Read as a class, Ephesians 1;15-23.

It would be well for us to pray that prayer, putting ourselves, or even our own name in that prayer.

**Example:** *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto me,*  
\_\_\_\_\_, *the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:*

*(My name)*

***The eyes of MY understanding being enlightened; that I may know...*** etc.

Paul doesn't stop praying for the Christians, he instructs us to do the same.

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

In his discourse on the armor of God, most of us have missed the weapon of prayer. We have mistakenly ended with "...the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

We need to go on to verse 18 and include one of the greatest weapons in the Christians' arsenal, the weapon of prayer.

I believe prayer is one of the mighty weapons Paul referred to when talking about pulling down strongholds.

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

*(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

Jesus also taught about this matter of pulling down strongholds.

*When a **STRONG MAN** armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:*

*But when a **STRONGER THAN HE** shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.*

**Luke 11:21-22**

The "strong man armed" in verse 21 is the devil. The "stronger than he" in verse 22 can be us, you and me.

One of the greatest weapons we can use against the "strong man" is the weapon of prayer.

We have many biblical examples of men who prayed, and many who prayed and fasted.

Yes, prayer is hard work. No doubt that is why so few **really** pray.

However, there is a prayer that brings refreshment from God.

*He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.*

*Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:*

*But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

**Isaiah 40:29-31**

