

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
MINISTRY SCHOOL 3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION  
SESSION 61  
PRAYER – LESSON 4  
PRAYING IN JESUS' NAME – PART 1

Jesus is our Mediator, Intercessor, Advocate, and our Lord. He stands between us and the Father.

No place in the Bible is it recorded that Jesus told His disciples to pray to Him. They were always to pray to the Father in Jesus' Name.

If we wish to be sure of reaching the throne of God with our prayers, we must come to God according to the rules laid down in His word.

**John 16:23, 24**

***“23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you.***

***24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”***

Notice that Jesus said, ***“...in that day ye shall ask me nothing...”*** [vs. 23]. Jesus said this just before He died and rose again to sit at the right hand of the Father on our behalf. Jesus also said, ***“...Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father IN MY NAME, he will give it you”*** [John 16:23].

Jesus was talking about his mediatorial position at the right hand of the Father where he would soon ascend and be seated [Hebrews 1:3]. Another translation of John 16:23 reads, ***“In that day you shall not pray to Me.”*** Jesus said we are to ask the Father in His Name. There isn't any other way to approach God.

Certainly, we can worship Jesus, and worship is a type of prayer. We can tell Jesus how much we love and appreciate Him, but when it comes to praying and asking, we must ask the Father in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 3:14 and 15** tell us that: ***“For this cause I bow my knees UNTO THE FATHER of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.”***

We are to bow our knees to our Heavenly Father in prayer, using the Name of Jesus. It is not as important which church you belong to as it is which family you belong to.

Praise God, believers are in the family of God. And we can approach our Father God in prayer in the Name of Jesus!

Many people know about praying to God, but they do not know anything about praying to the Father. In other words, when they are praying, they do not sound as if they really know God as Father. He is God to the world, but He is Father to me. There is real joy in knowing that the Father will answer our prayers.

### **Ask, that your Joy May Be Full**

The apostle of faith, Smith Wigglesworth told of an incident which happened when he first started to preach. [His wife was really the preacher, and he was a plumber. In fact, Wigglesworth put plumbing in many of the houses in England which in that day had never had plumbing.]

Wigglesworth said that one day he was working on installing plumbing in a certain home for people of some nobility. He noticed the lady of the house would come time after time to the door where he was working, and stand looking at him. She would look, then walk away and come back and look again at him. He could not figure out what was wrong with her.

After a while he needed more material, so he sent his apprentice back to the shop to get it. When the helper left, the woman came into the room where Wigglesworth was working and shut the door. He could not figure out what in the world was going on. She finally asked him what that wonderful light was on his face.

At this time Wigglesworth was a plumber; it was not until later that he became a preacher. Wigglesworth was full of light because he was full of joy. You do not have to be a preacher to be full of joy. The Word will work for you, whoever you are.

Wigglesworth proceeded to tell that woman an incident that had occurred at breakfast time that morning. He said that when he had come down for breakfast and sat down at the table that his wife told him that two of their children were sick and unable to get out of bed. The illness had come upon them during the night.

Before Wigglesworth even gave thanks for his food, he got up from the table, went upstairs with his wife and laid hands on the two children and prayed. Both of his children were instantly healed. They had contracted a children's disease that usually lasted for several days. But it left them instantly when he and his wife had prayed.

We make a mistake by accepting sickness and adverse circumstances in our lives [John 10:10]. I have done this before because I did not know any better, but since then I have learned better – I learned what the Word said!

So, Wigglesworth's joy was full. And that joy was evident to those around him. God had healed his children and had answered his prayer! The children got out of bed and came to breakfast **healed!** That was the reason for the wonderful light on Wigglesworth's face.

There is a joy that comes when you get answers to prayer! If you are not getting answers to prayer, if you are not getting results, then there can be a look of perplexity and trouble on your countenance. There is an air of doubt, perplexity, fear, and confusion about you. You have the attitude, "I am uncertain; I just do not know."

But, you can **know** God hears you when you pray according to His Word. And your joy can be full even before you see the answer because you are resting on the integrity of God's Word.

There is no joy in all the world like seeing God moving in your family and in your home, answering your prayers. In John 16:23 Jesus is talking about individual prayer, not corporate prayer. He said, **"...Whatever YE shall ask..."** Jesus is talking about something that concerns **YOU**. Jesus said **"...ask, and YE shall receive, that your joy may be full."** [John 16:24].

The woman asked Wigglesworth if she could have that joy too. He told her that she could, but she would have to first get saved. She wanted to get saved and to know Jesus. She said they had a prayer book in the house, but that they had never known anything about the new birth or about the wonderful joy that comes from having your prayers answered. Right there in that room, Wigglesworth led this woman to the Lord, and God's light broke through to her spirit; she was born again. She became happy and full of joy because the burden of sin had rolled away.

She asked Wigglesworth if she would be able to keep this new joy and have it every day. He assured her that she could, but that the best way to keep it was to give it away. He told her to tell everyone she came in contact with about her salvation.

Wigglesworth had been working there long enough to know that she had many lady friends in social clubs. She was a woman of wealth. He told her that at the club meeting she was to have that afternoon, that she should tell all the women present about what had happened to her.

The reason many a Christian life becomes stagnant is there is no “giving away.” Many Christians do not share what they have received from the Word with others. Christians can increase their joy by witnessing about the Lord’s goodness in their own lives.

There is no joy in all the world like leading a poor lost soul to Christ. So, if you are not doing that, remember, the way to keep your joy is to give it away.

Jesus wants our joy to be full or complete. We know that one way to ensure continual joy is to give our joy away. He also told us in **John chapter 16** that we could have fullness of joy by asking the Father in Jesus’ Name and by receiving whatsoever we ask for in prayer. [**John 16:24**].

### **Have Joy Before the Answer Comes**

On another occasion Wigglesworth told about a time in his life when he was facing dire financial needs. He was visiting in London in the home of a very wealthy man. As the story goes, if Wigglesworth had even hinted of his financial needs, that wealthy man would have given him all the money he needed. Wigglesworth did not tell anyone but the Lord about his need.

As Wigglesworth and the wealthy man were walking in the park, Wigglesworth was happy and singing because he had cast all the care and the burden of his need upon the Lord [**1 Peter 5:7**]. Therefore, Wigglesworth did not have a care.

The wealthy man was not in the same happy mood. He told Wigglesworth that he would give all he owned just to have the spirit of joy that Wigglesworth had. Wigglesworth told him that joy would not cost him anything. All he had to do was cast all his cares on Jesus,

He then told the man that he himself did not have a care in the world, although at that very moment, Wigglesworth was in great financial need. He didn’t tell the man he had needs because Wigglesworth had cast his cares upon the Lord. Now the Lord had Wigglesworth’s burden and Wigglesworth was free and happy. If Wigglesworth would have even hinted to his friend that he had a need the man would have helped him, but Wigglesworth did not mention it.

Many of us have also had great needs, but we must learn to cast that care over upon the Lord because God’s Word is true, then trust Him to take care of those needs. [**1 Peter 5:7**].

Years ago, a preacher was holding a meeting in a church close to his home. He had gone there to preach Monday through Sunday. The first night the building was nearly full. God began moving by his Spirit in the services and soon the building was completely full.

The pastor of that church told the preacher that they couldn't just close the meeting down so he asked him to stay and teach for a while. He asked the preacher what the minimum amount of money was that he needed to get by on.

The preacher hesitated to tell the pastor what he needed because he was sure the pastor would think it was too much. He did come up with a figure for him, by getting it down to the bare minimum that he needed to meet his budget. The preacher wanted to stay on to help that pastor and his church.

He quoted him a certain amount and the pastor said it was more than they had ever paid anyone before. He said he did not know if they could pay it or not. The preacher told him that if he would agree with him, that the money would come in. The pastor agreed and announced that the meeting was going to continue.

When the preacher went to the service on the following Sunday night, he learned that some emergencies had arisen back at his home, and he needed several hundred dollars more than what he had quoted the pastor.

He knew when he would tell that pastor what he needed that he would probably faint. Now the preacher had already obligated himself to two more weeks. He now needed about twice as much as he had quoted him previously.

The preacher preached on Sunday night. They took up the offering, and after church he went to the parsonage. They had a bite to eat, and the pastor said he was reluctant to give him the offering. He said that it didn't meet the budget and knew the preacher couldn't get by on it. The preacher took it and smiled.

Then the preacher told the pastor about the emergencies that had arisen and how much he would need. He told the pastor to stand in agreement with him and that he would do the believing and the pastor could do the agreeing. He extended his hand to shake his and said all right, so they continued in a time of fellowship together. Later on, the pastor's wife said she noticed that the preacher didn't seem to get upset when the offering was so small. She said she noticed how happy he was about it.

By the time the two weeks were over, the preacher had the money he needed without making any great pulls on the congregation for money. The pastor told him it beat anything he had ever seen in his life.

But the need was there, and God meets needs. [Philippians 4:19.] Actually, the preacher got more than he needed. God knew his needs and he knows ours also.

Here's the point we want to make: The preacher acted with just as much joy *before* he had the money as he did *after* he had the money. That's what the pastor's wife had seen. She said that she had watched the preacher closely, and he had just as much joy when it looked like the money wasn't coming in as he did when the money did come in. She told her husband about it and said the preacher seemed to be more joyous before he actually handed him the money. The preacher told her it was because he walked by faith and not by sight. [2 Corinthians 5:7.]

### **Worry Blocks God's Answer to Your Prayers**

John 16:24 says, **"...ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full!"** God wants us to receive answers to our prayers and be full of joy. How can we be full of joy and victory when the circumstances look dark, and we have needs in our lives? We are full of joy because we walk by faith, not by sight. We know that whatever we ask of the Father according to the Word, He will give it to us – that our joy may be full [John 16:23-24].

Can your joy be full if you have great financial burdens pressing upon you, or, if you had bills to be paid and could not pay them? No, your joy could not be full then.

However, once you have asked the Father to meet your need in Jesus' Name, sometimes you need to have joy before you ever see the money you asked for. You must be just as joyous before you see the answer as you are once the answer materializes. You will block or hinder God from helping you if you are worrying and trying to figure out how the answer is going to come. If you are trying to figure things out, then you have the care or burden of the problem, and that means God does not have it! You are still carrying that load and God cannot help you.

We need to realize this fact. It does very little good, if any, to pray if you are going to continue to worry and fret and wrestle with the problem yourself. You might as well say amen because it is so!

A preacher's mother told him once that when she knew he was traveling, she would pray that the Lord would be with him. He would finish a meeting in another state and travel straight through until he got back home. She would just stay awake worrying, waiting for the telephone to ring, announcing bad news. The preacher told her that she was wasting her time, that she might as well not pray if she was going to keep on worrying. She would pray that God would protect her son, and then stay awake worrying.

This is the way many people act when they pray. Worry can hinder you from receiving answers to prayers. Worry can stop God from being able to move on your behalf.

Thank God, prayer means more than that. **John 16:24** says, “...ask, and ye **SHALL RECEIVE, that your joy may be full.**” When you pray in faith, according to God’s Word, you are full of joy and rejoicing even before the answer materializes because you know God heard you. You have His word for it.

**1 John 5:14-15**

**“14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:**

**15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”**

### **Follow Biblical Teaching on Prayer**

**Ephesians 5:20**

**“5 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Notice here that Paul tells us that we are to give thanks always for all things to God the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. He tells us our thanks are to be given to the Father. In all our real praise and thanksgiving, the Name of Jesus is our access to the heart of the Father. When you wish to get an answer to prayer, follow the teachings of the Word.

Someone said that it does not make much difference how you pray. But if it doesn’t, then why did Jesus ever teach us about prayer? Why did the Holy Ghost inspire Paul to write the epistles just as they are? It **is** important how you pray.

To say that these verses about the scriptural way to pray are not important would make just as much sense as it would to say that **John 3:16** is not important. **John 3:16** is important. So, when you wish to get an answer to prayer, follow the teachings of the word and Pray to the Father in the name of Jesus, giving thanks always to God – in Jesus’ Name [**Ephesians 5:20**]!