

VIII. Ministry Series—Prayer

Directions for the student of the Ministry Series: Be able to answer each question. For help, look up scripture references. When Scripture memory is required, be able to say the scripture reference and the underlined parts, using either the NKJV (quoted here), or another translation. Repetition aids memorization. Therefore ask three different people to test you, so that you are tested **three separate** times on **every** item. You may study the questions in any order you want. You may answer a question a little at a time, with study intervals between test sessions. Ask your tester to sign the left margin when you know all the parts of a question. You have completed a question when it has three different signatures in the margin beside it. Have fun! (Words that are put in bold letters may be used to help learn the main points.)

1. Is prayer a ministry? ___ To whom? _____ What is prayer the foundation for? _____ What does it depend on? ___ Can you define prayer? _____

Prayer is a **ministry**, first to the Lord, then for yourself, and then for others. It is the **foundation** of all other ministry. It is **dependent** more than anything else on one thing: your love for the Lord.

A **definition** of prayer: “Prayer is a cry from the heart that is couched in relationship with God.”

2. What is the first commandment?

Deuteronomy 6:5

Mark 12:30

Mark 12:30 [Jesus said,] “...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.”

3. Why is it so damaging to have “left your first love?”

Revelation 2:1-7 no **lampstand**—the presence of God in a church

John 14:23 no sense of continual **fellowship** with God

2 Peter 1:1-11, esp. v. 9-10 **blindness** and **stumbling**

4. What are seven important fruits of loving the Lord? (MS students—know four)

John 14:15 Those who love Jesus Christ will **keep** His commandments.

John 12:26 Those who love Jesus Christ will **follow** Him—they will wait on Him, listen to Him, obey Him.

Proverbs 6:23; 12:1; 13:1 Those who love Christ will allow Him to **correct** them.

1 John 3:1-2; 4:17; Gal. 5:22-23 Those who love Christ will **become** more like Him.

Prov. 25:28; 16:32; Matt. 5:9 Those who love Him are **slow to anger**, and

Col. 4:6; Prov. 17:27-28 Those who love Him **guard** their speech.

Loving and obeying God results in **answered prayer**, 1 John 3:21-22, 5:14; James 5:16

5. How did Jesus tell us to pray?

John 16:23-28 [Jesus said,] “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you...In that day you will ask in My name....”

Pray to the Father in Jesus’ name.

Sample, “Father, thank You for Your love for me. Please help me to become more like You. In Jesus’ name I pray.”

6. Why is it so important to be clean when you pray?

Psalm 66:18 *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.*

James 4:1-10, esp. vv. 3-4, *You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures....Do you not know that **friendship** with the world is enmity with God?*

Romans 8:1-14, esp. v. 8 *So then, those who are in the **flesh** cannot please God.*

7. Give four examples of prayer for cleansing.

Psalm 139:23-24 **Search me**, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my [anxious thoughts]; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.

Psalm 19:12-14 *Who can understand his errors? **Cleanse me from secret faults.** Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins, let them not have dominion over me...Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength [Rock] and my Redeemer.*

Psalm 141:3-5 **Set a guard**, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips. Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity, and do not let me eat of their delicacies. Let the righteous strike me, it shall be a kindness and let him rebuke me, it shall be as excellent oil, let my head not refuse it....

Psalm 51:10 **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me**

8. Why does it help to ask God to cover you and everything that concerns you with the blood of Jesus Christ?

Job sacrificed for his family on a regular basis, Job 1:5. That blood of sacrifice resulted in a hedge of protection around his family, household, and everything that concerned him, Job 1:10. If Job could pray this way for all his family, including his grown children (see Job 1:2, 4), how much more effective is asking for the blood of Jesus to cover us? Exodus 12:13—the blood protected all the household

1 Peter 1:2; Isaiah 52:15—the blood of sprinkling is for us. We must ask for it!

Hebrews 9:13-22—Jesus' blood is the blood of His covenant with us, more effective than any previous OT sacrifice. **By Jesus' blood we are cleansed, set free, delivered and protected with a hedge of protection.**

9. What are word curses?

Word curses are **negative words** spoken against you. They can cause you to feel **oppressed.**

Prov. 11:9 *The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.*

Prov. 12:6 *The words of the wicked are, "Lie in wait for blood." But the mouth of the upright will deliver them.*

Prov. 14:3 *In the mouth of the fool is a rod of pride, but the lips of the wise will preserve them.*

Isaiah 58:9(b) NIV *...If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk. See also Psalms 10:7-8; 12:3-5; 17:9-12; 55:3, 9-11.*

10. How can word curses be broken?

Word curses are broken in Jesus' name by speaking against them. Sample declaration: **"In the name of Jesus, I declare that all curses against me and my family are broken."**

11. How can you defeat the attacks of the enemy against you?

To break attacks of the enemy, use James 4:1-10:

1. **Become aware of sin**, v. 6. Ask God to search you heart, Psalm 139:23-24.
2. **Confess sin**, v. 7. Confess whatever God shows you. Don't make excuses!
3. **Resist the enemy**, v. 7. Do this out loud in Jesus' name. Sample prayer, "In the name of Jesus, you demon of _____, I resist you now and I command you to flee!"
4. **Draw near to God**, v. 8. The fastest way of drawing near to God: praise Him, thank Him, bless Him.
5. **Practice righteousness**, often the opposite of whatever the sin was, compare James 4:6 with 4:10.

12. Are there other kinds of curses? How are they broken?

Yes, there are curses that are the **result of sin**. Sin always has consequences, see Galatians 6:7-8. These curses can be generational curses, as well as curses you yourself have entered into.

To break these curses, use James 4:1-10:

1. **Become aware of sin**, v. 6. Ask God to search you heart, Psalm 139:23-24. You can also ask God to show you the sins of past generations.
2. **Confess sin**, v. 7. Confess whatever God shows you. If you are dealing with generational curses, some of these sins may not be things that you yourself have ever done. Confess them anyway, using the pronoun, "We." See Daniel 9:1-20;
3. **Resist the enemy**, v. 7. Do this out loud in Jesus' name. Sample prayer, "God is gracious, He has forgiven my [family's] past sins and washed me [us] with Jesus' blood. Therefore now in Jesus' name, I resist every spirit of _____, and I declare that all curses against me [us] are broken."
4. **Draw near to God**, v. 8. Thank Him and praise Him for Jesus' blood which has set you free!
5. **Practice righteousness**, often the opposite of whatever the sin was, compare James 4:6 with 4:10.
6. **Ask God to give you (and your family) an attenuated harvest**—that is, to reduce the consequences of that sin. (See Galatians 6:7-8)

13. What is "declaration?" How can declaration be used in prayer?

Declaration is speaking spiritual truths out loud. As led by the Holy Spirit it is also "calling those things that are not as though they were," Romans 4:17

It can be used to come **against** the enemy, as in Luke 10:19

It can also be used **to bless**, as in Numbers 6:23-27

13. Know this pattern for prayer: CCC—DD. Know what each letter stands for.

C—Confess sin. Ask God to forgive you and cleanse you.

C—Be covered with the blood of Jesus Christ. Ask God to cover you.

C—Break all curses against you.

D—Declare victory over the enemy.

D—Declare blessings.

14. How can the pattern be applied? What is the best way to continue in prayer?

1) Pray CCC—DD for yourself first, then for your family, then for your church family. Be led by the Holy Spirit as you pray, listening for His direction. Follow Him, John 12:26. Pray and listen. When finished with the CCC--DD pattern, ask the Lord to lead you in further prayer. 2) Listen to the Lord, follow Him.

15. Know at least three places in scripture where Jesus told us to follow Him.

John 12:26 [Jesus said,] *“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me, and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.”*

Luke 9:23 Then [Jesus] said to them all, *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”*

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”*

Mark 8:34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, *“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.”*

16. Study these passages in the book of John. Write your conclusions.

John 4:34 _____

John 5:19 _____

John 5:30 _____

John 6:38 _____

John 7:16 _____

John 7:18 _____

John 7:28 _____

John 8:26-29 _____

John 8:50 _____

John 12:49 _____

John 14:10 _____

John 14:24 _____

John 14:31 _____

17. All ministry—including prayer-- is far more effective if you do what?

All ministry is far more effective if you pray and listen to what God speaks to you, and then follow Him. In prayer start with the CCC—DD pattern. Then follow the Lord.