

Prayer: Study #6

Matthew 7:7-8

Today on “It’s a Good Life,” we continue our study on supernatural contact, and that’s prayer, talking with the Lord.

If you have your Bibles and you want to get your Bible, turn with me to Matthew chapter 7, verses 7 and 8. That’s what we’re starting out with today. And there are several Scriptures, and if you can’t write all these Scriptures down, let me remind you, you can get a free transcript by going to our website, www.LRWM.org. You can get a free transcript of this program and other programs of “It’s a Good Life,” and you can get this Bible study that we’re going through, supernatural contact—prayer. You can download transcripts there of these lessons we’re going through. You can also write to me, Lewis Woodward, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731.

This is study number six in our subject of supernatural contact—prayer. Now, notice in times past, the five lessons that we’ve gone through so far, we’ve looked at praise. That’s telling God who He is. Now, He knows who He is, and what we want to do is let Him know we know who He is. We need to praise Him. And then we need to confess. We need to ask God’s forgiveness as saved people. This world is dirty, and naturally, some of that dirt rubs off on us as we go through this life. So, therefore, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* First John 1:9 talks about that.

And then, we’ve also seen the subject of waiting. We need to wait, more or less putting our mind in neutral, trying to get the things of this world out of our mind for a few minutes. That’s hard to do, but we need to wait in our prayer life and our private time with the Lord. Wait on Him. And then,

number four, we saw Scripture praying. We go to the Scripture and we read that Scripture. We read it back to the Lord. God talks to us through Scripture. We talk to Him through prayer.

And then, last week, in our last session, we looked at intercession and supplication. Intercession and supplication—that’s praying for others, putting others before ourselves and letting God do the work. We pray that God will do that work and that He would receive the honor and glory.

Well, today, we want to look at personal needs. In Matthew chapter 7, verses 7 and 8, it says, *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.* There’s nothing wrong with asking God for personal needs. Once again, Matthew 7, verses 7 and 8, talks about that. We just read that.

In Matthew chapter 21, verse 22, it says, *And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.* Hebrews 4:16 says, *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Let me say that some feel that it’s wrong to ask for personal needs from God, but I submit to you that, when you ask God for things.... Now, I’m not talking about frivolous things like a new Mercedes or a new Cadillac or whatever you may think of....something that you really don’t need but you’d like to have. There’s a difference in needs, the things that we need. And we’ll look at some of those things in just a few moments.

Well, how are you to approach God with your petitions? Well, once again, in Hebrews chapter 4 and verse 16, the Bible tells us there that we are to approach God boldly. We are to come to Him boldly. Well, how in the world can we approach God boldly?

And once again, we read in the book of Hebrews chapter 4, verses 12 through 16, and it tells us how we approach God boldly. It says there, ¹²*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* ¹³*Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.* ¹⁴*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.* ¹⁰*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

Now because we have a great high priest today, because He has passed from death unto life, because Jesus Christ is now seated at the right hand of God the Father, because we have trusted Him as our Savior, verse 16 of Hebrews 4 once again says, *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy... and notice this.... and find grace to help.... In what?... in time of need.* When we have a need in our life, we need to go to the Lord in prayer. We need to ask God the Father for the things that we have need of in our lives at that time. We need to approach God boldly. How do we do that? Through Jesus Christ. We are now the children of God because we have trusted Jesus as our Savior. Therefore, we have the privilege, the right to come to God in prayer, our Father, and ask Him for the needs in our lives.

Well, you are also to approach God in Faith. In James chapter 1 and verse 6, it says, *But let him*

ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. And once again, in Matthew chapter 21 and verse 21, it says, *Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.*

Well, Jesus gives us prerequisites for prayer. He tells us that one of those things that we need to have is faith, faith not in ourselves, but in God. Now, this thing that we're looking at here in Matthew 21:21, He's talking about a fig tree that He cursed. The tree withered. Then, He says, if you've got faith, you can say unto this mountain, "Be thou removed." Now, I personally have not seen physical mountains removed. I've not seen that done, but I have seen God overcome things in my life. He has answered prayer in my life that may not be to others but these things are mountains to me, and God has removed those mountains. And He can do the same for you if you come to Him faith-believing.

Well, something else we see here. We are to come to God in faith, but we are also not to doubt God. This is closely related to faith. First Timothy 2:8 says, *I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.* We shouldn't doubt God. We shouldn't go to God and say, "Lord, please answer this prayer. I don't think You can, Lord, but I'm praying it anyway. I mean, I don't see how in the world you're going to answer that prayer." No, we need to go to God faith-believing, not doubting in Him. Do not doubt God that He's able to answer any prayer that we pray faith-believing.

And then I see you are not to worry as you approach God. The Bible says in Philippians 4:6, it says, *Be careful for nothing.* Don't worry about it. Pray. And then you are to thank God for everything. This means for the good and the bad. Philippians 4:6

continues on by saying, *But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving...* And then you can *let your requests be made known unto God*, according to Philippians 4:6. So we need to not worry; we need to thank God for everything, prayer and supplication; and then, we can let our requests be made known unto God.

Well, why should you make a list? I believe that we need to make a list of things that we need in our lives. You should make a list of these needs and check them off as God answers them. This is letting God know that you believe in Him. This is a way for you to glorify God.

What are some needs we could list? Well, I think the first thing that we need to list on our list is wisdom. You remember, Solomon was a wise man, and the Bible tells us that he was the wisest man who ever lived. He prayed for wisdom. We need to pray for health. We need to pray for financial needs. We need to pray for our families. We need to pray for food. We need to pray for clothes. Later on in our study, we're going to see that we need to be thanking God. Praising God is different from thanking God, and we're going to see the difference when we get to that study in our study of supernatural contact. So, there are many needs that we have and we need to make a list of those needs.

Well, when should you approach God or talk to God? And you are to pray always. First Thessalonians 5:17 says, *Pray without ceasing*. You should approach God when you are in need. Psalm 46:1 says *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble*. Now what we're trying to do here is see that we need to be in a private time with the Lord. We need to have our own private time with Him and not just go to Him when we are in need, but we need to be able to go to God all the time. We need to have a private time with the Lord, sharing with Him not only our needs, but our thanksgiving, our praise, and bring glory to God.

Well, there are many things we can say about asking God for our needs, but one thing that I believe that we need to do, we need to approach God willingly. Leviticus 22:29 says, *And when ye will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto the Lord, offer it at your own will*. We need to go to God and ask Him for our needs, and that's a way of thanking God. That's a way of proving God. That's a way of letting God know that we trust Him for the things in our lives. There's an old Negro spiritual that says, "Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, oh Lord, standing in the need of prayer. Not my sister, not my brother, but it's me, oh Lord, standing in the need of prayer." And the chorus says, "It's me, it's me, it's me, oh Lord, standing in the need of prayer. It's me, it's me, it's me, oh Lord, standing in the need of prayer."

Every day I go to the Lord in prayer. I have a private time with Him. He and I. I speak to the Lord and He speaks back to me through His Word. Today, we need to go to God in prayer, asking Him for our needs. The Bible says, "Prove me." God wants us to prove Him in order to bring honor and glory to Him.

If you've never trusted the Lord as your Savior, let me ask you to do that right now. If you will say, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart. I receive you as my Lord and Savior." The Bible says, *To as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God...* the children of God. If you will ask Jesus to save you today, He'll save you and you can be on your way to Heaven. If you are saved, serve Him today. Let Him know that you love Him. Go to Him in prayer. Talk to Him. Share with Him the needs in your life.

It's been good being with you today, and let me remind you that we'll continue next time with our study of supernatural contact, prayer, on "It's a Good Life." May the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.