

# Principles of Prayer and Promises

Advanced Seminar

**“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1.**

## PPP: Lesson 16:

The Science of Prayer and Salvation

If ever there was a time in history of this fallen planet when we need more power and awareness in our lives it is now! Also there has never been a time when we more needed the power of God and His precious promises.

The Lord wishes each individual person to get to know Him and have a relationship with Him. He told us: **“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” John 17:3.**

He wants each of us to know God and Himself personally. It is not His plan to have some special person for us all to run to with our troubles, and expect *them* to solve our problems while we go on our way with no effort on our part.

All of us who profess to be Christians, and God’s commandment-keeping people, need to learn and put into practice the Science of Prayer and Salvation for ourselves and others. This should be standard equipment for all Christians! The Bible says we are to be; **“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Ephesians 6:18.**

We can and should pray for and with one another, and entreat the Lord for those having severe trials and such. In fact the Bible invites this very thing by promising special help when two of us agree in prayer on something.

**“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 18:19.**

However, we do have to face the fact that if I am too lazy to seek the Lord earnestly for myself and I am so lacking in faith that I think the Lord will not answer my prayers—how can I really believe that God is going to respond and give me what I want just because some other person asks for me? This is actually an insult to God, seeming to say that He only listens to certain people. Having someone join with us in praying is right and proper, but just thinking we can get some special person to do it for us, is not correct.

**The Blood of the Lamb:** What about asking for the sins of others, who are not seeking God for themselves, to be forgiven? Now it is true that Jesus blood was shed on Calvary for the sins of the whole world. Ample provision has been provided that not one human being ever needs to be lost!

We have the testimony of John Baptist: **“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29.**

The 'sin of the world', not just a few special people!

What did the angel say? **"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: [Savior] for he shall save his people from their sins."** Matthew 1:21.

What about Isaiah? **"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."** Isaiah 53:6. The iniquities of us all were born by the Lamb of God.

Jesus said: **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."** John 3:16, 17.

The world could be saved through Him—not just a few but all people.

**Praying for the Lost:** The Bible also says we can ask for Life for another person. **"If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."** 1 John 5:16.

James says, **". . . pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."** James 5:16.

Notice this text and apply it in a spiritual sense: **"That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."** Matthew 5:45. Sun = Light of His Word, the Gospel; Rain = Holy Spirit.

Look what Jesus said to Peter, **"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."** Luke 22:31, 32.

At that time in his boastful pride, Peter was not feeling the need of any special help from God to keep him from falling. He did not see his danger even when Jesus tried to warn him; but Jesus did see it, and prayed for Peter. Without those interceding prayers, Peter would likely have ended up lost like Judas.

Now here is where some could be misled though, If I pray for someone and claim the power of the Blood of the Lamb, which is strong enough to take away all sin and save all, does this mean that this person will be automatically saved through my prayer? Let's look at Peter; what if, in spite of Jesus' prayer for his soul, Peter had risen up in stubborn pride, hardened his heart, and excused his wicked denial of his Lord? Would he still have been rescued from the pit of sin he fell into? No, he would not, but the record shows that because of the prayer of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was able to move upon his conscience to lead him to deep repentance, and he responded. **"And Peter went out, and wept bitterly."** Luke 22:62.

**Darkness Driven Back:** Yes, indeed, the blinding, hypnotic powers of evil can be driven back by praying that the merits of the Blood of Calvary be applied to that person. Then the Holy Spirit, the mighty third Person of the Godhead, can work for them. The person's mind can be cleared, giving them a chance to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and respond to it. But God has given us all freedom of choice and the person is always free, ultimately, to resist and reject the leading of the Holy Spirit. It was only when Peter joined his heartfelt confession of his sin with the prayer of Jesus,

that he fully received the forgiveness and conversion that Jesus had asked for him.

Suppose the people I pray for are not interested in His way of life? Then what? Will God force their wills? The hearts of all fallen humans have a lonely, empty place in them that they ignorantly try to fill with the junk of this world. That place can really only be filled by God's Holy Spirit. Most are ignorant of this fact, but they long for a religion that can satisfy the heart.

**"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." Psalm 42:1.**

The wicked and backsliders have become victims of Satan's hypnotic power, and *cannot* free themselves. **"I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I." Romans 7:14, 15. "They . . . are taken captive by him [the devil] at his will." 2 Timothy 2:26.**

The merits of the Blood of the Lamb of God does not force the will, but it frees the will. **"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36. "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Hebrews 2:14, 15.** "He came to expel the demons that had controlled the will." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 20.

"Christ has never forgotten the days of His humiliation. In passing from the scenes of His humiliation, Jesus has lost none of His humanity. He has the same tender, pitying love, and is ever touched with human woe. He ever bears in mind that He was a Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief. He forgets not His representative people who are striving to uphold His downtrodden law. He knows that the world that hated Him, hates them. Although Jesus Christ has passed into the heavens, there is still a living chain binding His believing ones to His own heart of infinite love. The most lowly and weak are bound by a chain of sympathy closely to His heart. He never forgets that He is our representative, that He bears our nature. Jesus sees His true church on the earth, whose greatest ambition is to cooperate with Him in the grand work of saving souls. He hears their prayers, presented in contrition and power, and Omnipotence cannot resist their plea for the salvation of any tried, tempted member of Christ's body." *Testimonies Vol 1*, p. 19.

We conclude therefore, that the backslider, having had his will freed by the Holy Spirit through the power of the merits of the Blood of Christ will, in all likelihood, eventually place this free will on the side of Christ and salvation.

What was Christ's work on earth? **"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;" Isaiah 61:1.** This is the work His followers will also seek to do.

We seem to forget at times though that it is Heaven's Power that does this work; it is only the power of the Holy Spirit that can lead a soul to repentance and conversion and He can only do that because of the great price paid and the power provided through the shed blood of Jesus!

Especially with our family members or close friends, we all too often try to do the Holy Spirit's job by lecturing, reproofing, rebuking, scolding and trying to coerce and force others into doing what we think they ought to do! When we do this, we are actually using Satan's methods and we drive the

poor souls even deeper into confusion, despair or rebellion.

**"When He, the Spirit of truth, is come,"** said Jesus, **"He will guide you into all truth."** The Comforter is called "the Spirit of truth." His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind. By directing men to false standards, he misshapes the character. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart. Thus He exposes error, and expels it from the soul. It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself.

"In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church."

Towards the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus presented a lesson about His Blood in a different form. Let's read the story: The Pharisees were criticizing and trying to pick a fight with Jesus; He made this strange statement:

**"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."** John 6:53-57.

What did Jesus mean here? He explained: **"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."** John 6:63.

Jesus calls Himself the Word of God. It was His words, His teachings, that He likened to His flesh and blood! As we truly take in the Words of Scripture as His Words, and apply them to our lives, we are receiving the mighty, saving power of His blood in another form, and the Holy Spirit finds access to our hearts.

We should memorize passages of Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy. **"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."** Psalm 119:11. It is not only that the scriptures tell us the will of God, but there is a power in the Word to create and recreate us and also to repel evil. This World was created by the Word of God!