

1. Relationship With God

Aim: To help us pursue and have a real and vibrant relationship with God through Jesus.

A. Intro

From near the start of the Bible what amazing truth do we see in Gen 2:15-17?

The living God and us humans can communicate and be in relationship with each other.

According to Gen 1:26-27, why is this possible?

We were made in God's image; different from all other creatures. One of the glorious truths about being made in God's image is that we can communicate and have relationship - with God and each other.

Even though the Fall in Gen 3 seriously damaged our relationship with God, because of His grace and kindness, what do we see in Gen 4:6-7? What was this action of God indicative of?

God sought Cain, when he was about to kill his brother. This is indicative of what we see right through the Bible – God seeking us and communicating with us (also seen in Gen 3:9 – after Adam & Eve sinned).

Through God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, God would fully restore our relationship with Himself after the Fall in Gen 3. Consider the following great passages:

Col 1:18-22 Through Christ's blood we are reconciled to God and have peace with Him

Heb 10:19-22 Through Christ's blood we are cleansed of our sins and can approach God confidently.

What event in Mark 15:37-38 symbolised so powerfully what Christ's death accomplished?

The curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom (by God), symbolizing the restored relationship and access to God through what Christ accomplished for us at the cross; through faith in Him.

B. The Example of Old Testament believers

Before Jesus came (and because Jesus would come to atone for sin –both for Old and New Testament believers), Old Testament believers were able to enjoy a very real and vibrant relationship with God – by faith. We shall consider some of the incredibly rich relationships that some Old Testament believers had in order to encourage our own pursuit to know God more.

In Gen 5:21-24 who do we read about? How is his life described? What happened to him?

We read of Enoch – he walked with God; and then God took Him home to heaven.

In Jam 2:23 who was considered "the friend of God"? What do we learn about him in Gen 18:17-33?

Abraham was called the friend of God – what a title! We see his friendship with God in Gen 18. God spoke to Abraham and ate a meal with him. God promised Abraham a son through Sarah. He shared His heart with Abraham regarding the wickedness of Sodom & Gomorrah; Abraham even reasoned with God.

In Exod 33:9-11, who had a very special relationship with God? What do we read in Exod 33:18-23?

God would speak face to face with Moses in the tent of meeting. Not only that, God affirmed that He was pleased to show Moses His glory – which we read about in Exod 34:1-8 – wow!

Note: These examples are meant to inspire us to pursue the Lord by faith & to know Him (Jer 29:12-13).

C. The Example of New Testament believers

When Jesus came, He especially affirmed what His death and resurrection would accomplish for us. What do we learn in John 20:17, when He spoke to Mary Magdalene on the day of His resurrection?

Jesus' Father is our Father; Jesus' God is our God. Through Jesus we now can have the same relationship with God as Jesus did. We can know God personally – in a very real and vibrant way.

This relationship with God through Christ is what the apostles sought and taught. What do we see in the apostle Paul in the following verses?

2 Tim 1:12 Paul knew whom he had believed; once saved, he spent time pursuing & knowing the Lord.

Phil 3:8-11 Paul longed to know Christ – it was the most important aspect of life for him; not activity and ministry but knowing personally the Lord.

What is the significant distinction between a true and false believer according to Matt 7:21-23?

A true believer knows the Lord personally, and seeks to follow Him devotionally – does this describe you?

Concluding Thoughts:

In our new home group series we will be looking at having a real and vibrant relationship with God. We shall especially consider the importance of having a quality "quiet time", where we grow in "knowing" the Lord. May the Lord help all of us to have a better devotional life with Him; that we may know Him.

Summary: God wants a relationship with you. Do you reciprocate this by desiring to know Him?

2. Getting Together With God (Having a Quiet Time)

Aim: To help us establish a daily devotional time with the Lord; known as the "Quiet Time".

Discuss: *God has made us "in His image" so that we might know Him, and Christ has saved us so that we can be reconciled to God and have a personal relationship with Him. We also see in the OT and NT, believers who walked with God and knew God. What should our response be to all this? (Psa 42:1-2)*
We should have a desire to know God and to grow in our relationship with Him. What a privilege to know the living God, all because of what Jesus has accomplished for us.

A. The Godly Pattern

What example is set before for us regarding those who walk with God? (Psa 1:1-3)

The blessed person who walks with God is the person who spends time, not just listening to others, but listening to God. He reads and meditates on God's Word (even day and night).

What further example is set before for us in Psa 5:1-3 regarding those who walk with God?

The person who walks with God prays to Him daily; even in the morning. He prays and waits on the Lord.

The daily reading of God's Word and praying to Him is commonly called a "Quiet Time". Why?

The word "quiet" indicates a time where we take a pause from the activities of our day, and seek a place where we are not distracted, in order to read God's word and pray to Him in solitude.

Although a "Quiet Time" is based on us reading God's Word and praying to Him, because of who the Lord is, what happens as we read and pray?

God ministers to us through His Holy Spirit. As we read the Bible God reveals Himself and His will to us. In prayer, we sense God leading and guiding us regarding decisions, or what He would have us do.

Do you have a daily "Quiet Time"? If so, how would you describe it? [Discuss]

Never forget: The basis of a "Quiet Time" is that God desires to be in relationship with us. What a privilege! He went to great lengths to allow us to be in relationship with Him; at Creation and at the Cross.

B. Making time for a Quiet Time

In the story in Luke 10:38-42 which of the two women did Jesus commend? Why?

Jesus commended Mary. She had chosen the better thing of sitting at His feet and listening to Him.

Why is Martha lovingly rebuked by Jesus?

She was so busy and distracted with all the tasks she had to do, rather than doing the more important thing that Mary was doing; spending time with the Lord.

Why is it difficult for us to make time for a Quiet Time?

We are so often like Martha. We are too busy or too distracted with all the things about us, that we don't make time to spend time alone with the Lord.

What did Jesus do to have time alone with His Father? (Mark 1:35)

He got up early in the morning to pray to His Father, when no-one else was around. We also need to work out a time in our daily life when we can be alone with our Father.

What is essential for us to make time with the Lord? (cf. Paul's heart in Phil 3:8)

We need to see that the thing of surpassing value is knowing the Lord. Therefore, when we see this to be of greatest value in our life, then we will make it our highest priority to spend time with the Lord.

What plans do you need to make in order to have a daily time with God? [Discuss]

C. Making our Quiet Time with the Lord a Quality Time

What did Jesus teach us in Matthew 6:5-6 in regard to prayer?

We need to find a place of quietness, free from distraction, where we can pray to our Father in heaven. We need to find our "closet", or "inner room"; even if it's just a chair in a quiet place.

What great truth do we learn in Psalm 46:10?

We need to be still so that we can know that the Lord is God. We need to remove distracting thoughts and allow time to be calm. Remember Isaiah 30:15; "In quietness and trust is your strength".

What do we learn in Psalm 1:1-3?

We need to meditate upon God's Word. We need time to "chew over" what we read. We need to have "selahs" in our Bible reading (cf. Psa 3), where we stop and consider the Lord and what He's saying to us.

What could you do to make your time alone with God more meaningful? [Discuss]

Summary: **The Quiet Time is essential for us to grow in our relationship with the Lord.**

We need to give it the highest priority in our life if we really want to know the Lord.

3. God's Word

Aim: To help us value the Bible as the Word of the living God.

Discuss: *What are the two key components of having a vibrant relationship with God, and having a meaningful devotional life with Him (what we call our "Quiet Time")?*

The two key components are listening to God as we read the Bible, and praying to our Father through Jesus.

The Bible is essential in knowing God and walking with Him. Consider: How do your non-Christian friends view the Bible? What do they think of it? [Discuss]

What would you say to them if they asked you what the Bible is?

The Bible is inspired of God so that we might know Him – it's the revelation of God.

The Bible

The Bible contains 66 books that were written over approximately 1600 years, from 1500BC to 100AD. There are about 40 different authors, with many different styles of writing from poetry to history. The first part, written before Christ and referred to as the Old Testament, was written in Hebrew, and the second part, the New Testament, was written in Greek. But the Bible is a lot more than this. Consider the following verses/passages below. What do we learn?

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is inspired (God-breathed) by God Himself
(that's why we call the Bible God's Word)

2 Pet 1:20-21 The Holy Spirit moved men to speak (and record) God's Word

John 17:17 God's Word is truth (always the truth, as its author is the truth)

Psa 119:160 God's Word is truth and it is everlasting

Isa 40:7-8 God's Word endures forever (cf. Matt 24:35)

Heb 4:12 God's Word is powerful, cutting deep into our soul (cf. Jer 23:29)

Isa 55:10-11 God's Word is effective and it accomplishes great things

Is there more of the Bible (more revelation) to come? (Heb 1:1-2; Rev 22:18-19)

No! Jesus and His apostles completed God's revelation to us. We do not believe the claims of other religious groups that more extra-Biblical revelation was given after Jesus and His apostles.

For example: The Muslims claim that Mohammed received more revelations from "Gabriel"

The Mormons claim that Joseph Smith received a third testament.

The Jehovah Witnesses claim that they have received further revelations.

When people claim things and declare it to be from God what should we do? (Acts 17:11)

We should be like the Bereans; we should examine what we have in the Bible and see if it lines up with that. We shouldn't accept any teaching or "new revelation" that doesn't agree with the Bible. Also, instead of seeking "new revelation", we should seek to **understand** what God has already revealed to us.

The Bible to us

According to Eph 2:19-20 what are we to build our faith on?

We are to build our faith on the foundation of what the apostles and prophets taught and wrote down, and what Jesus taught; ie the Bible. The OT is the writing of the prophets, the NT is the writing of the apostles, and the Gospels are the life and teachings of Jesus, our cornerstone.

Who is essential for us to understand the Bible and hear God speak to us? (John 16:13-14)

God's Holy Spirit is essential. It is He who authored the Bible and who leads us into all truth. One of the great titles of the Holy Spirit by Jesus is that He is the "Spirit of Truth" (cf. also John 14:17; 1 John 4:6).

The Bible is God's Word. What are some of its great blessings to us?

2 Tim 3:15 It leads us to salvation.

Rom 10:17 It produces faith.

1 Pet 2:1-2 It is our spiritual sustenance for growing.

2 Pet 1:3-4 It has everything we need for life and godliness.

2 Tim 3:16-17 It's all we need to live a life pleasing to the Lord.

For these, and many other reasons, we should have a great love for the Bible. Consider the Psalmist's heart in regard to God's Word (Psalm 119:11, 81-82, 105, 140, 148, 162).

Summary: The Bible is God's precious Word to us. It is His revelation to us of who He is and who we are; and how we can know Him and be right with Him. Let us then read it – daily.

4. Reading God's Word (Part One)

Aim: To help us get the most out of our daily Bible reading.

Discuss: *A gold miner may stumble across an occasional nugget lying on the surface of the ground. But to find the richer vein of gold, what is usually required? How does this relate to Bible reading?*

A gold miner has to dig beneath the surface; this takes time and effort. In the same way, if we want to grow deeper in knowing God, we need to spend time in His Word and dig deeper into it.

What hinders you from getting more out of personally reading the Bible? [Discuss]

The Three "Readers"

What type of Bible reader are you? [Discuss the following three categories]

The Skip-pers: These may have the good intention to read the Bible, but never seem to do it, or they are just happy to know what others say about the Bible, but never read it for themselves

The Skimmers: These read the Bible superficially; they don't put the time and effort into digging deeper

The Students: These read the Bible thoughtfully; as a student of God's Word they seek to understand it - they stop to think about it, and with God's help, they take it in and apply its truth.

Characteristics of the true student

1. They have a right attitude

What attitude should we have when we come to read the Bible? (Mark 4:9; Matt 7:24)

We must see the Bible for what it is: God's appointed means of speaking to us by His Spirit. Therefore, we should seek to hear His voice, and act on it. Consider: all seven churches in Rev 2 and 3 were instructed to hear what the Spirit was saying (cf. Rev 2:7).

Another key attitude is what we see in King Josiah's heart. What was that? (2 Kings 22:18-19)

Josiah had a tender and humble heart. We need to come under the authority of Scripture. Cf. Luther, the reformer & Christian, said to Erasmus, the scholar & heathen, "The difference between you and me, Erasmus, is that you sit above Scripture judging it, while I sit under Scripture letting it judge me."

2. They pray

Why should we pray before we read God's Word? (John 16:13-14)

The author of the Bible is God Himself. We therefore need to humbly ask Him for His help to understand it.

What should we pray for?

We should ask God to: 1) Help us understand His Word; 2) Help us see God's character and will in His Word; 3) Help us to come with an open and humble heart; 4) Help us to grow in faith and knowledge

3. They read

How should we read the Bible? [Discuss the following points]

- We should read it with the Spirit's help, with our eye focussed on God's character and/or Christ's life – fixing our eyes on Jesus (Heb 12:2)
- We should read it practically; not academically. It is to have an effect on both our heart and mind.
- If you don't know the Bible very well, then read the New Testament before tackling the Old Testament (except for such books as Genesis, which is a foundational book, or the Psalms which is the Bible's song book). The New Testament will help you understand the Old Testament.
- Aim for quality; not quantity. It is more important to read a smaller section of Scripture, digging deeper into it and applying it, than to reading a big section of Scripture and barely scratching the surface.
- Consider the main point(s) of a passage; don't get caught up on incidentals. Example: In Mark 5:27-28, the point of the passage is not what cloak Jesus was wearing, but the faith of the woman.
- Don't let your "beliefs" twist the plain intention of the passage; instead, let God's Word change you.
- Don't take verses out of context. eg does Psalm 37:4 tell us that God will give us whatever we want? (No! But when we delight in God, our desires will conform to His, and then we will receive)
 - Look for the original intent of what was written; and not "put words into God's mouth".
 - Don't jump to an interpretation without careful observation – it leads to misinterpretation.

4. They meditate

What does it mean to meditate? (Psalm 1:1-3; 119:97, 147-148)

Meditation is spending time reflecting on the Scriptures; "chewing over" God's truth, and letting it sink in to our hearts. In eastern religions, meditation is to empty one's mind in order to be connected to one's inner self. Christian meditation is to fill one's mind with God's truth to connect to God.

Summary: Are we ready to get the most out of God's Word? It will take time and effort.

5. Reading God's Word (Part Two)

Aim: To help us get the most out of our daily Bible reading.

Discuss: *In James 1:23-24 what is God's Word likened to? Why is that?*

When we wake up and see ourselves in a mirror, we can observe ourselves clearly. When we look into God's Word, it's like looking into a mirror, for we can see ourselves clearly from God's perspective?

When's the last time you changed an attitude or behaviour after reading God's Word? [Discuss]

When's the last time you altered a pre-conceived idea in the light of God's Word? [Discuss]

Last week's lesson looked at four steps when it comes to reading God's Word. What were they?

Have a right attitude; pray before you read; read thoughtfully; meditate. We shall now consider "apply".

Applying God's Word

Is it enough to just read and hear God's Word? What does Matthew 7:24-27 say?

It is never enough just to read and hear God's Word. We must be "doers" of the Word. Unless we apply God's Word to our life, we are not building our life upon the Rock (Christ Jesus).

What do we learn in 2 Peter 1:2-11?

Knowledge of God is necessary, but unless we apply it, our life will be useless and unfruitful for Him.

God doesn't want scholars; he wants disciples (followers and doers of the Word)

When we don't apply God's Word to our life, what are we doing? (James 1:22)

We delude and deceive ourselves. We never deceive God, and others usually see through the deception too. The knowledge of God is not just to affect our HEAD, but also our HEART and HANDS. **[Discuss]**

When we read and apply God's Word to our life what picture is given in Psalm 1:1-3?

We are likened to a healthy tree near streams of water; spiritually strong, stable, healthy and fruitful. God wants us to be His trees of righteousness so that we might bear much fruit for His glory (cf. Isa 61:1-3).

How do you apply what you learn to your daily life? Below are some helpful suggestions:

Romans 11:33-36 Is there a reason to worship God?

Hebrews 13:5-6 Is there a command to obey?

Hebrews 13:5-6 Is there a promise to rest in?

Hebrews 13:5-6 Is there some encouragement?

Philippians 2:3-4 Is there an attitude to change?

Philippians 2:5-8 Is there an example to follow?

James 3:9-12 Is there a behaviour to change? (see also Ephesians 4:29)

James 3:14-17 Is there a sin to confess? (remember the promise in 1 John 1:9)

Romans 8:28 Is there an insight to gain that strengthens our trust in God?

1 Timothy 2:1-4 Is there an issue to pray about?

Applying God's Word can be summed up by the acronym SPECK. As I read, is there a . . . ?

Sin to avoid; **Promise** to rest in; **Example** to follow; **Command** to obey; **Knowledge** of God

Example of this in Mark 12: **Sin** to avoid (hypocrisy - Mark 12:38-40); **Promise** to rest in (the dead will rise again - Mark 12:24-26); **Example** to follow (the widow giving to the Lord all she had - Mark 12:41-42);

Command to obey (love God and others - Mark 12:29-31); **Knowledge** of God (God is one - Mark 12:29).

The Impact of God's Word according to Psalm 19

What effect should God's Word have on us according to Psalm 19:7-9?

It should restore us in our walk with God, make us wise, help us rejoice, give us understanding.

For this to happen, what should our attitude be to God's Word? (Psalm 19:10)

We should treat it as more precious than anything else, and more desirable than anything else.

What benefits do we receive when we faithfully read God's Word? (Psalm 19:11)

We are warned of spiritual dangers, and we are greatly blessed and rewarded.

Helpful points to remember

- Our focus on the Bible is not to be rules and regulations, but on knowing God and walking with Him.
- Our Lord Jesus Christ is to be seen in the Bible; even in the Old Testament (Luke 24:27)
- Apply God's Word to yourself and not just to others (cf. Matthew 7:3-5).
- Recognise the difference between a specific command that applies to a specific person and situation, and a general command that applies to all Christians. (Deut 7:2; Matt 5:43-44)
- Don't live as an old covenant believer, but as a new covenant believer (eg Lev 11:10-11; Mark 7:19)

Summary: **Reading God's Word won't be effective unless we correctly apply it.**

6. The Privilege of Prayer

Aim: To help motivate us to pray more to our Father in heaven through Jesus.

Discuss: *If we want to deepen a friendship with someone, what is essential? [Relate this to God]*

One of the main things is spending time listening and speaking to each other. When it comes to God, we can only deepen our friendship with Him by also spending time listening and speaking to Him.

What is the main way for us to listen to the Lord?

By having an open heart when we daily read and meditate on His Word, the Bible.

How do we speak to the Lord?

We speak to the Lord by sharing our heart in prayer. Prayer is essential if we want to grow in our relationship with God. It isn't enough just to read the Bible.

The Privilege of Prayer

What do we learn from the following verses about the privileges of prayer?

Psalm 18:6 The Lord (who is so great and awesome) hears us when we cry out to Him.

Heb 4:14-16 Through Jesus, our great high priest, we are invited to approach the actual throne of God, and through Christ we can approach God's throne of grace with confidence (freely and without fear), to find mercy and grace in time of need.

Heb 10:19-22 God has gone to great lengths to remove the barriers for us to approach Him.

The door has been opened and we have been cleansed through Christ so that we can now approach the holy God confidently.

Rom 8:15 The Holy Spirit enables us to relate to God and to cry out to Him as our loving Father.

Rom 8:26-27 The Holy Spirit helps us to pray and He even intercedes for us.

Given this privilege we have, why do we pray so little? Discuss.

Why do we so often approach God last of all, instead of first? Discuss.

What does Jesus want us to understand about prayer in John 16:23-27?

- The Father wants us to pray and ask Him directly (vv. 23, 26)
- God has a heart to hear us and to meet the needs of His children (vv. 23-24)
- The Father Himself loves us because we have come to love and believe in Jesus (v. 27)
- And we are to pray in Jesus' name, for only because of Jesus can we approach God (John 14:6)

What do we learn about prayer in Matthew 7:7-11?

- Jesus invites us to approach God about the needs we have (ask, seek, knock)
- Jesus assures us that we have a Father who longs to bless us and to give good gifts to those who ask Him (cf. also James 1:5-6)

Consider: *How would a parent feel if their young child was in need but they didn't ask them, or they even approached someone else first? [Relate this to God]*

The parent would be upset that the child didn't trust them enough to come to them. God too wants us to express our trust in Him by asking Him for whatever we need.

How does God want us to come to Him? (Matthew 6:6)

God is "your Father". He wants us to see ourselves as His dearly loved children, who can come freely and openly, without fear or shame, in a relationship where there is trust, love, full acceptance, & forgiveness.

Important: *Even though we are encouraged to ask God for things in prayer, the essence of prayer is to also appreciate and enjoy our relationship with God and share our heart and life with Him. Consider the example of Moses in Exodus 33:11-13. What do we see and learn?*

Although Moses could ask God for all sorts of things, and share his heart openly with God, above all, God and Moses were "best friends". They spoke "face to face" as a man speaks to his friend.

Consider the following quote and then discuss how we can relate this to prayer:

Quote: "The reward for friendship is not what the friend can give – it is the friend himself."

At the end of the day it is God we are to seek and know – reading the Bible and prayer is all about this.

Summary: **Prayer is essential for our daily devotions to deepen our relationship with God. And though it is essential, what a privilege is to pray to the true and living God.**

7. Prayer – the “How to...”

Aim: To help us to know how to pray and to help us have confidence to pray more regularly.

Discuss: *Read Luke 11:1. What did one of Jesus’ disciples ask the Lord after he saw Him pray? Can* After hearing Jesus pray, one of His disciples asked Him to “teach us to pray”. For us to pray effectively and meaningfully, we need to listen to the Bible’s teaching on prayer, and the many examples given of people praying. In this lesson we will consider some of the basics when it comes to prayer.

How did Jesus teach us to pray?

What did Jesus teach us in Matthew 6:5-8 in regard to prayer?

- Don’t pray to show others how “religious” you are; don’t pray to draw attention to yourself; don’t pray by speaking to yourself or others, (see Luke 18:11), but rather, talk to God, for this is what prayer is.
- Pray in secret to your heavenly Father, and let any public prayers stem from a genuine personal prayer life. We should not pray in public unless we pray in secret.
- God knows what we need before we ask Him. Therefore, we do not need to “rabbit” on. Remember also, one groan from the heart is worth more than a thousand words to God

In Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus teaches His disciples to pray. Some pray this prayer by rote. How should we understand it and why?

Jesus never gave us this prayer as if it’s the only words we are to pray to God. He said “Pray, then, in this way.” In other words, Jesus gave us a model for prayer.

What are the main things we learn from Jesus’ prayer?

- Don’t begin by asking; instead, worship and adore God. This is the foremost thing we should do.
- Address God as “Father”, indicating the personal relationship we have with God through Jesus.
- Our prayers should not be where we ask God to bless **our** endeavours and plans, but where we pray that God’s will is done on earth (including in us), so that He is glorified. Consider Jesus in Matt 26:39.
- We are to bring before our Father our daily needs; including physical ones, not just spiritual ones; and including “small ones” and not just the “big ones”.
- We are to ask God to forgive us our sins, by confessing them to Him (1 John 1:9). Jesus assumes that we have forgiven others before we ask God for forgiveness (see Matthew 6:14-15).
- We are to ask God for us not to be led into temptation or into evil; this is because of the tendency we have to wander and stray from God’s righteous paths.

A Way to Pray (A.C.T.S.)

Unless we have sinned and need to ask God’s forgiveness ASAP so that we can be made right with Him (cf. Psalm 66:18), then it’s good for our prayers to follow the acronym for ACTS.

Adoration *What is adoration? (1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Psalm 145:1-13)*

Adoration does not come easily for most of us. [Discuss]

Adoration is where we focus on God’s glorious character. We adore and worship Him for simply who He is. It is different from thanksgiving in that we focus on who God is, not just in what He has *done* for us.

Confession *What should we do when we confess?*

As soon as we sin and we become aware of it, we should humble ourselves and turn from it and confess it (cf. 2 Chron 7:14). However, in our set times of prayer, in our daily Quiet Time, we should also have a time of confession. This is where we say sorry to God for our sins, in a general sense, and we take the time to remember that we can be forgiven only by what Jesus accomplished for us at the cross. We should also use this time to ask God to search us out and to reveal any sins in our life (cf. Psalm 19:12-14; Psalm 139:23-24). If God reveals any sin to us, then we need to specifically confess it (1 John 1:9).

Thanksgiving *What are we commanded to do, including in our prayers, according to 1 Thess 5:18?*

We are to express our thanks to God for everything. What things can you thank God for?

When we don’t give thanks, what are we indicating to God? (cf. Luke 17:11-19)

We are indicating that we are ungrateful for all that He does for us. It’s as if we just expect Him to serve us.

Supplication *What does the Lord encourage us to do in Matt 7:7-8, Phil 4:6-7 and 1 Thess 5:25?*

We are to bring everything to God in prayer. This includes bringing our own personal requests to the Lord, as well as the needs of others. Consider Paul in 2 Timothy 1:3.

Next week we will consider the important role of faith and God’s will in regard to prayer.

Summary: **Prayer is talking to God about everything; not just asking God for favours.**