



The  
**FLOW**  
Adult CURRICULUM

#35

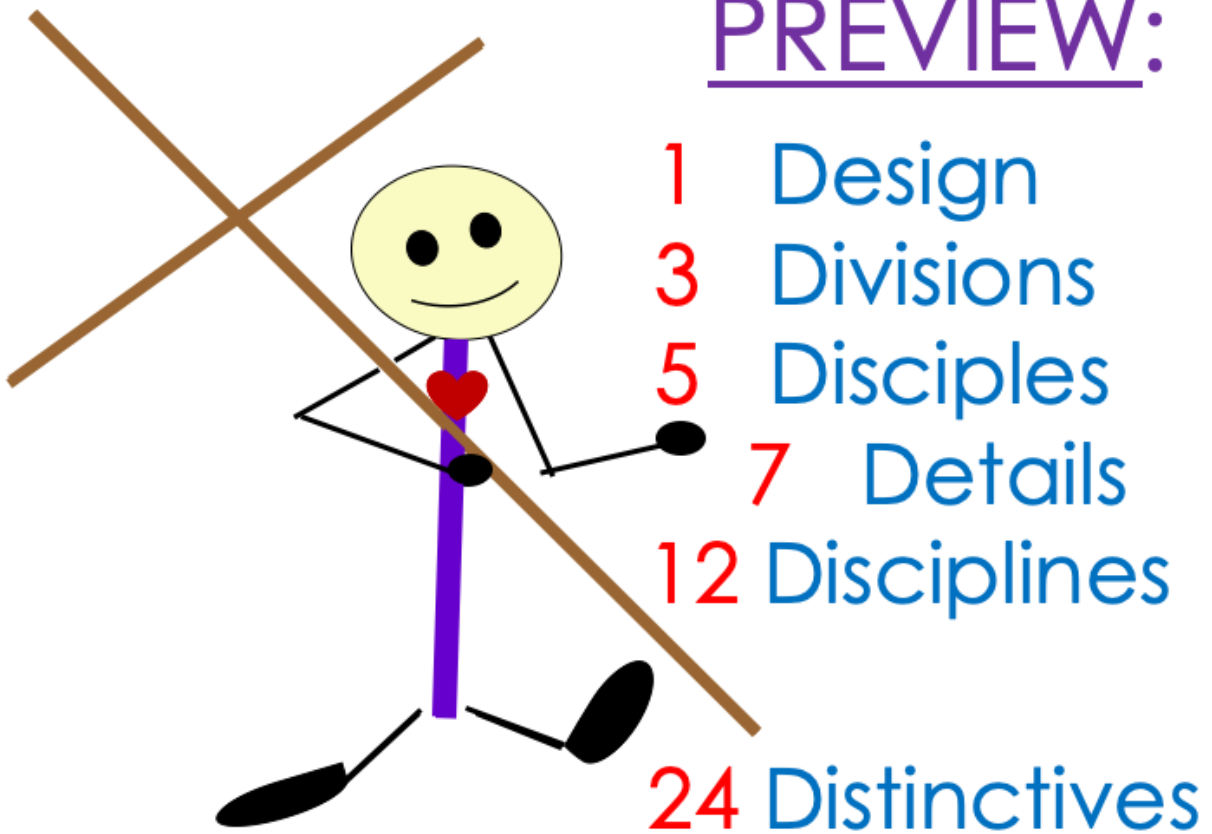
Praying For Guidance

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

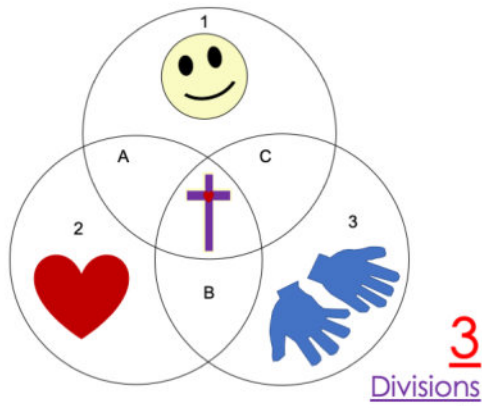
(Come And See Christianity book pages 98)

# The FLOW

## PREVIEW:

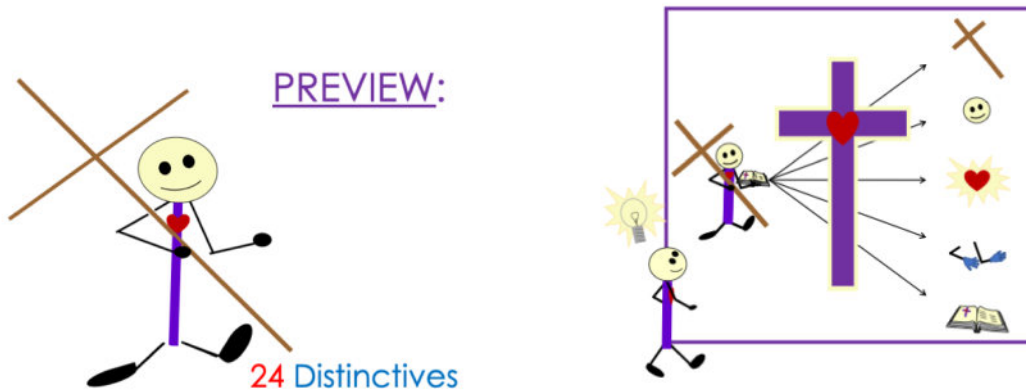


SECTION SIX: 12 Disciplines



**The Disciple's "Hands"** put into **action** the **truth** & **love** of God's Word, God's will, & God's ways. In short, when **each Christian's Head, Heart, & Hands** are united in purpose & power, the family of God is **living** as the **Body of Christ!**

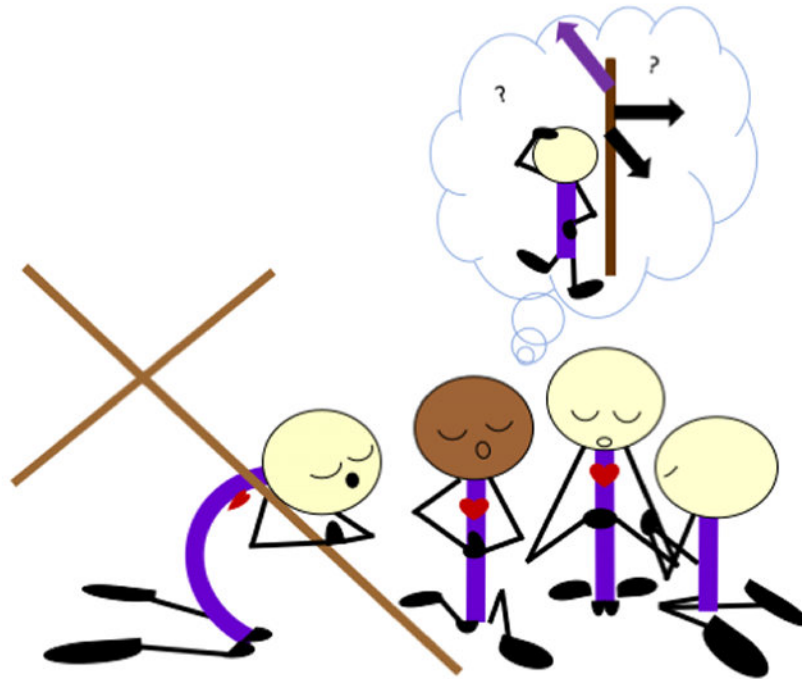
## 24 Family Distinctives:



## **24 DISTINCTIVES:**

The “**distinctives**” are a family portrait... When you add God’s Word, God’s Spirit, God’s Truth, God’s love, and God’s people all together, the **distinctives** are what **we look, love, & live like :-)**

# We are...



## Praying for guidance

INTRO:

As we begin to **see the beautiful, biblical portrait of Christ's faith-filled family** defined and described by God's Word, will, and ways, it is critical to remember that the Holy Bible is to ALWAYS BE our ultimate source, authority, and interpreter in ALL things pertaining to one's understanding of reality and application of truth in love.

**Remember,**  
**The biblical Church is Christ's missional family...**  
**Moreover, God's Word reveals our Father's will and His family's ways.**

### [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Here are ***24 defining & describing HANDS-on DISTINCTIVES of Christianity:***

True Christians are biblically, miraculously, intentionally, missionally, and imperfectly...

1. ***Responding to grace***
2. ***Repenting of sin***
3. ***Trusting the Bible***
4. ***Obeying God's Word***
5. ***Growing in Christ***
6. ***Living Spirit-led***
7. ***Praying for guidance***
8. ***Following by faith***
9. ***Dying to self***
10. ***Carrying our cross***
11. ***BE-ing The Church***
12. ***Loving one another (truly loving one another)***
13. ***Equipping the saints***
14. ***Exemplifying supernatural unity***
15. ***Ministering as ambassadors***
16. ***Discerning matters shrewdly***
17. ***Worshipping God vertically***
18. ***Experiencing Him horizontally***
19. ***Proclaiming the Gospel (no matter what)***
20. ***Fishing for men***
21. ***Making disciplined warriors***
22. ***Winning spiritual warfare***
23. ***Loving our King***
24. ***Serving His kingdom***

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen and Amen



## CONTEXT:

### Macro

**This lesson marks another major transition point** in our curriculum's eye-opening explanation of Christianity. By way of review, we began in Section One with the reality of Almighty God having 1 Divine DESIGN (also known as a biblical worldview and the eternal application of Jesus Christ's Gospel). In Section Two, we addressed the 3 DIVISIONS (Head, Heart, and Hands) that make up the "being" in every human being. Next, in Section Three, we demonstrated how Christianity accounts for, defines, and describes all of humanity, every person, past, present, and future. We noted that all people can be identified as one of the 5 DISCIPLES – Lost, Lover, Learner, Leader, or Lifer. Moving forward, Section Four revealed, engaged, and explained the 7 fundamental DETAILS of God's Divine DESIGN... because **we all need to know what we need to know**. To be more specific, those seven truths are: The Foundations, The Framework, The Facts, The Fight, The Faith, The Family, and the truth about Forever.

Then, in Section Five, which we just completed, our focus shifted from HEAD based truths to 12 HEART shaping exercises or disciplines - each having the potential to strengthen one's personal relationship with Christ, His Church, and their collective mission: bringing God glory by finding & growing more glorifiers.

We used the acronym **J.E.S.U.S.'S. P. S.W.O.R.D.** to outline and harmonize a biblical, missional, and intentional methodology for growing in God's love - & His loving witness. The 12 HEART DISCIPLINES are: **J**ournaling... **E**ating-nothing (fasting)... **S**cripture-intake... **U**nderstudy of Scripture... **S**tewardship... **S**olitude... **P**rayer... **S**erving... **W**orshipping... **O**utreach... **R**elationships... and **D**evelopment.

Now, our curriculum and study will transition to The HANDS. This is where **Christians demonstrate to the world that Christ is in their worship & witness**. Whereas our time spent in the HEAD sections (1-4) focused on the truths that Christians need and seek to LEARN, and our concentration on the 12 HEART DISCIPLINES of section 5 helped us to grow in God's LOVE, our sixth and final section will **walk through the 24 DISTINCTIVES, which explain & exemplify how Christians are to faithfully LIVE... and fully BE The Church... together** – all by God's grace & ALL for His glory!

God's Word puts it this way:

***"Let us not love with word and tongue but in action and truth."*** – 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:18

*And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47](#)praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. – Acts 2:46-47*

## I. **DISTINCTIVES are FRUIT:**

It is important to realize that God's miraculous and authentic **Christian DISTINCTIVES are the FRUIT of saving grace and faith** (Ephesians 2:1-10). As Jesus described in John 15, people can do nothing outside of their abiding in Him and obeying His Word, will and ways. In short, there will be no fruit unless one remains attached to and provided for by the true Vine and divine Root. With that said, a cautionary note is worth sharing here, beware the counterfeits that abound around the world. ***Plastic fruit is deceptive vs. DISTINCTIVE!***

### Galatians 5:22-25

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

## II. **DISTINCTIVES are FAMILY:**



DISTINCTIVES, by definition, are those “distinguishing characteristics that are notable for having a special quality, style, and/or attractiveness” (Dictionary.com).

When it comes to God's family, the true Church, each Christian and their individualistic DISTINCTIVES are as unique as their potential. At the same time, in the same way that a billion unique snowflakes can be combined to make a single snowstorm, or countless swatches of scrap fabric can be sewn together to make a single quilt, so it is with God's family. The LORD creates His Christian family with a both/and combination of DISTINCTIVE uniqueness, as well as DISTINCTIVE love and defining unity.

**Christianity's DISTINCT family (ecclesia) has a DISTINCTIVE unity (koinonia).**

*“By this all people will know that you are My disciple, if you have love for one another.”*  
– John 13:35



*“The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us.”*

*- Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

### III. **DISTINCTIVES are WITNESS:**

The most biblical and healthy understandings of Christianity will include an embrace of two overarching and DISTINCTIVE purposes. Namely, per God’s Word, will, and ways, every Christian has received miraculous, saving grace, as well as the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to:

1. Bring glory to God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,  
**do all to the glory of God.***

2. BE Christ’s witness.

Acts 1:8

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, **and you will be My witnesses** in Jerusalem (locally), and in all Judea and Samaria (regionally), and to the end of the earth (globally).”*

**God’s DISTINCTIVE people have been filled with His Holy Spirit for the express purpose of living DISTINCTIVE lives.** When the world sees the LORD’s loving family living out their divinely empowered and God-honoring worship, work, and warfare, the resulting fruit will serve as a faithful witness, built with supernatural, grace-based, and missional DISTINCTIVES.

*“God created me—and you—to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming passion—namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life.”*

*- John Piper*

## The Christian Distinctive

What distinguishes Christianity from all other religions is that it is a *revealed* religion. Christianity is not about our search for God or our means of finding him. Christianity is not a religion that works its way upward. It is all about God coming to us — God in grace making himself known to us and making a way for us to enjoy fellowship with him.

And so, at the very heart of Christianity is, simply, a message — a message from God to us about what he has done to bring us to himself.

If Christianity is distinctively revealed religion, then it is also uniquely *authoritative*. It does not offer itself as the best and highest of human thinking about God or even the best or most successful of human efforts to know God. It professes to be nothing less than the unique word from God, his very own self-disclosure and the record of the actions he has taken in Jesus Christ to bring us into fellowship with himself.

One of Rudyard Kipling's characters declares, "The heathen in his blindness bows down to wood and stone; He don't obey no orders unless they is his own." That is to say, human religions lack authority — they form their own ideas and "discover" their own beliefs.

By contrast the Christian is "under orders," because unlike human religions, Christianity is a revealed religion — divinely revealed. We Christians are not our own touchstone of truth, and we do not confuse our ideas about God with His own self-revelation. We learn truth about God not from "inner lights" within ourselves but from God's own objective Word.

And apart from this external authority, there is no Christianity. This, at bottom, is Christianity's leading distinctive.

And so, we **Christians prize Scripture as God's Word. We joyfully submit to it. And we enthusiastically proclaim its message of grace in Jesus Christ to the world.**

- Dr. Fred Zaspel

PRAYING FOR GUIDANCE is one of the most critical, authenticating, and blessed aspects of Christianity because, in part, it acknowledges the sovereignty of Creator God, seeks His loving interaction, and embraces His guaranteed blessings... which come wrapped in both voluminous grace and victorious power. At the same time, it is important to point out that biblical PRAYING FOR GUIDANCE also demonstrates the Christian's humble and harmonized trust in God, God's Word, His will, and His ways. Even more, such prayerful posturing flows out of the Christ-follower's faithful obedience to God (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:17), total dependence upon The Lord (John 15:4), and recognition that we all live in the context of real and raw spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18). In short, **Christians PRAY FOR GUIDANCE because God is glorified by guiding Christians who pray.**

*If we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace brought in the place of weakness, failure, and disappointment, let us answer God's standing challenge, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."*

**Hudson Taylor**

### What is prayer?

The most basic definition of prayer is "talking to God." Prayer is not meditation or passive reflection; it is direct address to God. It is the communication of the human soul with the Lord who created the soul. Prayer is the primary way for the believer in Jesus Christ to communicate his emotions and desires with God and to fellowship with God.

Prayer can be audible or silent, private or public, formal or informal. All prayer must be offered in faith ([James 1:6](#)), in the name of the Lord Jesus ([John 16:23](#)), and in the power of the Holy Spirit ([Romans 8:26](#)). As the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* puts it, "Christian prayer in its full New Testament meaning is prayer addressed to God as Father, in the name of Christ as Mediator, and through the enabling grace of the indwelling Spirit" ("Prayer" by J. C. Lambert). The wicked have no desire to pray ([Psalm 10:4](#)), but the children of God have a natural desire to pray ([Luke 11:1](#)).

Prayer is described in the Bible as seeking God's favor ([Exodus 32:11](#)), pouring out one's soul to the Lord ([1 Samuel 1:15](#)), crying out to heaven ([2 Chronicles 32:20](#)), drawing near to God ([Psalm 73:28, KJV](#)), and kneeling before the Father ([Ephesians 3:14](#)).

Paul wrote, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” ([Philippians 4:6-7](#)). Worry about nothing; pray about everything.

Everything? Yes, God wants us to talk with Him about everything. How often should we pray? The biblical answer is “pray without ceasing” ([1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)). We should keep a running conversation going with God all day long. Some find the [ACTS formula of prayer](#) helpful, but there is really no special formula for [how to pray](#) in the Bible. We should just do it. We can pray under any and all circumstances. Prayer develops our relationship with God and demonstrates our trust and utter dependence upon Him.

Prayer is the Christian’s way of communicating with God. We pray to praise God and thank Him and tell Him how much we love Him. We pray to enjoy His presence and tell Him what is going on in our lives. We pray to [make requests](#) and seek guidance and ask for wisdom. God loves this exchange with His children, just as we love the exchange we have with our children. Fellowship with God is the heart of prayer. Too often we lose sight of how simple prayer is really supposed to be.

When we make petitions to God, we let God know exactly where we stand and what we would like to see happen. In our prayers, we must admit that God is greater than we are and ultimately knows what is best in any given situation ([Romans 11:33-36](#)). God is good and asks us to trust Him. In prayer, we say, essentially, “Not my will, but your will be done.” The key to answered prayer is praying according to the will of God and in accordance with His Word. Prayer is not seeking our own will but seeking to align ourselves with the will of God more fully ([1 John 5:14-15](#); [James 4:3](#)).

The Bible contains many examples of prayer and plenty of exhortations to pray (see [Luke 18:1](#); [Romans 12:12](#); and [Ephesians 6:18](#)). God’s house is to be a house of prayer ([Mark 11:17](#)), and God’s people are to be people of prayer: “Dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love” ([Jude 1:20-21](#)).

- [GotQuestions.org](#)

Message

*A man who is intimate with God will never be intimidated by men.*  
**Leonard Ravenhill**

## PRAYER: A Warrior's Weapon

In [Daniel 10](#), the prophet receives a word from the Lord (v. 1) — a vision of conflict that stunned him with its greatness. So, Daniel set himself with tears and fasting and prayer to seek the meaning of the vision, and for three weeks he wrestled in prayer over this vision and sought to know God's will.

After three weeks he went out to the banks of the Tigris River (v. 4). There he had a vision that was so awesome he could hardly bear it. To make matters worse (in v. 10), a hand reached out and touched him so that he shook terribly on his hands and knees. Then the voice said (vv. 11–12): “O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.... Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.”

Now this is immensely important for understanding prayer. Notice the words: “I have come because of your words.” Put that together with the words in verse 11: “I have been sent to you.” That is, God sent him. So, the point is that God answered Daniel's prayer as soon as he began to pray three weeks ago. “From the first day that you humbled yourself before your God your words [your prayers] have been heard, and I have come because of your words [your prayer].”

So this heavenly being has come because Daniel prayed and humbled himself before God and fasted. And the three-week delay was not because God took three weeks to hear. What was it then?

Verse 13: “The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me.” The reason the messenger of God was detained is because a spiritual being called “the prince of the kingdom of Persia” stood against him. And the reason this angelic messenger got free from this opposition was because the angel Michael came to help him.

This is the clearest example in all the Bible of what is called by some people a “territorial spirit.” Verse 13 refers to “the prince of the kingdom of Persia.” The natural meaning of this phrase would be that among the supernatural beings opposed to God, at least one is assigned to a territory or, more accurately, to a kingdom, in this case Persia. Presumably his job is to darken the people of Persia — to keep them from having the truth and the light of God's Word.

But this spirit is not the only one mentioned. Look at verse 20–21: “Then he [the messenger from God] said, ‘Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out,



behold, the prince of Greece will come. But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.”

So, it appears that there was a spirit over Persia and a spirit over Greece. But it also seems that Michael, the good angel, has some special assignment for Israel, because it says at the end of verse 21: “Michael, your prince.” And the “your” there is plural. This is not a reference to Daniel’s guardian angel, but to Israel’s guardian angel.

How then shall we do ministry in view of this reality of territorial spirits? First, we ought to take the supernatural seriously and realize that we are in a warfare that cannot and should not be domesticated by reinterpreting everything in the biblical worldview so that it fits nicely with secular, naturalistic ways of thinking about the world. Secondly, notice that Daniel’s prayer that has such powerful effects in the spiritual realm did not focus on angels and territorial spirits. Rather, he was wrestling for truth and for the good of God’s people. He was totally shocked when an angel appeared to him. And he knew nothing about the conflict with the prince of the kingdom of Persia.

But it’s no accident that the messenger said that his struggle with the prince of Persia lasted exactly the same amount of time that Daniel’s fasting and prayer did — twenty-one days. The reason for this is that the warfare in the spirit realm was being fought in a real sense by Daniel in the prayer realm.

And so it is with more of our prayers than we realize. But the point is this: Daniel’s praying was not about angels. And probably ours shouldn’t be either. We should wrestle in prayer and fasting for the things that we know are God’s will in our lives and our families and our church and our city and our world. But by and large we should probably leave it to God how He will use angels to get His work done. If God shows us more, we will use it. But the essence of the matter is not knowing the spirits but knowing God and praying in the power of Holy Spirit.

So let us be about prayer with all our might. May the Lord make us a people who pray like Daniel.

- **Ligonier Ministries,  
John Piper**

*None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect,  
but those who have learned it by experience.*

**Martin Luther**

BIG IDEA: **PRAYING FOR GUIDANCE is the Christian's privileged & missional response to God's grace... that exemplifies biblical faith, loving obedience, and genuine humility.**

PREVIEW:

1. PRAYING
2. FOR
3. GUIDANCE

TEXT:

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

***3**For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. **4**For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. **5**We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,*

## 1. PRAYING

Illustration:

*Prayer is the vital breath of the Christian; not the thing that makes him alive, but the evidence that he is alive.*

**Oswald Chambers**

*As impossible as it is for us to take a breath in the morning large enough to last us until noon, so impossible is it to pray in the morning in such a way as to last us until noon. Let your prayers ascend to Him constantly, audibly or silently, as circumstances throughout the day permit.*

**Ole Hallesby**

Explanation:

PRAYING FOR GUIDANCE is one of two ways that Christians can consistently and proactively seek, find, and witness to the will of Almighty God. To be clear, the first and most trusted way comes with and through the Word of God, which is heaven-sent and God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16-17). With that said, the next best way to receive and implement a divine download is to pray and obey... personally, biblically, and missionally.

Note here that most people associate praying with a religious process that lets God know what they think is needed... By contrast, our curriculum's lesson & God's holy Word emphasize the fact that the Lord already knows what we need (Matthew 6:8). Consequently, while prayer does include the opportunity for heavenly "uploads," our resolute focus should be on requests for God-honoring GUIDANCE & a heartfelt desire that cries out "*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*" (Matthew 6:9-13)... all day, every day.

*When we rely upon organization, we get what organization can do; when we rely upon education, we get what education can do; when we rely upon eloquence, we get what eloquence can do. And so on. But when we rely upon prayer, we get what God can do.*

**A.C. Dixon**

*Prayer may not change things for you, but it for sure changes you for things.*

**Sam Shoemaker**

## **What is the purpose of prayer?**

[Prayer](#) is an important part of the Christian life. It is the way we communicate with the Lord and praise Him. To understand the purpose of prayer, it is important to first understand what prayer is not. There are many wrong views in the world and culture about prayer, even among Christians, and these should be addressed first. Prayer is not

- bargaining with God.
- making demands of God.
- only asking God for things.
- a therapeutic, meditation-type exercise.
- bothering God and taking up His time.
- a way to control the Lord.
- a way to show off one's spirituality before others.

Many people believe that prayer is only about asking God for things. Although supplication is a part of prayer ([Philippians 4:6](#)), it is not the sole purpose of prayer. Praying for the needs of ourselves and others is needed and beneficial, but there is so much more to prayer. [A. W. Tozer](#) warned, “Prayer among evangelical Christians is always in danger of degenerating into a glorified ‘gold rush’” (*Mornings with Tozer: Daily Devotional Readings*, compiled by Gerald Smith, Moody Publishers, 2008, entry for Feb. 26). But God is not a magical genie who answers our every wish, nor is He a weak God who can be controlled by our prayers.

The best way to learn about the purpose of prayer is studying the example of Jesus during His earthly ministry. Jesus prayed for Himself and for others, and He prayed to commune with the Father. [John 17](#) is a great place to see Jesus’ use of prayer. He not only prays that the Father be glorified but also prays for His disciples and “for those who will believe in me through their message” ([John 17:20](#)). Submitting to the Father’s will was another aspect to Jesus’ prayer life, highlighted in His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane: “Yet not as I will, but as you will” ([Matthew 26:39](#)). With any request we have, we must submit to God’s will.

In addition to interceding for others, prayer is also a way to strengthen our relationship with God. Jesus set the example, as He prayed to the Father throughout His earthly ministry ([Luke 6:12](#); [Matthew 14:23](#)). Those in relationships will naturally seek to communicate with each other, and prayer is our communication with God. Other good examples in the Bible of those who spent time in prayer are [David](#), [Hezekiah](#), and [Paul](#).

Ultimately, the main purpose of prayer is worship. When we pray to the Lord, recognizing Him for who He is and what He has done, it is an act of worship. There are many examples of prayer being an act of worship in the Bible, including [2 Kings 19:15](#), [1 Chronicles 17:20](#), [Psalm 86:12–13](#), [John 12:28](#), and [Romans 11:33–36](#). How we pray should reflect this purpose; our focus should be on who God is, not on ourselves.

Interestingly, the model of prayer that Jesus gave the disciples in [Matthew 6:9–13](#), known as the [Lord’s Prayer](#), has all these elements. The first part includes praise and worship of God ([Matthew 6:9](#)), and then the second part moves on to praying for God’s will to be done ([Matthew 6:10](#)). After this, there is supplication for ourselves and others ([Matthew 6:11–12](#)), as well as asking for strength to deal with temptation ([Matthew 6:13](#)). Jesus modeled this prayer for His disciples, and it shows all the reasons for prayer with the central focus of worship.

Prayer is an important part of the Christian life, and one’s prayer life should be developed. Not only does prayer affect our lives and the lives of others, but it is also a way to communicate with the Lord and grow in our

relationship with Him. At the heart of prayer is an act of worship to the Lord. God's Word places an emphasis on the power and purpose of prayer, and, therefore, it should not be neglected.

Author Warren Wiersbe sums up the purpose of prayer well: "The immediate purpose of prayer is the accomplishing of God's will on earth; the ultimate purpose of prayer is the eternal glory of God" (from *On Earth as It Is in Heaven: How the Lord's Prayer Teaches Us to Pray More Effectively*, Baker Books, 2010, p. 78).

- [GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Application:

*Do not pray for an easy life, pray for the strength to endure a difficult one.*  
**Bruce Lee**

## 2. FOR

Illustration:

*Prayer is God's ordained way  
to bring His miracle power to bear in human need.*  
**Wesley L Duewel**

*Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure.*  
**Dwight L. Moody**

*The secret of praying is praying in secret.*  
**Leonard Ravenhill**

Explanation:

**What do you want?** That was the first question Jesus asked of those who would become His earliest disciples (John 1:38). **Think about it...** **Christ's question is simple, profound, revealing, and eternal!** With that in mind, when it comes to praying to God, the word "FOR" identifies what is most deeply desired... what the person or people are actually praying FOR.



Why is this so important? Because Jesus says so! *“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words” (Matthew 6:7).* Simply put, according to Christ, **if you do not know what you are praying FOR, you are not praying.** Empty chants, baseless optimism, wishful thinking, and the like... none of these constitute biblical prayer. Phrased differently, **prayer without God-honoring purpose & priority is powerless.** Moreover, any & all prayer that opposes God’s glory, ignores His grace, and/or seeks selfish gains is little more than disguised whining, misdirected wailing, and/or delusional wishing.

*Prayer is the way you defeat the devil, reach the lost, restore a backslider, strengthen the saints, send missionaries out, cure the sick, accomplish the impossible, and know the will of God.*

**David Jeremiah**

*The value of consistent prayer is not that He will hear us, but that we will hear Him.*

**William J. McGill**

Application:

*Prayer requires more of the heart than of the tongue.*

**Adam Clarke**

*Prayer is the easiest and hardest of all things; the simplest and the sublimest; the weakest and the most powerful; its results lie outside the range of human possibilities... they are limited only by the omnipotence of God.*

**Edward McKendree Bounds**

*Persistent calling upon the name of the Lord breaks through every stronghold of the devil, for nothing is impossible with God. For Christians in these troubled times there is simply no other way.*

**Jim Cymbala**

### 3. GUIDANCE

Illustration:

*Grant that I may not pray alone with the mouth;  
help me that I may pray from the depths of my heart.*

***Martin Luther***

*In prayer, it is better to have heart without words, than words without heart.  
Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease  
from prayer. The spirit of prayer is more precious than treasures  
of gold and silver. Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul,  
a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan.*

***John Bunyan***

Explanation:

***There are few things in life that are 100% reliable***, no matter what. Thankfully, the trustworthiness, rightness, effectiveness, & righteousness of God and His GUIDANCE represent the holy, eternal, sovereign, and missional exception to that rule. Praise the LORD (literally) because **God's GUIDANCE is ALWAYS trustworthy, right, effective, & righteous... no matter what!**

Consequently, understanding the definition, description, and deployment of biblical prayer (in conjunction with the genuine, full-context guardrails of God's Word and the guidance of His Spirit) is essential for those who seek to learn, love, and live, both in the moment and across the landscape of their lifetime, in the fullness of God's will and ways, as divinely revealed through one's God-honoring PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE.

*When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles. When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops praying, the devils shouts for joy.*

***Corrie Ten Boom***

*To pray is to accept that we are, and always will be,  
wholly dependent on God for everything.*

***Timothy Keller***

Application:

Beware the biblical barriers that often hurt and hinder personal and corporate prayer. To that end, here is a helpful sermon: “7 Barriers To Prayer” [https://hisbridgemediacom/messages/video/Prayer\\_01\\_SevenPrayerBarriers\\_110109.mp4](https://hisbridgemediacom/messages/video/Prayer_01_SevenPrayerBarriers_110109.mp4)

Be strong and courageous (Joshua 1:6-9) as a biblical prayer warrior (Ephesians 6:18), being ever mindful of God’s loving grace and lasting glory, which together reside at the core of all vertical Christian communication. Here is another sermon to help us grow in this direction: “7 Reasons To Pray” [https://hisbridgemediacom/messages/video/Prayer\\_02\\_SevenReasonsWhy\\_110809.mp4](https://hisbridgemediacom/messages/video/Prayer_02_SevenReasonsWhy_110809.mp4)

( [Link here to the entire “PRAYER” sermon series: https://hisbridge.com/prayer-2/](https://hisbridge.com/prayer-2/) )

*It matters little what form of prayer we adopt or how many words we use. What matters is the faith which lays hold on God, knowing that He knows our needs before we even ask Him. That is what gives Christian prayer its boundless confidence and its joyous certainty.*

***Dietrich Bonhoeffer***

*A man may study because his brain is hungry for knowledge, even Bible knowledge. But he prays because his soul is hungry for God.*

***Leonard Ravenhill***

*Pray as though everything depended on God.*

*Work as though everything depended on you.*

***Saint Augustine***

CLOSE:

*Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?*

***Corrie Ten Boom***

After PRAYING and asking the Lord to GUIDE me through the closing of this lesson on PRAYING FOR GUIDANCE, I am compelled to share once again how EVERYTHING in the Christian’s life should be harmonized, on some level, with their RESPONDING TO GRACE, REPENTING OF SIN, TRUSTING THE BIBLE, OBEYING GOD’S WORD, and LIVING SPIRIT-LED. With that said, take care not to let any aspect of your life (or decision making) become isolated and disconnected from a holy and holistic Christian witness.

Finally, **don't miss this...** step number six, PRAYING FOR GUIDANCE, will ALWAYS be more fruitful and in line with God's Word, will, and ways when a person's previous steps, one-thru-five above, have already been established in a biblically accurate and spiritually healthy context.

*The prayer of the feeblest saint who lives in the Spirit and keeps right with God is a terror to Satan. The very powers of darkness are paralyzed by prayer; no spiritualistic seance can succeed in the presence of a humble praying saint. No wonder Satan tries to keep our minds fussy in active work till we cannot think in prayer.*

**Oswald Chambers**

*When the devil sees a man or woman who really believes in prayer, who knows how to pray, and who really does pray, and, above all, when he sees a whole church on its face before God in prayer, he trembles as much as he ever did, for he knows that his day in that church or community is at an end.*

**R. A. Torrey**

## **For What?**

*I know of no better thermometer to your spiritual temperature than this, the measure of the intensity of your prayer.*

**Charles Spurgeon**

*There is nothing to be valued more highly than to have people praying for us; God links up His power in answer to their prayers.*

**Oswald Chambers**

*Each time, before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things!*

**Andrew Murray**

## So What?

*Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying together.*

*Never do they love one another so well as when they witness*

*the outpouring of each other's hearts in prayer.*

***Charles Grandison Finney***

*I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction*

*that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all*

*about me seemed insufficient for that day.*

***Abraham Lincoln***

*To be a Christian without prayer*

*is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.*

***Martin Luther***

*A prayerless church member is a hindrance. He is in the body like a rotting bone*

*or a decayed tooth. Before long, since he does not contribute to the benefit of*

*his brethren, he will become a danger and a sorrow to them. Neglect of*

*private prayer is the locust which devours the strength of the church.*

***Charles Spurgeon***

## Now What?

*The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.*

***F.B. Meyer***

*...True prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God*

*may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.*

***Charles Spurgeon***

*To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees.*

***Billy Graham***



## PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen and Amen

Support Sermon:

*"Offensive Prayer"*  
2 Corinthians 10:3-5  
December 13, 2009  
Sermon Series: PRAYER