



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

“Prayer” Series Lesson 12 – May 1, 2016

Praise and Thanksgiving

I. Lesson Starters:

Have you ever given thanksgiving and praise to God for bringing tribulations into your life?

We will break the series into multiple lessons/subject matter:

1. Why Does God want us to Pray?
2. The Effectiveness of Prayer
 - a. Does Prayer Change the Way God Acts?
 - b. Effective Prayer made possible through Jesus
 - c. Who are we supposed to pray too?
 - d. Role of Holy Spirit
3. Important Considerations for Effective Prayer
 - a. Pray “According to God’s Will”
 - b. Praying with Faith and Obedience
 - c. Forgiveness and Humility
 - d. Praying Continually and Earnestly
 - e. Waiting on the Lord; Fasting
 - f. What about Unanswered Prayer?
4. ***Praise and Thanksgiving***

II. Praise and Thanksgiving:

Thanksgiving:

1. *the act of giving thanks; grateful acknowledgment of benefits or favors, especially to God.*
2. *an expression of thanks, especially to God.*
3. *a public celebration in acknowledgment of divine favor or kindness.*
4. *a day set apart for giving thanks to God.*

Praise:

1. *the act of expressing approval or admiration; commendation.*
2. *the offering of grateful homage in words or song, as an act of worship: a hymn of praise to God.*
3. *the state of being approved or admired: The king lived in praise for many years.*

Matthew 6:9-13

9 “This, then, is how you should pray: “ ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one

Phil 4:6-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Col 4:2-5

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

Model prayer taught by Jesus begins with a word of praise, “Hallowed be your name”. Paul teaches us do everything with “thanksgiving”. True thanksgiving has to be more than just words of “thank you” in prayer, and move to a true heartfelt sense of gratitude.

We should not think that “thanking God for an answer” to something we ask can somehow force God to give us our request.

1 Thess. 5:16-19

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit.

The kind of thanksgiving that should accompany our prayer must express thankfulness to God for all circumstances, not just the ones we like. Humble childlike thanksgiving coupled with humbleness will be acceptable to God.

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Praise God for who He is
- Be Thankful for all Things

III. Group Questions:

1. Have you ever given thanksgiving and rejoice to God specifically for bringing tribulations into your life?
2. How can we “train our spirit” to be able to give thanksgiving in all circumstances, including the trials and tribulations of our life?
3. Take a minute to critically analyze the time spent during your prayers, how much of that prayer time is spent in “purely praising God for who He is”?
4. Next how much of your prayer time is spent in “giving thanks for all your circumstances”? As opposed to praying for how you can get out of them? God wanted this situation for a teaching moment in your life?
5. In 1 Thess. 5:16-19 talk about what it is referring to “quenching of the Spirit” and how to prevent that in your prayers?
6. Think back through the outline of our series above; Which topic helped or interested you the most? Why?