

“I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven”

Matthew 18:19

1. Prayer can be in groups—and thus sometimes in public
2. God is the one who responds to prayer
3. If we are praying in groups there has to be prior agreement to the issues being prayed for
4. How could such agreement be reached?

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 35

PRAYER

“When you pray go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.”

Matthew 6:6

1. Prayer is to the Father
2. In this case it is to be done alone
3. Why would you want to pray to God on your own?

“through him (Jesus) we both have access to the Father by one Spirit “

Ephesians 2:18

1. Our access to God is not direct
2. Our access to God is through Jesus
3. The Holy Spirit is involved in prayer
4. Why can't I speak to God direct?
5. How would you express talking to God through Jesus in your prayer time?

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit in-

tercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."

Romans 8:26-27

1. Our prayers are limited by our knowledge
2. The Holy Spirit acts as an intercessor—He acts in accordance with God's will
3. Will the Holy Spirit act against God's desires for us?

"..but your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear."

Isaiah 59:2

1. God does not hear requests from sinners
2. How do we deal with sin in our life?

"Dear friends, if our hearts do condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask because we obey His commands and do what pleases him."

1 John 3:21,22

1. We can have confidence before God
2. We can receive anything we want from God—if we please God
3. Does this sound impossible?

"If we ask anything according to His will, he hears us"

1 John 5:14

1. We are to ask for things from God
2. God hears our prayers
3. We need to find out God's will and then any of our prayers can be answered
4. How can I get to know God's will?

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Matthew 6:9-13

1. What aspects of this sample prayer appeal to you?
2. What parts of this prayer would you find hard?

"Pray constantly."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

1. How could we pray constantly?