



## TODAY'S STUDY: THE EFFECTIVE PRAYER 1

### FOCUS: How relevant is prayer to my dreams and ambitions?

**KEY VERSE:** "...pray one for another... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (has powerful effect/influence)." Jam 5:16 KJV.

What is prayer? How beneficial is it? What makes prayer very efficient? How do I pray to get results? What hinders prayer? Why have I prayed for so long and still not getting answers; is there something else I could do? How do I get quick answers to my prayers?

The Holy writ provides answers to all these questions. In fact, there is a right way to pray. Prayer is not just talking to God. If it were so, when the disciple requested, 'Lord, teach us to pray,' Jesus would have said 'Disciple, there's nothing to teach you; God is your father, feel free and talk to Him', but that wasn't His answer. His answer was: 'after this manner (i.e. in this way/using this formula or method) therefore pray'. (Luke 11:1; Matt. 6:9 KJV) Praise God! There is a manner for prayer!

So how did Jesus always pray? What elements make prayer effectual and what makes it powerless? What should I avoid in my prayer? This maiden study for the semester and all other ones delves deep into this vital aspect of our Christian walk: prayer.

We introduce the subject today.

**TEXT(S) OF THE WEEK:** 1 Sam.1:1 – 20; Phil. 4:6 – 7.

### LET'S DISCUSS:

#### **8 reasons why prayer is a vital factor for your success in life**

1. Prayer can make a shy person or a coward confident (i.e. Prayer gives you confidence for life and peace of mind).

➤ What did Hannah request from the LORD? (Choose the BEST answer)

- (a) A baby boy
- (b) A baby girl
- (c) A baby

➤ Describe Hannah's mood before and after her prayer?

..... (v11 of 1 Sam.1)

..... (v7 – 8, v18 of 1 Sam. 1)

*“Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication (humble request), with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard (garrison; secure) your hearts and mind through Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:6 – 7*  
GIDEONS.

• From the scripture above, what is one powerful result of prayer?

.....(Clue: v7)

### **YOU CAN ENJOY PEACE EACH SECOND, ALL DAY, EVERYDAY!**

Prayer is so priceless. It's a privilege and an honour done us by God and when prayer is rightly said, its benefits are numerous. One of them is what Philippians 4:6 – 7 talks about: peace! Verse 6 instructs us that instead of worrying, we should pray. When we do that, the next step guarantees us peace extraordinaire: it says *'and the peace of God, which surpasses all (human) understanding will guard our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*' Praise God! When Bible talks about *'peace...which surpasses all understanding'*, it is talking about an unexplainable peace; a peace that transcends the realm of reasoning – Human beings can't understand this peace! For example, the apostles were caught and beaten severely; yet they came out overly excited, rejoicing. (Acts 5: 40 – 41) How can you explain this kind of peace they had? It goes beyond understanding! This special kind of peace God gives become our portion each second, each day, all year round when we continually devote ourselves to prayer. Halleluyah!

### **SHOULD WE PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING?**

Two students were doing an assignment on a PC and suddenly the PC went off. The students tried rebooting it but the PC would not respond. One of the students placed his hands on the PC and started decreeing that it works. The other student almost embarrassed by what his study mate was doing remarked: 'This is not prayer matter. It is a fault within the PC and we must repair it'. But does Bible agree with this remark? Certainly not! Bible tells us: *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer.* That is to say, *'anything that wants to disturb/worry you, pray about it. Substitute prayer for worry and you'll have results'*, it says. Bible tells us how the disciples were about sinking and called on Jesus. This situation was clearly physical, yet it took a decree from my master to solve it (Mk. 4:37 – 41). Praise God! Let no man deceive you; learn to exercise mastery over nature, electronics, etc by unleashing the power of effective prayer on them. Jesus did it and He expects us to do same (Lk. 8:25; Jn. 14:12 – 14). Halleluyah!

**FURTHER READINGS:** For your personal private study

- Control over nature – Matt. 21:18 – 22

- Peace (through prayer) – Psa. 55:22; 1 Pet. 5:7
- Confidence/Boldness (through prayer) – Acts 4:23 – 31 (esp. v31)

We'll continue this study. Join us in fellowship for more teachings on prayer: **Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** on the Sarbah Middle Field, bottom right when approaching the field from Legon Hall Annex B. Time is **8:00 – 9:00pm** on each of the above mentioned days.

**LET'S SUMMARISE:**

Share with us the main points of today's study.

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**MELODY OF THE WEEK** (Col. 3:16)

*What a friend we have in Jesus  
 All our sins and grief's to bear!  
 What a privilege to carry  
 Everything to God in prayer!  
 O what peace we often forfeit  
 O what needless pain we bear  
 All because we do not carry  
 Everything to God in prayer*

**PRAYER FOR OUR WORLD** (Rom. 10:1)

Throughout this semester, we are praying for the church (the body of Christ). This week we focus on freedom to serve God on the various campuses.

- ✚ We are praying that Christian activities on the various campuses of Ghana would flourish, prevail and dominate the institutions.
- ✚ We are praying that every ungodly (evil/carnal) legislation (or law) on any of the various campuses in Ghana would fall out of the institution's laws by fire.
- ✚ We are praying that all the Godly laws of our dear nation would be fortified by the nation's legislature and that God will put in their hearts and cause them to enact new Christian laws.

*God's Vision* wishes you a blessed fulfilling semester. We want to remind you that God is with you and will see you through. God bless you.

*This outline was written, designed and produced by*



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***Love Saints' Meeting (LSM)*** is a weekly Bible Study/morning devotion right within our halls/hostels. The LSM Network consists of various LSMs including *Akuafo Hall LSM, Legon Hall LSM, and Commonwealth Hall LSM*. All these LSMs run simultaneously on Saturdays at 7:00am. Once every fortnight, members of the LSM take the Bible study from their rendezvous to several rooms within the same hall/hostel at 6:00pm. So once every fortnight, the LSM takes place at 6:00pm on Saturdays instead of 7:00am. The LSM is helping many become effective in their walk with God. It's sponsored by *God's Vision Word Fellowship*, an interdenominational campus fellowship here on Legon grounds and members of the LSM like you. *LSM... sharing our faith.*