

## LIFE APPLICATION

Authentic prayer is possible when one is “closeted” (private chamber) with the Father, shutting out all else, keeping one’s mind on Him (**Matthew 6:6**). Such prayer demands honor, respect, and recognition of God’s nature and authority. God already knows our needs and has the answers for us, even before we call upon Him (**Isaiah 65:24**). Therefore we can praise Him ahead of time for what He will do in our lives. So, how are you doing in your prayer life? Are you making an effort to pray daily or infrequent? Here are some questions that will help you troubleshoot your own Prayer Life:

- Do I consistently rely on God?
- Do I pray daily to God?
- Do my prayers please God?
- Am I spending time in prayer?
- Am I praying just for myself and not anyone else?
- Do I have faith that God hears and answers prayer?
- Do I pray for something while being unwilling to act upon it if God says to do so?
- Do I pray in Jesus’ name?

**Prayer based upon the Word...** rises above the sense, contacts the Author of the Word and sets His spiritual laws in motion. It is not just saying prayers that gets results, but it is spending time with the Father, learning His wisdom, drawing on His strength, being filled with His quietness and basking in His love that bring results to our prayer. Praise the Lord!

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous father and mother availeth much (**James 5:16**). Pray Until Something Happens (PUSH).

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## GOODWIN MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

### ALL MINISTRIES STUDY GUIDE

*“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together.”  
Psalm 34:3*

**FEBRUARY, 2012**

**Monthly Point of Focus**

**HAVING AN EFFECTIVE PRAYER LIFE**

*The Monthly Point of Focus is a study guide developed and written by members of the Christian Education Ministry. The study guides for 2012 will focus on “Living Biblical Lives”. As we remain united in study in our Ministry meetings and in our homes, let us pray for an increase in both our understanding of and commitment to God’s Word, His Will and His Way.*

## SCRIPTURES

**Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)** After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Luke 11:1 (KJV)** And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

**I Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)** Rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

**James 5:13-16 (KJV)** Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

## DEFINITIONS

**Prayer (Smith's Bible Dictionary)** - is communication with God, petitioning Him for needs, asking for His healing for problems, and offering Him thanksgiving and praise.

**Prayer (Webster's Dictionary)** – (1) the act or practice of praying, as to God; (2) an earnest request, entreaty, supplication; (3) a humble and sincere request, as to God – an utterance, as to God, in praise, thanksgiving, confession, etc. Any set formula for praying, as to God.

## EXPOSITION

**Prayer** is this “living” Word in our mouths. Our mouths must speak forth faith, for faith is what pleases God (**Hebrews 11:6**). We hold His Word up to Him in prayer. God’s Word is our contact with Him. We put Him in remembrance of His Word (**Isaiah 43:26**), asking Him for what we need in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Prayer does not cause faith to work, but faith causes prayer to work...** Therefore, any prayer problem is a lack of knowledge or a problem of doubt – doubting the integrity of the Word and the ability of God to stand behind His promises, or the statements of facts, in the Word. We can spend fruitless hours in prayer if our hearts are not prepared beforehand. Preparation of the heart and spirit, comes from meditation in the Father’s Word – meditation on who we are in Christ, what He is to us and what the Holy Spirit can mean to us as we become Spiritually minded.

**It takes someone to pray...** God moves as we pray in faith – believing. He says that His eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong in behalf of those whose heart are blameless toward Him (**II Chronicles 16:9**). We are blameless. We are His very own children and we receive His righteousness through Christ Jesus. He tells us to come boldly to the throne of grace and obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (**Hebrews 4:16**). Which is an appropriate and well-timed help. Praise the Lord!

**The prayer armor is for every believer...** Every member of the Body of Christ, who will put it on and walk in it, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God for the pulling down of the strongholds of the enemy (Satan, the gods of this world, and all his demonic forces). Spiritual warfare takes place in prayer (**II Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:12, 18**).

**The Holy Spirit is a Divine Helper and He will direct our prayers, and help us pray when we don't know how.**