

# Spiritual Maturity

## Lesson One Student

God gave us natural relationships to learn how to have a **relationship** with Him.

**How we can grow in our relationship with God:**

- **Spend time with Him** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Get to know Him** \_\_\_\_\_

The children of Israel were recipients of salvation and His miracles, but **they never chose to go beyond that and get to know Him.**

As the children of Israel did not have a personal relationship with their God, they did not stand through the trials.

As they did not know Him, they found themselves distrusting Him and His heart.

**Moses went on to \_\_\_\_\_ God's face**

*"...let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor."*

*"...If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave.."*

*".. show me your glorious presence."*

*Ex 33:13,15,18 (NLT)*

**And God in turn revealed himself to Moses!**

*Then the Lord came down in a cloud and stood there with him; and he called out his own name, Yahweh. The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out,*

*"Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy!*

*I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.*

*I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations.*

*I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty..."*

*Ex 34:5-7 (NLT)*



David refers to this in Psalm 103:7 (NKJV)  
*He made known his ways to Moses,  
his deeds to the people of Israel:*

**So you have a choice, everyday. You can know His \_\_\_\_\_ or His  
\_\_\_\_\_**

If you want to know Him and His ways, you'll need to spend time with Him in prayer and get to know Him by His Word.

## **I. Spending Time with God**

*My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me."  
And my heart responds, "LORD, I am coming."  
Psalm 27:8 (NLT)*

### **A. Approach Prayer:**

#### **1) With the focus of spending time with God**

- What I can see of Him
- What I can learn of Him
- How I can bless Him
- What it is that He can show me

"\_\_\_\_\_ *yourself in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart.*" Ps. 37:4 (NKJV)

"... *(God's) presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure.*" Ps. 16:11 (GN)



2) With \_\_\_\_\_

- Be relaxed
- Be revealing

*Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7*

3) With \_\_\_\_\_ that He looks forward to spending time with you

*"I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Rev 3:20 (NLT)*

### **B. The 6 Parts of Prayer (from the Lord's Prayer):**

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name..."*

1) **PRAISE: I begin by expressing my** \_\_\_\_\_

- Begin by focusing on His amazing love for you. We love Him because He first loved us!
- Praise Him for who He is (adore Him)

As you read your Bible, make a list of God's character qualities that you discover and then review them when you pray. (See Prayer Handout 1)

#### **Examples:**

God is patient	<b>Num. 14:18</b>
God is merciful	<b>Num. 14:18</b>
God is forgiving	<b>Num. 14:18</b>
God knows everything	<b>1 Sam. 2:2</b>
God is loving	<b>1 John 4:8</b>

- Praise Him for what He has done (thank Him)

Make a list of all the blessings that you are thankful for and review them when you pray (See Prayer Handout 3)



*"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..."*

**2) PURPOSE: I commit myself to \_\_\_\_\_**

- i. \_\_\_\_\_ lay down your will (the way you want things to happen) before Him
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_ in the knowledge that He knows best, and cares the most about you
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_ God's will to be done
  1. in my family
  2. in my church
  3. in my job
  4. in my future
  5. in my city, nation, world

*"Give us today our daily bread..."*

**3) PROVISION: I ask God to provide \_\_\_\_\_**

- i. God \_\_\_\_\_ to be asked.

When you ask

- you make it clear who owns the resources
- you are clarifying exactly who the provider is
- you are vocalizing your dependence on Him
- He wants *you* to declare His promises

*"You do not have ... because you don't ask God!" James 4:2 (NIV)*

*"Don't worry about anything, but in everything, by pray and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Phil. 4:6 (NIV)*

- ii. He \_\_\_\_\_ providing for His people

*"Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if **God cares so wonderfully** for flowers that are here today and*



*thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?*

*"..it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom."*

*Luke 12:27-28,32 (NLT)*

*"And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" Phil 4:19 (AMP)*

- iii. God's \_\_\_\_\_ is the basis for our boldness in making requests

God answers the prayers that acknowledge who He is!  
(See Prayer Handout 1 & 2)

*Write down your requests, with a promise you are claiming from the Bible, and expect an answer! (See Prayer Handout 4)*

*"Forgive us our debts..."*

**4) PARDON: I ask God to \_\_\_\_\_**

- i. Ask the Holy Ghost to reveal every sin (Ps 139:23-24)
- ii. Confess before God (Prov 28:13)
- iii. Make restitution to others when necessary (Matt 5:23-24)
- iv. Accept God's forgiveness (I John 1:19)

Keep in daily focus how much God forgives you...and from that, let forgiveness to others flow.

*"... as we have also forgive our debtors."*

**5) PEOPLE: \_\_\_\_\_ and pray for others**

- i. Forgiveness: \_\_\_\_\_ it & \_\_\_\_\_ it
- ii. Forgiving others has a direct correlation to how much God can forgive you
- iii. He gets *really* upset when you don't pass along what He freely gives.



*"Pray much for others; plead for God's mercy upon them; give thanks for all he is going to do for them. 1 Tim. 2:1 (LB)*

(See Prayer Handout 5)

*"And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."*

**6) PROTECTION: I ask for \_\_\_\_\_**

- i. Ask God to help keep you safe from \_\_\_\_\_
  1. Asking to be lead away from temptation means you know that you can fall – so you are asking God to empower you to overcome temptation.
  2. There is humility in asking for help, and showing self-distrust.
- ii. Ask God to keep you safe from the \_\_\_\_\_
  1. Believers face a spiritual battle everyday. By asking for protection, you will have the power and confidence to face every situation during the day.
  2. Ask God to make the tactics of the enemy plain as day, so you can wage an effective warfare.

*"The Spirit who is in you is more powerful than the spirit who is in those who belong to the world." 1 John 4:4 (GN)*

*"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever."*

**7) AND FINALLY: I return to \_\_\_\_\_**

- i. End your time with Him the same way you started it – with praise!

### **C. How long should I pray?**

- 1) **Start with \_\_\_\_\_ minutes of prayer and reading the Bible**
  - Don't watch the clock
  - Emphasize quality, not quantity!
- 2) **Choose a special \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_**



- *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a solitary place, where he prayed (Mark 1:35 NIV)*
- Abraham, Daniel, etc - also had a time and place of prayer

### 3) What if I miss a day?

- Don't \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't \_\_\_\_\_
- God never begrudges, he opens his arms \_\_\_\_\_  
you approach Him.

## D. Praying In \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Get to the place in prayer everyday where there is that **free flow of intimate communication from your heart to His through tongues.**
- 2) It's one of the key ways to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself in the Lord

### *I Corinthians 14 (NKJV)*

2. *For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*
4. *He who speaks in a tongue **edifies himself***

- 3) Remember to \_\_\_\_\_ your payer

14. *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.*
15. *What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding.*

## E. God Remembers Every Word

- 1) Not only does prayer change things, but God sees our prayers as precious. So precious that He saves them!

*And when he had taken the book, the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. **Revelation 5:8 (KJV)***



## F. In Summary

- Praying is not about convincing God to do your will :o). Prayer is about spending time with God and knowing Him. It is coming to a place of oneness of heart and purpose with God.

*“In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you,” says the LORD.*  
**Jer 29:12-14 (NLT)**





## Handout 2:

### THE NAMES OF GOD

God is so magnificent that the Hebrew language uses compound names to describe the many aspects of His character. You can use each of these compound names to focus on what God is really like. Just think on the implications of these names and you'll have plenty to praise God for!

#### 8 HEBREW NAMES OF GOD - DECLARE WHO GOD IS

**Jehovah-Shammah** - "God is Present with me" (Ezekial 48:35)  
You are here! I am never alone!

**Jehovah-Rohi** - "God is my Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1)  
You lead me and feed me and protect me!

**Jehovah-Jireh** - "God is my Provider" (Gen. 22:14)  
You see what I need before I even ask!

**Jehovah-Rophe** - "God is my Healer" (Exodus 15:26)  
You can heal my body, emotions, and relationships!

**Jehovah-Tsidkenu** - "God is my Righteousness" (Jer. 23:6)  
You accept me and forgive me because of Jesus!

**Jehovah-M'Kiddish** - "God is my Sanctification" (Lev. 20:8)  
You give me power to live holy and like Jesus!

**Jehovah-Shalom** - "God is my Peace" (Judges 6:24)  
You give me peace in spite of circumstances!

**Jehovah-Nissi** - "God is my Banner" (Exodus 17:15)  
You are my victory in conflict and confrontation!

**And all God's attributes are summed up in the name of Jesus!**

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of **Jesus** every knee should bow..." (Philippians 2:9-10)







**Handout 5:**  
**PEOPLE I'M PRAYING FOR**

Family \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Friends \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Spiritual Leaders \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Government Leaders \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Others \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

