



Global College of Ministry

**EMPOWER**

**The Christian & Prayer (Part Two)**

## Putting First Things First

“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word”  
(Acts 6:4).

“ Exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks,  
be made for all men”  
(1 Timothy 2:1).

**T**he Apostle Paul once said, “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient.” (1 Corinthians 10:23) This means that there are many things that we *could do*, but few things that we *should do*.

John Maxwell in his book *Developing the Leader Within You* quoted a speaker who said, “There are two things that are most difficult to get people to do; to think and to do things in the order of importance.”

Have you ever wondered why animal trainers in the circus carry a stool when they go into a cage of lions? The trainer will hold the stool and push its legs towards the lion. This is because the lion will try to focus on all four of the legs at the same time. This overwhelms the lion, and it becomes weak and tame because its attention becomes divided. The devil tries the same tactics on us when he tries to divert our attention from our priorities in the Christian life and ministry.

John Maxwell relates the tragic story of an airplane that crashed. As the plane was approaching the airport for landing, the light that indicates the proper working of the landing gear failed to come on. The plane flew in a large circle while the cockpit crew checked to see if the gear was actually not deployed or if the bulb was defective. As the flight engineer tried to remove the bulb it wouldn't move so the rest of the crew tried to help him. As they struggled with the bulb, no one noticed that the plane was losing altitude, and the plane crashed. While the crew of trained pilots played with a light bulb the plane with its passengers crashed into the ground.

So many times we spend quality time doing the things that are not important at all. In Acts 6 the Apostles became occupied with the “daily ministrations” of feeding the widows. One day they reached the realization that they would have to make some priorities; putting first things first. It was simply not right for them to busy themselves with waiting on tables and neglect their real ministerial priorities.

### Ministerial Priorities

They stated their priorities in the ministry as:

1. Give ourselves continually to prayer.
2. Give ourselves to the ministry of the Word.

As a result of them putting first things first “...the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7).

A necessary part of spiritual leadership is praying for the people you are leading. It is a sin to fail to pray for those to whom you are spiritually responsible. You must be an example to your people. You cannot lead them to where you have not been yourself.

One day Jesus visited Mary and Martha in their home. Martha received him into the home, and moved busily about serving Jesus. Mary, on the other hand, simply sat at the feet of Jesus and heard His word.

Martha complained, “...Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

“Martha, Martha,” Jesus answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:40-42, *NIV*).

Our service to Jesus is essential and good, but we must always remember that our first and most important priority is to devote ourselves to prayer, loving the Lord, and the ministry of his word. Watchman Nee said that it is possible to be “serving the House of God but have forgotten the Lord Himself.”

Oswald Chambers claimed, “The greatest competitor of devotion to Jesus is service to Him.” Paul always remained devoted to Jesus Christ and “determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). Paul was committed to Jesus; not just to a cause.

A story is told in 1 Kings 20 of a man who was given the responsibility of taking care of a prisoner. When given this prisoner he was warned, “Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life.” The prisoner escaped and the servant confessed, “And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone.” (1 Kings 20: 39-40) We should not become so busy that we forget or neglect our priorities. Remember, if you are too busy to pray, you are too busy.

Prayer Warrior, Vesta Mangun, in her lesson, “Leadership in Prayer--Indispensable Example” tells us that you can:

1. Measure your love for your people by your prayer life.
2. Measure your concern for your people by your prayer life.
3. Measure your vision for your people by your prayer life.
4. Measure your leadership of your people by your prayer life.

It is so easy to get busy doing things for God that we fail to take time with God. This causes us to lose sight of God’s view of things and weakens our relationship with the Lord. It results in us wondering aimlessly without direction. A line from Alice in Wonderland says, “If you don’t

“The Powerhouse for the Church is not the BOARDROOM but the PRAYER ROOM.”  
(H. E. Sciem)

know where you’re going, any road will get you there.” In Acts 2:40 we are told to save ourselves from this untoward generation. The word “untoward” means that we are not going toward anything.

We lack direction, purpose, vision, meaning, and priorities. We are going fast, going busily, going often but going nowhere.

However, a person who makes time to pray will find a God who takes time to answer. We must make the time through having correct priorities. Rev. T. F. Tenney admonishes us, “Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing!”

**Preaching, teaching, talking to men for God is a great thing...  
Talking, interceding, prevailing with God for men is greater still.**

**Study Questions**

1. What are the two most difficult things to get people to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the priorities of ministry according to Acts 6? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is a necessary part of spiritual leadership? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How can we measure our love, concern, vision, and leadership of our people? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happens when we make time to pray? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What is greater than preaching, teaching, talking to men about God? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What does “untoward” mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. What did Jesus mean when He said to Martha, “one thing is needful?” \_\_\_\_\_

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9. In Acts 6 what was the result of the apostles getting priorities straight? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Why does an animal trainer carry a stool into the cage of a wild animal? \_\_\_\_\_

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**We have lots of time to talk to others - how much time do we have to talk to God?**

### **Additional Notes**

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## Secret to Prayer: “Just Do It!”

“Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer...”  
(Acts 3:1).

“And it came to pass as we went to prayer...”  
(Acts 16:16).

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together...”  
(Acts 4:31).

**B**rowsing through the twenty-eight chapters of the Book of Acts we quickly see the importance the early church placed on prayer. (Acts 1:14,24; 2:42; 3:1; 4:24-31; 6:4,6; 9:40; 10:2,4,9,31; 11:5; 12:5; 13:3; 14:23; 16:25; 22:17; 28:8) Prayer provided the basis for the spreading of the Gospel to the known world. The church began with prayer when about one hundred and twenty gathered together in the Upper Room to await, in prayer, the outpouring of the Holy Ghost. This resulted in a ten-day prayer meeting yielding results that are still being seen two thousand years later. Thus, prayer served as the launching pad for the birth and growth of the church.

Prayer was a way of life for them and it was a priority in their Christian walk. Surprisingly, there is very little teaching on the “how to” of prayer in the Book of Acts; however, there are a whole lot of examples. Many books have been written on Prayer and I have read some of them. I have reached the conclusion that the best way to learn how to pray is to pray. Like the slogan says: “Just do it!” When Jesus walked on this earth, he really spent a large portion of his ministry in prayer; sometimes whole nights. He also taught others how to pray; not by running seminars and special conferences, but by being caught in the act of prayer. He took his disciples through the “School of Prayer” by giving them on-the-job training. He showed them by example and they then tried it on their own. We must all develop a prayer life; a lifestyle of prayer.

**Prayer isn't a method...  
It's a way of life.**

A pastor traveled by ship to visit a church across the ocean. While on the way the ship stopped at an island. There the pastor met three fishermen. When they found out that he was a pastor they excitedly said, “We be Christians too!”

The pastor asked them if they knew the “Lord’s Prayer.” To his surprise he learned that the fishermen had never heard of it.

“What do you say when you pray?” inquired the pastor.

“We pray, ‘We be men, you be God, have mercy on us!’”

The pastor was appalled at the primitive nature of their prayer and spent the day teaching them the “Lord’s Prayer.” The fishermen were willing students and could recite the prayer with no mistakes. The pastor was so proud of his achievement.

On the return trip the ship stopped at the same island again. As the ship drew closer to the shore he could see the three fishermen rushing toward the ship. They cried, “Pastor, we come hurry to meet you!”

“What is it that you need?” asked the pastor.

“We be so sorry. We forget your fine, fine prayer. We say, Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name... and then we forget the rest of the words. Please tell us the prayer again.”

The pastor replied, “Just go back and pray, ‘We be men, you be God, have mercy on us!’”

Martin Luther, when he was a monk, had so many responsibilities that he became too busy to pray. He was supposed to quote from his prayer books every day. He would “stack up” his prayers for weeks and then he would take some days and get “prayed up.” In 1520 he ended up sick in bed for five days. He got further behind with quoting from his prayer book and soon he was three months behind with his prayers. Then, he simply gave up.

Prayer is not a matter of quoting prayers from a book. It is not mere repetition of words that we recite three times a day. Some tend to force prayer into a place that it was never supposed to be. Prayer should never be a struggle. Prayer is not a chore; something that is endured. We have made prayer difficult and painful. It is not a ritual but time we spend with a friend who hears, and answers our needs.

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

When Jesus walked on the earth, prayer had become a formality rather than free expression. There were written prayers for all occasions. Prayer had become a ritual rather than something that was spontaneous from the heart. There were set prayer times much like the Muslims have today as they bow towards Mecca at specified times. Prayers had become very long, filled with big words. It was believed that whoever was longer in prayer was heard more quickly. The louder and wordier the prayer the better. They used repetitious words and phrases (Matthew 6:5-8). These tendencies should not creep into our churches. Prayer can become a matter of

pride rather than an expression of our heart and our being in need. Listen to the brand new Christians pray. They have not been taught “how to” yet. They talk to God as their friend.

A famous preacher once said, “It is not that prayer has been tried and found wanting. It is rather that it has not really been tried.” It is unfortunate and incorrect for us to look to God as a last resort. We go to him because we have nowhere else to go. “Then we learn that the storms of life have driven us, not upon the rocks, but into the desired haven.”

Mark Foster said in his selected sermon outline, “When God Builds You a Prayer Room” that we should “never make God a last resort. If you don’t pray now, while you have the chance, He may put you in a place where you will have to pray.”

**The first and only thing that will work is the last thing that we will try: PRAYER!**

Abraham Lincoln once said, “I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.”

Why should we only go to God in times of emergency, when we don’t have anyone else to turn to? It is common for people to pray in times of emergency. At these times prayer is never far from our lips. Mother Teresa had a better idea when she said, “Prayer is the mortar that holds our house together.” Why wait until our house is falling apart before we pray? If you want to know how to pray; “Just do it!”

**Study Questions**

1. Give five Scriptural references to prayer in the Book of Acts.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the best way to learn how to pray? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How did Jesus teach others to pray? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is a “prayer life”? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





## Prayer Pointers

“...Behold, he prayeth”  
(Acts 9:11).

**S**aul, just knocked down on the road to Damascus, physically blinded but spiritually alert, did not have to take a course in New Testament praying before he could pray. He is found immediately on Strait Street with his life straightened out and praying. As you read the Epistles you see that Paul became a great prayer warrior.

In this lesson we want to look at some “Prayer Pointers” that will help strengthen our prayer lives and will help us become prayer warriors affecting the world.

### Prayer Positions

<b>Sitting</b>	<b>Acts 2:2; Luke 10:13</b>
<b>Kneeling</b>	<b>Acts 9:40; Ezra 9:5; Daniel 6:10; Acts 20:36; Acts 21:5</b>
<b>Bowing</b>	<b>Psalm 95:6; Exodus 34:8</b>
<b>Prostrate</b>	<b>2 Samuel 12:16; Matt. 26:39</b>
<b>Standing</b>	<b>Mark 11:25</b>
<b>Walking</b>	<b>Genesis 13:17</b>
<b>Lying on Bed</b>	<b>Psalm 63:6</b>

### When To Pray

<b>Early Morning</b>	<b>Psalm 63:1; Mark 1:35</b>
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Acts 10:9; Psalm 5:3; 88:13</b>
<b>Noon</b>	<b>Acts 10:30</b>
<b>Evening</b>	<b>Psalm 55:17; Matt. 26:38-41; Matt. 14:23</b>
<b>Midnight</b>	<b>Acts 16:25</b>
<b>Day and Night</b>	<b>1 Timothy 5:5; 2 Timothy 1:3</b>
<b>All Night</b>	<b>Luke 6:12</b>
<b>Multiple Times</b>	<b>Psalm 55:17; Daniel 6:10</b>
<b>Unceasingly</b>	<b>1 Thess. 5:17</b>
<b>Always</b>	<b>Luke 18:1</b>

“Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice”  
(Psalm 55:17).

As you develop your prayer life and personal prayer ministry, you should look for prayer opportunities. When someone mentions a need to you and asks you to pray, why not respond, “Yes I will pray about that. In fact, why don’t we pray about it right now.” Thetus Tenney says, “an immediate prayer at the time of a confessed need can be very effective.” Jesus prayed this way. He met people with needs and asked them “What do you need?” He then prayed for them and they had their healing or miracle immediately.

**Where to Pray**

<b>In the Church</b>	<b>Mark11: 17; Acts 22:17</b>
<b>In the House</b>	<b>Daniel 6:10; Acts 9:39-40; Acts 10:30</b>
<b>In the Street</b>	<b>Acts 16:18</b>
<b>Going to Church</b>	<b>Acts 3:1</b>
<b>Prayer Closet</b>	<b>Matt. 6:6</b>
<b>Housetop</b>	<b>Acts 10:9</b>
<b>Wilderness/Forest</b>	<b>Luke 5:16</b>
<b>Garden</b>	<b>Matt. 26:38-41</b>
<b>Solitary Place</b>	<b>Mark 1:35; Luke 9:18</b>
<b>Mountain</b>	<b>Matt. 14:23; Mark 6:46; Luke 6:12; 9:28</b>
<b>In Jail</b>	<b>Acts 16:25</b>
<b>Waterside</b>	<b>Acts 16:13</b>
<b>Anywhere</b>	<b>1 Timothy 2:8</b>
<b>Everywhere</b>	<b>Ephesians 6:18</b>

**How To Pray**

“Here’s what I want you to do. Find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace. The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They’re full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don’t fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply.”(The Message, Matthew 6)

**Levels of Prayer**

- Ask**                    **Petition/Requests**
- Results**                **“you shall receive”**
  
- Seek**                    **Devotion**
- Results**                **“you shall find”**

**Knock**                    **Intercession**  
**Results**                “door will be opened”

**Into the Day**

I got up early one morning  
And rushed right into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
I didn't have time to pray.

Troubles just tumbled about me  
And heavier came each task.  
Why doesn't God help me, I wondered,  
He answered "You didn't ask."  
I tried to come into God's presence.  
I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
'Why child, you didn't knock."

I wanted to see joy and beauty.  
But the day toiled on grey and bleak.  
I called on the Lord for the reason-  
He said, "You didn't seek."

I woke up this morning  
And paused before entering the day.  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I had to take time to pray.  
*(Author Unknown)*

David Bryant, founder and president of **Concerts of Prayer International** suggests six portions of prayer.

**Prayer Portions**

<b>Rejoice</b>	<b>Worship and Praise</b>
<b>Repent</b>	<b>Confession of Sin</b>
<b>Resist</b>	<b>Battle Satan and forces</b>
<b>Request</b>	<b>Ask and Intercession</b>
<b>Recommit</b>	<b>Yield ourselves to God</b>
<b>Receive</b>	<b>Listen for God to speak</b>

Jesus asked a penetrating question after teaching on the subject of prayer. He inquired, “...When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8). He was asking, “When I return, will there be faith or won’t there? Will people still be praying and trusting God in faith? What type of world will I find; a world filled with sin or a world filled with the power of God? What is going to be happening in your country? What will it be like where you minister?” Jesus’ question comes immediately after his parable on prayer that began with “...men ought always to pray, and not to faint” (Luke 18:1). Lots of us make commitments to pray and it lasts for some time and then we give up. If we would persist in prayer we could make a difference in our lives and the world that we live in.

The church will not have growth and revival without a large and consistent prayer ministry base.

What was the cause of David winning the battle? One phrase keeps recurring in David’s life; “and David inquired of the Lord” (1 Samuel 23:2, 4). What was the cause of Joshua being deceived by the Gibeonites that came to him dressed like they had come on a long journey? His failure was because he “...asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord” (Joshua 9:14). How will you be successful in the battle?

**“What, could you not watch with me one hour? *Watch and Pray*”  
(Matthew 26:40).**

**Study Questions**

1. What did Saul do immediately after his conversion? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Give five “prayer positions”?
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5) \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Why is it good to pray in the morning? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. To develop our prayer life and personal ministry what should we look for? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Give five places (locations) in the Bible where people did their praying:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did Thetus Tenney say about immediate prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. How did Jesus conduct his (public) prayer ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. According to “The Message” how should we pray? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. What are three levels of prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What is the result we can expect from each of these levels? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. List and explain the prayer portions/parts.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_

12. What question did Jesus ask in Luke 18? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Why was David successful in battle? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Why did Joshua make a wrong decision when making an agreement with the Gibeonites?

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15. What do you think is a good length of time for prayer time? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Prayer Changes

“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,  
By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus”  
(Acts 4:29-30).

**I**t is often said that “Prayer Changes Things!” We should also add, “Prayer Changes Us!” It is true that your prayers will change things around you but sometimes your prayers change you. To make it more personal, “Prayer Changes Me!” At times our situation even remains the same; but we are different.

### Prayer Changes Things

The Book of Acts, and the Bible in general shows many examples of circumstances and situations that were totally changed as a direct result of prayer. Peter and John prayed in Acts 3 and the lame man was healed. In Acts 12, Peter is delivered from prison and possibly death as a direct result of a prayer meeting in session at Mary’s house. Paul and Silas prayed at midnight and a miracle immediately took place in their prison prayer room (Acts 16). Paul and others prayed on the ship in the midst of a long storm, and their lives were spared (Acts 27).

In Isaiah 38 Hezekiah received a shocking message, “...Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live” (Isaiah 38:1). The situation was desperate and the prophecy spelled certain doom. The situation was changed as Hezekiah turned to the wall and began to weep and pray. God said, “I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years” (Isaiah 38:5). Our prayers have a positive effect on God and the future can even be changed through prayer. It is a Scriptural principle that “Prayer Changes Things!”

Elijah prayed and it did not rain for three and one half years. He prayed again and the circumstances changed again; it rained (James 5:17-18). Many other examples could be given of how “Prayer Changes Things!” However, we need to look at how “Prayer Changes Us!” How does “Prayer Change Me?”

### Prayer Changes Us

The disciples in Acts 4 were threatened and warned not to speak or preach in the name of Jesus. They did not react by going to God in prayer pleading, “Lord change things! Lord, change our circumstances.” They rather asked that the Lord would “...grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word...” (Acts 4:29). They believed that through boldness, speaking the word, and dependence on Jesus Christ other notable miracles would be



done. They understood that more miracles would result in more trouble for them. It did not matter. The attitude was, “Do not change our circumstances, change us!”

**“For things to get better, sometimes  
you must get better.”**

We may change our circumstances and even seek for a more favorable location or environment but we will take ourselves with us wherever we go. Jesus asked us to “consider the lilies” in Matthew 6:28. These flowers grow where they are planted. Many of us refuse to grow where we are placed and because of that we never take root anywhere. Instead we want to be planted in a better set of circumstances. One man said, “I have found the problem and it is I.”

There are things in all of our lives that must die through prayer, fasting, and submission to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul prayed three times for his circumstances with a “thorn in the flesh” to change. God finally said, “My grace is sufficient” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Paul concluded that God had refused his prayer so that he would not be “exalted above measure” (2 Corinthians 12:7). Paul’s “thorn” kept him from becoming proud and exalting himself because of the many revelations that God had given to him. Paul’s “thorn” was not specifically described so that all of us who have “thorns in the flesh” will be able to identify with Paul.

*“It is not so important what happens to us;  
It is more important what happens in us.”*

**He’s still working on me;  
To make me what I ought to be!**

The Psalmist David wrote “The Penitent’s Psalm” of Psalm 51. This Psalm was written after Nathan, the prophet, had come to David revealing his sin of adultery with Bathsheba, and the murder of her husband (2 Samuel 12:1-13). David did not ask for a change in his circumstances but cried out “Lord, Change Me!” You can read about this in Psalm 51:1-19. He prays for a clean heart, and a right spirit. He knew that “a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart...” (51:17) were necessary for the Lord to make a change in him. David basically prayed, “Lord, I have sinned against you. Clean me up! Change me so that I can be a blessing to your people.” This attitude was quite different from that expressed by Saul. When he sinned, he said, “...I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel...” (1 Samuel 15:30). He was not interested in a real change in his life through repentance. He was more interested in how he appeared before the people.

**To Be Like Jesus**

Prayer allows us to become like Jesus. It is said, “You show me your friends and I will tell you who you are.” The type of friends that we have serves as a good indicator of who we are. Jesus has promised to be our friend that “...sticketh closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24). In prayer we are trying to not only know Him; but become more like Him. Have you ever noticed that when a husband and wife are married for a long period of time that they start acting like each other? We start taking on the personality of the person that we spend a lot of time with. The Bible teaches, “everything reproduces after its own kind” (See Genesis 1:24).

The Apostle Paul said that he came “declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:1-2). He was able to declare the testimony of God because he spent time with Him. Our greatest desire should be to live a life that is pleasing and acceptable to God.

### Our Prayer and Sacrifice

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12: 1-2).

When we, in prayer, present ourselves as a living sacrifice and refuse to be conformed to this world; we become transformed.

To be “transformed” means that we will be “changed.” This comes about by the “renewing of your mind.”

Our mind is renewed and our life changed through:

- ✓ Prayer
- ✓ Fasting
- ✓ Bible Study and Bible Reading
- ✓ Reading Christian books
- ✓ Listening to the Word of God
- ✓ Submitting to the work of God in our lives

God expects us “...to be conformed to the image of his Son” (Romans 8:29). He accepts you as you are but will not leave you there. He wants you to be changed.

Max DePree in *Leadership is an Art* says, “it is important to remember that we cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.”

The whole salvation experience begins with making a change (*called repentance*). God changes us through the born again experience and transforms (*changes*) our destiny.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

**Prayer Changes Things!  
Prayer Changes Us!  
Lord, Let Prayer Change Me!**

**Study Questions**

1. Explain how prayer changed things for Hezekiah in Isaiah 38. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. The disciples in Acts 4 did not ask God to change their circumstances but what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. For things to get better sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ must get \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Why was Paul given a “thorn in the flesh”? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What was the difference between the reaction of David and Saul (when they had sinned)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Where is the Penitent’s Psalm located? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What should be our greatest desire? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What does “transformed” mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. How do we renew our minds? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What did Max Depree say was important to remember? \_\_\_\_\_

