

CHAPTER THREE

CONVERSING WITH GOD

Communication is essential for any growing relationship, including our relationship with God. Prayer is our means of communicating with him.

When you pray, the Holy Spirit helps you know what to say and how to say it (Romans 8:26-27).

“The Spirit links himself with us in our praying and pours his supplications into our own. We may master the technique of prayer and understand its philosophy; we may have unlimited confidence in the veracity and validity of the promises concerning prayer. We may plead them earnestly. But if we ignore the part played by the Holy Spirit, we have failed to use the master key.”

J. OSWALD SANDERS ⁵

PRAYER— YOUR COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

1. As a believer in Christ you have been given a special opportunity, according to Hebrews 4:16. What is it and why was it given to you?

⁵ From *Spiritual Leadership* (Chicago: Moody, 1967), 79.

2. Because God is the believer’s refuge, what are you told to do?
Psalms 62:8

How does 1 Thessalonians 5:17 relate to this verse?

3. Different types of prayer are necessary to communicate the variety of thoughts you want to express. Match each reference with the corresponding type of prayer.

Psalms 38:18 Hebrews 13:15 James 1:5 Ephesians 5:20
1 Samuel 12:23

Praise (for who God is)

Thanksgiving (for what he has done)

Confession

Prayer for others

Prayer for personal needs

THE BENEFITS OF PRAYER

Not only do Christians have the privilege of talking with God about everything, they also experience great benefits from their communion with God.

4. What truth do you find both in Jeremiah 33:3 and Ephesians 3:20?

5. What result did the psalmist experience when he prayed?
Psalms 34:4

What are some fears you can discuss with God?

6. Paul wrote in Philippians 4:6-7 about a powerful key to freedom from anxiety.

a. What are you to do? _____

b. Why do you feel God is interested in every area of your life?

c. What is God's promise? _____

d. In what area can you immediately begin to apply this truth?

CONDITIONS OF PRAYER

7. What conditions of prayer do you find in the following verses?

Psalms 66:18 _____

Matthew 21:22 _____

John 15:7 _____

John 16:24 _____

1 John 5:14-15 _____

Even when conditions are met, it sometimes appears as if God is not answering prayer. But remember that “No” and “Wait” are as much of an answer as “Yes.”

8. Consider Jesus' pattern for prayer in Matthew 6:9-13.

a. How does the prayer begin? Why is this important?

b. Which requests are God-centered?

c. Which requests are man-centered?

d. In what specific ways can this pattern for praying help you pray?

FOR WHOM DO YOU PRAY?

9. What did Paul desire for those who didn't know Christ?
Romans 10:1

What did he do about it?

10. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. What groups of people should you pray for? Why?

11. What does the Lord desire you to pray for? *Matthew 9:37-38*

Why do you feel this is important?

12. How do you usually react when you have been intentionally mistreated by someone? Place a check mark by your first response.

___ To become angry with him

___ To think of a way to get even

___ To make an excuse for him and try to forget it

___ To pray for him

___ To forgive but not forget

Other: _____

Examine Luke 6:28, then circle the correct response.

13. Using Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21 as a guideline, list some requests you could pray for others and for yourself.

Have you been using a prayer list? A list can help you remember things you might otherwise forget to pray about. It can include:

- Your family
- Your non-Christian friends and acquaintances
- Your pastor and church
- Missionaries and Christian workers you know
- Those who oppose you
- Governmental authorities
- Your personal needs

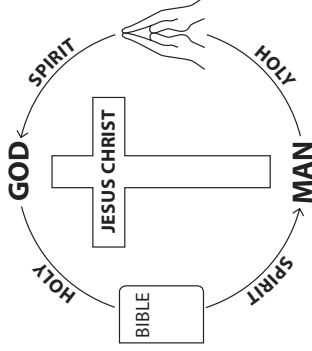
**DAILY
CONVERSATION
WITH GOD**

14. What attitudes can you have in coming to God?

Psalms 27:8 _____

Psalms 46:10 _____

Psalms 63:1 _____



What truths are illustrated by this diagram?

15. Examine Luke 10:38-42. You can make several observations from this passage which relate to spending time with Jesus Christ.

a. Contrast the activities of Mary and Martha.

MARY	MARTHA
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

b. Which one did Jesus commend and why?

c. Like Martha, you may be easily distracted by many things. What activities might distract you from meeting with God?

d. What can you do to overcome these distractions?

16. From what you have already learned in DESIGN FOR DISCIPLESHIP, record several reasons why you need to spend daily time with God—meditating on his Word and conversing with him in prayer.

Remember These Points

- God has provided prayer as the means of communicating directly with him, through Jesus Christ.
- Prayer releases us from fear and worry.
- The Scriptures provide numerous patterns and examples for our prayer.
- God *desires* your fellowship, and you *need* to grow in your relationship with him. So regular times alone with God for the purpose of fellowship are vitally necessary.