

# **Basics of the Christian Life Series**

## **The Benefit of the Christian Life**

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**By**  
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# The Benefit of the Christian Life

## I. Introduction

### A. Illustration: Cryptic Connection<sup>1</sup>

1. How much do we expect God to respond to our prayers? If I'm honest, I usually don't expect very much which makes it easy to relate to the incredible story told by Craig Hazen when he was very surprised how one of his prayers was answered.
2. Craig had just finished a series of lectures at a university in the Midwest and was flying back to California. He needed all of his travel plans to go smoothly because he had to be back in Southern California for a lecture the same night he was traveling. His first flight to Atlanta was late. He didn't board the plane until over an hour after the scheduled departure time. This meant that Craig might miss his second, longer flight to Los Angeles.
3. He boarded the small jet which was full and uncomfortable. His mind was concerned with making the connection in Atlanta. Craig says, "I distinctly remember settling into my seat and praying that I would make the connection. Sometimes in prayer I make my case with God—as if he needs to hear my reasoning on the matter. But hey, that's what some of the key players in the Bible did too, so I'm in good company. I never pray with a lot of words, so my entire petition was something like, 'God I really think you were instrumental in setting up what is happening in LA tonight and tomorrow. And I think it has potential to bear fruit for the kingdom. Hear this humble request: Get me there on time. Oh, and I also pray for a more comfortable seat for the next flight. Amen.' I don't hesitate to throw in those extras because I know God loves me and likes to give me encouraging gifts once in a while."
4. After constantly looking at his watch during the flight, the plane landed and Craig realized it would take him at least 15 minutes just to get from gate to gate after opening the airline app on his phone. Making his next flight was going to be very close. So close in fact, he started running back up plans through his mind.
5. Craig tells what happened next, "When I got to the exit door of the plane, a woman wearing a dark suit was standing just outside the door. She had an electronic sign in her hand that said HAZEN on it. I said to her, 'I'm Craig Hazen,' and she immediately grabbed the suitcase out of my hand and said only, 'Follow me.' She then walked through a forbidden door right out of the boarding ramp. I hesitated for a moment because I didn't have a badge or a code or whatever is necessary to walk out onto an active tarmac at the busiest airport in the world. Another woman in a dark suit met me on the platform just outside the door and opened an umbrella to hold over me as she escorted me down the stairs following the woman with my suitcase.
6. I had no idea who they were. FBI? Secret Service? Very serious librarians looking for a book I hadn't returned? What? At the bottom of the stairs was a beautiful black Porsche Cayenne SUV. The woman with my suitcase opened the back hatch and put my suitcase in. The other

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<sup>1</sup> Craig Hazen. *Fearless Prayer: Why We Don't Ask and Why We Should* (Eugene: Harvest House Publishers). Kindle Edition.

woman opened the door to the backseat for me, and I got in and buckled up. Both of them got in the front seats. Strangely I remember thinking that was a positive sign because they didn't feel the need to guard me in the backseat. The driver then tore out onto active airline taxiways heading across the airport. We even got a little air on one of the whoop-dee-dooos as we raced through highly restricted areas. They finally pulled up alongside some stairs connected to the boarding ramp of a Boeing 757 parked at a gate. They leaped out of the SUV onto the tarmac. One grabbed my suitcase and the other opened an umbrella to cover me as they led me up the stairs. They walked me right through the outside door of the boarding ramp and into the 757.

7. Once in, they turned left at the aisle right into the first-class cabin, put my suitcase in an awaiting space in the overhead bin, pointed to an aisle seat—the only seat left in first class, and maybe the only one left on the airplane. They then rushed off the plane, exiting just seconds before the aircraft doors were closed and secured. Then I heard the first words since the initial 'Follow me.' 'Mr. Hazen, can I get you anything to drink before we depart?' What just happened?"

- B. God can answer our prayers in unexpectedly amazing ways. However, most of us probably don't expect very much to come from our prayers. Why? Because we've prayed many times and nothing seems to have happened. The more this occurs, the less we expect from our prayers. Pretty soon we are in the position that we know we should pray regularly, but we have little to no expectation that God will do anything about our prayers. We lack a passion for prayer. Is this really what our prayer life should be like? Is prayer even important? Does prayer do anything? Some followers of Christ even become disappointed with God because of His apparent refusal to listen to their prayers.
- C. To begin to answer some of these questions we need to understand the role prayer plays in the Christian life. Prayer is important. In fact, it is crucial for our spiritual growth. We need to learn how to pray well because it is easy to make mistakes while praying which then leads to disappointment and a lack of passion regarding our prayers. We need to avoid becoming a Christian who never prays because they don't see any value in it.

## II. The Benefit of the Christian Life

- A. Prior to following Jesus, we live our lives on our own. We make our own decisions, determine what we think is most important, and rely on ourselves to resolve any challenges we face. This is why some think that religion is only for the weak. Religion is only necessary for those who can't handle life on their own. When people are smart enough or strong enough to make it on their own, there is no need for Jesus. At least, that is how natural thinking goes. Although we don't often realize it, we are very limited. We are only as strong as our physical bodies' output of energy. We are only as good as our character allows. We are only as wise as far as our intellectual capabilities can carry us. However, when God's compelling love and truth enter our lives, we are granted access to God's divine resources. We are given the wonderful gift of being able to go beyond ourselves by taking advantage of resources that come from God Himself. All of a sudden we can do things that we never thought possible before because we are empowered by something that doesn't originate with us so we are no longer chained to our

own limitations. We are able to think with God’s wisdom, act with God’s moral integrity, and find God’s strength adequate to endure the most difficult of situations.

- B. Peter joyously brings us the news of the great benefit of the Christian life, “<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; <sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup> For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.” (2 Pet. 1:2-4). God’s divine power gives us what we need to live a life that is pleasing to Him. God makes promises to us that we can base our lives on because they are reliable since God is their source. God speaks truthfully and acts with perfect consistency concerning His words. An adopted child of God has access to everything they require to live the Christian life through Jesus. The way to access these resources is prayer.
- C. It is as if we were a dead phone, with all its functions, that has finally been plugged in. We are energized and can do all the things we were programmed to do. We have moved from a blank black screen to a world of activity. The Holy Spirit now uses our mind app to develop and promote God’s perspective, our emotions app to move us toward moral actions, our will app to make decisions that will bring honor to Jesus and the Father through obedience, and our body app to perform actions that please God. When God’s life enters us, we can do things that we weren’t able to do before. This new potential is one of the greatest benefits we receive as part of the Christian life. We are no longer on our own, we have God as our ally.
- D. I remember the amazement experienced when I first came into contact with an “all in one” device. I came to the realization that this device made it so simple and convenient to accomplish activities that I had to do separately previously. For example, I used to have to use a computer to check my email, now I can combine and access all of my different email accounts from a device I hold in my hand. I previously had to purchase and read physical books with a highlighter in hand. Now, with one simple tap I could access a whole library of books in my pocket and I didn’t have any need to hold onto a highlighter. I could highlight anything I wanted by dragging my finger over the words. I no longer needed a computer to jump onto the internet. I didn’t need to be near a TV to watch a movie or a show. I didn’t need to be tied to a gaming console to play videogames. I could effortlessly play some music or listen to a podcast without having to make sure my iPod was charged and had everything downloaded onto it. I was amazed at the ease at which I could move from one activity to another all on the same device. What used to require three or four devices along with other materials was now all rolled into one. I couldn’t believe the advancement in technology that had occurred in the palm of my hand.
- E. As amazed as I was at the integration of technology, it is even more awe inspiring to realize the rich resources of God that has been made available to the one who trusts Jesus. I am amazed at everything I’m able to do because of the work that God has done in my heart and the empowerment of His Spirit in my life. I would have never imagined in a million years that I would be the person to stand in front of a group of people every week for the purpose of

teaching God’s Word. I was always terrified of public speaking. I hated having to give speeches in school, in a room with only thirty people, all of whom I knew. I am blown away by the fact that God started with a very self-absorbed person who has been transformed to genuinely care deeply about others; even people whom I have never met. How I went from an incredibly prideful and arrogant individual to a person who regularly thinks that others are more important than myself. I went from being completely disinterested in the Bible and spiritual things while thinking that I knew everything there was to know about these matters since I grew up in the church, to a person who is far more knowledgeable with the realization that I’ve only begun to scratch the surface of understanding the Bible. I ache to go deeper with Jesus, He has captivated my heart. I now find spiritual things fascinating. As amazed as we may be with the technology that is being developed, it is far more amazing to realize the resources that God has made available to those who follow Him.

### III. Gaining Access to the Benefit

- A. We run into an immediate question about the divine resources that God has provide us: How do we start accessing these divine resources? James tells us succinctly, “<sup>2</sup> You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.” (Jas. 4:2). We don’t get things from God because we don’t ask for them in prayer.<sup>2</sup> Prayer is the key that unlocks God’s resources. If we want the good things that God offers to us we must dependently ask Him for them; they are not automatic. God desires to foster a personal connection with us through our habit of prayer.
- B. However, we must realize that merely asking, making a request of God, isn’t enough to cause God to grant us our request, “<sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.” (Jas. 4:3). God is not our divine genie in a bottle. God’s mission is not to make our life more comfortable or to maximize our enjoyment; our “prosperity” is not His agenda. If we pray selfishly, God won’t answer affirmatively because He only gives us genuinely good things (Mt. 7:7-11). Remember, God’s goal is to shape us to be like Jesus (Rm. 8:28-29) so we can properly honor Him. If we pray selfishly, we won’t receive even when we ask. We need to learn how to pray correctly if we are going to gain access to God’s resources.
- C. There is no better place to go for the purpose of learning how to pray than Jesus Himself.<sup>3</sup> Jesus taught His disciples to pray. In the model prayer Jesus offered to His disciples, called The Lord’s Prayer, we see the heart and priorities of Jesus.<sup>4</sup> Our prayers should be conformed to the priorities and values of Jesus as expressed in His example prayer. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray by saying, “<sup>6</sup> But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward

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<sup>2</sup> A helpful book on praying in order to receive and developing confidence in prayer is Craig Hazen’s *Fearless Prayer: Why We Don’t Ask and Why We Should* (Eugene: Harvest House Publishers).

<sup>3</sup> One of the best tools to help you learn how to pray effectively is *The Valley Of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions* put together by Arthur Bennett. This prayer resource will model a mature prayer life that will, over time, shape your own prayer life. This prayer guide has been one of the biggest blessings in my life when it comes to praying well.

<sup>4</sup> A good resource for learning more about this prayer and putting it into practice is J. I. Packer, [\*Praying the Lord’s Prayer\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007).

you. <sup>7</sup> And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup> So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. <sup>9</sup> Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’” (Mt. 6:6-13).

- D. There are a few important observations that I don’t want you to miss about prayer. First, prayer is a method of connecting with God. Also, prayer is God centered, not us centered. Jesus says “your Father who is in secret” (v. 6). God exists in the private spaces of our lives; it is where He lives and operates. Instead of praying publicly like the hypocrites who do so for attention with the hope of having others admire their “godliness”; the person truly concerned with praying well, does so in solitude. Many practices of the Christian life, are done in isolation and solitude. Our relationship with God is largely but not exclusively carried out away from others. Jesus modeled a prayer life that was consistently and regularly executed in private. Jesus would often leave His disciples and go off into nature, into unoccupied areas, in order to connect with His Father (Mt. 14:13, 14:23, Mk. 1:35, 6:31-32, 6:46, Lk. 5:16, 9:28-29, 11:1, Heb. 5:7). Jesus says the motivation for praying in this way is because God is located in private places;<sup>5</sup> God dwells in a place where He is unseen. When we pray in private, we are imitating God by “living” in secret. When we pray in a way that is pleasing to God, He rewards us.
- E. We must remember who God is as the Creator, Sustainer, Judge, and Ruler of everything that exists, if we are to have a proper posture in prayer, “Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name” (v. 9). God’s rightful throne is in heaven while we exist on His footstool (Isa. 66:1). No one is like Him, He is above all competitors. It is important to remember who we are, and who He is when praying.
- F. Second, don’t get bogged down in the presentation of prayer, “they suppose that they will be heard for their many words” (v. 7). Prayer doesn’t have to be eloquent or fancy to be effective; this temptation greatly increases when we pray in public but it can also happen in private. Do not attempt to impress God with the quality of your prayers. Worrying about the sophistication of prayer prevents many people from participating in prayer. They compare their prayer style to others (usually those who are more spiritually mature) and shrink back from praying at all because they can’t pray like others. They may feel too intimidated to pray out loud with others present. When this happens, we rob ourselves of connecting with God and receiving the good things He offers to us. All of this is irrelevant for effective praying according to Jesus. The package that you put your prayer into doesn’t matter, it doesn’t make it more productive. Prayer is pleasing to God when it genuinely reflects the content of our heart, when our motivations are good, and when it is offered with accurate knowledge about God. In other

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<sup>5</sup> God actually exists everywhere (called omnipresence). However, Jesus’ point here is that praying privately instead of publicly for show is pleasing to God. God is more likely to answer a sincere private prayer verses an insincere public one. God is with those who do what is pleasing to Him. Our moral integrity leads to positive responses to our prayers (Jas. 5:16, Ps. 67:18)

words, we shouldn't be praying for things that contradict God's Word. We should be praying for things that really matter. Jesus demonstrates what really matters in His prayer.

- G. Third, we should pray for things that relate to God's kingdom, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven." (v. 10). God's kingdom being built in us and in the lives of others should be the central focus of our prayers. The majority of our prayer life should revolve around God producing His life in us and in those around us. Heaven invading earth is the heartbeat of prayer. Jesus cares about God's reign and rule being accomplished in our world. It is too easy, especially when just starting out, for our prayers to include trivial things that really don't matter or things that are contrary to God's desires. Instead of praying that we get a promotion at work we should pray that our heart won't be drawn away by the distraction of wealth if God chooses to give us that promotion. We should ask God to help us have a right view of money and give us the wisdom we need to use it wisely for His purposes. We should ask to be content with what we earn and to find our sense of peace in God rather than our bank account. Instead of only asking God to heal our body and make pain go away we should ask God to do His work in our hearts so that we will be more like Jesus in light of the fact that God's wisdom allowed the pain for His purposes. We should thank God that He is reminding us that we are dependent on Him. Ask Him to use this opportunity to develop perseverance in us (2 Cor. 4:16-18). We should pray for God's power to be expressed in our physical weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). We should thank God that He is reminding us to focus on godliness above physical fitness (1 Tim. 4:8) or health (2 Cor. 4:16-18). Effective prayer, prays in partnership with the desires of God. Could it be that we don't have most of our prayers answered because we don't want the same things as God?
- H. Fourth, there is an underlying attitude of trust and relying on God's provisions, "give us this day our daily bread." (v. 11) in prayer that pleases God. Entitlement has no place in effective prayer. If God decided to give us what we deserve, we wouldn't like it. Part of our prayer life will involve asking God to give us the things that we need as we move forward confidently trusting that He will do so. Prayer should be done with a humble attitude of dependence. Regularly making these requests combined with a trust in God will help encourage an attitude of contentment regarding our circumstances. We should keep in mind that God knows what we need and He promises to provide those things for us if we are obedient in pursuing His kingdom above everything else (Mt. 6:31-34). Jesus was absolutely confident that God the Father ALWAYS heard His prayers (Jn. 11:42) yet even Jesus asked for something from the Father and didn't receive it (Mt. 26:36-46). Jesus didn't ask with impure motives or with wrong information, the reason He didn't receive was because the part of Him that desired to avoid the cross (His human nature) wanted something that was at odds with the plan of God. The part of Jesus that wanted to be obedient to the Father (His divine nature) won out over the part of Him that wanted to avoid the cross as He said, "nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." Therefore, Jesus didn't sin. We can have desires for God to provide us with things that go against His plan, without sinning, as long as we are willing to let those things go in favor of God's plan. But if we get angry with God for not providing something we want, we are wrong.

- I. Fifth, asking for and pursuing forgiveness is a regular prayer habit that should be developed, “and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” (v. 12). Prayer is a tool that we use to confess our sin to God and ask for His ongoing forgiveness which is ours through Jesus. Admitting our moral failures to God should be a consistent element of our prayers. We should also regularly ask God to give us a forgiving attitude toward others as an indicator of having received His forgiveness. Our prayers should be used to cleanse our lives from immoral tendencies, seeking God’s work of removing sin from our hearts.
- J. Sixth, ask for spiritual strength to do what is right, “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” (v. 13). Remember, you can’t live the life God wants you to live while relying on your own power. We need God’s help to live like Jesus. Our hearts are weak and easily entangled in sin, Jesus knew that. It is no accident that asking God for help in avoiding temptation and being delivered from doing wrong is included in Jesus’ model prayer. Notice that for Jesus, we should hope to avoid temptation itself. Jesus doesn’t just want us to pray for strength in the midst of temptation, knowing how susceptible we are, Jesus wants us to avoid temptation altogether! He doesn’t even want us to be in a situation where we might be led astray. Thomas à Kempis has wisely noted, “How great is the frailty of human nature which is ever prone to evil! Today you confess your sins and tomorrow you again commit the sins which you confessed. One moment you resolve to be careful, and yet after an hour you act as though you had made no resolution.”<sup>6</sup>
- K. Now, we are all tempted in many ways and at many times (Jas. 3:2) because that is how we grow spiritually. In fact, our spiritual growth is accurately gauged by how we respond to temptation, “Often we do not know what we can stand, but temptation shows us what we are.”<sup>7</sup> There is tremendous wisdom in Jesus’ prayer advice on this point. In many cases, we don’t know the content of our heart or the depth of our vulnerability toward various temptations; therefore, it is wise to avoid as much temptation as possible so as to not be entrapped in sin unsuspectingly (Heb. 12:1).

#### IV. The Lord’s Prayer Guide<sup>8</sup>

- A. I want to give you, the new follower of Christ, a guide to use for your prayer life which follows the pattern of the Lord’s Prayer—the model prayer Jesus offered to His disciples found in Matthew 6:9-13. I encourage you to use the following guide in whatever ways might be helpful to you. Ignore what you don’t find beneficial and follow the parts that you find useful.
- B. Prayer is something that we grow into with practice. Therefore, I wanted to structure this guide so that it could be used in a ten-minute prayer window. Ten minutes may even seem like a really long time to pray when you are starting out; I understand. However, I hope that while using this guide you will find that you can pray for a full ten minutes without much trouble. As you grow in your prayer abilities, you can lengthen each part of this guide to spend additional time in prayer. This guide can easily be adapted to fit praying for thirty minutes, an hour, or

<sup>6</sup> Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ* (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, 1996), 45.

<sup>7</sup> Thomas à Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ* (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, 1996), 21.

<sup>8</sup> Another guide that some may find helpful is the ACTS approach to prayer. You can find this method explained at <https://www.navigators.org/resource/daily-quiet-time/> Accessed 7/29/2019



even longer as your abilities and desire grow by simply changing the amount of time spent on each item.

- C. Perhaps you may need to spend more or less time on each item in light of what is going on in your heart. Let God lead you as He pleases. What follows is merely a guide, not unchangeable directions. Allow the Holy Spirit to enter into this prayer time with you.
- D. Before beginning your prayer, think about who God is and remember the person you are addressing (v. 9). (2 minutes)
1. Look up passages of Scripture where God's nature, character, or works are clearly revealed. The book of Psalms works great for this purpose. You could use passages like Psalm 65, Job 38-41, Psalm 19, Psalm 30, or Psalm 91.
  2. Our approach to God should be determined by our standing with Jesus. If we are one of His adopted children, through faith in Jesus, we approach Him as a loving parent.
  3. How should this reminder influence your attitude and approach to your prayer?
- E. Pray for God's kingdom to be built and His will to be done by asking Him to reveal any attitude or mentality of yours that stands in the way of God doing His work in your heart (v. 10). Ask Him to teach you how to carry out His will. Do the same for others. (2 minutes)
1. Read and think about passages of Scripture that encourage self-examination and those that explain what God wants from you such as Psalm 139, Psalm 143, or Psalm 67.
  2. Hold yourself to God's standards in various areas of your life and see how you measure up (Heb. 4:12).
- F. Ask God to meet all of your needs by telling God what is going on in your heart (v. 11). Let Him know what you are currently concerned about. Make a list if necessary. Ask God to bring about what is in your soul's best interest in each of these situations. (2 minutes)
1. Think about God's faithful and loving character along with His constant provision as well as the appropriate attitude of response to these things by focusing on the parts of His Word that emphasize these themes such as Matthew 6:25-34, Hebrews 12:4-11, Numbers 11:18-32, 1 Peter 5:6-7, 4:19.
  2. Look at verses of the Bible that accurately express the content of your own heart in this moment. If you are sad and struggling, find a verse that expresses those feelings such as Psalm 42:5. If you are full of joy and are rejoicing use Psalm 100. If you are feeling guilty read Psalm 51:12.
  3. Respectfully communicate the mood of your heart to God.
- G. Pursue the forgiveness of God by confessing your sins, admitting your fault and guilt without trying to make excuses or cover anything up, and ask for God's forgiveness as you put confidence in His loving, kind, and patient character (v. 12). (2 minutes)
1. Think about what true repentance looks like using Scripture as your guide. Helpful texts might be Psalm 51, 2 Corinthians 5:8-11, Matthew 3:8, and 1 John 1:9.
  2. Remember your need to foster an attitude of forgiveness towards others and a readiness to actually forgive them as described in Matthew 18:21-35. Ask God to help

you forgive your most recent and painful injuries coming at the hands of others. Even those perceived as coming from God—ask God to change your perspective.

3. Rejoice in God’s forgiveness as in Psalm 32.

- H. Ask God to change your heart and enable to you to live the way He wants you to live through petitioning Him to strengthen you against future moral failure and disobedience (v. 13). Be as specific as you can, keeping in mind those areas of your life where you just sought God’s forgiveness. (2 minutes)
1. Go to sections of the Word of God that might encourage you to live in obedience to God and resist temptation such as James 1:21-25, Hebrews 13:20-21, Philippians 2:12-13, and 1 Corinthians 10:12-13.
  2. Remind yourself of the positive results of obeying God as in John 15:10, Matthew 7:21, or John 12:26.
- I. If you use this guide on a regular basis, you will develop prayer habits grounded in the model prayer Jesus offered to His disciples. You will be praying in a way consistent with the priorities of God. When praying in this way, you will be positioned to have more of your prayers answered with a “yes” response. However, it should be kept in mind that we are largely ignorant of the will of God in many situations which is why we need the Holy Spirit to go between our prayers and the plan of God (Rm. 8:26-27).

#### V. Conclusion

- A. It is very important to develop a regular habit of prayer when it comes to the Christian life. Through prayer, we gain access to the divine resources God makes available to us when we commit ourselves to following the teachings of Jesus. We need to learn how to pray effectively.
- B. I encourage you to use the provided prayer guide on a daily basis. This will help you develop the foundational prayer skills you will need throughout your Christian life.

#### VI. Questions For Further Thought<sup>9</sup>

- A. How does one’s view of God affect one’s view of prayer?
- B. What do you think is prayer’s true purpose? Is this why you pray?
- C. How might The Lord’s Prayer reshape the way you pray?
- D. What has been the biggest challenge you’ve faced in your prayer life?
- E. Why does a person need to confess daily sins after he or she becomes a Christian? Aren’t those sins already forgiven at the moment of turning to Jesus?

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<sup>9</sup> I shamelessly stole some of these questions from J. I. Packer, [\*Praying the Lord’s Prayer\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007).