

IN SEASON

SUMMER

a study on prayer





Welcome

Welcome to summer! Whether you are sitting lakeside or joining one of our in home summer groups, we will continue our *In Season* prayer study.

This four-week study is filled with all the goodness of Scripture and the inductive study pattern. The workbook is accompanied by round table video discussions found on our website at: www.lccredding.org/messages/herministry. By design, you should answer the questions for each lesson, followed by the video lesson.

We are thankful that you are joining this beautiful, engaging study; we pray it has enriched your prayer life.

Bless you,

Robin Blank

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."

John 15:16



Schedule

*Complete the homework from each lesson **before** watching
the accompanying video discussion at:*

www.lccredning.org/messages/herministry

LESSON 1

Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom
Ephesians 1:15-21

LESSON 2

Prayer for Sanctification
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

LESSON 3

The Fullness of God
Ephesians 3:14-19

LESSON 4

Prayers of Adoration
1 Chronicles 29:11-13



LESSON 1



“That the GOD of our *Lord Jesus Christ*, the FATHER of *glory*, may give to you the SPIRIT of *wisdom* and *revelation* in the knowledge of Him.

Ephesians 1:17



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Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom

LESSON 1

“Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.” Ephesians 1:15-21

What a magnificent prayer! The more I read and re-read this prayer, the more I felt the glory and majesty and wonder of a breathtaking God whose power has done the impossible, made wise the simple, made rich the poverty stricken, given hope to the downcast and defeated, and revealed a glimpse of His glorious sovereignty.

My testimony of prayer is that I have struggled when prayer felt like a chore, a “to do” item to be checked off, a bit of a routine task that was both dull and dead. Then again, there were times when I knew His presence and felt a powerful connection to a heavenly Father who was eager to hear my petition and spend this intimate time with me. I have felt peace wash over me in times of prayer. I have ended my prayer knowing I was a different woman than the one who first began to pray. Any lack in my prayer life is due to my weaknesses, for He is always present and always listening. I am not always aware and awake.

I know this about prayer: God is listening to our hearts. He hears us. He will act and do. His heart will respond. He is glorified in our praying.

This prayer asks for mighty things, things that will strengthen the hearts of believers and things that will glorify God. This prayer will equip and empower saints to live fully in God’s grace in the here and now and yet have eyes to see the riches and glory yet to come. Let us see God as He is, in Spirit and in Truth. There is no fluff in this prayer. I want to pray like this!

To begin our study, I ask that you quiet yourself before the Lord and allow Him to speak to you, giving Him your time and full attention. Ask Him to show you through this prayer who He is and who you are in Christ. I am not asking you to pray to speak to God but to humbly and expectantly listen to what God would speak. Then, read through this prayer three times and out loud if possible.

1. Who is Paul praying for? (See Ephesians 1:1)
2. Paul has heard about two foundational qualities that are at work in these believers. What are they? (verse 15)



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3. These good reports provoked what kind of response in Paul? You will find two in verse 16.

4. When does Paul stop praying for the saints of this church?

5. Who is Paul praying to? (verse 17)

6. What is he asking for from the Father? (verse 17 - fill in the blanks)

"The spirit of _____ and _____ in the _____ of Him..."

7. Is the word "spirit" capitalized?

8. From verse 18, fill in the blanks:

"...the eyes of your _____ being _____..."

9. What is the practical purpose of these requests? (Found in verse 18)

10. Circle the words that focus on Paul's desire for the Ephesian Christians:

Wisdom	Prosperity	Revelation
Health	Deliverance	Favor
Knowledge	Understanding	Blessing

11. When he speaks about an inheritance, whose inheritance is he speaking of?

12. What is that inheritance?

13. What does Paul want them to know? (verses 18-19)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

14. How many times is **He, Him, His** used in this passage (Ephesians 1:15-21)?



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15. Who is it that is revealing, enlightening, encouraging, imparting, empowering?
16. List the adjectives describing God's power in verse 19.
17. What are two pieces of evidence of God's great power listed in verses 20-21?
18. Jesus is enthroned in glory and power above what? (verse 21) List them.
19. Are any left out that Jesus needs to have authority over?
20. Is this power only for the present time? What does verse 21 tell you?
21. In verse 22, what things are under the feet of Jesus?
22. How many times is the word "all" used in this passage?

Do you begin to see what Paul wants these believers to grasp? He desires that they begin to comprehend the greatness and glory of God, which is far superior to all earthly things.

Now for a little background. Ephesus was a major city of the ancient world. It was comparable to New York or Los Angeles. Ephesus was prime time. It was situated on a harbor that brought in people from all over the world. In addition to that, it was at the crossroads of major overland trade routes. It was all about location, location, location! The population of Ephesus was over 300,000 people. Ephesus was big, bustling, and important.

Ephesus also was the site of the great temple of Diana (Artemis). This temple was one of the seven wonders of the world. Pagan religion and pagan practices were prevalent in Ephesus. Power over supernatural forces through magic and the occult was commonly practiced. After Paul preached at Ephesus, Acts 19:19 tells us, "*Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up their value, totaling fifty thousand pieces of silver.*"

It wasn't always an easy thing to be a believer in Jesus living in Ephesus. Paul spent considerable time in Ephesus, seeing the dangers and traps of a worldly society. He was concerned for this church of Jews and Gentiles that they would become enamored of cultic practices and so called powers and stray from their faith. Paul wanted them to see their superior position in Christ Jesus. Paul wanted them to have spiritual wisdom and a revelation of the knowledge of God. Paul wanted them to see bigger things,



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know the majesty and power of a mighty God, and realize all they possessed in Jesus. Their God was completely able to fulfill His every word and promise. He had done so in the past and present, and a glorious future was yet to come.

To better understand why Paul was concerned for this church, read Revelation 2:1-4.

Like the Ephesians, we can be drawn away from our first love. We may be in church every Sunday and even involved in ministry. We can be important, creative, and busy, yet our hearts have not given Jesus first place. He does not sit enthroned within us.

23. What things have you been caught up in that have cunningly taken your attention off Jesus?

Paul's prayer list must have been long, but he spent a good deal of time praying for believers and thanking God for the work of faith He was doing in the church. Take some time now to pray for our church and also to pray for those whom you love who have come to a saving faith. Give thanks to God for His good work in us.

24. How does "*love for all the saints*" evidence itself in your life?

In Ephesians 1:13, we read that these Ephesians were sealed with the Holy Spirit. So when Paul speaks of a spirit of wisdom, what is he saying? He wants these believers to wake up to the reality of who God truly is, to comprehend the divine truth, and to know Him in the depths of their being.

Wisdom comes from God. God is our wisdom. Wisdom is readily available in God's word. Through His word, we can know what is true and right and understand how to apply it in our lives.

In the little book *The Power of Prayer*; Charles Spurgeon stated, "The proper study of God's elect is God. The proper study of God's elect is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy which can ever engage the attention of a child of God is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God he calls the Father."

25. We seek this wisdom. Read these Scriptures and then write out the one that communicates most to your heart.

Proverbs 9:10

1 Corinthians 1:24-25

James 1:5

James 3:17



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LESSON 1

26. When trouble comes, when all the news is bad, when there seems to be no solution, when you have a difficult decision, where do you turn for wisdom?

God can speak by any means. He can use family, friends, counselors, or a random conversation. The key is that God's wisdom will never contradict God's word and will pass the test of James 3:17.

27. Have you ever had an experience of knowing God was speaking His wisdom to you? Can you share that with your group?

28. Read Titus 3:4-7 and 1 Peter 1:3-4. What is the hope of His calling?

29. How does having this eternal and living hope affect your mindset and lifestyle?

Consider now how much Jesus values you.

Hebrews 12:2 tells us, *"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

You are the riches of the glory of the inheritance that Jesus died and paid for upon that cross.

_____ is the inheritance of Jesus, as Jesus is the inheritance of _____
(Write your name in the blanks.)

30. Reading again through verses Ephesians 1:19-21, how does this unstoppable power give you confidence in your future?

31. What is your takeaway from this study?

Father, I pray we will see you with enlightened eyes and a mind renewed in the knowledge of who You are. We will pray this prayer for our hearts, our families, and our church. You are so much more than we can comprehend. You have been faithful through the ages. You have done what You said You would do. All our hope is in You. Help us walk in Your wisdom and according to Your truth, in the name of Jesus, Savior, and Lord, who sits at Your right hand, Amen.

"Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part, You will make me know wisdom" (Psalm 51:6).



LESSON 2



“Now may the GOD of *peace* Himself SANCTIFY you *completely*;
and may your whole *spirit, soul, and body* be preserved
BLAMELESS at the *coming* of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.
He who *calls* you is FAITHFUL, who *also will do it.*”

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

A decorative border at the top of the page features various fruits and green leaves. On the left, there are several ripe peaches with red and yellow skin. On the right, there are green olives on a branch with leaves. The background is a light, textured beige color.

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Prayer for Sanctification

LESSON 2

Many years ago, when my son was a teenager, we began to suspect that one of his good friends was leading him on a dangerous path that would ultimately destroy him. We had invited his friend into our home many times, for he had been a good student and a “straight arrow” among their peers in their elementary school years together, and we knew his family walked with the Lord and attended church. For a long time, we didn’t suspect any foul play until a certain sleepover took place. Then, we had evidence that what we feared was really happening.

One day, our son said he wanted to go camping with his friend. The friend had it all planned out and would bring the gear and food; all our son had to do was bring his sleeping bag. We told him that we were not comfortable with it. Oh, was he ever mad! He accused us of watching his every move. He said we never let him do anything he wanted to do. He complained we were too strict with him. He cried in frustration. I cried, too, in fear of losing him to the enemy’s deception.

We told him we knew something was up. He finally cried out, “How do you always know?! It’s like you have eyes in the back of your head.” We just know, son. Parents have a sense about what’s happening in their kids’ lives, even when they may not know specifics. We were doing our best to preserve his life, though he decidedly did not care about that right then. We were at an impasse in the conversation, and he said he felt like he needed some distance between us and him (worst feeling ever!) It was arranged that he would spend that night at the home of some family friends, and he agreed to go there instead of camping. The next day, before coming home (he said he wasn’t sure we would want him home—how far from the truth this was!), he called and, with great sobs, said he didn’t expect to feel the way he felt being away from home and being at odds with us. He wanted to come home and make things right, live differently, and start over. Oh, what welcome words those were! I had prayed through that sleepless night, and God answered my prayer.

Sometimes, it feels like God, our Father, is relentlessly pursuing us. It seems that He always knows just what we need to hear, whether we want to listen to it or not. Maybe we argue that we should be able to live as we please, or that He never lets up, or that His requirements are too hard, too much. Maybe we feel like if we could just give in a little bit to temptation—nothing life-changing, of course—just to get a break from church, fellowship, prayer, and tithing, then we could come back ready to dive head-long into right living. Sometimes, a pastor will preach the exact words that speak to our situation. Maybe a friend will bravely say what must be said. Perhaps a family member will remind us of a truth we seem to have forgotten. Often, His Word or a Bible study will speak words that are needed at that moment.

Why does God so zealously seek after us? As we will see in this study, He is sanctifying us, disciplining us as a parent disciplines a child because He loves us. It is His desire that we live holy lives before Him in the world, and so He does the work of sanctification in us. Let’s take a deeper look at what it means to be sanctified.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”*

Prayer for Sanctification

LESSON 2

A Little Background

The apostle Paul, wanting to know how the young church at Thessalonica was doing, had sent Timothy to check things out there, and Timothy brought back a good report. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4 tells us that this church was vibrant in their “*work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope*” in the sight of God because they knew their “*election by God.*” They knew God had chosen them, and they were living out their faith, love, and hope as He had taught them through the gospel, which came to them not “*in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and in much assurance*” as they watched Paul and others live it out before them. The example Paul left them was to “walk the talk,” as we often say today. In 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12, Paul writes:

“You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

Later, in chapter 4, Paul “*urges and exhorts in the Lord Jesus*” that they would abound more and more in the ways they knew how they ought to walk and to please God. In 4:3-4, Paul reminds them that sanctification is the will of God. They were to abstain from sexual immorality with self-control and honor.

At the end of the book, in 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (previous page), Paul prays a prayer of benediction, sort of like closing thoughts. He prays for God to sanctify them completely and to preserve their whole spirit, soul, and body, blameless at the coming of Christ. This will be our main text this week. Let’s see what Paul is actually praying for—and what we should pray for ourselves and others as well.

1. There should be no question in our minds that we serve a holy God. Timothy makes a good summary of this fact in 1 Timothy 6:15-16. Write it out here:

2. Since we serve a holy God, it is perfectly understandable that He would ask us to live holy lives before Him and as a witness to His work in us. Put simply, sin cannot dwell with a holy God; thus, God must make us sinless. Read Romans 12:1-2, and list what we are asked to “do.”

Many scriptures tell us what to “do” as believers. However, none of the writers implied, intended, or stated that these things can be done in our own strength. This Scripture indicates there is no self-reliance involved—it is all the work of God. “I have been urging you to do certain things, but it is only in God’s strength that you will be able to do them.” (Morris in Blue Letter Bible)



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Prayer for Sanctification

LESSON 2

3. Have you read any scriptures recently that tell you to “do” a particular thing, but you don’t think you can do it? Write about it, then end by stating, “With God, nothing shall be impossible.”

To **sanctify** is to break off the old and form something new. It is to make something completely distinct for some special purpose. In his commentary on 1 Thessalonians, David Guzik gives the example of a dress. A dress is a dress, but a wedding dress is set apart and used for a glorious purpose.

The Spirit-Filled Life Bible further defines **sanctification** (*bagiazo*) as: *To hallow, set apart, dedicate, consecrate, separate, sanctify, or make holy.* This state of holiness is the opposite of common or unclean. “In the New Testament, the word describes a *manifestation of life produced by the indwelling Holy Spirit.*”

4. What do you have in your home that you set apart for a special purpose? Try to identify why you do this.

In this week’s verse, the original writings emphasized the word completely, indicating that nothing is left undone and no part is left unreached. This should help us see clearly that God will not start the work of sanctification without finishing it. He will leave no part of us untouched.

5. In Philippians 1:6, what can we be confident of?

6. In this week’s verse, who does the work of sanctification? What words and phrases assure us that He will?

7. In 1 Thessalonians 4:3, what is God’s will?

The work is ALL God’s. Nowhere are we to muster up the energy or resources to sanctify ourselves. As we have seen, we can’t work the works of God, NOR sanctify ourselves, NOR be made holy, NOR perfect our faith on our own. “...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:2). He started it in us, and He will finish it in us!

8. Read John 15:5. According to this, what is the only way we can do anything?

Prayer for Sanctification

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9. Write out the last phrase of John 15:5.

Vine's Expository Dictionary explains that sanctification can't be transferred to someone—it belongs to an individual alone and is built up little by little in us. It grows by our obedience to the Word of God and following Christ's example. God works in our inner person to strengthen us to live out our faith, which is the evidence of our sanctification.

Now let's look at this phrase in our Scripture verse: "*May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless....*" Many believe man's nature comprises three parts: spirit, soul, and body. Sometimes, it appears that spirit and soul are the same in Scripture. But in Mark 12:30, man's nature comprises four parts: heart, soul, mind, and strength. 1 Corinthians 7:34 divides man's nature into only two parts: spirit and flesh.

The most confusion arises from the difference between soul and spirit. In the Blue Letter Bible, Pastor Chuck Smith defines them simply:

The SPIRIT of man is dead until it comes alive when one receives the Lordship of Christ.
We were once dead in sins and trespasses but are now alive unto God through the Spirit.
The SOUL is man's consciousness. The soul connects with God by faith.

"This is our prayer: God, preserve me physically, my body. God, preserve my mind, my consciousness. And God, preserve my spirit, blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Chuck Smith)

God—who breathed out every word of Scripture—has given us this hierarchy of the nature of man:

First, spirit.
Second, soul.
Third, body.

God preserves blameless every aspect of our being: our spirit (the immortal part of us); our soul (our consciousness, i.e., passions, desires, personality—what makes us distinct from others); and our physical body (which will be resurrected one day.) Knowing this helps us to understand that our body must be submissive to our soul, which must be submissive to our spirit.

10. Is there any place or time when your body does not submit to your soul? In other words, does your body seem to take control of you sometimes, instead of being obedient to your will and mind, doing what you know is right?



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Prayer for Sanctification
LESSON 2

11. Is there any place in your life where your soul does not submit to your spirit? In other words, do your personality, passions, or desires oppose God?

12. Summarize Romans 7:18-19.

13. Summarize Romans 7:24-25 and tell how it illustrates our sanctification by the Lord.

14. Based on all you have learned this week, write a prayer to God for yourself in your prayer journal, similar to Paul's prayer for sanctification.



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Prayer for Sanctification
LESSON 2

MATCHING
(optional)

Throughout the Bible, many things were considered sanctified. Some of these New Testament sanctifications might surprise you! Match these New Testament scriptures with what is sanctified.

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| a. food | Hebrews 9:13 |
| b. the unbelieving spouse of a believer | John 17:19 |
| c. the ceremonial cleansing of the Israelites | 1 Timothy 4:4-5 |
| d. the Father's Name | Acts 20:32 |
| e. the consecration of the Son by the Father | 1 Corinthians 7:14 |
| f. the Lord Jesus devoting Himself to the redemption of His people | John 10:36 |
| g. the setting apart of the believer for God | Romans 15:16 |
| h. Gentile offerings | Luke 11:2 |



LESSON 3



“That you, being *rooted* and *grounded* in LOVE, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the *length* and *depth* and *width* and *height* – to know the LOVE OF CHRIST which passes *knowledge*; that you may be *filled* with all the FULLNESS of GOD.”

Ephesians 3:17-19



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The Fullness of God

LESSON 3

“For this reason, I bow my knee to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and depth and width and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:14-19

Long decades ago, I was a young woman absolutely twitterpated by a young man who pursued me and won my heart. We were so much in love with one another, and I could not imagine that I could love anyone more than I loved him. We wanted to be together every possible moment. Our thoughts revolved around each other. We had cutesy little nicknames for one another and bought each other gifts. We talked long into the night. Our hearts were full. We were excited and anticipating what our lives together would become.

We have been married now for almost sixty years. We are no longer twitterpated. We are not gushing and excited about every little thing. Our love has deepened. It is richer in knowledge and understanding. It is deep, contented, peaceful, and well satisfied. I love him so much more than in those early days. The strength of this love has stood the test of time. His memories are my memories. I’ve heard his jokes a thousand times and still laugh. I’ve told him all my darkest secrets because I trust him that much. I’ve known his strength in times of need and seen his weaknesses and vulnerabilities through his pain. We have weathered troubles, fears, and difficulties and come through it all. I could have never imagined in those early days that our love would become what it is today.

I remember, too, the first time I ever saw the ocean. I grew up in a landlocked area of the country. Oh sure, there were creeks and lakes and rivers. These waterways were my only experience. I came to California when I was eighteen years old, and one of the first things I did was go to the beach. I desperately wanted to see the ocean I had only read about.

As my toes squished into the sands, I stood amazed at the sight of an immense sea that moved, that sparkled in the sun, that crashed on the shore, that smelled of salt air, that roared in foam-flecked waves. There seemed to be no end to this ocean. How deep its waters! Its expanse touched the shores of lands I could not perceive from my limited perspective on the beach. Was there no end to this great sea? I could barely take it all in, and I knew I saw only a tiny piece of what this ocean truly was in its magnificence, beauty, and power.

All this presents a poor illustration of how we will never get to the end of Almighty God. If human love grows richer and fuller, how much more is the love of God? If the oceans seem immeasurable, how much more the glories and beauties of the Eternal One? Even what we think we know is but a mere glimpse of Him. Amy Carmichael has said we see but the edges of His ways. What we know, we know in part. There is so much more to taste, to see, to learn, to experience more deeply and more sweetly. Let us pray for all the fullness of God!



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Read through the prayer in Ephesians 3:14-19 again, taking time to savor each verse. Talk to God about what He is speaking to you personally out of this beautiful petition.

These first chapters of Ephesians celebrate all God has done for love's sake. He has made us accepted in the Beloved even though we were alienated and worthy of condemnation. This was His good pleasure that He purposed in Himself. He works all things after the counsel of His will. He has saved us through faith, and that faith itself is His gift to us. Indeed, our God has done all! "*For this reason,*" Paul prays.

Once, Israel alone was God's chosen people. Yet God's plans were greater, God's love was more abundant, and God's glory was even more magnificent. For long years, this purpose was hidden, but now God reveals the glorious mystery that encompasses all people, all nations, and all tribes. For the Gentiles of the Ephesians church and the Gentiles of Little Country Church and all the blood bought churches of the earth the manifold wisdom of God is being made known to the powers and principalities in the heavenly places according to the eternal purposes which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Now, we Gentiles also have not only boldness but access with confidence through faith in Him. "*For this reason,*" Paul prays.

1. What is Paul's position on prayer?
2. What other positions of prayer can you find mentioned in the scriptures? Here are a few hints.

Luke 18:10-13

Matthew 26:38-39

2 Samuel 7:18

3. What effect do you think your physical position has on your prayer life?
4. Who is Paul praying to?
5. Within the Trinity, what relationship exists among the Godhead?
6. Is this relationship extended to others? If so, who? And where?

I pray you are beginning to see the greatness of God toward man as you consider the relentless love with which He pursues a family called by His name through the ages, through the generations, in all of heaven, and in all of earth. What a blessedness that we are called the children of God.

The Fullness of God
LESSON 3

7. Paul prays that his prayer be answered according to: (circle one)

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Our worthiness | Whatever may be at hand | Those things we deserve |
| Our good works | What things can we supply | The riches of His glory |

8. If indeed God has done all and we are to show forth the manifold wisdom of God to principalities and powers in heavenly places, what will we need to equip and enable us? (See verse 16 - fill in the blanks)

“to be _____ with _____ through His _____ in the _____”

9. Who is strengthening us with might?

10. What is more crucial, the outward woman of flesh or the inner woman (who you truly are)?

11. Which is temporal, and which is eternal?

12. Write out Ephesians 6:12

Warren Wiersbe has said, “It is through prayer that we lay hold of God’s riches that enable us to behave like Christians and battle like Christians.

13. (Verse 17) One result of this work is that now “_____ may dwell in your hearts through _____.”

14. Paul prays to the _____.

15. We are strengthened with might through the _____.

16. Who is dwelling in our hearts through faith?

Here is the work of the Father. Here is the work of the Spirit. Here is the work of Jesus.

Dwell indicates *settling down and making oneself at home*. As you search your inner woman, can Jesus be comfortable and at ease in your heart?

17. Another aspect of our inner strength is that we become “_____ and _____ in _____.”



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18. **Rooted** and **grounded** denotes *something weaker, being anchored in something stronger*. **Rooted** and **grounded** implies *strength, steadfastness, and faithfulness*. Are you thus rooted and grounded in the love of God?

19. What is it that Paul wants us to comprehend? (Verse 18)

20. If we go wide, and deep, and high, and long, will we ever get to the end of God's unfathomable love?

21. (Verse 19) Paul prays for us to know the unknowable! How can we know something that surpasses knowledge? Write out 1 Corinthians 13:12.

All this brings us back to the immeasurable riches and wonders of God. We will never grasp Him fully, yet our knowledge and understanding can grow and abound in waves of grace and revelation as we seek Him.

22. My hope rests in Ephesians 3:20. Please write it here and let these words go deep.

23. To Him who is able! He has done all, and He will perfect all things in us according to the _____ that works in us. Paul is praying for this power to be made effective in the church.

I found this quote in *Halley's Bible Handbook*: "The Body of Christ is being built up out of unworthy sinful men, to be an everlasting demonstration of the kindness of God. When God's work in us is completed, we will be creatures of unutterable bliss in a state of heavenly glory beyond anything we can now imagine."

"My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day, for I do not know their limits." Psalm 71:15

The fullness of God is the totality of everything God is in all His holy attributes. Colossians 1:19 states, "For it pleased the Father that in Him (Jesus) all the fullness would dwell," The fullness or totality of God is to be found in Jesus. (John 14:7-11)



IN SEASON

The Fullness of God

LESSON 3

24. Write out Colossians 2:9-10.

We find our completeness in Jesus and no one else. There is no other way to know the fullness of God. By the Spirit of God, Jesus dwells in our hearts, and we partake of His fullness.

2 Peter 1:3-4 tells us, *“As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

This is the power this prayer pleads. This is the strength we seek. This is Jesus dwelling in our hearts by faith. This is how we begin to comprehend that which surpasses all knowledge – the very fullness of God.

“Now to Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20



LESSON 4



Prayers of Adoration

“Yours, O LORD, is the *greatness*, the *power* and the *glory*,
the *victory* and the *majesty*; for ALL that is in heaven
and in earth is YOURS. Yours is the *kingdom*, O Lord,
and You are EXALTED as *head over all*.”

1 Chronicles 29:11



IN SEASON

Prayers of Adoration

LESSON 4

“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name.” 1 Chronicles 29:11-13

I never birthed any children of my own, but my husband and I were blessed with two infant adoptions. I can clearly remember the day our first was born. It was exactly like I had seen in photographs—a new mother holding her baby close, gazing into baby’s eyes with adoration. I felt exactly the same way when I first held our long-awaited child. You’d have to pry that baby out of my arms if he needed changing. My eyes never left his face. I was enthralled with the tiny human being. I wondered at his toes and fingers, his fine, red hair, and especially his involuntary smile. I was privileged to feel him wrap his fist around my forefinger; I thought to myself, what could ever be better? My adoration for him didn’t culminate in worship, as it would toward God, but I was in love with him so much that I felt it in every fiber of my being. You might say I was dumbstruck. Speechless. And I very much did not want the moment to be lost on me. From the moment our eyes locked, my life was changed in the deepest place.

Would there ever be anyone else I would adore like I adored him?

It is with joy that I can say Someone worthy of adoration found me and called me to Himself. I knew Him before I knew my first baby, but I didn’t know Him in an adoring way. I didn’t grasp His beauty nor the wonder of Him. I didn’t sit at His feet in a place of deep recognition of Who He is in all His greatness. I had an inkling of it because at the youth camp, I attended as a young teenager, we sang the camp theme song—How Great Thou Art—at the beginning of every service. Let me be quick to explain that I’m sure I don’t nearly approach the adoration Moses must have felt when he communed with God in the tent of meeting, or when God spoke to him face-to-face, or when God put him in the cleft of the rock and allowed His glory to pass by. But Moses has been an example to me of an adoring relationship with the Father. There have been many times in my life, usually when I am deep in prayer, that God has touched me with a profound sense of His being and His presence.

This is a difficult experience to find words for. It is a kind of speechless speech—you know it when it is happening, but you can’t bring anybody else in with you because you can’t find the words to invite them. It is, to me, the times that exemplify the *“deep calls unto deep...; all Your waves and billows have gone over me”* of Psalm 42:7. It is a sense of sinking down into Him and being filled with all His fullness. It is being held by Him securely, comfortingly, and restfully. I am usually breathless with the sense of His presence during times of adoration such as these.

This all sounds mystical, like something unreal. This is simply my feeble attempt to put that sense of adoration into words. Moses is not the only one to experience this. We will look at Isaiah in particular and at Ezekiel, Peter, Daniel, and John on the Isle of Patmos as he was given the revelation of Jesus Christ. Many others could not be included due to space limitations, but as you read your Bible, be watching for instances of adoration.



IN SEASON

Prayers of Adoration

LESSON 4

The “Prayers of Adoration” might be more accurately called the “Literature of Adoration,” because most of the adoration in Scripture takes place in spontaneous moments of great praise and aren’t written as prayers in the usual format of addressing God, such as “*Our Father...*” The prayers and the literature will teach us to see God in His proper role, as He is in reality and not as we imagine Him.

Humans are prone to reduce and simplify God to things we understand and experience ourselves. I call this “diminishing.” Something that is **diminished** *appears smaller than it is*. The opposite of **diminishing** is “magnifying.” To **magnify** is *to make something seem bigger*—in earthly things, *to make them appear bigger than they are*—but in spiritual things, *to show God’s greatness, power, beauty, wisdom, perfection, and holiness as big as it is*. To **magnify God** is *to call attention to the fullness of God*—in other words, *all that God is*.

“Ob, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together” (Psalm 34:3). This is a call to believers to call out God’s attributes, words, and deeds.

“Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 38:23). God magnifies Himself and sanctifies or sets Himself apart from all that is “not God.”

What is **adoration**? It is somewhat different from what we call “praise.” According to the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*: “**Adoration** is *intense admiration culminating in reverence and worship, together with the outward acts and attitudes which accompany such reverence.*”

It goes on to explain that **adoration** may be the highest form of worship, “involving the reverent and rapt contemplation of the Divine perfections and prerogatives, the acknowledgment of them in words of praise, together with the visible symbols and postures that express the adoring attitude of the creature in the presence of his Creator. It expresses the soul’s mystical realization of God’s presence in His transcendent greatness, holiness, and lovingkindness.”

Yes, that’s a lot of words to tell what **adoration** is, but I hope it gives you a sense of the difference between what we usually call “praise” and the act of adoration. **Praise** is *expressing approval and admiration for something or someone*. **Adoration** is *the rapt contemplation of God*.

I hasten to add that even though the explanation of adoration may sound a bit “mystical” or “supernatural,” my research for this study took me to the experiences of people in the Bible, not my own “possibly unreliable” personal encounters.

1. Read Revelation 15:3-4. Write what you read about God in this passage.

Prayers of Adoration

LESSON 4

2. Read Romans 11:33-36. Write what you read about God in this passage.

We have studied many biblical prayers this past year. We have seen many prayers, including petition, thanksgiving, confession, and intercession. All of these prayers indicate reasons to pray: we ask for something, we thank Him for something, we confess something, or we intercede for someone. Adoration takes a different form, in that we look at God's attributes of kingship and spiritual excellencies, and it so impacts our soul that we are filled with rapture and thus are motivated to give Him deep reverence.

When God initiated Isaiah into his prophetic ministry, he had a vision that shook him to his core. Read Isaiah 6:1-5 and answer the following:

3. What did Isaiah see in verse 1?

The "train" of a robe is like the train of a wedding dress—the long extra fabric that flows behind the bride as she walks down the aisle. Take a moment to picture God's robe, the train that fills the entire temple, perhaps billowing up to the ceiling, across the windows and doors, and covering everything in the temple. Note, also, that Isaiah saw a throne, not a chair. Anyone can sit on a chair. Only sovereign kings sit on thrones. There is a seat of authority that the whole world has to answer to, and God sits on it. He has a high and holy position that no man holds.

4. What did Isaiah see in verse 2?

Seraphim means *burning ones*. Many Bible scholars believe **seraphim** (mentioned only in this passage of Isaiah) and **cherubim** (mentioned often in the Bible) refer to the same creatures.

5. Read Ezekiel 1:13 and tell what you learn about these living creatures.

6. What were the seraphim doing and saying in verse 13?

Note: they were crying to one another, not to God. Pastor Jon Courson writes, "They are superior creatures of incredible intelligence who are so enamored with Someone who is whole, Someone who has not been eroded by sin, that they don't leave day or night." Just think of it—one day, we will see this scene with our eyes. Can you imagine being a part of this adoration, singing songs of God's holiness,



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with the burning ones flying all around, continually speaking to all near the perfections of our mighty God? This is a scene of magnifying God in all His set-apartness, His holiness. He is set apart from everything else, for He is above all things.

What exactly is He set apart from? In *Blue Letter Bible*, read this from David Guzik: “He is set apart from creation, in that the Lord GOD is not a creature, and He exists outside of all creation. If all creation were to dissolve, the Lord GOD would remain. He is set apart from humanity because His “nature” or “essence” is Divine, not human. God is not a superman or the ultimate man. God is not merely smarter than any man, stronger than any man, older than any man, or better than any man. You can’t measure God on man’s chart at all. He is Divine, and we are human. He is infinitely perfect within Himself, without any help from man or angels.”

7. What happened in verse 4?

8. As we see in this verse, the temple was filled with smoke, which often indicates the presence of God. Where did these other occurrences of smoke (sometimes called a cloud) indicate God’s presence?

a) Exodus 13:21-22

b) Exodus 19:18

c) 1 Kings 8:10-12

9. What effect did God’s presence and the vision have on Isaiah in Isaiah 6:5?

Having a real encounter with God, who is above all things, Isaiah realized how very unlike God he was. This is one of the reasons we look upon Him with adoration: He is so very “other” than we are—higher, stronger, wiser, just, righteous; in everything good, He is “more.”

Spurgeon, echoing Isaiah’s pronouncement that he was undone, says the following: “God will never do anything with us till he has first of all undone us.” (*Blue Letter Bible*)

Pastor Chuck Smith declared that our greatest need was to see God on His throne. We often live or think as if He has abdicated His throne—as if the current state of the nations or our own personal traumas and dramas were going to be the one thing that finally undoes God.

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A.W. Tozer says that what we think about God is the most important thing about us. I have pondered this statement long and hard and have come to see it is true. What we truly believe about God will show up in how we live our lives, how we speak to and treat others, how we use our time, how we give of our income, how we use our gifts, and everything else about us.

10. The Book of Ezekiel, chapter 1, gives a far more detailed expression of what the creatures who continually offer praise to God look like. Then in verse 26, Ezekiel begins to record what he saw of the most high throne room. Read Ezekiel 1:26-28 and record briefly what he saw.

11. What was Ezekiel's response at the end of verse 28?

12. Ezekiel, like Isaiah, came away from this experience with a proper view of God. Has there been a specific time in your life when you had an experience that left you with what you believe is a proper view of God?

13. Read Luke 5:8. What did Peter say when he fully realized who Jesus was?

14. Read Daniel 9:20-22. In this description of God's attributes and acts, what strikes you most deeply?

15. In chapter 10, Daniel had another vision of God, whose appearance and voice were described in verses 5-7. Some commentators believe he was having a vision of the pre-incarnated Christ. Since Jesus is God, we won't quibble on this point. How is His voice described?

I have always enjoyed trying to "hear" this sound. God's voice has also been described as "many waters," "thunderings," "whispers," "still and small," and others. The time I spend contemplating God's voice almost always brings me to the point of adoration of my Lord. In this, I have been known to sit so quietly, apparently listening to nothing at all and hearing nothing audibly, yet God makes it known to me in my depths. Sitting by a waterfall, river, or gurgling streambed, I always smile, imagining God's voice. I fall short of having words to describe the sound. To me, it is both rushing and hushing.

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Lastly, we will look at John, the “*one Jesus loved*,” who wrote the Book of Revelation. He had lived with Jesus for about the last three years of Jesus’s life. John was probably the youngest disciple; many believe he was a teenager when Jesus called him to follow. When John was a very old man, he was exiled to the island of Patmos, and this is where the resurrected Jesus met up with John again in visions and symbols of what was and what was to come. Another name the Book of Revelation is known by is the Apocalypse, meaning unveiling, disclosure, or revelation. Thus, this book unveils things we could not otherwise know without their disclosure by the One who knows.

John was given vision after vision of the risen Christ. Read chapters 1-3 to review what John saw. Then, in chapter 4, John sees the throne room of God. He hears a voice like a trumpet. He sees a figure of “One” who sits on the throne, looking much like precious stones. There was a rainbow around the throne, and then there were 24 more thrones on which were seated elders wearing crowns of gold. “*And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunders, and voices*” (Revelation 4:5).

Can you imagine it yet? And there was more. A sea of glass, like crystal. Four living creatures, something like identifiable animals, and yet not quite.

16. What were the creatures saying? Read Revelation 4:8.

17. Does it sound familiar? Read Revelation 4:11 and tell what the 24 elders seated on the other thrones were saying.

18. Were there any new thoughts as you went through this study? What did you learn?

This brief homework was far from an exhaustive look at the reasons and ways we adore God. This was just a taste—one, I hope, that will create a hunger and thirst in you for the living God.

In closing, please read Psalm 104 with your prayer journal open beside you. As you read, keep track of all the ways God is worthy of adoration. Then, write a prayer that uses some of the exact words you read in the psalm.

Remember, she who asks, receives...

And she who seeks finds...

And she who knocks will find a door opened by God Himself.

“*And you will seek Me and find Me, when You search for Me with all your heart*” (Jeremiah 29:13).

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