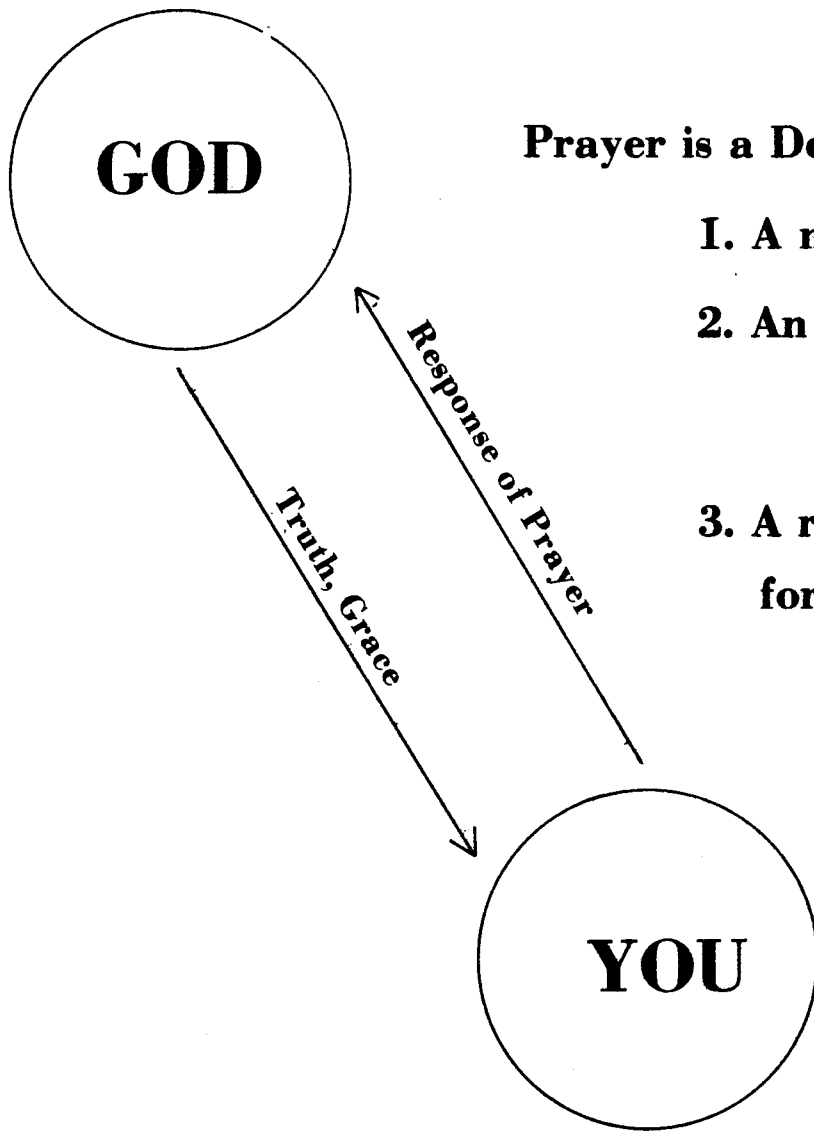


LESSON 6

THE GRACE OF GOD
AND THE
PROMISES RELATED TO PRAYER

by

VICTOR M. MATTHEWS



Prayer is a Decision of Faith—

- 1. A meeting of persons.**
- 2. An involvement: Love,
Truth,
Holiness.**
- 3. A receiving of grace
for transformation**

Introduction

- A. There is an inseparable relationship, in the Christian life, between our fellowship with God, the Scriptures, prayer and the exercise of faith and love. (Acts 2:41-47)
- B. When we practice the truth, the grace of God flows into our lives. Prayer is one of the more important ways whereby we practice the Word of God and express our faith and love. God expects His people to pray, Matthew 6:5,6,7,9.

I. The Biblical Basis for This Lesson.

Prayer is one of those ways whereby God has made Himself available to His people. He has made it possible for us to pray to Him, Eph. 2:18. He invites and exhorts His people to pray, Psalm 50:15; Jeremiah 33:3. Some of the greatest promises in all the Bible are related to prayer.

II. The Biblical Explanation of This Principle.

The Bible presents many illustrations of praying the will of God into actuality. It is not enough to want and to know the will of God. The Christian must learn how to mix the Word of God with faith (Hebrews 4:1), to pray in faith (Matthew 21:22) and to seek to glorify God in the answer to the prayer (John 14:13).

Consider the following illustrations of praying the will of God into existence.

- A. Elijah, I Kings 17:1 -- (Elijah knew from Scripture that God promised to send a drought when His people turned away from Him. Elijah prayed, claimed these promises and trusted God. Deut. 11:16,17; 28:23; I Kings 8:35; James 5:17,18).
- B. Daniel, Daniel 9:1-3 -- (Jeremiah had prophesied that Israel would be in captivity for 70 years. When Daniel realized the time was up -- he prayed for Israel's return).
- C. Nehemiah, Nehemiah 1:4-11 -- (Nehemiah claimed the promise of God that He would restore, upon repentance, those whom He had allowed to go into captivity, Deut. 4:25-31).

- D. Epaphras, Colossians 4:12 -- (Epaphras claimed the will of God for the Christians in Colosse. This is an example of how we should pray for one another -- claim the express will of God.)

III. The Biblical Promises Related to This Principle.

A. The Biblical Examples.

II Kings 19:14-37 (vv. 14,20)

II Chronicles 14:9-15; 16:9 --

Ezra 8:21-33; 9:5,6; 10:1 --

Acts 12:5 --

Acts 13:1-4 --

B. The Biblical Exhortations.

Luke 18:1 --

Ephesians 6:18 --

Philippians 4:6-8 --

I Thess. 5:17 --

Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4 --

C. The Biblical Promises.

Matthew 7:7 --

Matthew 21:22 --

John 14:13,14 --

John 15:7,16 --

John 16:23,24 --

Romans 8:26; Eph. 6:18; Jude 20 --

I John 5:14 --

Conclusion

Isolate the problem, find a promise that applies, turn the promise into prayer for the glory of God, cast all care upon Him and believe that He will answer. Do all of this as an expression of faith and love.