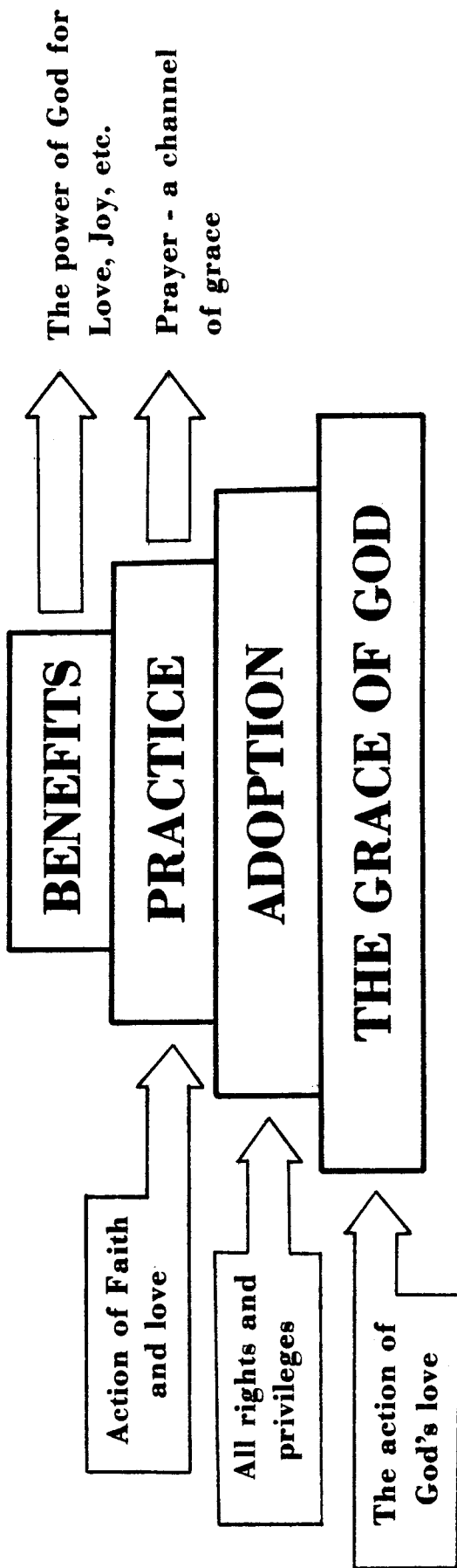


LESSON 7

THE GRACE OF GOD
AND THE
WARNINGS RELATED TO PRAYER

by

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The power of God for
Love, Joy, etc.

Prayer - a channel
of grace

BENEFITS

PRACTICE

ADOPTION

THE GRACE OF GOD

Action of Faith
and love

All rights and
privileges

The action of
God's love

Introduction

- A. One of the most unusual gifts of God's love is that of prayer. He has made it possible for His people to come to Him and to receive the Grace of God for their daily help, Hebrews 4:16.
- B. The privilege of prayer goes beyond human comprehension. The Christian has been invited to come to God, to worship, to state his desires, to present his thanksgiving and to receive the mercy and grace demanded for that hour. When a person neglects the prayer life or lives in such a way that his prayers are reduced to words -- he is thereby relating himself to God in a most sinful way indeed. God has given us a key in prayer -- to neglect it is a sin!

I. The Biblical Basis for This Lesson.

We cannot merit the Grace of God. However, we cannot choose to work against God and prosper spiritually. Nor can we lethargically neglect God's provision of grace and prosper. Honesty is necessary in the practice of prayer so that God can bring His grace to us. All forms of spiritual insincerity are condemned in the Bible.

II. The Biblical Explanation of This Principle.

I Samuel 12:23,24 --

II Chronicles 6:13-15 --

Psalms 81:10-16 --

Isaiah 43:22-28 --

Isaiah 50:1 --

Isaiah 59:1,2 --

Jeremiah 2:17-19 --

Jeremiah 4:14-18 --

Matthew 6:1-5 --

II Timothy 2:25,26 --

Hebrews 3:7-4:3 --

III. The Biblical Warnings Related to This Principle.

Psalm 66:18 -- The refusal to treat sin as sin.

Proverbs 1:28 -- The refusal to respond to God (vv. 24-31).

Isaiah 1:15 -- Religious deceit (vv. 10-20).

Isaiah 58:1-7 -- Fasting and prayer are invalid when a choice has been made not to practice the truth.

Jeremiah 11:6-14 -- Known disobedience to the will of God.

Jeremiah 14:10-12 -- Known disobedience to the will of God.

Jeremiah 42:1-43:7 -- Religious deception. A pre-prayer choice of action.

Ezekiel 8:18 -- Spiritual idolatry (vv. 5-13). Ezekiel 14:1-5

Zechariah 7:13 -- Religious selfishness (vv. 4-13).

Micah 3:4 -- Unrighteousness (vv. 1-4).

Matthew 6:14,15 -- Lack of forgiveness.

James 4:3 -- Selfishness.

I Peter 3:7 -- Family disunity.

IV. The Biblical Instruction Related to This Principle.

A. Instruction concerning the importance and value of prayer.

1. Its importance, Matthew 6:5,6,7,9.
2. Its value, Matthew 6:3.

B. Instruction in how not to pray.

1. A warning concerning the object of prayer, Matthew 6:5.
2. A warning concerning the basis of prayer, Matthew 6:7.

C. Instruction in how to pray.

1. True prayer is learned and performed in secret, Matthew 6:6.
2. True prayer is a personal meeting with God, Matthew 6:6.
3. True prayer is an activity of faith, Matthew 6:8.
4. True prayer is a spiritual act of worship, Matthew 6:9.
5. True prayer is a declaration of our relationship with God's people, Matthew 6:9.
6. True prayer is according to divine principles, Matthew 6:9-13.
7. True prayer is the exercise of faith and love, Gal. 5:6; Heb. 4:1-3; 11:6.
8. True prayer is concerned with the will of God -- personally, Mark 11:24; Col. 3:17; James 4:2,3.
9. True prayer is concerned with the will of God -- corporately, John 14:13; Romans 15:30-32; Gal. 4:19; Col. 4:12.
10. True prayer is done in cooperation with and dependence on the Holy Spirit, Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20.
11. True prayer is praying in the Name of Jesus Christ, John 14:13; 15:16; 16:23,24.

12. True prayer is characterized by fellowship with God which in turn grows out of daily obedience, John 15:7; I Cor. 1:9; I John 1:7; I John 3:22.
13. True prayer is characterized by thanksgiving, Phil. 4:6.

Conclusion: suggestions which may be helpful for the daily prayer life.

- A. Pick a time which is best for you and then pray each day at that time.
- B. Pick a place which will be comfortable and private and then pray there each day.
- C. Adopt a form of Bible reading. Read in two or three different places in the Bible each day.
- D. Turn your Bible reading into prayer. Make a list of people for whom you should pray. Claim the will of God for these on the prayer list. Claim the will of God for yourself -- receive the peace, etc., of God -- and cover yourself with the armor.
- E. In every facet of your Bible study and prayer life -- turn away from your feelings and circumstances. Receive the help of God by faith. Respond to God in love. Worship Him. Thank Him for Himself and His grace. Learn to forget yourself. Continue in reading and prayer in spite of the up and down experience of your daily life.