



Understanding God's Will – Lesson 3

“The Telephone Signpost: A Study on Prayer”

I. “The Need for Prayer”

a. Dependence (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Proverbs 3

3:5 [Trust](#) in the [LORD](#) with all thine [heart](#); and [lean](#) not unto thine own [understanding](#).

3:6 In all thy [ways](#) [acknowledge](#) him, and he shall [direct](#) thy [paths](#).

- Trust and dependence on God is contrasted with self-reliance and self-dependence
- 1. Placing one's total dependence in one's own ability is dangerously flawed.
- 2. Our goal should be to make his precepts our central guide.

b. Dialog (Jeremiah 33:3)

Jeremiah 33

33:3 [Call](#) unto me, and I will [answer](#) thee, and [shew](#) thee [great](#) and mighty [things](#), which thou [knowest](#) not.

1. God invites His people to call upon him.
2. When the people call he will show them great and wonderful things.

c. Disclosure (James 1:5)

James 1

1:5 [If any](#) of [you lack wisdom](#), let him [ask of God](#), that [giveth](#) to [all](#) men [liberally, and upbraideth not; and](#) it shall be [given him](#).

1. We are invited to ask God for wisdom (broad, full of intelligence, varied knowledge).
2. God will give this to all men who seek His wisdom.

II. The Opportunity of Prayer

a. Hebrews 10:19-22

10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

10:20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

10:21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

1. The High Priest was only allowed to go into the Holy of Holies once per year, covered under the blood of bulls. However, we are allowed to enter daily, covered under the blood of Christ
2. The blood of Jesus allows us to come into God's presence boldly.

b. Psalm 55:7

55:17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

- God cannot tolerate wicked people's prayers
- The Lord is far from the wicked: but hears the prayer of the righteous (Proverbs 15:29).

III. The Practice of Prayer

a. Fundamentals of Prayer

1. Prayer is simply communicating with God from our hearts. (Heart-talk)
 - It must be honest communication from our hearts to the heart of God.
2. There is no power in the act of prayer. Power is in the one to whom prayer is offered. (Hypocrisy, Matthew 6:5-7)
3. Nothing is off limits (Honesty, Philippians 4:6)
 - Boundaries, "in everything"
 - Prayer, "through prayer" – worship and acknowledgment of God
 - Supplication, "sharing our needs"

- “It must be honest communication from our hearts to the heart of God”
(Rasnake, 2001)

IV. Barriers to Obeying this Sign

- a. Not asking - James 4:2 – “Ye lust and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.”
- b. Asking amiss – James 4:3 – “Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”
 1. Asking amiss (out of place, not befitting).

V. Putting It Into Practice

“Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” (Philippians 4:6)

- a. I must choose to lay aside my anxiety
- b. I must transfer my trust from myself to God.
- c. I must openly discuss every area with God.
- d. I must direct my prayer to Him in a specific manner and accompany it with thanksgiving.
- e. I may then bring any request to him
- f. I must trust Him for His peace and accept His answer, whatever it is.

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father’s throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter’s snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
May I thy consolation share,
Till, from Mount Pisgah’s lofty height,
I view my home and take my flight:
This robe of flesh I’ll drop and rise
To seize the everlasting prize;
And shout, while passing through the air,
“Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!”

Lesson adapted from:

Rasnake, E. (2001). *Living God's Will: Reading and Applying God's Signs For Your Life*. Chattanooga, TN : AMG Publishers.