

GRACE BIBLE TRAINING CENTRE (GBTC)
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY
ARUSHA - TANZANIA

SUBJECT: PRAYER & INTERCESSION

LESSON 2: ATTITUDES TO PRAYER

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Introduction: Luke 18:1-17; 1John 5:14-15

In Lesson 1, we took our study from Luke 11 where the Lord Himself gave us patterns of prayer. In this lesson, we will look at attitudes to prayer – good and wrong attitudes. There are several examples in the Bible but we will be looking at some basic principles, which if correctly applied will help us a great deal in our prayer life.

Prayer & Relationship with God

How we pray and the effectiveness of our prayers will depend on the level of intimacy and relationship we have developed with God.

The very essence of prayer is communication with God. Regular communication with Him strengthens our bond of relationship or fellowship with Him, our understanding of Him, and our true devotion to Him. It is what builds our faith and our confidence to confront the challenges of life and of demonic forces and powers of darkness (*James 4:7-8; John 11:39-44; Revelation 12:11*).

Sincere prayer comes from a good relationship with God and it should never be like a formula or a magic potion that we have to repeat in a certain way, with the hope that we can twist God's hands to meet our needs (*Matthew 6:7*).

When we get to the stage where our relationship with God is deep, prayer becomes very effective (*John 15:7*). It is not manipulative because it is based on a relationship, knowing and understanding what the will of the Lord is (*1John 5:14-15*). We do not force our will against His but working in partnership with His revealed will. When we know what the will of the Lord is, we can be confident in faith knowing that He will answer because He has promised that He will do (*Numbers 23:19*).

What we face on a daily basis are not just natural challenges but supernatural. Therefore, we need the unlimited resources available in God (His wisdom, guidance, protection, strength, provisions, assurances, favour, blessings, and many others) to help meet our needs.

Review of Luke 18

There are people (believers and unbelievers) who have sought communion with God and failed, while others have succeeded. The Bible gives us several examples of how we should pray and how not to pray, the hindrances to answered prayer, various forms of

prayer, postures and attitudes in prayer. We will be looking at these in subsequent lessons.

We can learn some few things from the passage in Luke 18 about attitudes to prayer:

1. Persistence in prayer & never giving up (*Luke 18:1, 7-8, 35-43; 11:5-8*)
2. Faith in God to answer prayer and not doubting (*James 1:5-8; Hebrews 11:6*)
3. Prayer according to God's will (the woman sought for justice) (*Luke 18:3; 1John 5:14-15; 3John 2; Romans 8:27; James 4:1-3*) – The will of God is the desires of God & what pleases Him – righteousness, justice, love & faith.
4. Avoid self-righteousness or drawing attention to yourself (*Luke 18:9-12; Isaiah 64:6; Hebrews 10:19-22; Ephesians 2:8-9*)
5. Prayer does not have to be long. It can be short and straight to the point (*Luke 18:13; Matthew 6:5-8*)
6. Do not attempt to manipulate God in prayer by using shortcuts and formulas. Pray in line with His will and promises and He will hear you (*Luke 18:12; 1John 5:14-15*).
7. Humility and sincerity in prayer (*Luke 18:13; 1Peter 5:5-6; James 4:6-10; 2Chronicles 7:14; Micah 6:8*)
8. Come before the Lord in true reverence and respect (*Psalms 89:7; Proverbs 14:27; Hebrews 12:28-29*)

In the next couple of lessons, we will deal with postures in prayer, hindrances to answered prayer, and the various levels of prayer.