

GROWING DISCIPLES –Pray In Faith

Week 4: Asking Prayers

"Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God"—Philippians 4:6

OVERVIEW OF WEEK 4

- Day 1: Praying for Yourself and Others
- Day 2: Reasons God Answers Prayer
- Day 3: Reasons God Doesn't Answer Prayer
- Day 4: Principles for Asking
- Day 5: Agreeing Together

VERSE TO MEMORIZE

"Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

DISCIPLESHIP HELPS FOR WEEK 4

"Suggestions for Praying Together" (See Pg. 18 Discipleship Helps)

PREVIEW OF WEEK 4

This week begins a focus on asking prayers: petition and intercession. Jesus taught much about asking prayers. This week you will—

- understand the importance of asking and of agonizing in prayer;
- consider biblical examples to identify reasons God does and does not answer prayer;
- apply biblical truths to improve the effectiveness of your prayer life;
- understand basic principles for asking prayers;
- learn how to pray in agreement with others as you pray together.

Day 1: Praying for Yourself and Others

Scripture-Memory Verse

"Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

You have now completed half of your study of *Pray in Faith*. Let's review what you have learned.

① Can you recite your three memory verses? Check the boxes beside the verses you can recite successfully.

Matthew 21:22

Matthew 18:19

Hebrews 13:15

② Name four kinds of responding prayers and the aspects of God's nature to which you respond. Check your answers on Week 3 Pg. 1

_____ is responding to God's _____.

_____ is responding to God's _____.

_____ is responding to God's _____.

_____ is responding to God's _____.

③ What is the purpose of responding prayers?

a. I identify with God by working with Him in His kingdom.

b. I identify with God by becoming like Him.

④ What are two kinds of asking prayers?

_____ is asking for myself that is led by my Father.

_____ is asking for others that is led by my Master.

⑤ Which of the following is the purpose of asking prayers?

a. I identify with God by working with Him in His kingdom.

b. I identify with God by becoming like Him.

We have studied four types of responding prayers. In confession, praise, worship, and thanksgiving you identify with God by becoming like Him. Now we will focus on asking prayers: petition and intercession. In asking prayers you identify with God by working with Him in His kingdom.

God's Way of Working

Many years ago when (T. W. Hunt) served in the Korean War, very few Koreans were Christians—less than 1 percent. But they prayed fervently and faithfully. Prayer was their very life. Today more than 33 percent of Koreans are Christians. Do you know why? Because they are praying, and God is answering. In fact, they may be the most prayerful people in the world. God is honoring their prayers.

All around the world God is moving. He is moving mightily where people are praying. Do you know what the problem is where people are not responding to the gospel? The body of Christ is in poor spiritual condition. We are not praying. We are not seeing the great work of God. God's work must be done on God's basis. That is the only way He will work. Jesus repeatedly emphasized the method for accomplishing God's work: we must ask.

6 Read the Scriptures below. Circle the word *ask* in each verse.

God Invites Asking

"Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7).

"If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:14).

"If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you" (John 15:7).

"Until now you have asked for nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be complete" (John 16:24).

Real prayer is difficult. It is work. We are so comfortable, however, that we don't want to fight. We are failing in Kingdom work because we are not fighting. Paul begged the Roman Christians to "agonize together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf" (Romans 15:30). In writing to the Colossian church, Paul said, "Epaphras ... is always contending for you in his prayers, so that you can stand mature and fully assured in everything God wills" (Colossians 4:12). I don't know very many who strive or wrestle in prayer. Not only do we need individual prayer warriors today, but we also need churches that are houses of prayer.

7 Check the better description of the kind of prayer needed today.

- a. We need prayer that is easy. If little time or effort is required, many more people will agree to pray.
- b. We need agonizing, fervent prayer. Much time and great effort are required for the kind of results needed today.

The church needs agonizing, fervent prayer. Perhaps sin has become so common among God's people that God does not hear our prayers. Instead of getting right with God, we have stopped praying. We are not even asking. We are not achieving victories for Christ. We are not doing God's work on God's basis.

↕ **Ask God to begin showing you the kind of prayer He wants of you. Ask Him to stir your heart to agonizing, fervent prayer for His kingdom's sake. Pray for your church to become a house of prayer.**

Day 2: Reasons God Answers Prayer

Today's Prayer Promise

"In that day you will not ask Me anything. I assure you: Anything you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be complete" (John 16:23-24).

The great prayer warriors of the Bible often told God why He should answer their prayers. Seeking God's viewpoint, they desired to pray for what God wanted to do. Today you will learn some reasons God answers prayer.

① **Read the following eight reasons God answers prayer. Underline a word or two in each one to help you remember it.**

1. *The prayer seeks to uphold God's honor.* God's honor means His good name, reputation, or integrity. In some prayers you may seek to maintain the integrity of God's character and His name. After the faithless report of the spies who were sent into the promised land, God threatened to slay the Israelites. Moses prayed on behalf of God's honor, expressing a desire to protect God's reputation among the surrounding nations (see Numbers 14:15-16 below).

God's Honor

"If You kill this people with a single blow, the nations that have heard of Your fame will declare, 'Since the LORD wasn't able to bring this people into the land He swore to give them, He has slaughtered them in the wilderness'" (Numbers 14:15-16).

2. *The prayer appeals for God's glory.* God's glory invites worshipful praise. His glory is His magnificence, His great beauty or splendor, or the evidence of His attributes. In some prayers you may ask that God reveal or receive His glory. We dare not give His glory to another or take it for ourselves. The men and women of the Bible were always diligent to ensure that divine work was recognized as truly from God—they gave God the glory. Jesus prayed for His Father's glory (see John 12:27-28 below) instead of seeking His own desires.

God's Glory

"My soul is troubled. What should I say—Father, save Me from this hour? But that is why I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name!" (John 12:27-28).

3. *The prayer appeals to God's character.* God's character refers to His traits, qualities, or nature. You can agree with God about His nature in prayer. You can also ask Him to act according to His nature. Moses made a request based on God's character, identifying several of His qualities (see Numbers 14:17-19 below). Because God is merciful, forgiving, and longsuffering, Moses asked God to pardon and forgive the people.

God's Character

"Just as You have spoken: The LORD is slow to anger and rich in faithful love, forgiving wrongdoing and rebellion. ... Please pardon the wrongdoing of this people in keeping with the greatness of Your faithful love, just as You have forgiven them from Egypt until now" (Numbers 14:17-19).

4. *The prayer acknowledges God's sovereignty.* God's sovereignty means His supreme power, rank, or authority over all. He is Ruler over all. As Sennacherib gathered his Assyrian army against Judah, King Hezekiah acknowledged God's sovereignty over all kingdoms of the earth. He realized that a positive answer to his request would cause all of the kingdoms to recognize that truth as well (see 2 Kings 19:15, 19 below).

God's Sovereignty

"LORD God of Israel who is enthroned above the cherubim, You are God—You alone—of all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the heavens and the earth. Now, LORD our God, please save us from his hand so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God—You alone" (2 Kings 19:15, 19).

5. *Jesus prays for you.* Have you ever asked a godly person to pray for you, thinking that God would surely hear? You have an even better reason for God to answer your request: Jesus Himself prays for you! Paul tells us, "Christ Jesus ... is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us" (Romans 8:34). Because Jesus is interested in you, He supports you in every appropriate prayer you utter and seeks God's very best for you.

6. *The Holy Spirit prays with and for you according to God's will.* Your greatest weakness in prayer may be that you do not know what or how to ask. But here's good news: "The Spirit also joins to help in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us ... according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26-27). The Holy Spirit knows God's will and guides you to pray according to God's will.

7. *Your Father wants to answer the requests of His child.* God answers prayer because of who you are in relation to Him. Jesus commanded you to pray to God as Father: "Our Father in heaven" (Matthew 6:9). Your relationship as a child of God ought to influence the way you pray. God hears you because you are His child.

8. Your Master wants to answer the requests of His servant. You can also pray on the basis of being God's servant. The cause of God cannot be separated from that of His servants. If you are His servant, your prayers touch His work and interest Him. After the dedication of the temple, Solomon prayed as a servant to his Master (see 1 Kings 8:59-60 below).

Master-Servant

"May my words ... be near the LORD our God day and night, so that He may uphold His servant's cause and ... so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God. There is no other!" (1 Kings 8:59-60).

↕ **Pray and ask God to teach you how to pray from His viewpoint. List one of your most important prayer requests today. Review the eight reasons God answers prayer and state why God would want to answer your prayer. Ask God what He wants you to pray for. Then pray from God's viewpoint, stating His reasons for answering your request.**

Prayer request:

Reasons for God to answer:

Day 3: Reasons God Doesn't Answer Prayer

Today's Prayer Promise

"If our hearts do not condemn us we have confidence before God, and can receive whatever we ask from Him because we keep His commands and do what is pleasing in His sight" (1 John 3:21-22).

Any sin is serious and hinders prayer. We want to avoid all sin, but we are wise to give special attention to sins the Bible specifically identifies as hindrances to prayer.

① **Read the Scriptures below (Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:1-2; Hebrews 3:12, 18-19; James 1:5-8; 4:2-3). Underline reasons God doesn't answer prayer or actions that hinder prayer.**

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened" (NIV).—Psalm 66:18

"The LORD's hand is not too short to save, and His ear is not too deaf to hear. But your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God, and your sins have made Him hide His face from you so that He does not listen."—Isaiah 59:1-2

"Watch out, brothers, so that there won't be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that departs from the living God. And to whom did He 'swear that they would not enter His rest,' if not those who disobeyed? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief."—Hebrews 3:12, 18-19

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. An indecisive man is unstable in all his ways."—James 1:5-8

"You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and don't receive because you ask wrongly, so that you may spend it on your desires for pleasure."—James 4:2-3

② Below is a list of sins that are reasons God doesn't answer prayer or says no, followed by a series of Scriptures. Match the sin with the Scripture that mentions it by writing one or more references beside each sin.

Anger/wrath: _____

Broken relationships: _____

Doubting/unbelief: _____

Hypocrisy: _____

Idolatry: _____

Indifference to need: _____

Unforgiveness: _____

Ezekiel 14:3 • "Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and have put sinful stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I be consulted by them at all?"

Proverbs 21:13 • "The one who shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will himself also call out and not be answered."

Matthew 5:23-24 • "If you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

Matthew 6:5 • "Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. I assure you: They've got their reward!"

Matthew 6:14-15 • "If you forgive people their wrongdoing, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don't forgive people, your Father will not forgive your wrongdoing."

1 Timothy 2:8 • "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (KJV).

1 Peter 3:7 • "Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives with understanding of their weaker nature yet showing them honor as co-heirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered."

↕ **Examine the following list of sins and hindrances to prayer. Ask God to show you any area of your life that may be a barrier in your prayer life. If He shows you anything, confess it. Seek His forgiveness and determine to walk in a new way. Check off each area as you allow God to examine it. Take as much time for this process as God may require.**

- Anger/wrath
 - Broken relationships
 - Doubting/unbelief
 - Hypocrisy
 - Idolatry (idols of the heart)
 - Indifference to need
 - Iniquities (moral crookedness)
 - Sins
 - Unforgiveness
 - Wrong or selfish motives
-

Day 4: Principles for Asking

Today's Prayer Promise

"Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:13-14).

In the Bible God gives us some guidelines for asking prayers. Today we will study 10 principles for asking.

① **As you read the principles below, read the corresponding Scriptures.**

1. Ask in the Spirit. This means that every request proceeds from the mind of the Spirit, not from selfish motives or self-serving ends. Praying in the Spirit is directly related to praying according to His will.

In the Spirit

"I will pray with the spirit" (1 Corinthians 14:15).

"Pray at all times in the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:18).

2. Ask according to His will. Our weakness in prayer is this: "We do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us ... according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26-27). Ask according to God's will with the help of the Holy Spirit. When you don't know what to ask, keep praying and seeking God's direction for your request.

According to His Will

"This is the confidence we have before Him: whenever we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked Him for" (1 John 5:14-15).

3. Ask with the mind. Your mind helps you form your requests and make them precise and specific. This is one reason to list prayer requests in a notebook. A prayer list keeps your mind from wandering as you pray and enables you to pray specifically and persistently until the answer comes.

With the Mind

"I will also pray with my mind" (1 Corinthians 14:15, NIV).

② **List the first three principles of asking.**

1. Ask in _____
2. Ask according to _____
3. Ask with _____

4. Ask in Jesus' name. When you use Jesus' name, you claim to represent Him and act like Him—to have His desires, qualities, gratitude, and outlook. When you prepare to make a request,

first ask yourself, *What would Jesus want in this situation?* Let His desires become your desires. Praying in Jesus' name also relates to praying according to His will.

In Jesus' Name

"If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:14).

5. Ask while abiding in Christ. Prayer is both a means and a result of abiding in Christ. To abide in Him, you continue in constant fellowship with Him, you pray without ceasing, and you obediently accept His will and Word for you. As a branch abides in the vine, a Christian abides in Christ. Spend time with Him in prayer and in His Word.

Abiding in Christ

"If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you" (John 15:7).

6. Ask in faith. Asking in faith means asking without doubt in your heart. Believe that the things you ask will come to pass. Reflect God's character in always being the same. Recognize God's authority and power to answer in the way He chooses. Have confidence in God's care and purposes for your life. Finally, you can claim a God-given Bible promise and anticipate God's response.

In Faith

"Have faith in God. Therefore, I tell you, all the things you pray and ask for—believe that you have received them, and you will have them" (Mark 11:22, 24).

③ List three more principles of asking.

4. Ask in _____
5. Ask while _____
6. Ask in _____

7. Ask in humility. Praying in humility recognizes your need of God. Humility submits to God, whereas pride, arrogance, and independence prevent an attitude of humility. The secret to humility is to understand who God is. Pride always indicates that you have failed to perceive His greatness. Come to God recognizing His greatness and your need.

In Humility

"[If] My people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray ..." (2 Chronicles 7:14).

8. Ask in sincerity. When you pray in sincerity, your faith leads you to pray genuine, heartfelt prayers. You are so serious about your praying that your prayer is earnest and fervent, not fake or artificial.

In Sincerity

"The intense prayer of the righteous is very powerful" (James 5:16).

9. Ask with perseverance. *Perseverance means persistence, not giving up.* God expects you to persevere in prayer to make you sure of what He wants and of what you want. He wants to train you to take your eyes off discouraging circumstances and to focus on Him. He also wants you to prove and establish earnestness and to demonstrate real faith.

With Perseverance

"Pray at all times in the Spirit, and stay alert in this, with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18).

10. Ask using God's words. Quote God's Word to Him. In this way you present God's own thoughts back to Him.

④ List the last four principles of asking.

7. Ask in _____
8. Ask in _____
9. Ask with _____
10. Ask using _____

↕ **Review the 10 principles for asking. You may want to write them on an index card for regular review. Now spend some time with your Father and Master in prayer. As you phrase your requests, practice the principles for asking. Begin keeping a list of your requests so that you can pray with your mind.**

Day 5: Agreeing Together

Today's Prayer Promise

"I assure you: Whatever you bind on earth is already bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth is already loosed in heaven. Again, I assure you: If two of you on earth agree about any matter that you pray for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven" (Matthew 18:18-19).

When our church or life groups prays together, God is present, and His people are present. United prayer includes a visible union (people gathered together) and an agreement of mind and heart. Agreeing together in prayer, however, is not just human agreement. God is involved. The kind of agreement we seek is agreeing with God in our requests. That kind of praying comes about only through the leadership of the Holy Spirit. When you agree with God in prayer, your request will be answered.

① Read today's prayer promise above, Matthew 18:18-19. Underline the promise God makes to you when you pray with others in agreement.

Jesus promised that if we pray in agreement, our Father will do what we ask. In addition, Jesus taught us to pray, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). When we pray in agreement, we seek His will to be done on earth. In a sense we pray in this sequence:

1. "Our Father in heaven, what is Your will in this matter?"
2. The Holy Spirit guides us to know the mind of the Father.
3. We pray: "Father, we ask You to do that on earth according to Your wishes. We agree with Your purposes and ways."
4. God answers this prayer of agreement.

You may want to ask, How can we get to the point at which we can hear and respond in prayer that way? I believe the following process is part of agreeing with God in prayer.

Get into agreement with God

As we have already studied this week, sin, unbelief, and wrong motives hinder our relationship with God.

② Read James 1:6-7, James 4:2-3, and Psalm 66:18 below and match the verses with the barriers that hinder answered prayer. Write a reference beside each barrier below.

"Let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter ... should not expect to receive anything from the Lord."—James 1:6-7

"You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and don't receive because you ask wrongly, so that you may spend it on your desires for pleasure."—James 4:2-3

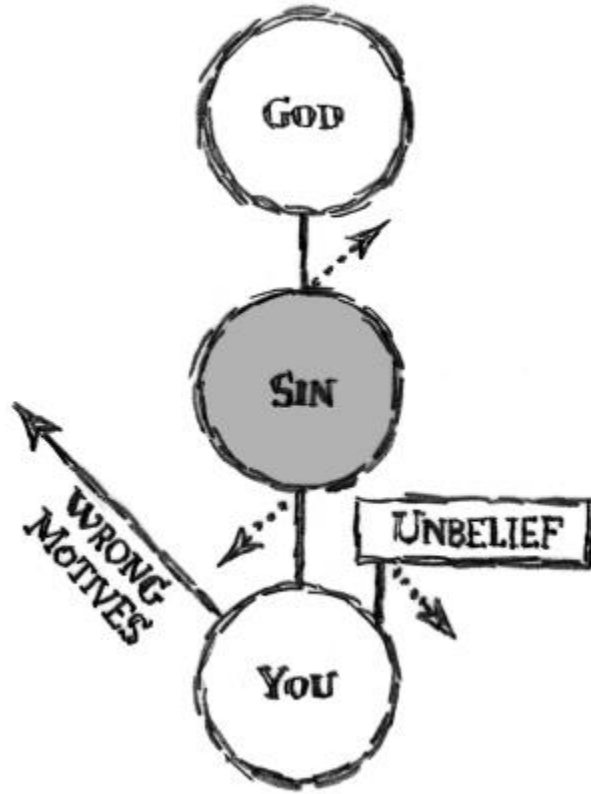
"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened" (NIV).—Psalm 66:18

Sin: _____

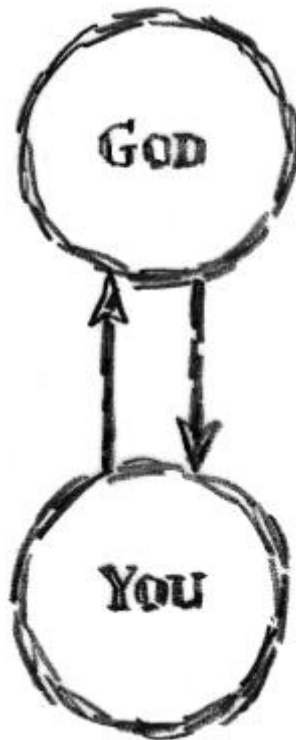
Doubt/unbelief: _____

Wrong motives: _____

You cannot be in agreement with God when sin (Psalm 66:18), unbelief (James 1:6-7), and wrong motives (James 4:2-3) are prominent in your life. God chooses not to listen to and answer the prayers of such people. Consequently, such people are out of agreement with God (see diagram 1). The first step toward praying in agreement is to remove these barriers to your prayers. You need to get to the place where God is listening when you pray and you hear clearly when He speaks and leads. Make right your relationship with God, and you will be in a place of agreement with Him (see diagram 2).



1. Out of Agreement with God



2. In Agreement with God

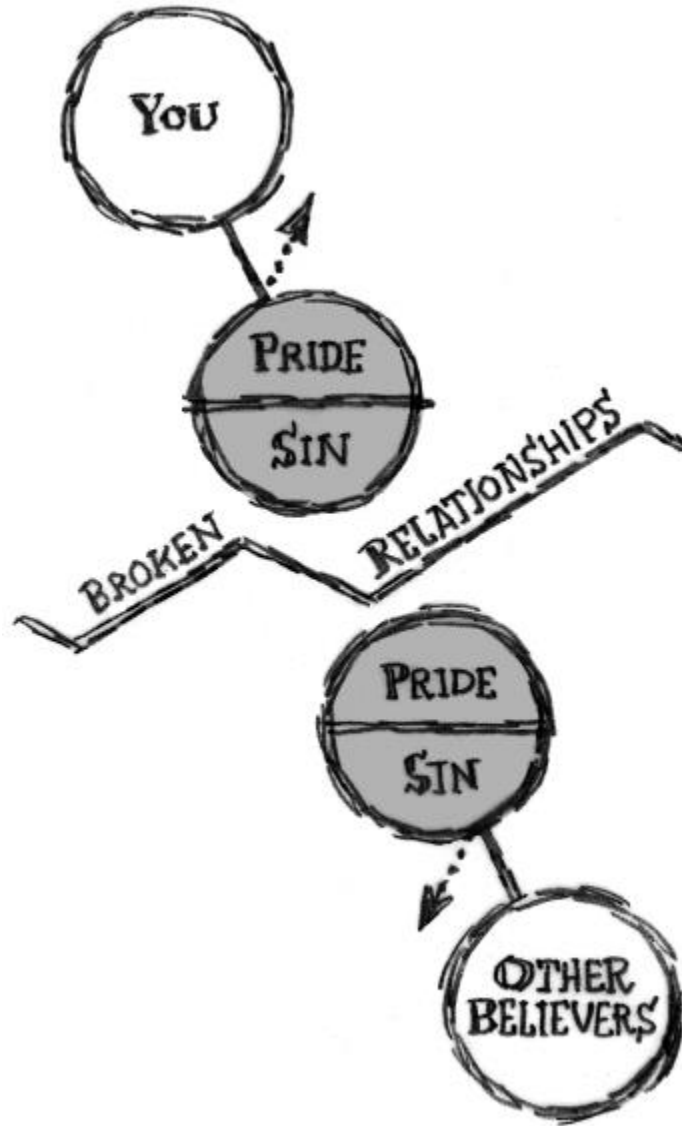
All who are praying together must do the same. If one of you is wrong with the Lord, that broken relationship can hinder the whole group's prayer. Everyone in our group and our church should be right with the Lord if we want God to answer our prayers as we pray in agreement with Him.

↕ **Pause to pray. Ask God to reveal any sin, unbelief, or wrong motives in your life that would hinder your relationship with Him. Pray by name for each member in your prayer group right now, asking God to help each person move to a right relationship with Him as well. Don't proceed until you have prayed.**

Get into agreement with others

The early church spent much time praying together with one mind and one heart: "These were continually united in prayer" ([Acts 1:14](#)). "Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God" ([Acts 2:46-47](#)). "The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common" ([Acts 4:32](#)). The church is a body, with every part dependent on the other parts. We need one another to function properly.

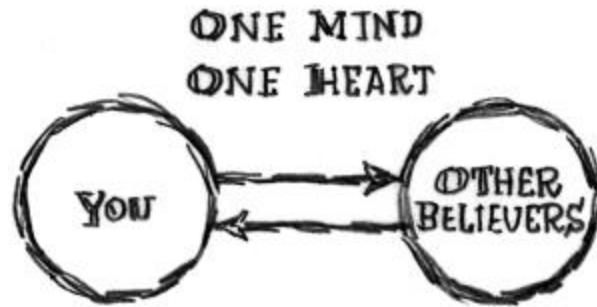
Pride, sin, and broken relationships can hinder our agreement with other believers (see diagram 3 below). Jesus said, "If you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift" ([Matthew 5:23-24](#)). Apply this same principle when you come to prayer. Until you are right with another person, you are not acceptable to the Lord. You cannot pray in agreement with another if anything is not right between you.



3. Out of Agreement with Others

Many sins we studied in day 3 relate to others: anger, wrath, broken relationships, hypocrisy, indifference to need, iniquities (moral crookedness or failure), and un-forgiveness.

Pride is also a major sin that may keep you from agreeing with others or from being reconciled with them. Pride may cause you to think you don't need your brothers and sisters in Christ. It may cause you to think you are closer to the Lord than they are; therefore, you don't pay much attention to what and how they pray. You must humble yourself and submit to one another to be of one heart and mind. You need to reconcile broken relationships and bring your life into unity and harmony with them (see diagram 4 below).

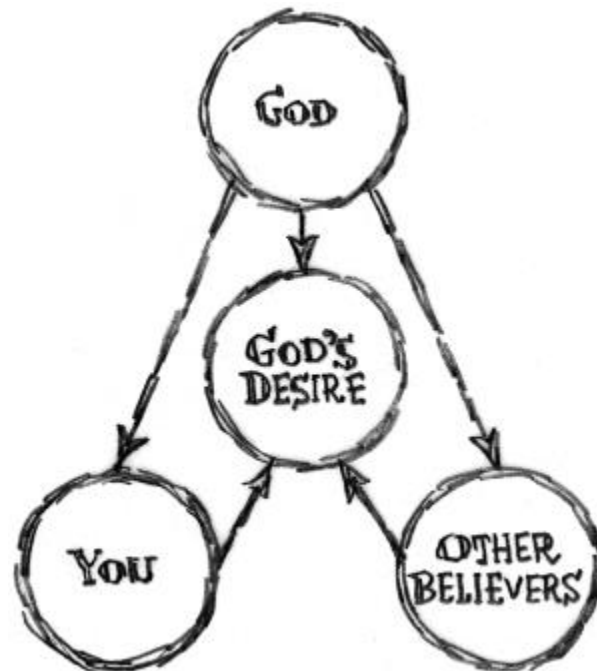


4. In Agreement with Others

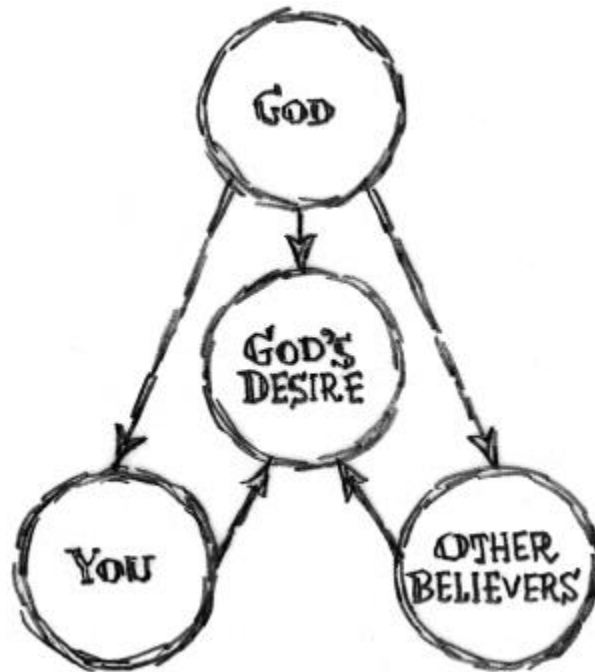
↕ Pray and ask God to reveal to you any sin or broken relationship that you may have with other believers. If He reveals anything, begin the process of seeking reconciliation. Write notes below about the things God brings to mind that need to be corrected.

Seek God's perspective and pray in agreement with God

After you and all of the believers praying with you are right with God and with one another, you are ready to pray in agreement. Look at diagrams 5 and 6 below. Notice that you first seek God's perspective (5). You want to know what He desires in the matter about which you are praying. As you pray and seek the Lord's will in the matter, He will begin to reveal what is on His heart. Then pray in agreement with God. Let His desire become your request (6). God reveals what He wants to do. When you ask in agreement with Him, His answer is yes!



5. Agreeing with God



6. *Praying in Agreement*

③ Review "Suggestions for Praying Together" in *Discipleship Helps* Underline key ideas that will help you and your group pray in agreement.

Suggestions for Praying Together this Week

Be specific in what you ask of God. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your praying according to God's will. Pay attention to the direction in which the Holy Spirit prompts you to pray. As you begin to form your request on a subject, check your spirit for confirmation of what others are praying. If a spirit of agreement prevails, express it. If a question or a doubt exists, express it. Don't hide questions or doubts from the Lord or from those with whom you are praying. These may lead to further praying, which may lead to the correct request.

Consider God's viewpoint and give God reasons to answer. Consider these possible reasons: the prayer request can—

1. uphold God's honor;
2. appeal for God's glory;
3. appeal to God's character;
4. acknowledge God's sovereignty.

Ask yourselves, *What would Jesus ask for?* Remember that Jesus is praying with you and for you. Ask, "Holy Spirit, what do You want us to pray according to the Father's will?" Is this a request of a child to a Father or of a servant to a Master?

Use biblical principles, patterns, and promises to guide your requests. Pay attention to Scriptures that come to mind as you pray. They could be the Holy Spirit's promptings. When a person's prayer causes a Scripture to come to mind, pay attention to what God may be saying through that Scripture. If your spirit agrees with what someone is praying, then tell the Lord that you agree. These kinds of prayers will greatly increase your faith as you pray. God can and will guide you to pray in a specific direction so that you know the answer has been granted. Then you can wait in great expectation for the answer.

Seek Spirit-guided agreement with others in your prayers. Don't settle for mere human agreement. Pray on major issues until you come to one heart and mind on a matter. Listen to the prayers of others for direction or answers to your prayers. Often, guidance or direction comes while you are praying, not before. If heartfelt agreement does not come, keep on praying for days and weeks until God gives direction.

↕ **Conclude your study today by praying. Ask God to teach you and your prayer group how to pray in agreement. Ask Him to begin teaching you through your experience praying together this week.**

1. Out of Agreement with God
2. In Agreement with God
3. Out of Agreement with Others
4. In Agreement with Others
5. Agreeing with God
6. Praying in Agreement

Session 4: Asking Prayers

Opening Prayer

Volunteer to pray sentence prayers of praise and worship as you begin the session.

1. What are eight reasons God answers prayer? Which one of these stands out as particularly meaningful or practical to you and why? (Day 2)

2. What prayer request did you list, and what did you identify as reasons God would want to answer it? (p.6 Day 2)

3. What are some reasons God does not answer prayer or says no? (Day 3)

4. In your opinion which of these reasons may be the greatest cause of unanswered prayer in the church today and why?

5. Without looking, see if you can identify the 10 principles for asking. (Day 4)

6. Using the diagrams, describe what praying in agreement means. (Day 5)

This Week's Prayer Focus: Thanksgiving

(See Discipleship Helps Prayers of Thanksgiving for examples and topics.)

1. What are some ways God has bestowed His blessings, riches, and bounty on you? Tell of specific times or ways God has blessed or provided.

2. Share in giving thanks and expressing your gratitude to the Lord for what He has done.

Interacting with the Scriptures

1. Write as a quote Philippians 4:6.

2. What verse, prayer promise, or other Scripture has been most meaningful or challenging to you this week and why?

3. What truth about prayer or experience with God in prayer has been most meaningful or practical this week?

Praying Together

Join in and pray as members to pray for one another. This is not a time to pray for others outside of your life group for whom you are concerned but for those in your life group. Ask those in your group: How can I/we pray for you? After a person shares, spend a few minutes praying for him or her. After you've prayed for one person, support and encourage others in the group to move to the next person and follow the same process until everyone has been prayed for.

Previewing Week 5

Preview your study for the coming week Petition.

Closing Prayer

Pray that the Lord will teach us by experience how to pray in agreement with Him and with one another. Thank Him for His presence with you and your life group as you pray together.