

## "THE POWER OF GOD IN PRAYER"

Five Week Bible Class:

1. God's Power – ACTS

2. Adoration – 3. Confession

4. Thanksgiving – 5. Supplication

Date: 5-13-18 Lesson 1 - God's Power



### TEXTS:

**(Matthew 6:5-15)** "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. (6) But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (7) "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. (8) Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (9) Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (10) Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (11) Give us this day our daily bread, (12) and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (13) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (14) For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, (15) but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

**(Luke 6:12-13)** In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. (13) And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:

**(Luke 10:1-2)** After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. (2) And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

**(Luke 22:39-47)** And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. (40) And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." (41) And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, (42) saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." (43) And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. (44) And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (45) And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, (46) and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

**(Romans 8:26-27)** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (27) And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

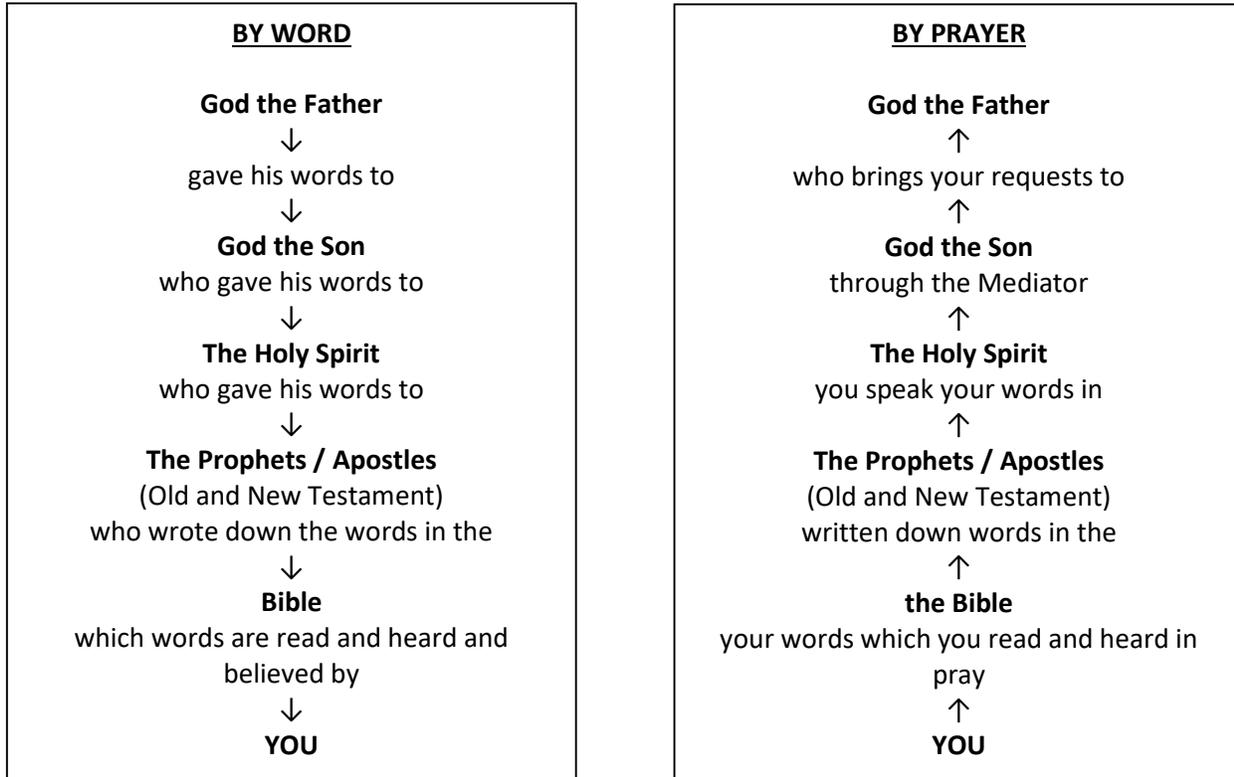
**(Colossians 1:3-9)** We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, (4) since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, (5) because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, (6) which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing--as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, (7) just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf (8) and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. (9) And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

**(Jude 1:20-21)** But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; (21) keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

**STUDY NOTES:**

1. One of the main important theological truths for us to remember is this: Many people claim to “believe in the power of prayer.” But this phrase can be misleading. Even non-Christians can say they “believe in the power of prayer.” This can turn prayer into a new-age type of meditation. People begin to imagine that there is some magnetic, innate power just in the practice of prayer, apart from whether it is addressed to the actual, true and living God. In reality, the Triune God has all the power, prayer is not the power. Prayer is asking the Lord God to exert his power on our behalf.

2. In the Scriptures, the Triune God speaks to us in His Word and we speak to him in Prayer. A two-way conversation.



3. In the Ecumenical Creeds, we confess the Power of God in all three articles:

**A. Apostles' Creed** - I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,...He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit...the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**B. Nicene Creed** - I believe in one God,

the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made... ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets... the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**C. Athanasian Creed** - In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;

and yet there are not three Almighties, but one Almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is

God, the Holy Spirit is God; and yet there are not three Gods, but one God. So the Father is

Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord; and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord...

**LIFE APPLICATION:** So what do we mean when we say that we believe in the power of God through prayer?