

Sense and Nonsense About Prayer – AK 10

COMMENTER'S GUIDE

WRITE IT OUT!

(ON SCANNABLE SINGLE PAGE ANSWER SHEETS ONLY)

These 2 additional questions, not found in the exam booklet are designed to make the student dig into the Biblical text and show they understand the Biblical principles studied throughout the course.

Questions 1 – What does it mean to "pray in the Spirit"?

1 - POSSIBLE ANSWERS

It means that one can pray in the flesh or pray in the Spirit and true prayer is a superhuman task that requires the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit. Christians are engaged in spiritual warfare and prayer is a mighty weapon that will overcome. We pray not in order to have God yield to our will, which would be prayer in the flesh, but to yield ourselves to His will and His Spirit.

1 - HELPFUL COMMENTS

1 - VERSES

Questions 2 – Describe the difference between *union* with Christ and *communion* with Christ.

2 - POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Union is an unchanging position in Christ that a believer has by faith. It is solid and sure because it is based on the work of Christ. *Communion* with Christ on the other hand is practical and subject to change. It refers to the abiding fellowship with Jesus that is the source of joy, love and fruitfulness in the life of a believer.

2 - HELPFUL COMMENTS

2 - VERSES

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

These questions are designed to help the student express their thoughts, feelings, and opinions about something they have learned from the chapter.

EXAM 1 – As you think about your own prayers, in what areas do you know you need to improve?

1 - COMMENTS

- Pray for spiritual things more than physical things because spiritual things are eternal and far more important.

- Many verses show this contrast (e.s. [Matt. 6:19-20, 31-33](#); [Heb. 9:27](#); [1 Tim. 4:8](#)).

1 - VERSES

- [Rom. 8:26-27](#) The Spirit helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us.
- [1 Thess. 5:17-18](#) Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you
- [Rom. 8:15](#) Call God "Father" when you pray.
- [1 John 5:14-15](#) Pray for things that are consistent with God's will and character. Jesus said, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." ([Luke 22:42](#)).

EXAM 2 – If you feel like God is not hearing your prayers, what do you need to do about it?

2 - COMMENTS

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2 - VERSES

- [1 John 5:14-15](#) Pray for things which are consistent with His will and Character. In the Lord's prayer for daily needs and God's will be done and other spiritual things ([Matt. 6:9-13](#)).
- [1 John 1:9](#) Confess our sins.
- [Ps. 66:18](#) If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.
- [Prov. 28:13](#) He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.
- [John 9:31](#) Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.
- [James 4:3](#) You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

EXAM 3 – What have you been praying for with the wrong motive? How will you adjust your thinking about what you want from God?

3 - COMMENTS

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3 - VERSES

- [James 4:3](#) You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.
- [Ps. 37:4](#) Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.
- [Matt. 6:33](#) Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things (your actual needs defined per v.31) shall be added to you.
- [1 Cor. 10:31](#) Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

- [1 Tim. 2:1-4](#) Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men...that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

EXAM 4 – Share something you have been praying for that you realize is not “praying in the Spirit.” How are you now going to pray?

4 - COMMENTS

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4 - VERSES

- [Eph. 6:18-19](#) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.
- [Rom. 8:26](#) The Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
- [1 Cor. 14:15](#) I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding.
- [1 John 5:14-15](#) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

EXAM 5 – Summarize in your own words what it means to pray in the name of Jesus.

5 - COMMENTS

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5 - VERSES

- [John 14:13-14](#) Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.
- [John 16:23-24](#) Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ... Ask, and you will receive.
- To pray in the name of Jesus is to pray with the understanding that it is by His Person and work that we have access to the Father ([Eph. 3:11-12](#)) and it is to pray consistent with His character and will ([1 John 5:14-15](#)).
- [Heb. 11:6](#) Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

EXAM 6 – How do you think you can increase your faith so your prayers can be more effective? What steps will you take to do this?

6 - COMMENTS

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6 - VERSES

- [Rom. 10:17](#) Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- [Matt. 21:21-22](#) Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.
- [Heb. 11:6](#) Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
- [1 John 5:14-15](#) This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.
- [James 1:5-7](#) If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting.
- [Ps. 1:1-3](#) Meditate on God's Word.
- [John 15:4-5](#) Abide in Christ.

EXAM 7 – Have you personally struggled to forgive others? Please share briefly about *either* a spiritual victory you have had *or* an ongoing struggle. Your instructor will be glad to pray for you.

7 - COMMENTS

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7 - VERSES

- [Matt. 18:21-22](#) Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.
- [Matt. 6:14-15](#) If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- [Mark 11:25-26](#) Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.
- [Eph. 4:32](#) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

EXAM 8 – What do you know about God that assures you that His will for you is “good and acceptable and perfect”? How does that encourage you to want His will?

8 - COMMENTS

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8 - VERSES

- [Ps. 119:68](#); Ps 23 God is good and does good.

- [Jer. 29:11-13](#) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.
- [Rom. 8:29](#) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
- [Rom. 12:1-2](#) Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
- [Ps. 143:10](#) Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

EXAM 9 – Name at least two things people in the Bible thanked God for (also list the references). For what do you need to thank God?

9 - COMMENTS

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9 - VERSES

- [Phil. 4:6](#) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.
- [Ps. 100:4](#) Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
- [2 Cor. 9:15](#) Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!
- [Eph. 5:20](#) Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- [1 Thess. 5:17-18](#) Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- [Heb. 13:15](#) By Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

EXAM 10 – In your own experience, how has abiding in Christ affected your prayer life?

10 - COMMENTS

- To abide in Christ means to spend quality time with Him, to remain in fellowship with Him by obeying Him and quickly repenting and confessing our sin when we disobey. And to make it the habit of our life to keep Christ (His character, Person, work, and will) at the forefront of our thinking in everything. Then Christ (the Vine will produce His fruit (His character) through us ([John 15:1-5](#)).

10 - VERSES

- [John 15:5](#) I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
- [John 15:7](#) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

- [1 John 4:13](#) By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.
- [Rom. 8:38-39](#) I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

EXAM 11 – How do you need to change your patterns of giving in order to meet God’s requirement for answering your prayer?

11 - COMMENTS

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11 - VERSES

- [Prov. 14:31](#) He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.
- [Prov. 21:13](#) Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard.
- [Luke 6:38](#) Give, and it will be given to you.
- [2 Cor. 9:6-7](#) He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.
- [Phil. 4:19](#) God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

EXAM 12 – Share at least one way this course has benefited your prayer life and habits.

12 - COMMENTS

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12 - VERSES

- [Luke 18:1](#) Men always ought to pray and not lose heart.
- [Rom. 12:12](#) Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.
- [Col. 4:2-3](#) Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ.
- [1 Peter 4:7](#) Be serious and watchful in your prayers.
- [Matt. 26:41](#) Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- [John 5:24](#) He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.