

**STEP 11 - SOUGHT THROUGH PRAYER AND MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD TO INCREASE OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM, PRAYING CONTINUALLY FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL FOR US AND THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT TO ACCOMPLISH IT.**

James 4:8 says, "Come near to God and He will come near to you." As we continue to pray and meditate we will become more attuned to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Someone once said, "Prayer is talking to God and meditation is listening to Him." We meditate by reading God's Word and then thinking about it, turning it over in our minds until the Holy Spirit reveals its meaning to us.

Once God begins revealing to us what His will for us is in our lives, we must continue to seek His direction and the power needed to carry it out. We will discover, as we practice this Step, how powerfully the Holy Spirit is working in our lives and also, that the "good news of salvation" will have ever increasing reality to us.

**GOD'S DIRECTION AND REWARD**

**PROVERBS 4:20-22** - My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.

1. Are you opening your heart to God's direction?
2. What four things are we directed to do, and why?
3. If you are doing these things, how has it changed your life?

**PSALM 1:1-3** - Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.

1. What three things are we blessed for not doing, and why?
2. What does the Scripture say happens when we continually meditate on the Lord?
3. Are we lining up with "God's word" or the "world's word"?

**PAUL'S PRAYER FOR US (PERSONALIZE)**

**EPHESIANS 3:14-19** - For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

1. Do you have a specific time and place set aside for daily prayer?
2. Why do we need the "power" that Paul prays that we receive?

## OUR HEARTS DESIRE (GIVEN BY GOD)

**PSALM 19:14** - May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

1. What does "the meditation of my heart" mean to you?
2. Do you think that "what you say" and the "meditation of your heart" are connected?

**PSALM 40:8** - I desire to do your will, O my God, your law is within my heart.

1. What does it mean "your law is within my heart"?
2. When does God "write his law" on our hearts? (Hebrews 8:10)
3. Has this happened in your life? Explain.

**PSALM 119:10 & 11** - I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

1. What should our attitude towards God be? Why should we know his word?
2. What does it mean to "hide God's word in our hearts"?
3. Do we set aside time daily for study and meditation on God's word?

**PSALM 143:10** - Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

1. What shall we seek from God and where will it lead us?
2. Has there been any "leveling of the ground" in your life since you have begun allowing God to be God instead of yourself?

**MATTHEW 12:50** - "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

1. What is the "will of the Father"? How can we know it?
2. When we do God's will, what is our relationship with Jesus?

## PRAYER - IN THE CLOSET

**LUKE 6:12** - One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

1. Why did Jesus need to get alone with the Father?
2. When we are troubled, how often do we "spend the night in prayer"?
3. Do we set aside time to just commune with the Father? How much?

**MATTHEW 6:5-13** - "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

This, then, is how you should pray: `Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'"

1. Do we spend most of our prayer time in the "closet" or in the "assembly"?
2. How do I pray in public? How do I pray in private? Do they differ?
3. If God already "knows our needs", why should we pray?

**MATTHEW 7:7 & 8** - "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

1. What does "ask", "seek", and "knock" mean to you? How are they different?
2. What does the word promise if we seek God?
3. Should we just pray once about a situation, or should we continue to pray?

**JOHN 16:23 & 24** - "In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

1. Are we to pray to Jesus, the Father, or both?
2. Does the Scripture really mean the Father will give us "anything" we ask for in Jesus name?
3. Are we learning to pray Scripturally? Do we expect answers to our prayers?

### PRAYER - IN AGREEMENT WITH OTHERS

**ACTS 1:14** - They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

1. What does it mean to be "united in prayer"?
2. Do we still pray as they did in the early church, or was that just for then?

**ACTS 4:29-31** - "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

1. Can we still expect that "signs and wonders" will happen to and through us?
2. What were they praying for? To glorify whose name?

**2 CORINTHIANS 10:4 & 5** - The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretention that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

1. What are the weapons of the believer? What are the weapons of the world?
2. How many of our thoughts are we to take captive for Christ? Is this possible?

**MATTHEW 18:18-20** - "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

1. Is this really true? Will God really do this? Is his presence really here?
2. What does "to bind" mean? What does "to loose" mean? How do we "agree"?
3. How should we pray when we come together? What does God promise will happen?

### **PRAYER - WHERE, WHEN, WHY AND HOW**

**EPHESIANS 6:18** - And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

1. How should we pray? What should we pray for?
2. Why do we need to "keep alert"?
3. Why should we "keep praying for all the saints"? Who are the saints?

**MATTHEW 26:41** - "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

1. How do we "watch and pray"? Why?
2. If we are "new creations", why is the "body weak"?

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18** - Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1. What does "always", "continually" and "all" mean to you?
2. Does "circumstances" include both the good and the bad?
3. Is it possible to: "be joyful in all things", "pray continually" and "give thanks in all circumstances"? How do we know?