Lesson 4

A NEW FAITH

(A Change in Who I Ask For Help)

Communication is an important part of any relationship. Without good communication, thoughts, feelings, and desires remain unknown. Just as Godly parents enjoy hearing their children talk to them, your Heavenly Father loves to hear His children talk to Him. God Himself says: "The prayer of the upright is His delight!" (Proverbs 15:8)

In the previous lesson you learned that God talks to you through His Word, the Bible. In this lesson you will learn that you talk to God through prayer.

WHERE DO I GO FOR HELP?

God says: "Call unto Me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3).

Turn to Psalm 86 and answer these questions:

1. How often did David pray? (verse 3) __

2. King David, like every believer, had many needs in his life. What are some of the things David prayed for?

Psalm 86:3 - __

Psalm 86:4 - __

Psalm 86:5 - __

Psalm 86:7 - __

Psalm 86:11 -__

__

Psalm 86:16 -__

3. Besides asking God to meet his various needs, what else did David include in his prayers? (86:12)

HOW DO I PRAY?

Prayer is simply talking to God from your heart. Please read Matthew 6:5-13.

1. According to the Lord Jesus, when you pray your words should be sincere, not hypocritical. You should not pray to be seen by whom? (verse 5) _____

2. Also Jesus taught that your prayers should be meaningful. In other words, God wants your prayers to come from your heart. Because of this, how does Jesus tell us not to pray? (verse 7)

(Note: The word "vain" means empty or without meaning; the word "repetition" refers to repeating the same words over and over.)

The Lord Jesus gives a great lesson on the "manner" (or the "how to") of prayer in verses 9-13. In doing so, He did not intend for you to repeat these very words over and over again. This would be considered "vain repetition." Rather, Jesus gives you a pattern for how to pray. He gives you a model, an example, a format, or outline for prayer, so that you can have an understanding of what you should pray about each day.

3. Since you have been "born again," you have a personal relationship with God. Because of this relationship, you can call God by what name when you pray? (verse 9)?

_____

4. Match the verse reference to the statement (See verses 9-13):

When you pray you should pray about these matters:

Ask God for protection from sin - Verse _____

Ask God to provide our needs - Verse _____

Spend time praising God for who He is - Verse __

Let God know how much you desire His

plan for your life and for the future - Verse _____

Ask God to pardon your sin - Verse _____

DOES GOD REALLY ANSWER PRAYER?

Notice Matthew 7:7-11.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ promised answers to prayer. What word occurs three times in Matthew 7:7 to prove this?

_____

2. How many of God's children can receive answers to their prayers? (verse 8)

_____

Look again at verses 9-11 in chapter 7 of Matthew.

3. What type of gifts does our Heavenly Father give to His children? (verse 11)

_____

WHOSE PRAYER DOES GOD HEAR?

1. Even though God promises to answer prayer, each promise has a certain condition that must be met. State the conditions described in the verses below:

Mark 11:24 - a.__

Mark 11:25 - b.__

John 14:13-14 __

John 15:7 - a.__

b.__

I John 3:22- a.__

b.__

I John 5:14-15 - __

James 5:16 - __

God loves to hear the prayers of those who are living lives which honor Him. The Bible says: ". . . the prayer of the upright is His delight" (Proverbs 15:8).

2. What is one reason why God does not answer some prayers? (James 4:3)

_____

FOR WHOM SHOULD I PRAY?

Besides praying for yourself, God says that we should also pray for whom?

(I Timothy 2:1) _____

* This means you should pray for those you know who are unsaved (I Timothy 2:4) and for those who are saved.

* Start a prayer list and include the names of your family, distant relatives, friends, neighbors and fellow Christians.

* To know how to pray for believers, study Colossians 1:9-11, and pattern your prayers after the Apostle Paul's example.