BIBLE STUDY

**Becoming A Person of Prayer**

**Lesson 5A: Prayer & The Godhead**

**DISCUSSION**

While Josh McDowell was attending seminary in California, his father went Home to be with the Lord. His mother had died years earlier, but Josh was not sure of her salvation. He became depressed, thinking that she might be lost. Was she a Christian or not? The thought obsessed him. "Lord," he prayed, "somehow give me the answer so I can get back to normal. I've just got to know." It seemed like an impossible request.

Two days later, Josh drove out to the ocean. He walked to the end of a pier to be alone. There sat an old woman in a lawnchair, fishing. "Where's your home originally?" she asked.

"Michigan -- Union City," Josh replied. "Nobody's heard of it. I tell people it's a suburb of --" "Battle Creek," interrupted the woman. "I had a cousin from there. Did you know the McDowell family?"

Stunned, Josh responded, "Yes, I'm Josh McDowell!"

"I can't believe it," said the woman. "I'm a cousin to your mother."

"Do you remember anything at all about my mother's spiritual life?" asked Josh. "Why sure -- your mom and I were just girls -- teenagers -- when a tent revival came to town. It was the fourth night -- we both went forward to accept Christ."

"Praise God!" shouted Josh, startling the surrounding fishermen.

Our Daily Bread

The Holy Spirit helps us in prayer when we are on God’s program!

The Holy Spirit *intercedes* for us. \*What does intercede mean?

The Holy Spirit *interprets* what is on our hearts and speaks to God on our behalf.

Romans 8:26

The Holy Spirit *identifies* with our pain, clarifies that pain, and communicates it to the Father in a way we could never do ourselves.

This is the Holy Spirit’s role in prayer.

What is Jesus’ role when I pray?

**DISCOVERY**

We must remember that the Godhead (God the Father, God the Son, & God the Holy Spirit) co-exists and works together harmoniously.

As the Holy Spirit has a role in our prayer lives, so does Jesus.

Jesus, the Christ, is in Heaven praying for us. He too is interceding for us.

**Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25**

That Christ is at the right hand of God means that He is in the place of **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

**Matthew 28:18; Philippians 2:9; Colossians 1:18**

When Jesus prays for us, He is praying with, by, and through the authority that He has in both Heaven and Earth.

Robert Murray M’Cheyne, a 19th-century Scottish minister, said, “If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet the distance makes no difference; he is praying for me!”

The question is what does Jesus pray when he intercedes for us?

John 17 gives us insight as to what Jesus is praying. It reveals Jesus’ heart.

Jesus’ prayer in John 17 can be segmented into three parts. He prays for:

* Himself (**1**-5)
* His Disciples (**6**-19)
* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (20-26)**

Using verses 20-26, can you identify what Jesus prayed for us?

* Fraternal unity (one another) – v.21
  + Psalm 133
* Spiritual union with God and Christ – v.21
  + Galatians 2:20
  + Ephesians 1:13-14
* Be with Christ where He is - v.24
  + John 14:3
  + 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10
* God’s love, through Christ, would be in them – v.26
  + Ephesians 3:18-19
  + 1 John 4:16

Jesus, in this prayer, prayed for security, sanctity, and unity.

Too often though as believers we display character qualities inconsistent with Christ’s prayer: selfishness, competition, and disunity.

Christ is concerned that His people experience a spiritual unity that is like the oneness of the Father and the Son.

The spiritual priorities of the Savior’s heart are evident in this prayer:

* the glory of God;
* the sanctity of God’s people;
* the unity of the church;
* the ministry of sharing the Gospel with a lost world.

**DIRECTION**

**Use one of the prayer patterns as a guide to your prayer time this week.**

**Read John 17**