



All Christians' Fellowship International

P.O. Box 1193 * Frederick, MD 21702 USA * Phone (301) 695-4328 * Fax (301) 591-4013

Introduction to the Christian Faith – (Youths and Young Adults)

Lesson #12 Getting to Know God Better

In this lesson you will learn:

- **Ways to strengthen our walk with God**
- **Ways that God speaks to us**
- **How prayer helps us grow**

One of the most important things that God wants you to do is to **grow in your knowledge of him.**

When a couple gets married, they wish to build a relationship and grow together. Many of those skills include communication, love, and a stronger spiritual base if they are Christians.

As we grow in our relationship with God it is much the same. We need to add to our faith all the assets that help us to be a strong follower of Christ.

2 Peter 1:5-8 shares a list of things we need to add to our faith to keep us from being ineffective.

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Communication with God needs to be a two-way street. Learning to listen and speak with God is done through prayer. This means waiting and listening for him to speak to us. God can also speak to us through his Word and often the Holy Spirit drops words and verses of scripture in our hearts as we read the Word and listen for it.

We must learn to listen before we can effectively ask. Learning to listen to God is done when we quiet ourselves and listen to him speak to our hearts. It takes time to learn how God speaks to us and when he does it's usually in a gentle whisper.

Prayer is the one of the main ways we can communicate with God. We must practice prayer regularly to develop a two-sided communication with the Father.

R.A Torrey said: *"We must let the words of Christ live in us and they will stir us up to prayer."*

Regular times of Bible intake help us learn and apply God's Word. It also should be a daily discipline. Communication in prayer also develops long term dependence on God. Prayer is a lifelong practice and is vital to our growth and application of the Word.

Ways to strengthen our relations with God:

1. Bible intake. Reading the bible helps us grow. Learning to memorize it helps us apply Gods Word in times of crisis. Bible reading is key to our success if we want to stand strong.
2. The preaching of the Word. If we are going to grow, we need to listen to the spoken word. Upon hearing the Word seeds are planted in our hearts that help us to practice and apply Gods Word to our lives. Doing so will help us grow deeper in our relationship with God. **Romans 10:14** says: *"How, then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"*
3. Bible intake also must be done on a personal level. We must form a discipline of meditating on God's Word. In doing so it will allow the Holy Spirit to bring to mind what we have memorized. This is often referred as the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

R.A Torrey said this: *"If we seek to feed the fire of our prayers with the fuel of God's Word all our difficulties in prayer would disappear."*

4. Prayer is vital to a relationship with God. Having the Word and prayer together gives us a balanced diet of spiritual food. Daily intake will allow us to grow up as God intended.
5. Finally, we must be vigilant to listen to our peers.

God often speaks to us through:

- ✚ Other Christians in the body of Christ, our Pastors, and leaders. This may be the mainway though we need the input of others too.
- ✚ Friends saved and unsaved family. God will use our unsaved loved one to speak to us sometimes.
- ✚ God places small impressions in our spirit in response to what we have learned or read, most often in a time of prayer. These are often referred to as the prompting of the Spirit.

Remember, the Word of God is the instrument through which the Holy Spirit works. It can be difficult to grasp this truth early in your walk with God. As we grow it becomes more understandable.

As well, let us not forget emotionalism which can cause us to be more reliant on our feelings than our faith. We need to avoid basing spiritual decisions upon some emotional experience we've had over the biblical facts of God's Word.

The Holy Spirit can bring victory in battles we face when the Word of God is firmly planted in our hearts.

What Prayer does:

- Prayer can keep us on the straight and narrow road God intended for us.
God the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin helping us to stay on the path of righteousness.
- Prayer can calm our fears and anxieties
Philippians 4:6 and **Psalms 94:19** are verses that deal with anxiety.
- Prayer gives us assurance of our Salvation. Read: **John 5:24, Romans 8:38-39, Jude 1:24**
- It grants us peace in the midst of storms of life. Read: **John 14:27, Philippians 4:7, I Thessalonians 5:23-24**
- Prayer helps to apply the Word of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Read: **John 14:26**
- Praying helps us enter into the very presence of God where our strength lies.
Read: **Isaiah 41:10**

Questions for you about this lesson **Please look up the following verses in your Bible**

1. To whom should our prayers be directed? Read: **Matthew 6:9**
The term "Our Father" mentioned in these verses speak about the Lord's name that must be honored in all we do and ask.
2. If we pray for God's forgiveness, what must we do first? Read: **Matthew 6:12**
This forgiveness is for our daily sins, but without confessing our sins our communication with God is broken.
3. What should we constantly ask God to keep us from? Read: **Matthew 6:13**
4. What is necessary for a successful prayer life? Read: **Mark 11:22-24**
5. How can we be sure that God will hear and answer our prayers? Read: **1 John 3:21-22**
6. How does God make our paths straight? Read: **Proverbs 3:5-6**
7. What happens to the man or a woman that trusts in the Lord? Read: **Psalms 37:1-10**

Remember, God the Father answers prayer that God the Holy Spirit inspires. Hiding the word in our hearts brings power in prayer.