

## Holiness and Prayer

1. What was the place of your birth?
2. Where is the place where you first accepted Jesus as your Savior? Or if you were raised in a Christian home where did you decide to be baptized?
3. What was the most challenging thing you encountered in deciding to follow Jesus?
4. Prayerfully read Leviticus 10:1-11. What was the great sin of Nadab and Abihu? Why was it that they were not able to distinguish between holy and unholy? Why did God reject their prayers/worship (remember that the incense and fire of the censer by the priest represents the prayers of God's people – Revelation 5:8).
5. Holiness means sacred (special), or consecrated (set apart from the rest). How has your life become more sacred and set apart for God since you accepted Jesus as your Savior? Is holiness growing in your life, or have you leveled off?
6. Psalm 29:2 – How does the level of our allegiance affect our worship of God?
7. Psalm 66:18 – Why doesn't God hear the prayers of a person when they cherish sin?
8. Job 42:7-8 – How did Job's standing with God affect his prayers?
9. Deuteronomy 26:16-19 – What is the minimum level one may maintain and still be considered holy?
10. 1 Corinthians. 3:16-17 – What does it mean that our bodies are the holy temple of God?
11. Rom. 6:19 & 22, Ephesians 4:24 & Hebrews 12:10 & 14 – What is the way by which we may become holy?
12. Take some time now to consider areas in your life where more consecration, or holiness, is needed. You may wish to express this need for others in your group to pray about, or it may be of such a private nature that only God should hear your prayer. In either case spend some time now in prayer about your need of holiness.

## Acquiring the Skill of Prayer

1. Can you name the inventor of the telephone, his assistant and what the first words ever spoken over phone wires were?
2. Which of the following would you prefer to use to communicate, and which would you prefer others to use when communicating with you? 1) Hand written letter; 2) Typed letter (computer or typewriter); 3) Telephone; 4) E-mail; 5) Face to face conversation.
3. Have you ever had trouble communicating with God? Of these three, sleepiness, wandering thoughts, or trouble with what to say, which one has been the most troublesome for you in prayer?
4. How does it make you feel to know that people such as David (Ps. 35:13) had trouble with their prayer life?
5. What do you think about the idea that prayer is a skill we learn to do? Luke 11:1.
6. Since to pray in the Spirit means to pray with the help of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26) what can we do to receive that help?
7. The divine formula for success is  $HE+DP=V$ , or human effort plus divine power equals victory. Therefore, as a group, try out some of the following ideas. 1) Pray using Psalm 34; 2) Try using an outline, or list, such as praising God, then ask for things you need, then pray for people you care about, then end with praise; 3) Use an acronym such as ACTS, or Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving & Supplication; 4) Write out a prayer (Journaling); 5) Pray out loud and with your eyes open looking up to heaven; 6) Use music (someone could start a hymn or chorus); or try something one of the group would like.

## The Divine Science of Prayer

1. Which of the following was your favorite subject in school: math, science, history, English, P.E., health, home economics, shop, or . . .
2. Give an example of a law you don't like, and then give an example of a law you do like.
3. Like all of us, you have probably prayed for things but did not receive them. On the other hand, you have probably prayed for things and received the very thing you asked for. What do you think are the reasons God says yes on one occasion, but no on another occasion?
4. What are the ABC's of prayer? (Matt. 7:7, Mark 11:24 & John 11:41)
5. Heb. 11:6 says faith is essential to receive blessings from God. How do we get faith?
6. Why should we pray according to the will of God (1 John 5:14)? Is it ever possible to change God's mind about something?
7. According to Psalm 84:11 there is no good thing that God will withhold from us. What would be an example of something we might think is good that God would see as harmful to us?
8. Consider Isaiah 57:1-3 and 1 Corinthians 10:13. Can you think of some possible reasons God might not choose to heal someone even it means they die?
9. When we think about the will of God should there be any doubt that our prayers for eternal life, forgiveness, or victory over sin will be answered?
10. How does the Lord's Prayer begin and end? You will find it in Matt. 6:9-13.
11. What do you think about this quote from Ellen White: "We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. If the loving-kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer. We would abound more and more in the love of God and have more bestowed to praise Him for. You who complain that God does not hear your prayers, change your present order and mingle praise with your petitions. When you consider His goodness and mercies you will find that He will consider your wants." Prayer, pg. 87-88.