

# The Science of Prayer

## Its ABC's

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### LESSON I

#### THE SCIENCE OF THE PRAYER OF RECEPTION

##### Introduction

George Muller, in his declining years, was asked by a reporter the secret of his great faith. His answer was distilled in two words: "Great trouble."

During a time of great personal trouble, my wife and I learned from the Bible that true prayer is a science. We had been ministering the Word of God for many years. But we had never before thought of the exercise of prayer as a science.

We learned from God's word that in this "science of prayer" promises are like tiny seeds--apple, acorn, or grapefruit--that are nurtured when we accept, or receive them.

##### 1. "Science" means "to know."

The first word used in our dictionary to define "science," is "knowledge." To pray scientifically, then, is coming to the place where we can say, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." 1 John 5:14, 15. Not that we might have, or would like to have, but actually have.

##### 2. The basis of this knowledge is a simple seed.

"A sower went out to sow his seed. ..." Luke 8:5. 14

"The seed is the word of God." Verse 11.

A girl in British Columbia, Canada, was showing a grapefruit to friends, including some members of our team. It was observed that the grapefruit was open and a seed was exposed. The seed itself had cracked open. There to the gaze of all, could be seen a tiny, tiny grapefruit tree coming right out of that cracked seed. The tiny tree had two leaves, a trunk, and a root.

Rutherford Platt, a prize-winner in science, had declared decades before that every normal apple seed contains three departments of an apple tree--a trunk, two leaves, and roots. He stated that this tree could actually be seen if one used a magnifying glass large enough.

A friend of ours told us of a locality where we could obtain some wild persimmons. We love ripe persimmons. He suggested that we cut one of the seeds slantwise. There we found a persimmon tree-tiny though it was with leaves, trunk, and roots.

What is true of a grapefruit seed, an apple seed, and a persimmon seed is also true of other seeds. Every normal acorn, for instance, contains an oak tree. Jesus said, "The seed is the word of God." Luke 8:11. Every Bible promise, therefore, is seed, and there are at least 3,573 Bible promises, or clusters of promises, in the Bible.

### **3. Each Bible promise contains the thing it names.**

An apple seed promises an apple tree and it also contains one.

A grapefruit seed promises a grapefruit tree, and it actually contains a grapefruit tree.

A persimmon seed promises a persimmon tree, and it also contains a persimmon tree.

A Bible promise for wisdom contains wisdom. "If any of you lack wisdom, . . . it shall be given him." James 1:5.

". . . the word . . . is your wisdom. . . ." Deuteronomy 4:2, 6.

A Bible promise for light contains light. ". . . I will make darkness light. . . ." Isaiah 42:16.

A Bible promise for peace contains peace. ". . . my peace I give unto you: . . ."

John 14:27. "I make peace, . . . ." Isaiah 45:7.

### **4. God frames it as He names it.**

". . . He made the worlds," Hebrews 1:2. ". . . the worlds were framed by the word of God. . . ." Hebrews 11:3.

### **5. A non-existing thing exists the moment God names it.**

"God . . . calleth those things which be not as though they were."

"He spake, and it was. . . ." Romans 4:17; Psalm 33:9.

This week, as we were writing these lessons, we were invited to speak on the science of prayer before two classes of academy students. We illustrated the above texts this way. I stood in front of the class. There was an open space between the front chairs and where I stood. "Now in this open space is plenty of room for a chair. Suppose I were to say to you students, 'There is a chair sitting right here.' Of what would I be guilty?" I asked.

They replied kindly, but frankly, "Of lying." I agreed. There was no chair there.

Then I continued, "But if God were to say, 'There is a chair there,' what would have taken place?" The students were puzzled. They did not realize that the moment God speaks, that very word contains the thing He names.

To help clarify this miracle I had them read from Genesis 1:1-3. This tells how God created "the heaven and the earth," including light, vegetation, etc. Before God created light on this planet, the text describes the darkness this way, ". . . and darkness was upon the face of the deep." Now how did light come? "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." Genesis 1:3.

The Apostle Paul words it this way, "God . . . commanded the light to shine out of darkness. ..." 2 Corinthians 4:6.

"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.... For he spake, and it was. . . ." Psalm 33:6, 9.

In other words, God spoke and it existed immediately.

## **6. To activate the seed, something else must be added, so far as our personal lives are concerned.**

"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it, . . . but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith. . . ." Hebrews 4:1, 2.

You recall that years ago poppy seeds were found in a monarch's tomb. They had lain there for centuries. Now they were taken out, exposed to the warmth of sunlight and moisture. What happened? They germinated. They burst forth. They bloomed. So in the science of prayer we claim Bible promises. Each contains what it promises. The gift is in the promise. If we receive the promise, by simple childlike faith, we have the gift promised.

We know we have the petitions we desired of Him by claiming Bible promises which contain the very gift promised. It is by a miracle of creation as verily as was creation at the beginning of the world.

## **7. Jesus declared that prayer must be based on His Word.**

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:4.

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." 1 Peter 1:23.

The science of prayer, therefore, is limited to two things: abiding in Christ (praying unselfishly); and claiming Bible promises (His word abiding in us). Please read it once again. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7.

The main reason why, for many years, we did not accept at full face value such fabulous promises as, "ask what ye will," was because we did not know that the prayer of faith, to be scientific, must be based on what God has promised. Someone has worded it about this way: We must ask for what God has promised, and what we receive must be used in advancing God's cause.

## **8. The ABC's of The Prayer of Reception.**

Ask: "Ask, and it shall be given you. ..." Matthew 7:7

Ask according to a promise: ". . . we, according to his promise, look. ..." 2 Peter 3:13.

Believe: ". . . believe that ye receive... and ye shall have. . . ." Mark 11:24.

Believe, because "all the promises of God in him 'are yea, and in him Amen. ..." 2 Corinthians 1:20.

Claim, or Receive: ". . . all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21: 22. ". . . believe that ye receive. ..." Mark 11:24.

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We claim that we have received because the gift promised is in that promise. It is through the miracle of instant creation.

### 9. Summarizing

- a. There is a science in prayer, for we are to "know." 1 John 5:15.
- b. The word of God is seed; therefore, every promise in the Bible contains the gift promised. Luke 8:11.
- c. True scientific prayer is based on Bible promises. 2 Peter 3:9.
- d. We are not merely to ask, and believe, but to return thanks that we have received. John 11:41.

There is more to this science. (See next lesson.)

### A PERSONAL MESSAGE

Dear Student:

In learning the seven secrets of communication let us notice the first very briefly.

#### 1st Secret: JESUS

Jesus said "I have given you an example." John 13:15.

Let us ask then: What did Jesus talk about? The answer is very simple. When He met a man who was interested in leprosy, Jesus talked about cleansing. (See Matthew 8:2, 3.)

When Jesus met men who were interested in fishing, he discussed fishing. (See John 21:5, 6.)

Jesus did not talk about fishing to a man whose primary interest was cleansing from leprosy. Neither did Jesus discuss leprosy with men whose primary interest was fishing.

So we are to ask God for wisdom (see James 1:5), and then believe that Christ is made unto us wisdom. (See 1 Corinthians 1:30.) Christ's methods are not out of date. He met men where they were. He conversed with them concerning things in which they themselves wanted Him to speak.

This then is a tremendous revelation to many would-be soul-winners. Discover what interest the individual has with whom you chat. Then visit about that interest if it is a legitimate one, a pure one, a moral one.

People are seldom turned off in conversation when we speak about the things in which they are interested. Christ's whole ministry was made up of this kind of communication. If John Doe has a sick child, he is interested in that child. If we would not turn him off, if we would be like Jesus, talk about the restoration of that child. Pray for that child. Ask God to heal that child. If John Doe [Page 21] is interested in a big catch of fish, talk about fishing. You may learn something from John, and at the same time turn him on to the Christ in you.

Cordially yours,

Glenn Coon, Sr. Glenn Coon, Jr.

### INNER LIGHT

The inner half of every cloud  
Is bright and shining;

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I therefore turn my clouds about,  
And always wear them inside out  
To show their lining.  
-Ellen T. Fowler

### QUIZ ON LESSON 1

You may wish to fill in the blanks below and then correct them according to the right answers given on the last page of this e-book.

1. Science literally means " \_\_\_\_\_ " (two words).
2. A grapefruit seed actually contains a grapefruit \_\_\_\_\_
3. The seed is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Luke 8:11.
4. Therefore every Bible promise is a \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 8:11.
5. Every normal apple seed contains an apple \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Every promise in the Bible contains the \_\_\_\_\_ promised.
7. A promise for wisdom contains \_\_\_\_\_.
8. A promise for peace contains \_\_\_\_\_.
9. A promise for light contains \_\_\_\_\_.
10. God calls a thing that does not exist, but the instant He names it, it does \_\_\_\_\_. Romans 4:17.
11. In order to activate Bible promises in our personal lives we must mix them with \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 4:2.
12. When we have learned the true science of prayer, we will be able to say, "we \_\_\_\_\_ that we have the petitions that we desired of him." 1 John 5:15.
13. Every scientific prayer must be based on a Bible \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Jesus taught us to \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 7:7.
15. He commanded us then to \_\_\_\_\_. Mark 11:24.
16. He told us that we had a right then to \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 21:22.

Correct Answers on Answer Sheet.