

## A Study of Prayer

### Lesson 3: Conditions of Acceptable Prayer- Part I

- I. Introduction (Lk 11:1)
  - A. Only time in gospel records where disciples asked Lord to teach them (specifically)
  - B. Recognized need to know how to speak to God
  - C. Recognized that prayer is a taught trait—must be through instruction, practice and experience
- II. Our prayers are to be addressed to God, our Father
  - A. As children of Father in Heaven—Mt. 6:9, Rom 8:14-16, I Jn. 3:1,2
  - B. He knows our needs, gives good gifts—Mt. 6:31,32, 7:11
  - C. Promised to be our father—II Cor. 6: 17,18
  - D. Christ prayed to His Father—Jn. 17:1
  - E. Apostles addressed God—Acts 4:23, 24
- III. Our prayers are to be in the name of Christ
  - A. Passages that tell us to ask in Jesus' name—Jn. 14:13,14; Jn. 16:24; Jn. 16:23,26; I Tim. 2:5; I Jn. 2:1
  - B. What it means to pray in the name of Jesus—Mt. 7:21-23 (not just “saying” that it is done in the Lord’s name but done according to the Father’s will); Mt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48
  - C. Everything we do is to be done in the “name of the Lord”—Col. 3:17 (Does that mean we have to verbally express it for it to be in the name of the Lord?)
- IV. Our prayers must be from a heart with a forgiving spirit
  - A. Jesus taught His disciples this principle—Mt. 6:12; 6:14,5; Lk. 17:3,4
  - B. Jesus asked God to forgive the meanest of men—Lk. 23:34 and God did when they repented and obeyed His will – Acts 2:22-38
  - C. We must forgive each other as God in Christ has forgiven us—Eph. 4:31,32

#### Questions for thought:

1. Why do all of us need to be taught to pray?
2. Why can we address God as our Father?
3. What does our Father know before we ask? Why then does God want us to ask?
4. In whose name are we to ask?
5. How does Mt. 7:21-23 show that merely saying “Lord, Lord”, does not mean that it is in the name of the Lord?
6. What is forgiveness? Why must I have a forgiving spirit?