

FOLLOW: LESSON ONE

Falling on My Knees in Prayer Regularly

Take Home Study

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”
Martin Luther

READINGS/STUDY

1) Praying for the spread of the gospel (continued): Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5. As Paul and his companions were on mission he asked other Christians to pray for them. He specifically asked that “the Lord’s message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes” and to be protected from unbelievers. His prayer reveals another key point about being on mission: ministry requires patient endurance and boldness of heart. Pray that we at RBC would develop these traits as we help others in the Valley say yes to Jesus.

2) Praying for the persecuted church: Paul asked other believers to join him in his struggles (see 2 Cor. 11:16-33) by praying for him (Romans 15:30). We are reminded to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

“Voice of the Martyrs” encourages us to pray that our persecuted family will:

Sense God’s Presence (Heb. 13:5)	Know we are praying for them (2 Tim. 1:3)
Experience God’s Comfort (2 Thess. 2:16-17)	Be granted wisdom in covert ministry work (Acts 9:23-25)
See God open doors to evangelism (Col.4:3)	Remain joyful amid suffering (Acts 5:41)
Boldly share the Gospel (Acts 4:29)	Mature in their faith (Col. 1:28-29)
Forgive and love their persecutors (Matt. 5:44)	Be rooted in God’s word (2 Tim.3:16-17)

Pondering this list carefully, it becomes apparent that most of these requests are appropriate for each one of our lives as well.

3) Praying for ourselves: Philippians 4:6 -7. Rather than worry, what are we instructed to do in this passage? After praying about everything that might make us anxious, what are we to do next?

4) Praying for the spread of the gospel (continued): Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5. As Paul and his companions were on mission he asked other Christians to pray for them. He specifically asked that “the Lord’s message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes” and to be protected from unbelievers. His prayer reveals another key point about being on mission: ministry requires patient endurance and boldness of heart. Pray that we at RBC would develop these traits as we help others in the Valley say yes to Jesus.

5) Answers to Prayers: You might ask “Why pray? God seldom answers my prayers.” It is easy to feel this way, but is it really true that God doesn’t answer? In his teaching on prayer, Dr. Charles

Stanley reminds us that God always answers every prayer of a Christian in one of three ways: Yes, No, or Wait. Think about these questions:

- a. Why would God answer a prayer with “no” or “wait”? What greater purpose might He have in that answer?
- b. Can you identify specific prayers in your life that were answered with “no” or “wait”? Have you discovered why God in His infinite wisdom and goodness chose to answer that way in certain instances?

APPLICATIONS:

1. Ask God to give us opportunities for gospel conversations, for wisdom to recognize those opportunities and boldness to respond to them.
2. Remember the biblical examples presented in this study in order to broaden the emphasis and effectiveness of your prayer life. If we pray with an emphasis on glorifying Him and accomplishing His will, we shall (on the authority of His Word) see His supernatural power move in our lives, our church, our community and beyond. Rather than seeking ease, comfort and pleasure for ourselves (for which Dr. Charles F. Stanley often admonishes us) we should instead seek to accomplish our mission of glorifying our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Pray regularly and in simple honesty. Effective prayer is not based on eloquent speech or special words but rather on praying in God’s will with a humble, believing heart that desires to honor Him. It makes no difference what another person thinks of how “well” you pray - God is the only one who truly knows the desires of your heart. [For a great discussion of ‘simple’ prayer, see John Ortberg’s book on spiritual disciplines: *The Life You’ve Always Wanted*; Chapter 6]
4. Do not let feelings of inadequacy, pride, or a lack of faith stop you from having your one-on-one time with God and experiencing the power that raised Christ Jesus from the dead as you are on mission.
5. Assess your “prayer life” based on this study and other biblical examples. Determine if changes are needed and make those changes in humble dependence on God’s power, eager to see what He will do.

Praying

Regularly

Always

Yields

Eternal

Results