



Antonio Ciseri "Ecce Homo" (John 19:5)



# *Steps To Christ*

Ellen G. White

## Chapter 11 The Privilege of Prayer

## Memory Verse – Acts 4:12 NKJV

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

# Scriptures

New King James Version

## Scriptures

1. What should be done before praying for our needs?

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV). “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”



## Scriptures

2. Our prayers should be asked according to what?

1 John 5:14, 15 (NKJV). “<sup>14</sup> Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

## Scriptures

### 3. What helps God answer our prayers?

1 John 3:22 (NKJV). “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”



## Scriptures

### 4. What were David's times for prayer?

Psalm 55:17 (NKJV). “Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.”

## Scriptures

### 5. In whose name should we pray?

John 14:13, 14 (NKJV). “<sup>13</sup>And whatever you ask in my name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.”

## Scriptures

6. What should our attitude be when we pray?

Mark 11:24 (NKJV). “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.”

## Scriptures

### 7. With what steadfastness should we pray?

James 1:6, 7 (NKJV). “<sup>6</sup>But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;”

## Scriptures

8. How is praying described, and what are its results?

Matthew 7:7, 8 (NKJV). “<sup>7</sup>Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

## Scriptures

9. What habit did Jesus have regarding prayer?

Mark 1:35 (NKJV). “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.”

## Scriptures

10. What prevents God from hearing our prayers?

Psalm 66:18 (NKJV). “If I regard iniquity in my heart,  
The Lord will not hear.”



## Scriptures

11. In most circumstances, what is the proper posture for prayer?

Psalm 95:6 (NKJV). “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.”

## Scriptures

12. What should accompany our prayers?

Philippians 4:6 (NKJV). “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;”

## Scriptures

13. What is included in the prayer for the sick?

James 5:14, 15 (NKJV). “<sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

## Scriptures

14. What diligence should we show with our prayers?

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV). “pray without ceasing,”

## Scriptures

### 15. Who should we pray for?

1 Timothy 2:1, 2 (NKJV). “<sup>1</sup>Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.”

## Scriptures

16. What promise does God make regarding our need?

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV). “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

# Study Questions



## Study Questions

1. In what four ways does God speak to us?  
(Paragraph 1).

“Through nature and revelation, through His providence, and by the influence of His Spirit, God speaks to us.”

## Study Questions

2. What is prayer? (2).

“Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend.”

## Study Questions

3. Why is prayer necessary? (2).

“Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him.”

## Study Questions

4. How do the angels regard communion with God?  
(5).

“The angels love to bow before God; they love to be near Him. They regard communion with God as their highest joy; and yet the children of earth, who need so much the help that God only can give, seem satisfied to walk without the light of His Spirit, the companionship of His presence”

## Study Questions

5. What happens to those who neglect to pray? (6).

“The darkness of the evil one encloses those who neglect to pray. The whispered temptations of the enemy entice them to sin; and it is all because they do not make use of the privileges that God has given them in the divine appointment of prayer.”

## Study Questions

6. How is prayer described? (6).

“Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence?”

## Study Questions

7. Why is prayer necessary? (6).

“Without unceasing prayer and diligent watching we are in danger of growing careless and of deviating from the right path.”



## Study Questions

8. What work does Satan do? (6).

“The adversary seeks continually to obstruct the way to the mercy seat, that we may not by earnest supplication and faith obtain grace and power to resist temptation.”

## Study Questions

9. List seven conditions to answered prayer? (7, 9, 10, 13-15, 23).

“There are certain conditions upon which we may expect that God will hear and answer our prayers. One of the first of these is that we feel our need of help from Him.”

“If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted.”

“Another element of prevailing prayer is faith.”

“When we come to ask mercy and blessing from God we should have a spirit of love and forgiveness in our own hearts.”

“Perseverance in prayer has been made a condition of receiving.”

“There is necessity for diligence in prayer; let nothing hinder you. Make every effort to keep open the communion between Jesus and your own soul.”

“Jesus said, ‘Ye shall ask in My name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: for the Father Himself loveth you.’”

## Study Questions

10. God will answer our prayers after what takes place? (9).

“When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God will answer our petitions.”

## Study Questions

11. Why do we not always have our prayers answered at the time we ask, or receive the very things we ask for? (11).

“We are so erring and short-sighted that we sometimes ask for things that would not be a blessing to us, and our heavenly Father in love answers our prayers by giving us that which will be for our highest good—

that which we ourselves would desire if with vision  
divinely enlightened we could see all things as  
they really are.”



## Study Questions

12. Where will those who are really seeking communion with God be seen? (15).

“Those who are really seeking for communion with God will be seen in the prayer meeting, faithful to do their duty and earnest and anxious to reap all the benefits they can gain. They will improve every opportunity of placing themselves where they can receive the rays of light from heaven.”

## Study Questions

13. What is the life of the soul? (16).

“We should pray in the family circle, and above all we must not neglect secret prayer, for this is the life of the soul.”

## Study Questions

14. List three places prayer should be offered? (16).

“We should pray in the family circle, and above all we must not neglect secret prayer, for this is the life of the soul. It is impossible for the soul to flourish while prayer is neglected. Family or public prayer alone is not sufficient.”

## Study Questions

15. Describe the manner of offering secret prayer to God? (16).

“In solitude let the soul be laid open to the inspecting eye of God. Secret prayer is to be heard only by the prayer-hearing God. No curious ear is to receive the burden of such petitions. In secret prayer the soul is free from surrounding influences, free from excitement.

Calmly, yet fervently, will it reach out after God. Sweet and abiding will be the influence emanating from Him who seeth in secret, whose ear is open to hear the prayer arising from the heart. By calm, simple faith the soul holds communion with God and gathers to itself rays of divine light to strengthen and sustain it in the conflict with Satan. God is our tower of strength.”

## Study Questions

16. Is there any time or place when it is not appropriate to pray? (18).

“There is no time or place in which it is inappropriate to offer up a petition to God.”

## Study Questions

17. What should you keep before God in prayer? (22).

“Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him.”

## Study Questions

18. How does God feel about the small things we ask for? (22).

“Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice.”



## Study Questions

19. What happens to those who do nothing but pray? Why? (24).

“He who does nothing but pray will soon cease to pray, or his prayers will become a formal routine.”

## Study Questions

20. What do we need to do more of when praying?  
(28).

“We need to praise God more ‘for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men.’ Psalm 107:8.”

## Study Questions

21. How is God worshipped in Heaven? (32).

“God is worshiped with song and music in the courts above, and as we express our gratitude we are approximating to the worship of the heavenly hosts.”

# Thought Questions

## Thought Questions

1. Should I always pray on my knees?

## Thought Questions

2. Why does everything go wrong when I start praying regularly?

## Thought Questions

3. Why do I need to pray? Doesn't God already know my needs?

## Thought Questions

4. Why do I need to pray for the same things every day?



## Thought Questions

5. How do I know what to pray for, and when to pray for it?

## Thought Questions

6. How do I know when to stop praying for something?

## Thought Questions

7. Does my prayer really make a difference whether someone is going to be saved?

## Thought Questions

8. I never seem to have my prayers answered. Why?

## Thought Questions

9. Should I always pray in an audible voice?

## Thought Questions

10. Should I close my eyes when I pray?

# Thought Questions

11. What does prayer do for me?

## Thought Questions

12. How can I get over feeling embarrassed when praying in public?



## Thought Questions

13. Why pray for something. Can't we just do something about it?

## Thought Questions

14. Why do I always pray less when trouble comes?

## Thought Questions

15. When I pray, my mind drifts. How can I keep it on the topics I'm praying about?

## Thought Questions

16. Should I pray when other family members don't want to?

## Thought Questions

17. When we pray at family worship, my children want to sit, not kneel, during family prayer. Should I require them to kneel?

## Thought Questions

18. When I pray during worship service, what should I say?

## Thought Questions

19. How long should I spend in prayer?

# Thought Questions

20. [Add your questions].



# Problem Solving

## Problem Solving

You just ran into an old friend from college days. He was a leader and very spiritual then, but in the last 10 years following graduation, he has been backsliding. He no longer attends church, because of the demands of his career and the influence of his wife. He has taken up some bad habits, and has had no contact with anyone from church for more than 8 years.

He said he had watched It Is Written just last week, and you feel that God has made this meeting a divine appointment. What do you think God would have you do?

Notes: You might work with the following information: causes, options, solutions, decisions, scriptures that apply.

# Additional Exercises

## Additional Exercises

1. Add three more items to your “Appreciation List.”

## Additional Exercises

### 2. Additional Reading:

*Education*, pp. 253-261. “Faith and Prayer.”

*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 139-149. “Asking to Give.”

*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 225-233. “Prayer for the Sick.”

## Additional Exercises

3. Study the difference between “faith” and “presumption.”

*The Desire of Ages*, p. 126.

*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 576.

*Selected Messages*, Book 2, pp. 17, 91, 345.

*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1128.

*Evangelism*, p. 561.

*Gospel Workers*, p. 260.

## Additional Exercises

4. List two answers to prayer this last week.



## Additional Exercises

5. List several of your favorite Bible promises.

## Additional Exercises

6. Describe one example of how the information learned in this chapter can help YOU in YOUR daily Christian life.

## Additional Exercises

7. Find at least one opportunity to explain what you have learned to one or more persons.

# Ellen G. White Quotes

*The Great Controversy, p. 525*

“It is a part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.”

*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 163*

“The Lord speaks; enter into your closet, and in silence commune with your own heart; listen to the voice of truth and conscience. Nothing will give such clear views of self as secret prayer. He who seeth in secret and knoweth all things will enlighten your understanding and answer your petitions. Plain, simple duties that must not be neglected will open before you. Make a covenant with God to yield yourselves and all your powers to His service.”

*Education, p. 257, 258*

“Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together. In the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that everyone who would make his lifework a success must understand. Christ says, ‘What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.’ Mark 11:24.

He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal.

“For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received.



“We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it most.

“To live thus by the word of God means the surrender to Him of the whole life. There will be felt a continual sense of need and dependence, a drawing out of the heart after God. Prayer is a necessity; for it is the life of the soul.

“Family prayer, public prayer, have their place; but it is secret communion with God that sustains the soul life.

“It was in the mount with God that Moses beheld the pattern of that wonderful building which was to be the abiding place of His glory. It is in the mount with God—in the secret place of communion—that we are to contemplate His glorious ideal for humanity.

“Thus we shall be enabled so to fashion our character building that to us may be fulfilled His promise, ‘I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’ 2 Corinthians 6:16.”

*The Acts of the Apostles, p. 564*

“Prayer is heaven’s ordained means of success in the conflict with sin and the development of Christian character. The divine influences that come in answer to the prayer of faith will accomplish in the soul of the suppliant all for which he pleads. For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; and the promise is, ‘Ye shall receive.’”

*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 115*

“When we feel that we have sinned and cannot pray, it is then the time to pray. Ashamed we may be and deeply humbled, but we must pray and believe. ‘This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.’ 1 Timothy 1:15.”

*The Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 200, 201

“There are few who rightly appreciate or improve the precious privilege of prayer. We should go to Jesus and tell Him all our needs. We may bring Him our little cares and perplexities as well as our greater troubles. Whatever arises to disturb or distress us, we should take it to the Lord in prayer. When we feel that we need the presence of Christ at every step, Satan will have little opportunity to intrude his temptations.

It is his studied effort to keep us away from our best and most sympathizing friend. We should make no one our confidant but Jesus. We can safely commune with Him of all that is in our hearts.”

*The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 3, p. 1141*

“Let us strive to walk in the light as Christ is in the light. The Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed, not only for himself, but for those who were opposing him. When he felt earnestly desirous that the souls that had trespassed against him might be helped, he himself received help. Let us pray, not only for ourselves, but for those who have hurt us, and are continuing to hurt us.



Pray, pray, especially in your mind. Give not the Lord rest; for His ears are open to hear sincere, importunate prayers, when the soul is humbled before Him (Letter 88, 1906).”

*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 145*

“Unwearyingly persist in prayer. The persistent asking brings the petitioner into a more earnest attitude, and gives him an increased desire to receive the things for which he asks.”

*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 149*

“Personal effort for others should be preceded by much secret prayer; for it requires great wisdom to understand the science of saving souls. Before communicating with men, commune with Christ. At the throne of heavenly grace obtain a preparation for ministering to the people.”

*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, p. 577*

“From the light I have had upon the subject I have decided that God does not require us, as we assemble for His worship, to make these seasons tedious and wearisome by remaining bowed quite a length of time, listening to several long prayers ...

“All should feel it a Christian duty to pray short. Tell the Lord just what you want, without going all over the world.”

*Adventist Home, p. 71*

“If men and women are in the habit of praying twice a day before they contemplate marriage, they should pray four times a day when such a step is anticipated.”

Quiz

## Quiz

1.  T F Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. (SC 11.2).
2.  T F Those seeking communion with God will be seen at the prayer meeting. (SC 11.15).
3.  T F Thanksgiving should accompany our prayers. (1 John 4:8).

## Quiz

4.  T  F David prayed at least three times a day. (Psalm 66:18).
5.  T  F Praying properly means that your prayer will always be answered immediately. (SC 11.11).



## Quiz

6. We may believe God will answer our prayers after this takes place. (SC 11.9).

“When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God will answer our petitions.”

## Quiz

7. What was the habit of Jesus regarding prayer.  
(Mark 1:35 NKJV).

“And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”

## Quiz

8. Our prayers are accepted in whose name? (John 14:13, 14 NKJV).

“<sup>13</sup> And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”

## Quiz

9. List two conditions necessary for prayer to be answered. (SC 11.7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 23).

Feel need of help, do not regard iniquity in our hearts, faith, spirit of love and forgiveness, perseverance in prayer, diligence in prayer, ask in the name of Jesus.

## Quiz

10. What is the life of the soul? (SC 11:16).

“We should pray in the family circle, and above all we must not neglect secret prayer, for this is the life of the soul.”

## Quiz

11. What is the best posture in prayer? (Psalm 95:6 NKJV).

- A. Sitting
- B. Standing
- C. Kneeling
- D. Walking

## Quiz

12. What should always accompany prayer for the sick? (James 5:15, 16 NKJV).
- A. Having a family member present
  - B. Anointing oil and laying on of hands
  - C. Forgiveness of sins
  - D. Herb teas and charcoal

## Quiz

13. How many of our needs does God promise to supply? (Philippians 4:19 NKJV).

- A. Most
- B. Some
- C. A few
- D. All



## Quiz

14. What happens to those who do nothing but pray?  
(SC 11.24)
- A. See an increase in answered prayers.
  - B. They soon cease to pray.
  - C. Gain the respect of the angels.
  - D. Acquire great power over other people.

## Quiz

15. Complete the following:

“Prayer is the KEY in the hand of FAITH to unlock heaven’s storehouse, where are treasured the BOUNDLESS RESOURCES of Omnipotence.” (SC 11.6.)

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