



LIVING TRUTH
experiencing Christ in you



Journey INTO THE HEART OF **God**

MESSAGE GUIDE

Message Guide

Journey Into The Heart of God

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on the message given by Charles Price on the above subject.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions, we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

Journey Into The Heart of God

A Fresh Look At Prayer

Part 1 – The Subjective Value of Prayer

Matthew 6:5 - 15

1. Prayer is one of the most important things in the Christian life; and the easiest way to heap guilt on most of us is to talk about our prayer life.

Prayer is an area where many find their D _____ J ____
but for others it is an area where many find their B _____ S _____

2. To lay a foundation, read and consider –
 - a. Luke 11:1 – 13
 - b. Romans 8:26What collective need do these two scriptures express?

3. Charles asserts that prayer is a J _____ into the H _____ of God.

What is the destination of the journey? G _____ I _____ with God.

4. Consider this

The Holy Spirit does not flow through M _____
He does not anoint M _____
He does not empower P _____

What He does is flow through P _____
He anoints P _____
He empowers P _____

5. So – What is Prayer? Consider exactly what you think prayer actually is?

6. Where does the value of prayer lie? Who benefits?

7. Here is a radical statement for you to consider.

“Prayer has nothing to do with ‘answered prayer’. In fact, even if God never answered our prayer why is it still necessary to pray?”

Answer -Prayer bring us into R _____

8. The second of 3 points is that Prayer bring us into R _ _ _ _ _

9. When God asks us a question what is He looking for?

10. The third point is that Prayer bring us into R _ _ _ _ _

11. When our focus is on the E _ _ _ _ _ , T _ _ _ _ _ things fall into place.
When our focus is the T _ _ _ _ _ of H _ _ _ _ _ , events on earth get looked after.
When our focus is on the V _ _ _ _ _ , we will experience the V _ _ _ _ _

Final Thoughts

It is inconceivable that we should try to maintain and develop a relationship with God without regular communication with Him.

When Christ was crucified and the veil in the temple was rent from top to bottom God was saying, "You do not need a priest or any kind of so-called holy person to come into my presence
– you can just come in the name of Jesus."
– I'm right here waiting for you!

This must be the most unbelievable privilege that is afforded to us, and yet sadly so many Christians either ignore or abuse this privilege..... and then have the audacity to blame God because He seems distant from them.

God is as close to you as your genuine prayer.
He will be actively involved in your life to the extent that you spend regular consistent time with Him.
Call it prayer, or call it whatever you like, but make being with God your priority each and every day.

Message Guide & Questions

Journey Into The Heart of God *A Fresh Look At Prayer* **Part 2 – The Objective Value of Prayer** **Matthew 6:5 - 15**

1. Read Matthew 6:5 – 15

What is the ultimate benefit of prayer?

2. Look again at Matthew 5:5 – 7

The second word in each verse is very important – why?

3. Here is a perplexing question.

If God already knows what we need, why waste His time, and our time, by asking?

4. Read Genesis 1:26 and 28; and Psalm 8:6. What do you learn from these verses?

5. Now read, and consider separately, the following verses.

a. Ephesians 4:18

c. Romans 8:22

b. 1 Corinthians 15:22

d. John 12:31

6. How did Satan become ‘Prince of this world’? Had he defeated God?

7. Why, then, is prayer so important?

8. So we ask again; why is prayer important?

9. What is God's strategy?

Final Thoughts

This puts prayer in a whole different realm.
Prayer has nothing to do with what WE want,
but everything to do with us being open to what HE wants,
and that we pray accordingly.

Remember; we cannot hold a gun to God's head or twist His arm into action.
We cannot make God do what He does not wish to do,
but we CAN prevent what He might wish to do.

Whenever God is at work, people are praying,
and in total dependence upon Him we are exercising that dominion that He gave to us.
By prayer we bring God into the situation, not to get Him to serve us,
but that His will may be done, and His agenda fulfilled.

Please remember that prayer is not powerful!
God alone is powerful!

Message Guide & Questions

Journey Into The Heart of God

A Fresh Look At Prayer

Part 3 – A Pattern For Prayer

Matthew 6:7 - 15

1. Read Matthew 6:7 - 15

2. The Lord's Prayer can be split into 2 categories.

Part 1	Verses 9 – 10	Concerned with G __
Part 2	Verses 11 – 13	Concerned with N ___

3. What 3 things do we find in the category mentioned in Part 1 of question 2?

Part 1a The W _____ of God

Part 1b The W ___ of God

Part 1c The W ___ of God

4. If you have time [or maybe suggest as 'homework'] read 2 Kings 20 & 21 and consider what happened when the Lord relented and gave the people of Israel what they had been pestering Him for.

5. What 3 things do we find in the category mentioned in Part 2 of question 2?.

Part 2a P _____ need

Part 2b S _____ need

Part 2c M _____ need

Final Thoughts

We need forgiveness from our past sins,
and we need on-going deliverance from the present evil temptations,
and from this prayer we are assured that God Himself
is involved in this deliverance from temptation.

Message Guide & Questions

Journey Into The Heart of God

A Fresh Look At Prayer

Part 4 – Praying Effectively

Psalm 66:19 - 20

1. Read Psalm 66:18 & 19

According to this, God has H _ _ _ _ the psalmist, and his prayers were E _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

2. How would you define 'answered prayer'?

3. What are the 4 responses to our prayers.

4. Although we don't like to admit it, for many of us it seems that prayer does not really work. Often there seems no measurable response from heaven, and no noticeable difference to those for whom we might be praying.

The Bible gives us 4 clear reasons why prayer does not work; and if we are going to understand prayer we need to understand these reasons.

- a. Our A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to S _ _ _ _ may be W _ _ _ _ _
b. Our A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to S _ _ _ may be W _ _ _ _ _
c. Our A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to S _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ may be W _ _ _ _ _
d. Our A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to our S _ _ _ _ _ _ may be W _ _ _ _ _

5. Read and consider James 4:3 - This is very self explanatory.
6. Read and consider Psalm 66: & 19
7. Read and consider 1 John 3: & 22
8. Read and consider 1 Peter 3:7; Matthew 5:23 & 24 and 1 John 4:20

Final Thoughts

Problems to getting no answers to prayer
have nothing to do with unwillingness on God's part;
but rather, exclusively with problems on OUR part. So to recap

Attitude to self.

The prayer is not –
MY Father; give ME today MY daily bread; forgive me MY debts;
lead ME not into temptation.

The prayer is -
OUR Father; give US today our daily bread; forgive US OUR debts;
lead US not into temptation.

Looking after ourselves has little to do with the Christian life,
and with an effective prayer life.
Our concerns and our prayers are for others as much as for ourselves,
and in so doing, we have confident access to God.

Attitude to sin

Forgive us our debts ... THEN lead us not into temptation.
Getting right and keeping right.

Attitude to submission

YOUR kingdom come; YOUR WILL be done.
The basis of all our requests.

Attitude to spouse and other relationships

.... as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Dealing with damaged relationships.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Journey Into The Heart of God

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' while also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Journey Into The Heart of God

A Fresh Look At Prayer

Part 1 – The Subjective Value of Prayer

Matthew 6:5 - 15

1. Prayer is an area where many find their '**deepest joy**'.
but for others it is an area where many find their '**biggest struggle**'.

Discuss the possible reasons [excuses] for this struggle.

2. a. Luke 11:1–13 Teach us to pray.
b. Romans 8:26 We do not know what we ought to pray.

The collective need that these two scriptures express is that we NEED HELP in prayer. Would you agree in your own life and experience?

3. Charles asserts that prayer is a '**journey**' into the '**heart**' of God.

What is the destination of the journey? '**Greater Intimacy**' with God.

Not just time on our knees; but constant communion with Him.
Relating everything to Him. Prayer without ceasing.
As instinctive as breathing.

4. The Holy Spirit does not flow through '**methods**'.
He does not anoint '**machinery**'.
He does not empower '**plans**'.

What He does is flow through '**people**'.
He anoints '**people**'
He empowers '**people**'.

The raw materials for everything that God wants to accomplish in the world is here . . . it is YOU!

PRAYER and the SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE are closely connected!

5. Is it a ritual that we do at certain times of the day or on certain occasions?
Is it an obligation a requirement?
Is it a shopping list?
Is it a sure-fire way to get what we want?

Or should it be our on-going intimate conversation and communion with God.

6. Prayer has 'objective' value, in that **OTHERS** are affected by our prayers.

Prayer has a 'subjective' value, in the **WE** are affected by our praying.

7. Even if God never answered our prayer why is it still necessary to pray?"

Answer – The first of 3 points **Prayer brings us into 'relationship'**.

Meaningful relationships do not exist without communication.

Prayer is not one-sided. When we spend time with God in prayer, He speaks. If you say God never speaks to you it is probably because you are not praying.

8. The second of 3 points is that **Prayer brings us into 'responsibility'**.

Prayer is talking AND **listening** to God; and God will have some important, sometimes penetrating, things to say to us.

9. God knows everything, so when He asks us a question it is not because He seeks the answer – He already knows the answer – when God asks a question it is so that WE might find the answer.

When we pray we invite the scrutiny of the Holy Spirit, and God will probe and ask questions to make us face reality . . . but always so that He can help us to change from 'Jacob' to 'Israel'.

10. The third point is that **Prayer brings us into 'results'**.

When we pray – THINGS HAPPEN

11. When our focus is on the '**eternal**', '**temporal**' things fall into place.
When our focus is the '**Throne**' of '**Heaven**' events on earth get looked after.
When our focus is on the '**Victor**' __, we will experience the '**Victory**'.

Message Guide & Answers

Journey Into The Heart of God

A Fresh Look At Prayer

Part 2 – The Objective Value of Prayer

Matthew 6:5 - 15

1. The ultimate benefit of prayer is that it brings us into the heart of God.
The Christian life is a relationship, and prayer, at its simplest level, is taking part in that relationship with God.
2. It is not a question of 'if' you pray, but rather **WHEN** you pray.
3. For most of us, prayer is one of the weakest and most difficult parts of our Christian life. We know we ought to pray but we hardly do; we believe [theoretically] that prayer makes a difference, and yet we are not sure how.
Aside from the fact that God, as a loving Father, likes His children to talk to Him, there is a deeper reason for our need to pray, and to understand this we need to go back into the book of Genesis.
4. God ordained that we should rule over everything; but not that we would rule independent of Him, no; but that we would rule **WITH** Him, in dependence **UPON** Him.
5. When the Fall took place there were certain consequences.
 - a. Ephesians 4:18 Adam and Eve died spiritually.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 15:22 WE also died spiritually.
 - c. Romans 8:22 All of creation fell.
 - d. John 12:31 Satan became Prince of this world.
6. **NO** – at the Fall Satan did not defeat God – he never has, never can and never will.
Understand carefully
At the Fall Satan defeated **MAN**, to whom God had given dominion over this world.
That is why Satan became 'Prince of this world'.
7. Prayer is so important because God has given dominion in this world to human beings; but we can either **LET GOD IN** or **KEEP GOD OUT**.

The reason the world is in the mess that it is with so much confusion and disarray is not because God has lost control or failed; it is because of **MAN**

Once again, Satan is 'Prince of this world' not because he defeated God, but because he defeated man to whom God has given dominion.
8. Through and in prayer we give God access.
Every person is as near to God as we want to be!
He will work through us, only as much as we let Him!

9. God's strategy is two-fold.
 - a. To work through His church – us.
 - b. To work as much as we allow Him to.

This does not undermine the sovereignty of God.

God is always consistent. He works in this world through His people, **and when His people act in obedience to Him and dependency on Him, He acts.**

Message Guide and Answers

Journey Into The Heart of God

A Fresh Look At Prayer

Part 3 – A Pattern For Prayer

Matthew 6:7 - 15

1. Having looked, in Part 1, at the Subjective value of prayer – that is its value to the one who is praying – we now look at the Objective value of prayer, in that our prayers actually make a difference to others

2. Part 1 Verses 9 – 10 Concerned with ‘**God.**’
Part 2 Verses 11 – 13 Concerned with ‘**need.**’

3. **Part 1a The ‘Worship’ of God** – “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name”
This acknowledges WHO God is, and by describing God as ‘Father’ it implies a relationship with Him.

We need to remember also that ‘Worship’ is different from ‘Praise’.
‘Praise’ is a response in gratitude for all that He DOES.
‘Worship’ is in recognition for all that He IS.

Part 1b The ‘Work’ of God – “Your Kingdom come”

Our prayers should be in submission to His Kingship, and what we pray for should be for the good of His Kingdom – not whatever **I** want.

Part 1c The ‘Will of God – “Your will be done”

This logically follows from ‘Your kingdom come’ as you declare not for YOUR will to be done. Commanding God to answer certain prayers, insisting on your own way, no matter how well intentioned can be a very dangerous thing to do.

4. The outcome was not good.

5. **Part 2a ‘Physical’ need** *Give us this day our daily bread.*

- We acknowledge our dependency on God for our physical needs.
- We do not take these things for granted.
- God provide today what we need today – we should not stockpile.

Part 2b ‘Spiritual’ need *Forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors.*

- We come to God in constant need of cleansing.
- The condition for our receiving forgiveness is that we forgive those who have sinned against us, regardless of whether or not we think they deserve to be forgiven. Remember – we ourselves are not deserving of God’s forgiveness.
- It is God who forgives us – it is we who forgive others.
- Refusal to forgive others shuts out God’s forgiveness towards us.
- Forgiveness is only received on the basis of true repentance .. but it is available.

Part 2c **'Moral' need** *Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.*

- Praying according to this pattern reminds us that we are exposed to attacks of the evil one.
- We must always remember that God is never the author of temptation.
Read James 1:13 & 14

Message Guide and Answers

Journey Into The Heart of God

A Fresh Look At Prayer

Part 4 – Praying Effectively

Psalm 66:19 - 20

1. According to this, God has **'heard'** the psalmist, and his prayers were **'effective'**.

Can WE be sure our prayers are heard and are effective?

2. We must be very careful not to define answered prayer as being when God does what we asked Him to do. It is not wise to do that.

3. The 4 responses to our prayers –

- a. Yes – because we are praying according to His will.
- b. No – because we are NOT praying according to His will.
- c. Wait - because the time is not yet right.
- d. A rare fourth response is Yesbut because it is as a result of constant pressurizing God the consequences are usually not good.

4. a. Our **'attitude'** to **'self'** may be **'wrong'**.
b. Our **'attitude'** to **'sin'** may be **'wrong'**.
c. Our **'attitude'** to **'submission'** may be **'wrong'**.
d. Our **'attitude'** to our **'spouse'** may be **'wrong'**.

5. **Your attitude to SELF may be all wrong.**

It is possible to pray for the right things but with the wrong motives, and consequently you do not receive.

Prayer is not presenting a celestial shopping list to harness God to our interests.

What is your true motive for the things that you pray for and about?

Remember – God will not share His Glory with anyone, and sometimes prayers are not answered because WE try to take some of the credit.

6. **Your attitude to SIN may be wrong.**

“Cherishing sin” goes beyond any actual sinful act.

“Cherishing sin” is to refuse to deal with it, tolerating it, excusing it, even justifying it.

“Cherishing sin” will close down heaven to our prayers – the Lord will not have even listened,

Are you cherishing any sin in your heart?

If so, don't be surprised if your prayers seem to get nowhere!

7. **Your attitude to submission might be wrong**

These verses clearly tell us that receiving what we ask in prayer is **CONDITIONAL**.

It does not matter how good the cause is that we might be praying for, we must still meet the condition of scripture as conveyed in these verses....

We need to be obeying His command, turning from sin, and submitting to Christ.

Submission to the Lordship of Christ in every area of our life is not an optional ingredient; it is fundamental and indispensable to effective living.

An effective prayer life has to do with obedience; with seeking HIS will [lining up our will with His will] and praying into that.

When we resist His commands we close down the effectiveness of our prayer life.

8. **Your attitude to your spouse, and others close to you, might be wrong.**

These verses clearly show us that the quality of our relationship to those closest to us, especially in marriage, will impact our prayer life.

Is this a barrier in your life?