

Lesson #1: Legacy of Prayer

"Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice." Psalm 55:17.

We are blessed in that we are allowed to pray directly to God. Think about that. God is holy and yet he allows sinful creatures like us into his presence to talk to him. All of the heroes of the Bible were people of prayer as David shows in his example above.

- Isaac's prayer resulted in the birth of Jacob.
- Daniel was willing to give up his life rather than stop praying to God three times a day.
- Elijah walking example of answered prayers.

Jesus was our ultimate role model and the scripture is full of examples of him praying. At the very start of his ministry during his baptism we are told the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended "**as He was praying.**" (Luke 3:21-22). Before Jesus chose his disciples **He prayed.** As they followed him they discovered **He prayed** in the early morning before the sun rose. Then He would "often withdrew to lonely places **and prayed.**" (Luke 5:15-16.) His Sermon on the Mount gave us the Lord's Prayer. (Matthew 5-7). He taught His followers to "watch **and pray.**" (Mark 14:38). Pray instead of giving up. (Luke 18:1). Throwing the money changers out of temple resulted in His most famous quote on prayer, "My house will be called a **house of prayer.**" (Matthew 21:13). He prayed the most powerful high priestly prayer. (John 17). He prayed so hard in the Garden of Gethsemane, He sweated blood. He prayed three times on the cross as He was dying. He sent his Spirit to call us to prayer. (Roman 8:15-16). He now stands on the right side of the Father and lives to intercede for us. (Hebrews 7:23-28). These are just a few of the many examples of prayer that Jesus gave us. Prayer is how God wants to hear from us. That He even wants to hear from us at all is the biggest blessing we have.

Sample Prayer:

Almighty Father, I thank you for giving us this way of communicating with you. I ask You to pour out Your Holy Spirit on me and Your church. Draw me into a more intimate walk with You. May prayer become as natural to me as breathing. May You work through my prayers to help bring Your Kingdom closer to You. May Your will be in my heart, home and generation. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.