



ANSWERS: Unit 4: Disciple of Christ

Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of God.

Lesson 2 Prayer and Grace

Day One

Unanswered and Answered Prayer

Five Reasons God May Not Answer Our Prayers

(1) Not putting God first in our lives.

1. According to Matthew 22:37–38, the first and greatest commandment is loving God with all our hearts, souls, and minds. Why or why not would you consider this the same as putting God first?

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.” Matthew 22:37–38

When we love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds, He would be first in our affections, decisions, and devotion, and therefore first in our lives.

2. Read Luke 14:26. Explain what Jesus is saying about being His disciple.

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:26

(The Hebrew word for hate denotes an Israelite view of covenantal choice requiring single-minded loyalty in discipleship—we are to love others less than God.)

God (including Jesus) must be first in our affections even above our parents, spouse, children, siblings, and ourselves in order to be a follower of Christ. Discipleship is a full-time commitment in complete surrender to God.

3. Read John 15:7. What is the condition for having prayers answered?

If you remain in me [Jesus] and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. John 15:7

We must remain or dwell in Jesus and His words must remain in us. We are obedient.

(2) Rebellion and disobedience to the Lord and His commands. This includes engaging or keeping sin in our minds and thoughts.

4. Read Deuteronomy 1:45. The Israelites had rebelled against the Lord's command. What was His response to them?

You came back and wept before the LORD, but he paid no attention to your weeping and turned a deaf ear to you. Deuteronomy 1:45 (Read Deuteronomy 1:29–46 for full explanation.)

The Lord paid no attention to their weeping and turned a deaf ear to them.

Read Psalm 66:17–20 and answer questions 5–7:

I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. ¹⁸If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; ¹⁹but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. ²⁰Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me! Psalm 66:17–20 (Cherish means to retain a memory or wish in the mind as a source of pleasure or ambition.)

5. When David cried out to the Lord, what was on his tongue (v. 17)?

Praise

6. If David had cherished sin in his heart, would the Lord have listened and answered him? Yes No (Underline One)

7. Since David had not cherished sin in his heart, how did God respond (vv. 19–20)?

God listened and heard David's prayer. God did not reject David's prayer or withhold His love from him.

(3) Forgetting the Lord's provision and seeking help, protection, or resources elsewhere.

8. Read 1 Samuel 8:18. What is the prophet Samuel's warning to the Israelites?

When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the LORD will not answer you in that day. 1 Samuel 8:18

When the day comes that the Israelites cry out for relief from the king they have chosen, the Lord will not answer their prayers. God was their King who provided and protected them. He also helped them and answered their prayers. Nevertheless, the Israelites desired an earthly king to protect and lead them and in so doing, rejected the Lord as their King.

(4) Not trying to understand God's purpose or desiring it.

9. Read Ephesians 5:17. How are people described who do not understand the Lord's will?

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Ephesians 5:17

Foolish

10. According to Proverbs 16:3, what will the Lord do when we commit our actions to Him?

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:3

The Lord will establish our plans.

(5) Praying or asking God for things with selfish or wrong motives.

11. According to James 4:3, why do some people not receive answers to their prayers?

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. James 4:3

Because they ask with wrong motives so that they may spend what they get on their pleasures.

12. Review the five reasons why God may not answer your prayers. Which one is the most challenging for you and why?

Personal Answer

13. Regarding your answer to #12, what will you do this week to better your prayer relationship with God and how did it work out?

Personal Answer

14. What is wrong with the child's demanding his father take him out for ice cream?

Personal answer but here are some possible reasons:

- 1. Lack of love and respect for father/parent.**
- 2. The child doesn't seem to want to spend time with dad but just wants what dad can give him for his own enjoyment.**
- 3. The child is demanding and not approaching dad/parent with proper submissive attitude.**

15. According to Isaiah 58:9a, what happens when the Lord's people call out to Him?

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.
Isaiah 58:9a

The Lord will answer and when His people cry for help, He will say: Here am I.

16. Read Isaiah 65:24. How soon will the Lord answer His people's prayers?

Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. Isaiah 65:24

Before God's people call to Him or pray, He will answer.

17. Read Matthew 6:8. Does your heavenly Father know what you need before you ask Him?

Yes No (Underline One)

Do not be like them [pagans], for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
Matthew 6:8 (Jesus is teaching about not babbling like pagans.)

—End Day One—

Day Two

Praying Hyde and Prayer Walking

Action Step

18. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in reading the book of Isaiah, chapter 30. Based on the context, how would you apply or understand verse 19?

People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you. Isaiah 30:19

Personal Answer

The Lord speaks woe and punishment through the prophet Isaiah to the sinful nation of Israel. They have been rebellious and were unwilling to listen to the Lord's instruction (v. 9). Nevertheless, the Lord wants to be gracious and show compassion (v. 18). When Israel or any sinful person, calls out to the Lord for help and is willing to turn from their sins, God will answer (v. 19).

19. Who is *the* “abuser” of Scripture and an expert at taking it out of context for his own purposes (Genesis 3:4–5; Matthew 4:6, 16:23; Mark 4:15)?

Satan, the devil

Bible references in question 19:

Genesis 3:4-5 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Matthew 4:6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

Matthew 16:23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Mark 4:15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

Action Step

20. Memorize 1 John 4:4 to remember your strength and wisdom come from the Holy Spirit living in you.

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

21. How is God calling you to a new level of commitment in obedience and purity?

Personal Answer

22. How will you cooperate with God in reaching this new level of commitment in obedience and purity?

Personal answer, but here are some suggestions: prayer, fasting, confession, seek God's help, practice self-control, study the Bible, and write verses in area of obedience and purity, review or memorize those verses, and accountability partner.

Action Steps

23. Contemplative (thoughtful) Walk. Prepare your heart to talk, listen, and worship God. Share your experience.

Personal Answer

24. Intercessory Walk. Ask God who He wants to join you and where to walk. Share the purpose with your prayer partners and prepare your hearts to pray. Share your experience.

Personal Answer

25. Spiritual Warfare Walk. Ask God who He wants to join you and where to walk. Share the purpose with your prayer partners and prepare your hearts to pray. Share your experience.

Personal Answer

—End Day Two—

Day Three

Purpose of Prayer

Read Jeremiah 4:22 and answer questions 26–30:

“My people are fools; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good.” Jeremiah 4:22

26. Why does God say His people are fools?

They do not know God.

27. Why does God say His people are senseless children?

They have no understanding.

28. God says His people are skilled at doing evil because:

They don’t know how to do good.

29. How can the Israelites become wise, sensible children, and skilled at doing good?

By seeking to know God, gain understanding, and obeying His Word.

30. How are God's words through the prophet Jeremiah still effective for people today?

God's words are just as true today as they were in Jeremiah's time. Today, people are fools if they do not know God. We can become wise, sensible children, and skilled at doing good by seeking to know God, gain understanding, and obeying His Word.

Read Exodus 33:13–14 and answer questions 31–33:

If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.” ¹⁴*The LORD replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”* Exodus 33:13–14

31. Why did Moses want God to teach him His ways (v. 13)?

1. So Moses would know God 2. Continue to find favor with God

32. How did the Lord answer Moses' prayer (v. 14)?

The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

33. Why would it be difficult to love and follow someone you do not know?

Yes, because love is about relationship and being familiar with someone's personality, likes, dislikes etc.

34. Read Hebrews 11:6; 1 John 3:1 and 2 John 1:9. How do you know the Lord is pleased with you?

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

1 John 3:1

Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 2 John. 1:9

Personal answer, but the Lord is pleased with us today if we are living, dwelling, remaining, and abiding in Jesus. We are one in Jesus with God the Father and are loved by God.

35. Based on today's study, what do you think is an important purpose of prayer?

Knowing God, His character and His ways.

36. Read and meditate on Psalm 32:8–9. What is God saying to you?

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. ⁹Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. Psalm 32:8–9

Personal Answer

Action Steps

36. Where do you think your strength lies in praying to God?

Personal Answer

37. Where do you think your weakness lies in praying to God?

Personal Answer

38. What might be a personal goal in improving your prayer life with God?

Personal Answer

39. How can your discipleship partners hold each other accountable for personal goals in improving your prayer lives?

Personal Answer

—End Day Three—

Day Four
Gift of Empowerment

40. Read Job 42:10. What happened to Job after he had prayed for his insensitive friends?

After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before. Job 42:10

The Lord restored Job's fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.

41. Read Psalm 35:13–14. What are your thoughts regarding David's prayers for his enemies?

Yet when they [David's enemies] were ill, I put on sackcloth and humbled myself with fasting. When my prayers returned to me unanswered, ¹⁴ I went about mourning as though for my friend or brother. I bowed my head in grief as though weeping for my mother. Psalm 35:13–14

Personal answer, but such humility and love are impressive.

Read Matthew 5:44–45 and answer questions 40–43:

Note: Various Bible translation, such as the NIV, NLT, and NAS translate the Greek word *eulogeo* (εὐλογέω) pray in Matthew 5:44. *Eulogeo* is defined as calling down God's gracious power on persons, requesting God's favor for someone, speaking well of others, or blessing them.

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Matthew 5:44–45

42. What does Jesus command us to do (v. 44)?

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

43. How does loving and praying for our enemies make us children of our Father in heaven (v. 45)?

Because our Father in heaven causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Loving and praying for our enemies reflects the character of God, showing us to be His true children. In verse 45, Jesus explains that God demonstrates unconditional love and kindness by giving blessings (like sunlight and rain) to both the righteous and the unrighteous. When we love and pray for those who oppose us, we imitate God's grace and mercy, demonstrating that we are His children by following His example. This is a powerful sign of our relationship with Him, as we reflect His nature in our actions toward others.

44. Read Luke 23:34. How did Jesus model praying for His enemies?

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Luke 23:34

Jesus prayed for those who were crucifying Him.

Read Isaiah 30:18 and answer questions 45–46:

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! Isaiah 30:18

45. How does the Lord long to be toward you?

Gracious

46. When we wait for God to be gracious to us, how does Scripture describe us?

Blessed

God's Grace: Two Approaches

(1) Praying for God's Favor

Read 1 Samuel 1:10–11 and answer questions 47–49:

In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. ¹¹And she made a vow in English

vow, saying, "LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." 1 Samuel 1:10–11

47. What did Hannah, in deep anguish, pray for (v. 11)?

A son

48. Did Hannah deserve to have a baby? Yes No (Underline One)

No one on earth warrants God's favor or merit. That is why His favor is called grace.

49. Since Hannah was barren, what was the only way that she was going to conceive?

God would have to divinely work in her life and overcome whatever was keeping her from conceiving.

Read 1 Samuel 1:19–20 and answer questions 50–51:

Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah lay with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.²⁰ So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, “Because I asked the LORD for him.” 1 Samuel 1:19–20 (The Hebrew name, Samuel, means either Name of God or Heard of God.¹)

50. How did the Lord answer Hannah’s prayer (v. 20)?

The Lord made it possible for Hannah to conceive and she gave birth to a son.

51. Why did Hannah name her son Samuel (v. 20)?

She said, “Because I asked the LORD for him.” So Samuel was born because God heard Hannah’s prayer and he has the name of God on him.

(2) Not Praying for God’s Favor.

God also acts on His own initiative, even without our prayers

Read Luke 1:27b–33 and answer questions 52–54:

The virgin's name was Mary.²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” Luke 1:27b–33

52. What were the angel’s first words to Mary (v. 28)?

“Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

53. After the angel told Mary she had found favor with God, what did he tell her (vv. 31–33)?

“You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

¹ <https://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Samuel.html>>(accessed 9/19/2022).

54. Did Mary ask God if she could be the mother of His Son? Yes No (Underline One)

There is no record in the Bible of Mary praying to be the mother of God's Son. There is no record of anyone praying in that regard because no one really fathomed God's plan.

55. Write a definition of God's grace in your own words.

Personal answer in own words but here is a definition from the lesson: *Grace* is God's divine power in action to undeserving people.

56. List any aspect of *your* Christian life that you are not relying on God's grace and what you will do about it?

Personal answer, but seeking God in prayer is the first step in relying on Him.

57. How will this lesson on prayer and grace strengthen your walk with the Lord?

Personal Answer

—End Day Four—

Day Five

Responsibility and Effort

Read 2 Timothy 1:8–10 and answer questions 58–60:

So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me [Paul] his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ⁹He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1:8–10

58. Who saved you and called you to a holy life (vv. 8–9)?

God

59. Why did God save and call us to holy lives (v. 9)?

Because of God's own purpose and grace.

60. How has God's grace been revealed to us (v. 10)?

It has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Read Titus 2:11–12 and answer questions 61–62:

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age . . . Titus 2:11–12

61. What does grace teach us (v. 12)?

It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

62. How does grace and self-control work together (v. 12b)?

God's divine power working through us gives us the determination and power to live self-controlled lives. Our part is to cooperate with God's grace and His Holy Spirit.

Grace and self-control work together as we accept the grace and fruit of the Spirit. After recognizing the gift, we use our will and mind to exercise control and discipline in our lives.

63. Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. How does a disciple of Christ use God's grace to stand firm?

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Pray for God's grace to be steadfast and settled in our beliefs and give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

64. Read James 2:17. What does our faith require of us?

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:17

Our faith requires action and good works.

65. According to James 2:26, can you have faith without good deeds? Yes No (Underline One)

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. James 2:26

66. How do you live by God's grace and yet put effort into training yourself to be godly?

Personal answer but here are suggestions. We rely on and cooperate with God's grace (His power working within us) by using our minds and will to make the right choices in holy living. Our minds must be trained to be godly. Just because God is working within us does not mean that we will not have temptations and sinful issues. We still have a sin nature. God is faithful to help us overcome temptations and sinful issues as we give ourselves fully to Him.

Read Galatians 6:9–10 and answer questions 67–68:

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:9–10

67. How does the apostle Paul recognize that believers become weary (v. 9a)?

By exhorting believers not to become weary, he acknowledged they could become weary.

68. Why should disciples continue doing good and not give up (v. 9b)?

Because at the proper time we will reap a harvest.

69. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8. Paul's good work attracted enemies and troubles so severe that he and his co-workers despaired of life itself. What is another way of stating their condition?

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. 2 Corinthians 1:8

They were depressed and without hope.

70. Describe any physical, emotional or mental problems that you dealt with in the past and explain how you have been freed to press onward with Jesus.

Personal Answer

71. Read Philippians 3:12–14. How do the words of the apostle Paul encourage you in your responsibility and self-discipline?

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12–14

Personal Answer

Read Matthew 11:28–30 and answer questions 72–74:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I [Jesus] will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28–30

72. Who does Jesus call to Himself (v. 28)?

All who are weary and burdened.

73. Who do we learn from, and who gives rest to our souls (v. 29)?

Jesus

74. Why do you think Jesus says His yoke is easy and His burden is light (v. 30)?

To take Jesus’ yoke is to willingly submit to His authority. In this holy relationship, Jesus gives us grace to follow and obey Him. Our relationship with Jesus also gives us the ability to go to Him daily for comfort—the quality and kind comfort the world cannot give.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7–10 and answer questions 75–79:

... or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

75. Can you think of any reason that we are not given more specific details about the thorn in Paul’s flesh, described as a messenger of Satan to torment him (v. 7)?

Personal answer but consider—we are not to put our focus on or attention on the malady or torment but on the grace of God. Adam and Eve took their focus off God and onto the serpent and the temptation of the tree/fruit—this was a deadly error. Let us keep our focus on the new tree of life—the cross and our redemption and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

76. How many times did Paul beg the Lord to take away his affliction (v. 8)?

Three times

77. How did the Lord answer Paul (v. 9)?

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

78. What did Paul learn from the Lord's answer to his prayer to remove his torment (v. 9)?

Paul learned that God would work satisfactorily and powerfully through his situation even if God did not remove it. No matter what trouble he had or weakness he encountered, Christ's power would rest on him (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

79. Through Paul's experience, what lesson do *you* learn?

Personal Answer

Christian Maturity Worksheet

Present

80. What actions are you currently taking to grow and mature in Christ?

Personal Answer

81. What do you consider to be the greatest challenge in your life right now?

Personal Answer

82. What personal vision or purpose has God impressed upon you?

Personal Answer

Next Steps

83. What is one personal goal you would like to achieve this year?

Personal Answer

84. What is one goal for your ministry or service that you would like to accomplish this year?

Personal Answer

85. What specific areas of discipleship do you feel you need to grow in, and how can you be supported in those areas?

Personal Answer

Future

86. Where would you like to see your life or ministry in 5 to 10 years?

Personal Answer

87. Do you have specific objectives or actions to help you achieve your long-term goals?

Personal Answer

88. List your strengths and weaknesses that God may want you to address to be fully used in His work to expand His kingdom and glorify His holy name.

Personal Answer

—End Answers Day Five and Lesson 2—

Next—Lesson 3: Identity in Christ, Unit 4: Disciple of Christ

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