

WEEK 3

*Pray in Faith***This Week's Goal**

You will grow in your relationship with Christ by praying in faith.

My Walk with the Master This Week

You will complete the following activities to develop the six biblical disciplines. When you have completed each activity, draw a vertical line in the diamond beside it.

**SPEND TIME WITH THE MASTER**

- ◇ Have a quiet time every day, using the Daily Master Communication Guides in the margins of this week's material.

**LIVE IN THE WORD**

- ◇ Read your Bible every day. Write what God says to you and what you say to God.
- ◇ Memorize John 15:7.
- ◇ Review Luke 9:23, John 15:5, and John 8:31-32.

**PRAY IN FAITH**

- ◇ Pray for each member of your *MasterLife* group by name.
- ◇ Pray with your prayer partner in person or by telephone.
- ◇ Pray for the needs on your Prayer Covenant List.

**FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS**

- ◇ Share with someone your testimony of having a quiet time.

**WITNESS TO THE WORLD**

- ◇ Show God's love to a person who is not a Christian.


**MINISTER TO OTHERS**

- ◇ Continue learning the Disciple's Cross. Learn the meaning of the top part of the cross and memorize the Scripture that goes with it. Be ready to explain the top and bottom parts of the cross to someone in your group at the next session.

This Week's Scripture-Memory Verse

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you" (John 15:7).

DAY 1



Praying for What God Wants

God began to teach me to pray in faith.

When I was in college, God began to teach me to pray in faith. I read a sermon by evangelist Gypsy Smith based on John 15:7, your memory verse for this week: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." It impressed me so much that I said to God: "Lord, I'm trying my best to abide in you. I ought to be able to ask anything and have my prayer answered because You promised it." I then felt impressed to pray that someone would trust Christ as Savior as I witnessed on the street that night. I wrote in my diary, "I believe that someone will be saved tonight (John 15:7)."

I went out on the street and began inviting people to attend services at the rescue mission. When two men accompanied me, I thought: *That's great. Maybe two are going to be saved tonight.* But when the sermon was over, I turned to them and asked, "Are you Christians?" They both said, "Yes." I could not understand that, because I had prayed that God would save someone. After the service I looked for someone else to whom I could witness but did not find anyone. On the way home my mind was bombarded by questions. I said: "Lord, as far as I know I am abiding in You as John 15:7 says. Why haven't You answered as You promised? Isn't Your Word true?"

I rejoiced that His Word was true and that He did what He promised.

When I got back to campus, I remembered that I had forgotten to bring home a friend's coat for which I was responsible. When I went back for the coat, I decided once more to try to find someone to whom I could witness. I met an 18-year-old man standing on the street corner. After I explained how to be saved, he gave his life to Christ. I praise God for the man's salvation, and I rejoiced that His Word was true and that He did what He promised. Even before the man was baptized he led someone else to Christ.

Eager to press on with my new understanding of prayer and faith, I remembered that I would preach the next Sunday night at the church in Tulsa where my father was the pastor. I seldom pray for exact number of persons to be saved, but I felt the Holy Spirit impressing me to do that five persons be converted as I preached. At that time five persons had never made decisions when I preached unless they were decisions I leave! I said, "God, I believe your Word that you will save five persons." When I arrived in Tulsa, I asked my dad to give me prospect cards that I could make visits, knowing that only if unsaved persons were at church could they be saved in the service. When the night arrived and I gave the invitation, five persons walked down the aisles to accept Christ, and another rededicated his life. I began to realize that God really wanted to do something if I prayed in accordance with His will.

The next week I went even a step farther. I asked God, "What about persons this weekend?" But this time nothing happened, because God wanted me to learn an even more important lesson about prayer. This time people were not saved because I had begun trying to tell God what I wanted rather than praying on the basis of what He revealed. I learned that prayer is intended to involve me in God's purpose rather than my involving Him in my plans.

Think of a time when you prayed on the basis of what you wanted rather than seeking God's will first. Describe this experience below.

ASKING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL

God delights in answering prayer that is asked according to His will, but He refuses to answer prayer that is not consistent with what He wants. We need to hear God's voice so that we will know what to pray.

Most people are not asked to make the sacrifices Alex and Shelby Credle made, although all need to deny self to follow Him. Alex was a business executive who earned a large income and had job security. His wife, Shelby, was a college instructor who found meaning in her teaching communications. They lived in a prosperous subdivision in North Carolina, and their grandchildren lived nearby. Yet Alex and Shelby quit their jobs, sold their home, gave away most of their possessions, and departed for Asia, where they began working for a humanitarian organization to share their faith. The Credles said they took this drastic step joyfully because they wanted to follow God's will for their lives.

The Credles had relocated many times during the course of Alex's employment, but one thing made this move different. "It's the first time we've ever prayed about a move and sought God's Word to guide us," said Shelby. "We've always gone it alone before." The Credles prayed close to the Vine and prayed in faith during their decision. This gave them the courage and confidence to make a major lifestyle change.

You may ask, *If I pray on the basis of what God wants rather than what I want, will I have to do what the Credles did?* Their case is rare. The important question to ask is, *Am I willing to pray as the Credles did?*

Do you read God's Word for direction and pray in faith when you need to make a major decision?

- Yes, I always do this.
- I try to do this most of the time.
- I know I should, but I don't as often as I'd like.
- I usually consult God after I've made the decision.

We need to hear God's voice so that we will know what to pray.

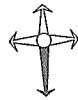
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MATTHEW 14:22-36

What God said to me:

What I said to God:



Turn back to page 53 and read aloud John 15:7, your memory verse for the week. Write what you think this verse says about consulting God first when making a decision. Meditate on the verse. Ask God to show you what He wants and to give you faith to believe that He will do it.

LEARNING THE DISCIPLE'S CROSS

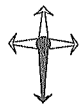
In *MasterLife* you are learning the disciplines around the Disciple's Cross. The first discipline you studied was spending time with the Master and keeping Him at the center of your life. Last week you studied the second discipline: living in the Word. A third discipline a disciple must practice is praying in faith. This week you will learn the role of prayer in keeping Christ at the center of your life.



To preview what you will learn this week about praying in faith, draw the portions of the Disciple's Cross you have studied. Draw a circle with *Christ* in the center and draw the lower crossbar with *Word* written on it. Add the verses that apply. Then draw the upper crossbar with *prayer* written on it. Refer to the completed Disciple's Cross on page 136 if you need help with your drawing.

The center of the cross represents one Lord, since He is the first priority in your life. The bars of the cross represent two relationships. *Word* at the bottom and *prayer* on the top, forming the vertical crossbar, represent...

sent your relationship with Christ. The horizontal crossbar represents your relationships with others.



Continue reading your Bible daily during your quiet time. Today read Matthew 14:22-36, a passage describing a time when Jesus went away to pray. After you have read this passage, complete the Daily Master Communication Guide on page 56.

DAY 2

Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving

As you studied day 1, you may have said to yourself: I'd really like to learn to pray like that. But how do I begin? How do I know the right way to talk to the Father? Maybe in the past you have prayed by reciting words you have memorized. Or maybe your prayers have merely been lists of requests rather than meaningful conversations with God. If you want to go deeper in your prayer life, you can learn to pray in faith as you develop your personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Him.

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

The Old Testament teaches that prayer is an act of actually coming into God's presence. If you think about prayer as a way to enter God's presence, you can understand why amazing things can happen when you pray.

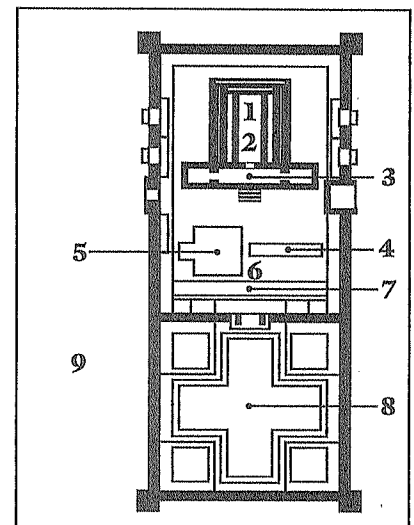
Biblical comparisons of heaven and the temple can help you focus on entering God's presence. In Isaiah 6:1-3, in the margin, the prophet Isaiah depicted heaven as the temple. As Isaiah came into God's presence, he saw the train of God's robe filling the temple. Witnessing God's majesty, Isaiah experienced the holiness of His presence.

In Isaiah 6:1-3 underline words or phrases that describe how Isaiah viewed God during this experience.

Isaiah obviously became aware of God's awesome holiness. You may have underlined the words high, exalted, holy, and the whole earth is full of his glory.

When you pray, you too can imagine entering the temple as you approach God and experience His awesome holiness. The drawing in the margin gives you a general idea of what the temple in Jerusalem looked like. The temple provided various levels of access, beginning with the gates and culminating with the holy of holies. Each level

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory'" (Isa. 6:1-3).



1. Holy of holies
2. Holy place
3. Porch
4. Slaughterhouse
5. Altar
6. Court of priests
7. Court of Israel
8. Court of women
9. Court of Gentiles

“Since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Heb. 4:14-16).

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name” (Ps. 100:4).

“These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng” (Ps. 42:4).

“I will praise God’s name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. This will please the Lord more than an ox, more than a bull with its horns and hoofs” (Ps. 69:30-31).

successively limited access to groups of people. In Bible times a layperson could enter only certain areas of the temple.

Only the high priest was permitted to enter the area that contained the holy of holies—the most sacred place and the innermost part of the temple. But Christ provided a way for all people to enter the holy of holies and to have an intimate relationship with God through prayer. His death on the cross broke through the limitations of earthly life, making it possible for you to enjoy direct access to God. Because Christ came to earth as a human being, His atoning death brought an end to the priests’ role. He now represents you as your Great High Priest before God.

Read Hebrews 4:14-16 in the margin.

APPROACHING GOD

Although the holy of holies had limited access, the large, open courtyard at the edge of the temple was open to everyone. As people entered through those beautiful temple gates, they gave thanks. The verses from Psalms in the margin help you picture how the people approached the temple with thanksgiving. When you approach God, it is not proper to rush into His presence and bombard Him with your needs. First, thank Him for all He has done for you. Thanksgiving is the way to approach God.

T. W. Hunt, the author of *Disciple’s Prayer Life*, described how he became aware of his need for an expanded attitude of thanksgiving. One morning as he brushed his teeth, T. W. asked himself, *What if tomorrow I had only the things for which I thanked God today?* He began to name things like his teeth, his eyes, the sense of touch, air, home, people—items he realized he sometimes took for granted. He changed his approach to prayer so that he began with thanksgiving to God.

What are things you take for granted for which you want to begin thanking God? Start now by writing a prayer thanking God for some of these items.

Thank You, God, for—

In thanksgiving you express gratitude toward God, generally in response to His concrete acts. Psalm 69:30-31, in the margin, shows the value God places on your prayers of thankfulness. He values prayers of thanksgiving more than acts of sacrifice.

What kinds of things do you thank God for? The psalms, in which an attitude of thankfulness is especially prominent, give examples of areas in which you can give thanks.

• Deliverance from trouble:

*The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the man who takes refuge in him (Ps. 34:7).*

• God's faithfulness:

*The Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations
(Ps. 100:5).*

• Forgiveness of sin:

*Sing to the Lord, you saints of his;
praise his holy name.
For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime (Ps. 30:4-5).*

• Creation:

*You make me glad by your deeds, O Lord;
I sing for joy at the works of your hands (Ps. 92:4).*

Does that list prompt you to remember things for which you need to be thankful? Go back and draw a star beside one area in which you need to express gratitude. Then stop and pray, thanking God for what He brought to mind.

You can get so busy presenting your requests to God that you neglect a time of thankfulness. What about earlier requests He answered? True, not everything you have asked for is granted. You may be waiting for an answer. Sometimes the answer you wanted was not part of His plan, and He gave you an answer that was better for you than the one you desired. But He certainly answers many of your requests just as you asked. How many of them have you thanked Him for? Your Prayer-Covenant List is an obvious record of answered prayer. In the brief time you have kept a Prayer-Covenant List, what answers to prayer have you recorded?

Stop and review your Prayer-Covenant List or a list you kept previously. List two prayer requests for which you have already seen answers. Then enter God's presence and thank Him for them.

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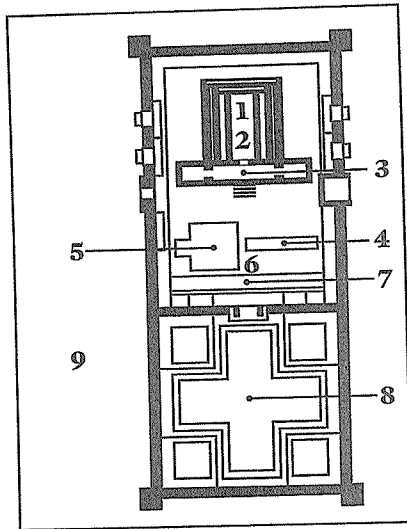
JOHN 15

What God said to me:

Handwriting lines for recording what God said to me.

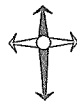
What I said to God:

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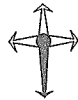


1. Holy of holies
2. Holy place
3. Porch
4. Slaughterhouse
5. Altar
6. Court of priests
7. Court of Israel
8. Court of women
9. Court of Gentiles

Prayer is the discipline you are studying this week. A part of life in Christ is praying in faith. Jesus said in John 15:7, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."



Stop and review John 15:7, your memory verse you just read. Say it to your prayer partner in person or by phone during your prayer time this week. Also say the verses you memorized previously.



Again read John 15 as your Bible passage today. As you read the passage this time, look for ways God uses it to speak to you about praying in faith. After you have read this passage, complete the Daily Master Communication Guide on page 59.

DAY 3



Enter His Courts with Praise

The next step in learning to pray in faith involves focusing on who the Father is and what He means in your life. Jesus did not just teach His disciples how to pray. He taught them how to know the Father through prayer. Focusing on Him will continue to set the pace for your quiet time. It will help you overcome distractions or demands to acknowledge the One whose throne you are approaching. It will help you communicate with Him. Set other thoughts aside as you continue to make a deliberate effort to concentrate on the Father.

Again, think about the way people approached the temple in Jerusalem in Bible times as you consider how to approach God's throne in prayer. As the people entered the courts of the temple, they came with praise, as Psalm 100:4, in the margin, indicates. Praise is based on adoration of God. Adoration is what you do in worship.

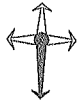
"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name"
(Ps. 100:4).

PROCLAIMING HIS WORTH

The word *praise* originates from a Latin word meaning *value* or *price*. Thus, to give praise to God is to proclaim His merit or worth. How you do this—whether you are kneeling, standing, sitting, or reclining—does not matter. John 11:41 implies that Jesus prayed with His eyes open. Regardless of how you praise Him and under what circumstances, praise

is an important element of prayer. It is to be constant, as Psalm 34:1, in the margin, indicates. Praise raises your prayer life above yourself.

Praise focuses on the person of God. Some of God's names that appear in the Bible reveal His character—ways He works in your life. You can praise God as you recognize the aspects of His character that are revealed in His names. To discover various aspects of God's character, study Psalm 91, which mentions several of His names.



During your quiet time read Psalm 91. After you have read this passage, complete the Daily Master Communication Guide on page 62.

Here are the names of God that are used in Psalm 91:

El Elyon:

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty (Ps. 91:1).*

The term *Most High* reveals the name *El Elyon*, the strongest of all gods and the possessor of heaven and earth—the strongest of the strong. Do you believe that you win the daily battles of life in your own strength? The true victory originates with *El Elyon*. He is capable of arranging even the most tedious details of your life.

Think about a time when you experienced the characteristic of God revealed by the name *El Elyon*. Has He worked out a circumstance in your life beyond anything you could have imagined?
 Yes No If so, describe this experience below. Stop and praise God as *El Elyon*, the Most High God.

El Shaddai:

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty (Ps. 91:1).*

The term *Almighty* reveals the name *El Shaddai*, the all-sufficient God. The name is first used in Genesis 17:1, when God appeared to Abraham and made great promises to Him. God promised to make of him a great nation and to give him a son at his advanced age. God keeps His promises. Read Romans 4:20-21 in the margin.

Think about a time when you experienced the characteristic of God revealed by the name *El Shaddai*. Can you think of an occasion

*"I will extol the Lord
at all times;
his praise will always
be on my lips" (Ps. 34:1).*

*"He did not waver through
unbelief regarding the promise
of God, but was strengthened
in his faith and gave glory to
God, being fully persuaded
that God had power to do
what he had promised"
(Rom. 4:20-21).*

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PSALM 91

What God said to me:

What I said to God:

when He kept His promises to you? Yes No If so, describe it below and praise Him for being a promise-keeping God.

Yahweh:

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust" (Ps. 91:2).

The term *LORD*, written in capital letters, reveals the personal name of God—*Yahweh* or *Jehovah*. (The word *Lord* in lowercase letters signifies *Adonai*—the master, the person with authority.) *Yahweh* signifies the God who is with you all the time. God used this name to reveal Himself to Moses in Exodus 3. When God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM," He was probably saying, in effect, "Go and do what you are told, for I am with you" (see Ex. 3:14).

Think about a time when you experienced the characteristic of God revealed by the name *Yahweh*. Have you been aware of His presence when you believed that He was asking you to do something difficult? Yes No If so, describe your experience below. Stop and pray, praising God for being *Yahweh* in your life.

Elohim:

"My God in whom I trust" (Ps. 91:2) reveals the name *Elohim*. It first appears in Genesis 1:1 in the creation story, referring to the strong, covenant-keeping God who is the Creator. Do you regularly approach God as the Creator and worship Him?

Think about a time when you experienced the characteristic of God revealed by the name *Elohim*. When have you been aware of Him as the One who gave you life and created everything around you? Describe your experience below. Then stop and worship God as the Creator.

Other names of God also help you focus on who He is and enable you to praise Him. Consider these:

- *Jehovah Jireh*—the God who provides
- *Jehovah Shalom*—the God who brings peace
- *Jehovah Sabaoth*—the God who brings spiritual help
- *Jehovah Rapha*—the God who heals

You may want to use a Bible dictionary to examine some of the names of God. Understanding the characteristics of God will help you know how to praise Him. God's names are revealed in your experiences with Him. Let Him reveal Himself to you as you worship Him.

Understanding the characteristics of God will help you know how to praise Him.

REASONS TO PRAISE GOD

As you practice praying in faith, consider these other reasons God is worthy of praise. You can praise Him because—

- *He is the living God.* Matthew 16:16 states Simon Peter's answer when Jesus asked who He is: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- *He is holy.* As people entered the temple area, they were aware of God's holiness. Psalm 29:2 says, "Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness."
- *He is spirit.* He is not material form but the highest form of existence. God's spirit form allows Him to be with people everywhere:

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence? (Ps. 139:7)

- *He is love.* The primary purpose behind His revelation is love (see John 3:16).
- *He is Father.* He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose death allows us to enter the Father's presence: "No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).
- *He is glory.* The word glory refers to His influence and importance in the universe. Hebrews 1:3 says, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."

Praise God because of who He is, not because of what He does. Praise is pure worship and adoration. In praise you affirm God and express your love for Him.

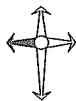
Praise God because of who He is, not because of what He does.

Stop and pray. Review the list of reasons God is worthy of your praise. Use each one to praise Him as you continue to develop the discipline of praying in faith.

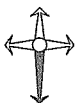
I hope that by now you have seen growth in your life because of prayer—both praying alone during your quiet time and praying with your prayer partner. In your prayer time I hope that God has begun to reveal to you persons who are not Christians for whom you need to pray. One way to begin building a witnessing relationship is to show God's love to someone who is not a Christian. In the process of befriending that person, pave the way for sharing the gospel.

My family once lived across the street from a nice couple, who often asked our children to work for them. Although we became friends,

this couple did not respond positively to a gospel witness. During the Christmas season I took a poinsettia to them. Soon the woman came over and asked if I would pray for her. She had obviously been drinking. Later, I was able to lead her to receive Christ. The act of giving the plant paved the way for me to witness. I was thankful that God had led me to prepare the way for the woman to receive the gospel.



This week show God's love to a non-Christian by doing something kind for that person. Afterward, describe here what you did and the person's response.



In the margin write this week's memory verse, John 15:7. Below the verse describe how you feel about beginning or developing the practice of praying in faith.

DAY 4



The Altar of Confession

After you have thanked God for what He has done and have praised Him for who He is, confess your sins to Him. In addition to glorifying and honoring God, you must also ask God to examine your heart.

THE NEED TO CONFESS SIN

Earlier this week you read about the prophet Isaiah's experience when he saw God and witnessed His glory. As this occurred, Isaiah also became aware of the contrast between God's holiness and his own sinfulness.

Read Isaiah 6:4-6 in the margin and complete this sentence:

When Isaiah experienced the Lord's glory, he _____ his sin.

When you approach God's throne and become aware of His presence, your personal sin confronts you and weighs heavy on your mind. After such a divine confrontation it is appropriate to confess your sin, just as Isaiah did when he experienced God's glory.

"At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 'Woe to me!' I cried. 'I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty' "
(Isa. 6:4-6).

Before the death of Christ, people offered sacrifices in an effort to atone for their sins. They sacrificed blood offerings on an altar. Today no animal offering is required for you to atone for your sins. Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for you so that your sins may be forgiven. First John 1:8-10, in the margin, says that when you confess your sins to the Father, He is faithful to forgive you.

In confession you let God examine your heart, and He shows you what separates you from Him—the barriers that keep you from experiencing Him to the fullest. Full fellowship with the Father is blocked if your life contains unconfessed sin. The beautiful words of Psalm 139 illustrate the proper attitude about confession. Read verses 23-24 in the margin. The psalmist displays an attitude of openness by asking God to make him aware of his unrighteousness so that he can grow. The Holy Spirit's job is to convict us of things that offend our holy God. You do not have to guess what might be sin in your life. If you open yourself to His leading, the Holy Spirit will show you things that offend God.

Reread 1 John 1:8-10 in the margin. According to this passage, why do you need to confess the sin in your life?

- The Father will forgive you and cleanse you.
- You deceive yourself and do not live in the truth if you claim to be above sin.
- The Father can show that He is faithful to His promise to forgive you when you confess sin.
- So that you will feel better.

The Father wants you to confess sin so that He can do what He has promised to do: forgive you and cleanse you. You fool only yourself when you claim to be sinless. The Father to whom you pray knows the sin in your heart. Confessing sin makes you feel better, but that is not the purpose. The purpose is to restore your fellowship with God. All of the answers except the last one are reasons for confessing sin.

Furthermore, as Psalm 66:18 reveals, God does not listen to your prayers if you continue to cling to your unrighteous ways, refusing to acknowledge and confess them. Confessing sin in your life is a crucial next step in your fellowship with the Father through prayer.



In your quiet time today read Psalm 51, David's confession. After you have read this passage, complete the Daily Master Communication Guide on page 66. Do this before you read further.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO CONFESS?

As you study about confession and ask the Lord to search your heart, a good passage to read is Ephesians 4:22-32. In this passage Paul addressed the church, but his admonitions apply in all relationships and to all behavior.

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives" (1 John 1:8-10).

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Ps. 139:23-24).

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened" (Ps. 66:18).

DAILY MASTER
COMMUNICATION
GUIDE



PSALM 51

What God said to me:

What I said to God:

Read Ephesians 4:22-32 and ask yourself, *What do I need to confess?* As you open yourself to the Lord, ask Him to point out what is not right in your life and to help you confess it.

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you (Eph. 4:22-32).

Check anything of which the Lord convicted you:

- deceitful desires brawling
- falsehood laziness
- anger slander
- bitterness unwholesome talk
- rage malice
- stealing

Now write a confession in which you ask God to forgive you of the matter or matters you checked.

Confession is an important part of maintaining a right relationship with God. Maturity in discipleship can be thought of as the degree to which you experience harmony, or wholeness, in relating to God and others. You experience this harmony when you have regular fellowship with Christ, that is, a daily pattern of praying in faith. That is why praying

in faith is a major component of your lifelong, obedient relationship with Him.

LEARNING THE DISCIPLE'S CROSS



To summarize what you are learning about praying in faith, draw the portions of the Disciple's Cross you have studied. Draw a circle with Christ, the lower crossbar with Word written on it, and the accompanying Scriptures. Then draw the upper crossbar with prayer written on it. Under prayer write John 15:7, the verse that accompanies this discipline. Explain the cross aloud as you draw these parts. Be prepared to explain it at your next group session.

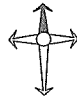
Maturity in discipleship can be thought of as the degree to which you experience harmony, or wholeness, in relating to God and others.



Continue memorizing John 15:7. Say this verse aloud to a family member or a friend. You may want to call one of your *MasterLife* group members for whom you are praying and to practice saying the verse to him or her as you remind the person of your prayers.

How are you progressing with your Prayer-Covenant List? Are you making notes of prayers as you see them answered? You may find it helpful to set aside a period of time every few weeks to study your Prayer-Covenant List and to praise God for answered prayers. You could do this as you travel by yourself on a lengthy trip. You could take it to a nearby park for time with the Lord. You could get up early one

morning to examine it. I try to do this at least once a week. Then every month I go back over all of the requests to observe what God has done. I am constantly amazed that God answers so many of my prayers. As I read my prayer journal and prayer requests, God shows me how faithful He has been. Usually, not every request has been answered, but He teaches me to walk in faith by answering many of them.



Spend time on your Prayer-Covenant List. Pray for the prayer needs on it. Then decide on a time during the next week when you will study what God is doing in your life. Write the day and time here: _____.

DAY 5



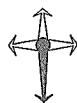
In God's Presence

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Heb. 4:13).

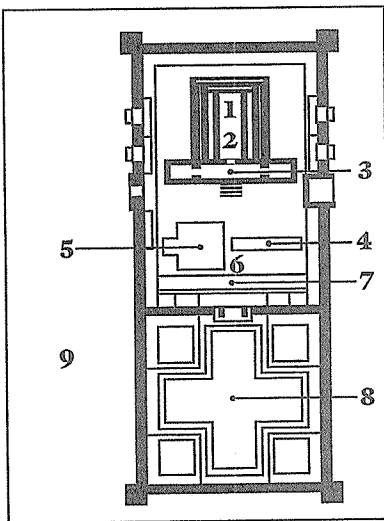
Now you find yourself in the presence of God. This is a holy place. The Father wants you to approach Him with your needs. He waits to grant what you ask that is in His will. He delights in doing so. Now that you have thanked Him for your blessings, have given Him the praise He is due, and have confessed your sins, you are ready to talk with Him about needs, both yours and others'.

BRINGING YOUR NEEDS TO GOD

When you think about praying for needs, you can think of the place in the temple called the holy of holies, the temple's most sacred area. In Bible times only the high priest had access to this innermost chamber. Because of Jesus Christ, however, you have access to God and can approach Him in all His holiness with the deepest needs of your heart. You can approach the innermost part of the very sanctuary of God. In that holy of holies everything is laid bare before Him, as the verse in the margin reveals.



In your quiet time today read Hebrews 4, which states that Jesus Christ is the only high priest you need. After you have read this passage, complete the Daily Master Communication Guide on page 71.



1. Holy of holies
2. Holy place
3. Porch
4. Slaughterhouse
5. Altar
6. Court of priests
7. Court of Israel
8. Court of women
9. Court of Gentiles

In the chapter you read, Hebrews 4:14-16, in the margin on the next page, states that Jesus, as our Great High Priest, understands our needs.

How does Hebrews 4:14-16 tell you that you are to approach God's throne of grace?

With _____

You can approach God's throne of grace with confidence because, as the Scripture says, He is ready to grant you mercy and grace to help you in your time of need. He is pleased to hear your personal requests. How do you know that Jesus wants you to pray freely about your needs? Your memory verse for this week ensures it.



As you think about the marvelous promise in your Scripture-memory verse, John 15:7, say the verse aloud again. As you say it, think about a loving God who finds your requests pleasing to His ears.

PRAYING FOR YOURSELF

Today you will study two types of requests: petition and intercession. Petition is asking for yourself. You know that God encourages people to pray for their personal concerns, because His Word is filled with answered requests. For example, Luke 1:13 contains God's response to Zechariah's petition for a son. His request was answered with the birth of John the Baptist.

God's answers to your prayers help mold you into the person He wants you to become. He does not grant petitions that you pray for the wrong reason or that He knows would bring the wrong outcome in your life. Read 1 John 5:14-15 in the margin.

List personal needs for which you desire to pray. Use the following categories to prompt your thinking, but do not limit your list to these or feel that you must write a request for each one. You may need to use extra paper to expand your list.

Christ-honoring relationships with others: _____

The ability to manage my time wisely: _____

Concerns on my job: _____

My ministry at church: _____

Guidance in my vocation: _____

"Since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Heb. 4:14-16).

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us" (1 John 5:14-15).

Physical and emotional health: _____

Ability to resist temptation: _____

Material needs: _____

Now stop and pray about some of these requests. Pray for God's will in the outcomes of these situations and concerns.

"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (Jas. 5:16).

"Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:11,15,17).

God uses you as His vehicle to accomplish His will when you pray for others.

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

The second type of prayer for needs is intercession—prayer for others. The Bible instructs us to pray for one another, as James 5:16, in the margin, indicates. Jesus prayed for His disciples many times. One of the best examples is found in John 17, in which Jesus prayed for His disciples before He went to the cross. A portion of that prayer appears in the margin. You pray for others for the same reason you pray for yourself: so that God can mold them into the persons He wants them to become. God uses you as His vehicle to accomplish His will when you pray for others.

How important to you is intercession for others? Check the answer that describes you.

- I am too busy taking care of my own needs to pray for others.
- I intercede for others after I handle other areas of ministry.
- I intercede for others only in extreme crises, such as when someone is critically ill.
- Interceding for others is highly important to me because God can use my intercession to accomplish His will.

Stop and pray, asking the Father to make you a more fervent intercessor for others.

As you have kept your Prayer-Covenant List for the past several weeks, you have been interceding for others. By lifting your concerns to Him, you have been an instrument God has used to accomplish His will in the lives of others. Now is a good time to review some of those prayers of intercession.

List two persons on your Prayer-Covenant List and their needs. Describe ways God has answered your prayers for these individuals. Even if you have seen only partial or incremental answers, list those

Starting your prayers with thanksgiving, praise, and confession before making requests means that you have Someone besides yourself at the center of your life.

Starting your prayers with thanksgiving, praise, and confession before making requests means that you have Someone besides yourself at the center of your life.

Throughout *MasterLife* you will continue to learn how to pray in faith. When you study book 3, you will see the fullness of all God wants to do in your life through prayer. Following Jesus means that you seek to know and do His will, not just coast through life. By now in *MasterLife* you have seen the sacrifices you need to make in order to walk with the Master and to live in Him. I affirm your willingness to make these sacrifices in order to grow as a disciple of Christ.