

ANSWERS: *Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 2, Prayer and Grace*

Purpose of study: *Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God. A disciple is a “student” or “follower” who learns, studies, and acts in accordance to the teachings of Christ, the Master.*

CLI Discipler: *Please pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in reading, commenting and writing to your disciple. May God always be glorified. Thank you for serving, Kathleen*

Lesson 2: Prayer and Grace (Day One) *Unanswered and Answered Prayer*

Five Reasons God May Not Answer Our Prayers:

1. Engaging or keeping sin in our mind and thoughts.

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; Psalm 66:18

2. Rebellion and disobedience to the Lord and His commands.

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.)

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

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

4. Not trying to understand God's purpose nor desiring it.

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

5. Praying or asking God with selfish or wrong motives.

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

1. From these five reasons that God may not answer our prayers, which one is the most challenging for you and why?

Personal Answer

2. What will you do this week to overcome sin and be assured of God answering your prayers?

Personal Answer (Suggestions: prayer, fasting, confession, seek God's help, practice self-control, study Bible and write verses in area of sin, memorize those verses, accountability partner, etc.)

3. Write of your success and how Jesus helped you with your plan in question 2:

Personal Answer

4. What do you see wrong with the child's rude request for a trip to Disney World?

Personal Answer but here are some possible reasons:

1. Lack of love and respect for father/parent.
2. Even if father is rich and wants to take child to Disney World, it may not be the right timing for either him or the child.
3. The child doesn't seem to want to spend time with dad but just wants what dad can give him for his own pleasure.
4. The child is demanding and not approaching dad/parent with proper submissive attitude.

5. 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

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.

6. Write 1 John 4:4 from memory without referring to notes:

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

7. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in reading Isaiah, chapter 30. Write a short summary of what is happening in this chapter. Explain the meaning of verse 19:

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).

O 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

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

Personal Answer

9. How will you cooperate with God in attaining (reaching) your new level of commitment in obedience and purity?

Personal Answer (Suggestions: prayer, fasting, confession, seek God's help, practice self-control, study Bible and write verses in area of obedience and purity, review or memorize those verses, accountability partner, etc.)

Lesson 2: Prayer and Grace (Day Two) *Prayer-Walking*

10. Contemplative (thoughtful) Walk. Prepare your heart to talk, listen, and worship God and then go for your walk. Write of your experience:

Personal Answer; CLI Discipler, please comment appropriately on your disciple's experience and encourage him or her. Thank you, Kathleen

11. Spiritual Warfare Walk. Ask God who He wants to join you. Prepare your heart, share the purpose of your prayer walk with your prayer team and walk. Write of your experience:

Personal Answer; CLI Discipler, please comment appropriately on your disciple's prayer walk and encourage him or her.

12. Intercession (pray for others) Walk. Ask God who He wants to join you. Prepare your heart, share the purpose of your prayer walk with your prayer team and walk. Write of your experience:

Personal Answer; CLI Discipler, please comment appropriately on your disciple's prayer service to others and encourage him or her.

Lesson 2: Prayer and Grace (Day Three) *Purpose of Prayer*

Read Jeremiah 4:22 and answer questions 13-15:

"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

13. Speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, God has harsh words for His people. "My people are fools because:

they do not know me.

14. God says His people are senseless children because:

they have no understanding.

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

they know not how to do good.

Read Exodus 33:13-14 and answer questions 13-15:

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

16. Why did Moses want God to teach him his ways (v. 13)?

- 1. So he would know God*
- 2. Find favor with God*

17. How did the LORD answer Moses' prayer (v. 14)?

My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.

18. How can we know if the LORD is pleased with us? (Reference John 15:4, 17:22-23)

We are living, dwelling, remaining, and abiding in Jesus. We are one in Jesus with God the Father and are loved by God.

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. John 15:4

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17:22-23

19. Can you please or love someone that you do not know? Why or why not?

No, because love is about relationship and being familiar with someone's personality, likes, dislikes etc. We can even love our enemies but we still know their faults or something about them and love them in spite of who they are or what they do.

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

Knowing God, His character and His ways.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.⁹ Do 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

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

Personal Answer

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

Personal Answer

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

Personal Answer

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

Personal Answer

25. How can your CLI Discipler help you in this regard? How might the two of you hold each other accountable?

CLI Discipler: Make sure your disciple answers this question. If he or she does not have a suggestion for holding each other accountable, write and give some options of your own.

(Idea: Have a daily prayer log and exchange in letters. A simple sheet of paper with date of prayers.)

Lesson 2: Prayer and Grace (Day Four) *Gift of Empowerment*

26. Pretend you were given a beautifully wrapped gift. You open your gift and inside is God's grace. Describe God's grace in your own words:

Personal Answer, but this is the answer we are looking for: Grace is God's divine power in action to undeserving people.

27. Did Hannah deserve to have a baby? Yes **No** Maybe (Circle One)

No one is deserving of any kind of gift or grace from God. No matter how sad Hannah's situation, she still had done nothing to deserve to be blessed with a baby or anything else.

28. Since Hannah was barren, what was the only way that she was going to conceive (have a baby)?

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

to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. 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 be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name 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 the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." Luke 1:27-33

29. Did Mary ask God if she could be the mother of His Son? Yes **No** Maybe (Circle One)

There is no record in the Bible of Mary praying to be the mother of God's Son. No one knew or even imagined that Jesus would be born of a virgin, fully God and fully man.

30. How will this lesson on grace strengthen your walk with the Lord?

Personal Answer

31. Is there any aspect of *your* Christian life in which you are not relying on God's grace? Explain.

Personal Answer: CLI Discipler, please comment appropriately as the Holy Spirit leads.

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

Something to this effect: Grace is God's divine power in action to undeserving people.

33. Make a concerted (concentrated, strenuous) effort to open God's gifts of grace this week. Write your CLI Discipler about the results and how you experienced God working in your life.

Personal Answer: CLI Discipler, please comment appropriately as the Holy Spirit leads.

34. Pray for God to show you how to use this lesson on grace with others. What did God reveal to you and what happened?

Personal Answer: CLI Discipler, please comment and encourage appropriately as the Holy Spirit leads.

Lesson 2: Prayer and Grace (Day Five) *Responsibility and Effort*

Read 2 Timothy 1:8-10 and answer questions 35-36:

So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,⁹ who 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,¹⁰ but 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

35. Who saved you and called you to a holy life (v. 8-9)?

God

36. How and when was God's grace given to you (v. 9)?

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.

37. How has God's grace been revealed to you (v. 10)?

It has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus.

Read Titus 2:11-12 and answer questions 38-39:

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.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. Titus 2:11-12

38. 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.

39. God's grace teaches self-control (v. 12). What is your responsibility in leading a godly life?

To live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

Read the following verses and answer question 40-42:

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. 2 Peter 3:14

Therefore, my dear brothers, 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

40. We must train ourselves and put effort into leading godly lives. **True** False (Circle One)

41. As long as we are saved, God does not care how we live or work. True **False** (Circle One)

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

Personal Answer but here are some general ideas: We rely 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 the Lord.

Read the following verses and answer question 43-45:

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

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

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.¹³ Brothers, 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,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14

43. Grace means that we do not have to work and exert ourselves. True **False** (Circle One)

44. Grace spurs (drives) you to an active, vibrant and fruitful life. **True** False (Circle One)

45. Are you forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One) Explain your answer:

Personal Answer: CLI Discipled, please comment and encourage appropriately as the Holy Spirit leads.

46. Please share any physical, emotional or mental problems that you are dealing with right now?

Personal Answer: CLI Discipler, please make encouraging and comforting comment on your disciple's struggles, pray for him or her and ask God for healing. Also keep this information in order to follow up in future letters.

47. Share 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: CLI Discipler, please comment and encourage appropriately as the Holy Spirit leads.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and answer questions 47-51:

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.⁹ But 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.¹⁰ That 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

48. Can you think of any reason that we are not given more information about this torment (v.7)?

Personal Answer but consider, we are not to put our focus 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 and 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.

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

Three times.

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

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

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

That God would work satisfactorily and powerfully through his situation even if He 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)

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

Personal Answer

53. Fill out the Christian Maturity Worksheet (the last two pages of questions and answers).

All personal answers. CLI Discipler, make copy of your disciple's Christian Maturity Worksheet so you can check on how they are doing from time to time. Make appropriate comments and notes to yourself on how you can help him or her grow in the Lord and realize potential and success in kingdom living.

Next: Lesson 3: Identity in Christ

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