



Faith



Love



Living Water



The Feet of the Cross



Good Shepherd - Lost & Found

F
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The Sower



Joyful

TO.....S
A CLOSER WALK

WRITTEN BY CATHERINE PRICE
ILLUSTRATED BY CONNIE RHODES



Wise & Foolish



Widow's Offering



Fishers of Men



I can Follow Me



Prayer & Care



Hi! I am Catherine Price and I live in the small town of Aliceville, Kansas. I am a member of the Mont Ida Church of the Brethren. I have been married to my husband, James, for 28 years. I have just recently retired from Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation in Burlington, Kansas where I worked in the Accounting Dept. for 17 years. For the last 10 years, I have taught the Young Adult Sunday School Class and I also help to lead the singing. I began writing a newsletter for our church in September of 2007, shortly after my “inspiration” came at the Western Plains District Conference. Connie Rhodes’ Footprint Art was displayed in the sanctuary of the McPherson Church of the Brethren and our theme was “Come...Follow Jesus.”

Connie has graciously allowed me to use her art in the Newsletter and I have done so through 2007 and 2008. In 2009, I published several newsletters that were consolidations of several months. My last newsletter was in August 2009. After this I felt God’s calling to begin a Daily Devotional Book based on these Footprints. I talked to Connie about my idea and she was very excited about it and has been a constant inspiration in her willingness to share all of her art so freely. Since that time I have been working on each month’s devotionals which, looking at the cover of the book, you can see on your top left, the theme of “Faith” and going across the top, you see the themes of “Love”, and “The Foot of the Cross” “The Living Water –The Holy Spirit”. Next, is “The Sower” and on down the right side; “The Wise and Foolish Virgins”. This is the first Volume.

Second Volume: May 1, 2013 Update: I am now finished with the Second Volume. These are the Footprint Titles: Prayer & Care; Come, Follow Me & I Will Make You Fishers of Men; The Widow’s Mite (Giving); Joy; The Good Shepherd. I am very grateful to God for allowing me to learn these truths as I write down what He has given me to say. I pray that many of you will open up your hearts and allow ALL of His Love to Come In! In Loving Service,

Cathy

If you have comments or questions, please feel free to call or text me at: 1-785-204-2938.



Connie Rhodes would like to extend her greetings to you all. In the above photo, she is doing her art presentation before an audience at Salina, Kansas in April of 2008, at the Western Plains District Ladies Retreat. Her talents became apparent to many of the “Brethren” when we came to the District Conference in July, 2007. She had been given the task of creating art work that depicted the Conference theme: “Come, Follow Jesus” Each of her original designs were in the form of a footprint and artistically portrayed a Bible story or theme. The original paintings were displayed around the sanctuary of the McPherson Church of the Brethren where the Conference was held. As we saw at the Ladies’ Retreat the next year, she is so much more talented. Her presentation includes; painting a beautiful scene while talking to the audience. This usually takes about 30 to 45 minutes. She is a very funny lady. You can see all of her art work on her website: www.artbyrhodes.com. Connie has been a member of the Newton Church of the Brethren for 22 years and is also the Church Clerk, as well as serving on the Church Board and teaching Sunday School where needed.

(this was written in 2011)

VOLUME TWO

Featuring:

- 7. Prayer and Care Footprint**
- 8. Come Follow Me Footprint**
- 9. Fishers of Men Footprint**
- 10. The Widow's Offering Footprint**
- 11. Joy Footprint**
- 12. Shepherd Footprint**

*FOOTPRINTS TO...
A CLOSER WALK*

VOLUME TWO

JULY DEVOTIONAL

CHAPTER SEVEN

PRAYER AND CARE

“Be supportive and humble yourself to serve others in all things. It’s not what you do, it’s how you do it; from the heart.” Connie Rhodes



MARK 1:29-41: "Then, leaving the synagogue, he and his disciples went over to Simon and Andrew's house, where they found Simon's mother-in-law sick in bed with a high fever. They told Jesus about her right away. He went to her bedside, and as he took her by the hand and helped her to sit up, the fever suddenly left, and she got up and prepared dinner for them! By sunset the courtyard was filled with the sick and demon-possessed, brought to Him for healing; and a huge crowd of people from all over the city of Capernaum gathered outside the door to watch. So Jesus healed great numbers of sick folk that evening and ordered many demons to come out of their victims. (But He refused to allow the demons to speak, because they knew who He was!) The next morning, He was up long before daybreak and went out alone into the wilderness to pray. (Living Version)

*FOOTPRINTS TO...
A CLOSER WALK*

JULY DEVOTIONAL

CHAPTER SEVEN

“PRAYER AND CARE”

FIRST WEEK –

“THE DEFINITION OF PRAYER”

DAY ONE.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

PRAYER IS SIMPLY ASKING

Scripture Reading: Matt. 7:7-8; 21:22; John 14:13-14

“Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; for every one that asks, receives; and he that seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it shall be opened.” “All things whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive.” “Whatsoever you shall ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you shall ask anything in My name I will do it.”

I looked in Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance for all of the references to praying, pray, and prayer and also, Webster’s Dictionary definition of prayer and first; the definition is: “asking in order to get” and “a humble entreaty made to God” and “any set formula for praying, as to God”. I found also, the definition for “supplication” which is “to ask for; humbly, as by prayer, to make a humble request.”

In the concordance there were many references which were quotations such as: “I pray thee” which was only an entreaty of one who is asking another individual for something. The other references were the examples of real prayer that we will be studying this month. I am excited about this subject, already, because I know that God has some things that He wants me to learn about prayer. I hope it will be encouraging to you as well. We all know what prayer is, and are all, I am assuming, as Christians, engaged in prayer daily. But, like all of the subjects that I have attempted to examine, we need to back up and re-group on prayer. So what is prayer? According to the above references, it is asking for something from God. Most of us will have to admit that in our daily lives prayer has become a brief few moments of telling God what’s going on in our lives (Ha!) and asking His help for all of our needs to be met and for His strength to get through the day. Many times, through the day, we tuck on our P.S. and ask for any number of things. We pray in every place, every area we go, wherever we are: on the road; in the bathroom; in the swimming pool; at work; at play; etc.

We sure take a lot for granted, don’t we? But, we may argue, isn’t this our freedom in Christ? This is something we need to examine, which we will do this month.

Prayer

Father, teach us to pray. Teach us to know how to find the power in prayer that those men of reknown have been so famous for; able to do mighty things for You through their strength in prayer. We ask this in Jesus name,
Amen

DAY TWO.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Warren Wiersbe: "Effective prayer is the provision for every need and the solution for every problem." Francois Fenelon: "Of all the duties enjoined by Christianity none is more essential and yet more neglected than prayer." Corrie Ten Boom: "Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" John Wesley: "God does nothing except in response to believing prayer." Andrew Murray: "The man who mobilizes the Christian Church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history." E.M. Bounds: "God shapes the world by prayer. The more prayer there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil." Oswald Chambers: "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."

We could go on and on, but let us move on to the work at hand. In all of the Daily Devotionals that we have studied so far, we see that we have been moving deeper and deeper into God's Word, to understand more of what He wants us to know about being His people, the Church. Our Faith brought us to our knees; in a prayer of repentance and to be led into the sinner's prayer to receive Him as Savior. Our Love brought us into a relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through prayer. We came to the Foot of the Cross to see Jesus ever so much clearer; learning what being "crucified with Christ" really means and how it is lived out in the prayer closet. The Living Water was the Holy Spirit in our lives who makes intercession for us in prayer. We learned all about The Sower of seed and how very intimate our Lord wants us to be with Him to the place of "Abiding in Him" through prayer. The Wise and Foolish Virgins parable taught us much about the Bridegroom and we as the Bride and what we can look forward to when He comes again, to a time in the future when we will all be One in Him and there will be no need to pray for we will be with Him forever. Have we learned to pray? In defining prayer, there must be more to prayer than just asking.

Prayer

Father, I know that You want our fellowship as much or more than our trust in You to answer our requests. I know that it is the communication with You that is so vitally important. I am Yours, Amen

**DAY THREE.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)**

THE HISTORY OF PRAYER

Scripture Reading: Gen. 4:25-26(NKJV); Gen. 5:22-24

"And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord." Quote from the Wycliffe Bible Commentary; "It was a never-to-be-forgotten experience when, under the encouragement of Enosh men began to call upon the name of Jehovah, the covenant God. Enosh, who was prominent in the line of Seth, was the originator of public prayer and spiritual worship. In it, the ineffable name of the eternal God was used. There was hope for a better day through Seth's descendants. " After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had sons and daughters. At the age of 365 and in constant touch with God, he disappeared, for God took him!"

From the beginning, God talked to man from Adam on—He never stopped communicating. It seemed that He actually did most of the talking. I can see why! When you are actually in His presence and hear His voice, you are too busy dealing with the excitement of it to think of much to say.

After Adam and Eve messed up their perfect life of total fellowship with God, man was delegated with another way of communication with Him. First, it was called "calling on the name of Jehovah, the covenant God." Then, there were certain special men who the Word of God distinguished by saying, "They walked with God." Noah was one of those, as was Abraham and Moses, through which we continue our quest to see the progression of the activity of prayer. God's desire to be close to man is so obvious when you begin a careful search, and the progression of God's intervention to control evil upon the earth. In some ways, it seems that God was so much more close and accessible back then, for He walked through the Garden of Eden in the beginning, and talked to men seemingly face to face. Through the years, He seemed farther away, but then He worked out a plan to be as close to us as He could ever be.

Prayer

**Father, when I get into Your glorious Word, I enter another realm. It is so marvelous that we are so blessed to have all of the facts. Thank You so much,
Amen**

DAY FOUR.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

FREEDOM IN CHRIST—OUR INDEPENDENCE DAY

Happy Fourth of July! Hope you are having a great celebration today! We should all refresh our memories as to how we all obtained our freedom in this great country, not by anything we did ourselves, but from what those in the past did; valiant men and women of integrity and "grit", and keep in mind those who have given their lives to maintain that freedom. In the same way, we should also commemorate our own day of freedom when we came to Christ and accepted His free gift of salvation from sin. He gave His life for that freedom. Let us just worship today as we meditate upon the meaning of freedom in Christ by the scriptures that are given today. First, I want to quote from Max Lucado in his commentary from the "Inspirational Study Bible" (NKJV): "Freedom is an elusive thing—it's the carrot on the end of the stick that causes a lot of us mules to do the things we do. Jesus spoke of freedom, but he spoke of a different kind of freedom; the type of freedom that comes not through power but through submission, not through control but through surrender; not through possessions but through open hands. God wants to emancipate His people; He wants to set them free. He wants His people to be not slaves but sons. He wants them governed not by law but by love. We have been liberated from our own guilt and our own legalism. We have the freedom to pray and the freedom to love the God of our heart. And we have been forgiven by the only one who could condemn us. We are truly free!" John 8:31-34: "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free?' Jesus answered them, Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." Romans 6:15-16,22-23: "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" "But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Prayer

Father, how we praise and love you this day. We worship You Oh Lord! For You have bought our freedom from sin with Your precious blood. You have made us free, indeed. Thank You, Amen

DAY FIVE.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

ALTARS OF PRAYER

Scripture Reading: Gen.8:20-21; 9:11, 9NKJV) Gen.12:7-8:13:1-4 (Living)

"Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done."
"Thus I establish My covenant with you: (speaking to Noah) Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." "Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, 'To your descendants I will give this land.' And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. Afterwards, Abram left that place and traveled southward to the hilly country between Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he made camp, and made an altar to the Lord and prayed to Him." "So they left Egypt and traveled north into the Negeb—Abram with his wife, and Lot, and all that they owned, for Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold. Then they continued northward toward Bethel where he had camped before, between Bethel and Ai—to the place where he had built the altar. And there he again worshiped the Lord."

Altars were built for a "contact point" to meet with God and to establish covenants and instructions from God, as well as for offering gifts to God. We see where it all began; all of man's acts of worship are to show honor and adoration to the Lord, and are all avenues of Calling on His name, walking with Him, and meeting with Him for the purpose of fellowship.

Prayer

Lord, I am humbled by this study into the beginning of Your teaching of man to follow Your instructions in all the ways of worship that have steadily progressed through Your Word to us. Open my eyes, that I may see You.

Amen

DAY SIX.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE PLACE OF MEETING WITH GOD-
THE TABERNACLE

Scripture Reading: Ex. 29:42-45: This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the Tabernacle of Meeting before the Lord, where I will meet you to speak with you. And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the Tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory. So

I will consecrate the Tabernacle of Meeting and the altar. I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me as priests. I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God”

Scripture Reading: Ex.30:1-6 (NKJV)

“You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood.

A cubit shall be its length and a cubit its width—it shall be square—and two cubits shall be its height. Its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay its top, its sides all around, and its horns with pure gold; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around. Two gold rings you shall make for it, under the molding on both its sides. You shall place them on its two sides, and they will be holders for the poles with which to bear it. You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. And you shall put it before the veil that is before the Ark of the Testimony, before the Mercy Seat that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you.”

All of God's instructions of the building of the Tabernacle were so that there could be a place for God to meet with the people. Everything had to be done exactly as instructed—it was very important—so important that men could lose their lives if they did the wrong thing. The piece of furniture that was specifically for prayer was the Incense Altar. The instruction from God was to burn incense in a specific way; which had its meaning in lifting up the prayers of the people by the priests. The idea was that the fragrance of the incense would rise to heaven and the prayers would be lifted in the fragrant smoke ascending to God.

Prayer

Lord, sometimes it seems that it would be wonderful to be in that time and place and be one of those Israelites who were able to be a part of that first tabernacle and the things of glory that they saw, but I know You placed me here, now, for a special reason. I praise Your Wisdom and Holiness. Amen

DAY SEVEN.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

LET US PRAY!

Scripture Prayer from Hebrews(Living)

"Lord, we come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Oh Our Great High Priest, thank You for having compassion on we who are ignorant and going astray. When You were here on earth in the flesh, You offered up prayers and supplications to Him who is able to save us from death, and those prayers were heard because of Your Godly fear. Though You were a Son yet You learned obedience by Your suffering. Having then been perfected, You became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey You. Thank You for Your promise that You will never leave us nor forsake us. Praise You Lord Jesus for You are the same yesterday, today and forever. Therefore let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to You from the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to Your name. Help us all to remember each other in prayer asking that You, the God of Peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make each one complete in every good work to do Your will, working in all of us what is well pleasing in Your sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen"

There was a lot of distance between "calling on the name of the Lord" and "walking with God." There is also a lot of distance between burning incense at the incense altar and bowing in prayer either in our seats or at an altar at our church. The tent of meeting, called the Tabernacle was the first church, or place of worship. Now, we have church buildings to come and worship the Lord. There are many "links" between how we pray now and how people prayed back in Bible days. There were types and shadows of the Messiah back before He ever walked on the earth, back to the Tabernacle, that we need not ignore.

This is where we will start our journey to learn many things about prayer. Hebrews speaks of many aspects of the old way of worship and what it means in regard to the new way. I close with Hebrews 13:10-15:

"We have an Altar—the Cross where Christ was sacrificed—where those who continue to seek salvation by obeying Jewish laws can never be helped. Under the system of Jewish laws the high priest brought the blood of the slain animals into the sanctuary as a sacrifice for sin, and then the bodies of the animals were burned outside the city. That is why Jesus suffered and died outside the city, where His blood washed our sins away. So let us go out to Him beyond the city walls (that is, outside the interests of this world, being willing to be despised) to suffer with Him there, bearing His shame."

*FOOTPRINTS TO...
A CLOSER WALK*

JULY DEVOTIONAL

CHAPTER SEVEN

“PRAYER AND CARE”

SECOND WEEK –

“THE TYPES AND SHADOWS OF PRAYER”

DAY EIGHT.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

using studies from "The Tabernacle" by David Levy
WHY DO WE PRAY?

Scripture Reading: Ex.30:1-10;34-38 is demonstrated and expounded upon quite adequately by Mr. Levy. "Moses ended his description of the golden altar and its ministry by calling it "most holy unto the Lord." Next to the Ark of the Covenant, it was the most sacred piece of furniture in the Tabernacle, illustrating the tremendous importance God puts on our communion with Him in prayer."

The Bible tells us that the invisible things are the things that last forever. We serve an invisible God, and we have our communion with Him through prayer. A quote from J.C. Ryle: "Prayer is to Faith what breath is to the body. How a person can live and not breathe is past my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension too." I would like to offer my own understanding of prayer; our thoughts focused solely on God, to the extent that we shut out all outside distractions, and visualizing His countenance or His throne so that we may be properly humbled to pray as we come before His throne to commune with a Holy God. I believe He still expects our utmost respect & honor and for Him to be exalted and worshiped in a humbled and contrite spirit. We must first be still and know He is God, before coming to His throne of Glory, realizing how very blessed we are to be able to pray to Him directly now, without all the rituals involved before Jesus came and tore away the veil covering our way to God. Now we have free access to the Father! Why do we pray? In order to commune with Him, in order for Him to meet with us and tell us what to do, in order that we might KNOW He really exists and celebrate that wonderful privilege of actually speaking to Him! Prayer changes things! We must pray or the rocks will cry out! The song "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord" comes to mind. The rest of the verse says, "And He will lift you up, higher and higher!" That is enough of a reason to pray for me, how about you? I have a little poem I would like to share about being humble. This is such a vital part of what our countenance should be when we pray.

Prayer

Lord, I do want to know more about how You want me to pray. Help us all as we read this poem to perhaps begin to develop "humbleness." In Jesus Name,
Amen



BE YE HUMBLE

What is this thing called
humbleness?

Is it cowardice or worthlessness,
is it weakness or even hopelessness?
Does it seem to just come to the
inferior,

or to all who will admit, sincere,
that it is God they need and want
Him to lead?

Then they will begin to pray and
plead

for God to give that peace to
them,
that comes from asking forgiveness
of sin.

Under His will we must long to be,
surrendering self for service so
free.

Knowing we are His chosen ones,
yet always striving to be worthy
sons.

Humbly submitting to God we dwell,
here with sinners, to save from hell.
If God is leading our lives so strong,
failing to do His will is wrong.

By making a constant surrender to
Him,
it is proven to us that our faith
won't dim.

Submission is the key to it all,
and though we may sometimes feel
ten feet tall,

so happy are we in His blessings
abide,
don't slip and fall by stepping
aside,

when someone else needs the
Savior's sweet peace,
go to them witnessing -- let love
never cease.

Humbleness isn't a feeling of shame,
a complete lack of pride or a life so
tame.

What it is, only God can define,
but the less we claim it the more we
may find.

Connie Rhodes Art—Catherine Price's Poem

DAY NINE.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

TYPES OF PRAYER— THE SINNERS PRAYER

using studies from "The Tabernacle" by David Levy

from Scripture Reading: Ex.30:1-10;34-38 "Before the priests could offer the incense of prayer, three requirements had to be met. First, the priests had to minister at the brazen altar, shedding the blood of an animal for their sins. Before we are able to come before a Holy God in prayer, we must be cleansed by the shed blood of Jesus Christ, which is done by appropriating His sacrificial death on the cross on our behalf. We must confess our sins and come before God with clean hearts before He will hear our prayers."

Additional scripture: (Living)1John:1:8-10; Heb. 10:21-23: "If we say that we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refusing to accept the truth. But if we confess our sins to Him, He can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong and it is perfectly proper for God to do this for us because Christ died to wash away our sins. If we claim we have not sinned, we are lying and calling God a liar, for He says we have sinned." "And since this great High Priest of ours rules over God's household, let us go right in, to God Himself, with true hearts fully trusting Him to receive us, because we have been sprinkled with Christ's Blood to make us clean, and because our bodies have been washed with pure water." "John 3:3-8 Jesus replied, "With all the earnestness I possess I tell you this: Unless you are born again, you can never get into the Kingdom of God.(skip to v.5) Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. Men can only reproduce human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven so don't be surprised at my statement that you must be born again! Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it will go next, so it is with the Spirit. We do not know on whom He will next bestow this life from heaven. "

There are at least five types of prayer, and the first one must be done first. Yes, this may have been the first real prayer you ever prayed. When you first felt convicted of your sin and realized that Jesus died on the cross for you so that you could be forgiven, you felt compelled to pray to Him. You may have "come forward" in a church service and accepted Jesus' invitation to be saved from the judgment of that sin and be pardoned and redeemed and you may or may not have been led by a minister in a "sinner's prayer" asking God to help you. Perhaps it was something along these lines: "Dear Heavenly Father, I come before you confessing my sin and asking forgiveness. I want to ask Jesus to come into my heart and be my Savior. I receive Him now, thank you for forgiving me and making me brand new. In Jesus name, Amen"

DAY TEN.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

using studies from "The Tabernacle" by David Levy

Scripture Reading: Ex.30:1-10;34-38 is demonstrated and expounded upon quite adequately by Mr. Levy: "Second, the priests had to wash all defilement from their hands and feet before they could enter the Holy Place to offer the ministry of prayer. Unconfessed sin in the lives of a believer hampers God from listening and responding to their prayers. As believer-priests, we are to be set apart unto holiness." Hebrews 10:18-20: "Now, when sins have once been forever forgiven and forgotten, there is no need to offer more sacrifices to get rid of them. And so, dear brothers, now we may walk right into the very Holy of Holies where God is, because of the blood of Jesus. This is the fresh, new, life-giving way which Christ has opened up for us by tearing the curtain—His human body—to let us into the holy presence of God."

(from Mr. Levy): Placing the altar before the veil was of great significance. The Golden Altar stood next to the Veil in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle; which separated it from the Holy of Holies, where God manifested His presence. Thus, the closest the priests could come to God in daily worship was when they ministered at the altar of incense. The same principle holds true for Christians. The closest we can come to God is through prayer. James 4:8: 7-10: "So give yourselves humbly to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. And when you draw close to God, God will draw close to you. Wash your hands you sinners, and let your hearts be filled with God alone to make them pure and true to Him. Let there be tears for the wrong things you have done.

Let there be sorrow and sincere grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. Then when you realize your worthlessness before the Lord, He will lift you up, encourage and help you." "There is a significant difference between the way we come to God and the way the Aaronic priests came to Him. Today, there is no veil separating us from the throne of God, as there was in the Tabernacle. In Rev. 8:3 we see that the Golden Altar of incense stands before the throne of God as an everlasting testimony to the prayers of believers as they ascend into His presence."

Prayer

Oh Praise You My King! How very awesome You are! You are the air that I breathe, Your Holy Presence is living in me! Amen

DAY ELEVEN.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

using studies from "The Tabernacle" by David Levy

Scripture Reading: Ex.30:1-10;34-38 is demonstrated and expounded upon quite adequately by Mr. Levy: " Third, the priests had to be in the Holy Place to offer the incense of prayer. Cleansed by blood and water, they stepped into the sanctuary to fellowship with God." "The incense was made from three specific sweet perfumes (Ex.30:34) mixed with frankincense. Frankincense is a fragrant white gum that comes from a tree called the salai from Arabia. The spices were weighed out equally and mixed into one substance by the "perfumers" and beaten to emit their fragrances. The sweet smelling incense was a beautiful picture (type and shadow) of Christ in all His perfection and Grace before God and mankind. His life emitted a fragrant perfection of purity and holiness unmarred by sin or fleshly motives. Christians are called "a sweet savor" to God and the world in 2 Cor. 2:14-15: "But thanks be to God! For through what Christ has done, He has triumphed over us so that now wherever we go He uses us to tell others about the Lord and to spread the Gospel like a sweet perfume. As far as God is concerned there is a sweet, wholesome fragrance in our lives. It is the fragrance of Christ within us, an aroma to both the saved and the unsaved all around us."

Some of the incense was beaten and put outside the Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant stood, ready to be used when necessary. So it is with Christians, whose hearts should be prepared before God to offer up the sweet incense of prayer."

Scripture Prayer From Psalms 84

"How lovely is Your Temple, O Lord of the armies of heaven! I long, yes, faint with longing to be able to enter your courtyard and come near to the Living God! Even the sparrows and swallows are welcome to come and nest among Your altars and there have their young. O Lord of heavens armies, My King and My God! How happy are *we* who can live in Your temple, singing Your praises. *So* happy are *we* who are strong in the Lord, to want above all else, to follow Your steps. When *we* walk through the valley of weeping *may it* become a place of springs where pools of blessing and refreshment collect after rains! *May we* grow constantly in strength, *for* each of *us* is invited to meet with the Lord in Zion!" Amen

DAY TWELVE.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

using studies from "The Tabernacle" by David Levy

Scripture Reading: Ex.30:1-10;34-38 is demonstrated and expounded upon quite adequately by Mr. Levy: "the Golden Altar also represented the place of intercession before the Lord; thus, when blood from the sin offering was sprinkled on the horns of the altar, it symbolized a prayer for the pardon of sin before God. The blood, when applied to the altar, gave the incense of prayer its value. So it is with Christ's blood, which gives value to our prayers before God (Heb. 9;13-14; 12:22-24) "And if under the old system the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of young cows could cleanse men's bodies from sin, just think how much more surely the blood of Christ will transform our lives and hearts. His sacrifice frees us from the worry of having to obey the old rules, and makes us want to serve the living God. For by the help of the Holy Spirit, Christ willingly gave Himself to God to die for our sins—He being perfect, without a single sin or fault." "But you have come right up into Mt.

Zion, to the City of the Living God! To the heavenly Jerusalem! To the gathering of countless happy angels! And to the Church, composed of all those registered in heaven; and to God who is judge of all; and to the spirits of the redeemed in heaven already made perfect; and to Jesus, Himself, who has brought us His wonderful new agreement; and to the sprinkled blood which graciously forgives instead of crying out for vengeance as the blood of Abel did." Mr. Levy continues: "The priests interceded before the Lord on behalf of the people, giving a beautiful picture of the Lord's intercession on behalf of believers. The Bible clearly states that He "ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hb.7;25).

Our intercession is our prayers for our family, friends, pastor and church, etc. It is wonderful to realize that along with our prayers of intercession, Jesus is also interceding on their behalf. Many of us need that reassurance that it is not all up to us, 'if we don't pray for so-and-so they won't be helped', no, they will be helped by Jesus Himself, but after all, it is more about us than them, because we needed to pray for them so that we would be made aware of what we might be able to do for that person ourselves besides praying.

Prayer

Lord help me to go to someone who I have been praying for and let them know I am praying for them. Let them see Your love in my actions and show me what can be done for them in a practical way. Amen

DAY THIRTEEN.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

PRAYER OF PETITION

using studies from "The Tabernacle" by David Levy

Scripture Reading: Ex.30:1-10;34-38 is demonstrated and expounded upon quite adequately by Mr. Levy: "The prepared incense was then burned with fire by the priests. The same fire that burned the sacrifice on the Brazen Altar (which stood at the entrance to the Tabernacle in the courtyard) was used to consume the incense. This too, is a picture of Christ. Because He experienced the fires of suffering and sacrifice to secure our salvation, He is able to appear in heaven as our advocate, making it possible for us to have direct access to God through prayer. Calvary gives validity to our prayers. Two solemn warnings were given concerning the type of incense and fire that could be used on the golden altar. First, no strange incense could be used on the altar, nor could anyone make the incense for his own personal use. Any one who did so was cut off from his people (killed) (Ex. 30:38) This is a figure of prayer offered outside God's will. Our prayer life is to conform to the pattern set forth by God in His Word. We are not to offer prayer in a manner of "vain repetitions" (Matt.6:7) but after the model presented by the Lord when His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray.(Luke 11:1-4) Our prayers should always be offered in the divine will of God, by the authority of Jesus' name. Our prayers are hindered when we are out of fellowship with God, harbor an unforgiving spirit against a brother in Christ, or pray selfishly out of the will of God."

These three things in the last sentence above, help us in our quest to have an effective prayer life. I do not wish to burden us down with a bunch of rules on prayer, but it is so key to know what God expects from us, so that we will have wonderful fulfilling communion with Him and be able to receive the blessings that He so much wants to give us. Also, as we will see, tomorrow, it is vitally important to know how to pray with power—to defeat the enemy—satan.

Prayer

Lord, How I praise You today! Thank You for all of your wonderful blessings of revealed knowledge on the subject of prayer, so that I will be able to come before You and be in Your very presence, with nothing in my hands, nothing left to ask You for, just to be here in this place with You. In Jesus Name,

Amen

DAY FOURTEEN.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

SPIRITUAL ARMOR IN PRAYER

using studies from "The Tabernacle" by David Levy

Scripture Reading: Ex.30:1-10;34-38 is demonstrated and expounded upon quite adequately by Mr. Levy: "Secondly, no fire except from the Brazen altar could be used on the golden altar. When Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire, they immediately died by the hand of the Lord. These men were true priests with true incense, but they used fire that had not been prescribed by God. They willfully disobeyed God's expressed command concerning worship at the golden altar. Some may question the harsh judgment from God upon these two priests, but it is a grim reminder of the fact that rebellion against the expressed will of God can bring His judgment even on believers. It also illustrates that we should not worship and serve God according to the flesh, but according to His revealed will in the Scriptures. The horns on the altar of incense were not just for decoration but served a specific purpose in relationship to the blood sacrifice. First, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest took some of the blood that was used to sprinkle the Mercy Seat, and put it on the horns of the altar of incense to make an atonement upon the horns of it. The purpose of this was to "cleanse it and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel." Second, the altar served as a place of expiation for the priests and the congregation. It typifies Christ who was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

When battling against satan, one must have all of the armor of God in place.

Prayer from Eph. 6:10-18:"(Lord please grant me) God's Armor—to resist persons without bodies—evil rulers of the unseen world, mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world. (Help me) Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy when he attacks and when it is all over—(please let me) still be standing up! (Lord, Help me to do these things) (please provide) the strong belt of truth and the breastplate of God's approval. (May I) Wear shoes that are able to speed (me) on as (I) preach the good news of peace with God. In every battle, (I know I) will need faith as (my) shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at (me) by satan. And (I) will need the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the Word of God, praying with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." (Amen)(my own words in parenthesis)

*FOOTPRINTS TO...
A CLOSER WALK*

JULY DEVOTIONAL

CHAPTER SEVEN

“PRAYER AND CARE”

THIRD WEEK –

“WARRIORS OF PRAYER”

DAY FIFTEEN.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH

Scripture Reading;Ex. 3:1-10:

“One day as Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, out at the edge of the desert near Horeb, the mountain of God, suddenly the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him as a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw that the bush was on fire and that it didn't burn up, he went over to investigate. Then God called out to him, “Moses! Moses!” “Who is it?” Moses asked. “Don't come any closer,” God told him. “Take off your shoes, for you are standing on holy ground. I Am the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” (Moses covered his face with his hands, for he was afraid to look at God) Then the Lord told him, “I have seen the deep sorrows of My people in Egypt, and have heard their pleas for freedom from their harsh taskmasters. I have come to deliver them from the Egyptians and to take them out of Egypt into a good land, a land flowing with milk and honey....yes the wail of the people of Israel has risen to Me in heaven, and I have seen the heavy tasks the Egyptians have oppressed them with. Now I am going to send you to Pharaoh, to demand that he let you lead My people out of Egypt.”

God Himself was the one who initiated this conversation, and it continued on as we see in Chapter 4: 1:17 with Moses' repeatedly questioning God and trying to convince Him that he was not the man for the job. Luckily, Moses in the end, obeyed God, and was emboldened to become Israel's fearless leader! Each time the Lord spoke to Moses he became more and more strong to do whatever was demanded of him, awesome things—miracle after miracle! Until finally the greatest miracle took place, the parting of the Red Sea.

What if God spoke to you in a burning bush and asked you to do something seemingly impossible? We could look at this story as a type of the altar of incense burning in the Tabernacle later on, the place of meeting with God was there on that mountain. How many times have we missed our appointment for our own meeting with God, because we had our focus on worldly things, or didn't want to take the time to meditate on His Word and pray to Him and listen for His voice.

Prayer

Father, forgive me for not taking enough time with You. Forgive me for being so blind and foolish and not humbling myself before You as I should. Help me to do that now. (take at least 10 minutes with God) In Jesus name, Amen

DAY SIXTEEN.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

JOSHUA'S MIGHTY PRAYER

Scripture Reading:(Living) Joshua 10:12-14: "As the men of Israel were pursuing and harassing the foe, Joshua prayed aloud, "Let the Sun stand still over Gibeon, and let the Moon stand in its place over the valley of Aijalon!" And the Sun and the Moon didn't move until the Israeli army had finished the destruction of its' enemies. This is described in greater detail in the Book of Jashar. So the Sun stopped in the heavens and stayed there for almost 24 hours! There had never been such a day before, and there has never been another since, when the Lord stopped the Sun and Moon—all because of the prayer of one man! But the Lord was fighting for Israel."

What a Miracle! God will move heaven and earth to accomplish His mission. Or He might make the earth stand still just so we can have more time to be with Him. WoW! God seems to be willing to do whatever is needed to make men believe in Him. He works through His creation to perform the miracles, but in most cases, it takes our faith to move the mountains of fear, doubt, depression, etc. Then, He tells whatever force of nature what to do and it is done! We have many more heroes, er, warriors I am calling them this time. And as we are all aware, this was one of many miracles in Joshua's career as the leader of the Israelites. God had done mighty things prior to this miracle; the parting of the Jordan River, and then the conquering of Jericho with the walls falling down because of God's specific instruction to Joshua and the people to do specific things the way that God prescribed and this would be the result, and it was. So, by the time that Joshua prayed for God to stop the Sun, he was totally confident that it would happen!

Joshua's most famous line is: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!" That is the way that we all must follow, to be leaders of our own household and make sure that everyone that lives with us is serving the Lord.

Prayer

Father, I pray that You will teach me to be a prayer warrior like Joshua. How can the walls of pride and prejudice come down without fervent prayer? How can we find the courage to forge the streams of doubt and fear unless we pray and You part those water for us so that we might cross over to greener pastures and live a life full of Your promises fulfilled through us? I Praise You, Lord. Amen

DAY SEVENTEEN.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

DAVID AND SOLOMON—FATHER & SON

Scripture Readings: Psalms 66: 11Kings 8:10-13; 22-28 9:1-9

"Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing of His glorious name! Tell the world how wonderful He is! How awe-inspiring are Your deeds, Oh God! How great Your power, no wonder Your enemies surrender! All the Earth shall worship You and sing of Your glories! Come and see the glorious things God has done! What marvelous miracles happen to His people! He made a dry road through the sea for them, and they went across on foot. What excitement and joy there was that day! Because of His great power, He rules forever! He watches every movement of the nations. (skip). Let everyone bless God and sing His praises, for He holds our lives in His hands. And He holds our feet to the path. You have purified us with fire, oh Lord, like silver in a crucible. You captured us in Your net and laid great burdens on our backs. You sent troops to ride across our broken bodies. We went through fire and flood, but in the end, You brought us into wealth and great abundance. Now I have come to Your Temple with burnt offerings to pay my vows. For when I was in trouble I promised You many offerings. (skip). Come and hear, all of you who reverence the Lord, and I will tell you what He did for me. For I cried to Him for help, with praises ready on my tongue. He would not have listened if I had not confessed my sins. But He listened! He heard my prayer! He paid attention to it! Blessed be God who didn't turn away when I was praying, and didn't refuse me His kindness and love." The dedication of Solomon's Temple has begun: "Look! As the priests are returning from the inner sanctuary, a bright cloud fills the Temple! The priests have to go outside because the glory of the Lord is filling the entire building! Now King Solomon prayed this invocation: "The Lord has said that He would live in the thick darkness; But O Lord, I have built You a lovely home on earth, a place for You to live forever!" "Then, as all the people watched, Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord with his hands spread out towards heaven and said, "O Lord God of Israel, there is no god like you in heaven or earth, for you are loving and kind and you keep your promises to your people if they do their best to do your will. Today you have fulfilled your promise to my father David, who was your servant, and now, O Lord God of Israel, fulfill our further promise to him; that if his descendants follow your ways and try to do your will as he did, one of them shall always sit upon the throne of Israel. Yes, O God of Israel, fulfill this promise too." God's reply:"I have heard your prayer. I have hallowed this Temple which you have built and have put My name here forever. I will constantly watch over it and rejoice in it. And if you live in honesty and truth as your father David did, always obeying Me, then I will cause your descendants to be the kings of Israel forever, just as I promised your father David, when I told him, 'One of your sons shall always be upon the throne of Israel.' (and God warned Solomon about turning away)"

DAY EIGHTEEN.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

ELIJAH AND ELISHA—CHARIOTS OF FIRE

Scripture Reading: 1Kings 18:21-39; 11Kings 2:portions; 6:14-23:

"Then Elijah talked to them, "How long are you going to waver between two opinions?" he asked the people. "If the Lord is God, follow Him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!" Then Elijah spoke again, 'I am the only prophet of the Lord who is left,' he told them, 'but Baal has 450 prophets. Now bring two young bulls. The prophets of Baal may choose whichever one they wish and cut it into pieces and lay it on the wood of their altar, but without putting any fire under the wood; and I will prepare the other young bull and lay it on the wood on the Lord's altar, with no fire under it. Then pray to your god and I will pray to the Lord; and the god who answers by sending fire to light the wood is the true God!" Long story, short—there was no fire from their god; Elijah prayed: "O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, prove today that You are the God of Israel and that I am Your servant; prove that I have done all this at Your command. O Lord, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that You are God and that You have brought them back to Yourself." After pouring water over it all three times; then suddenly, fire flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, the dust, and even evaporated all the water in the ditch!

And when the people saw it, they fell to their faces upon the ground shouting, "Jehovah is God! Jehovah is God!" (Elijah has been given the instruction from God to anoint Elisha as his predecessor, and is told that he will be taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot, and so he was .) "So one night the king of Syria sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city. When the prophet's servant got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. 'Alas, my master, what shall we do now?' He cried out to Elisha. 'Don't be afraid!' Elisha told him. 'For our army is bigger than theirs!' Then Elisha prayed, 'Lord, open his eyes and let him see!' And the Lord opened the young man's eyes so that he could see horses of fire and chariots of fire everywhere upon the mountain! As the Syrian army advanced upon them, Elisha prayed, 'Lord, please make them blind.' And He did. Then Elisha went out and told them, 'You've come the wrong way! This isn't the right city! Follow me and I will take you to the man you're looking for.' And he led them to Samaria! As soon as they arrived Elisha prayed, 'Lord, now open their eyes and let them see.' And the Lord did, and they discovered that they were in Samaria, the capital city of Israel! ...And after that the Syrian raiders stayed away from the land of Israel." Please read these stories for yourselves, there is so much more but not room enough to share it all. Oh what prayer can do!

DAY NINETEEN.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

JOB AND JONAH: RELUCTANT WARRIORS

Scripture Readings: Job (a summary;13:18;42:1-6; Jonah (summary)

We all know the stories of Job and Jonah, and the things that happened to them as object lessons from God to persuade and adjust their attitudes. Job had been mightily blessed of God and yet as we read through the story, we see that he had a pride problem. "This is my case; I know that I am righteous. Who can argue with me over this? If you could prove me wrong I would stop defending myself and die." God had to strip him bare of everything that defined who he was, so that he could see God clearly. His closing prayer: "I know that You can do anything, and that no one can stop You. You ask who it is who has so foolishly denied Your providence. It is I. I was talking about things I knew nothing about and did not understand, things far too wonderful for me. You said, "Listen and I will speak! Let Me put the questions to you! See if you can answer them!" But now I (Job) say, "I had heard about You before, but now I have seen You, and I loathe myself and repent in dust and ashes!" Jonah had a pride problem as well, because he did not want to obey God and humble himself to serve Him, but fear was a major part of that as well. After God put him in the "whale", he prayed: "In my great trouble I cried to the Lord and He answered me; from the depths of death I called, and Lord, You heard me! You threw me into the ocean depths; I sank down into the floods of waters and was covered by Your wild and stormy waves. Then I said, 'O Lord, You have rejected me and cast me away. How shall I ever again see Your Holy Temple? I sank beneath the waves, and death was very near. The waters closed above me, the seaweed wrapped itself around my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains that rise from off the ocean floor. I was locked out of life and imprisoned in the land of death. But, O Lord my God, You have snatched me from the yawning jaws of death! When I had lost all hope, I turned my thoughts once more to the Lord. And my earnest prayer went to You in Your Holy Temple. I will never worship anyone but You!" (Sounds to me like the whale saved Jonah's life!) Jonah still exhibited a bad attitude but was at least obedient in delivering the message that God was going to destroy Nineveh if they did not repent. But when the people repented and God decided to spare Nineveh instead of destroying it, Jonah wanted God to NOT be merciful, and NOT spare the people. He did not seem to see that he had been successful in what God had asked him to do. He wanted things to come out his way. So God adjusted his attitude again with a simple worm eating away his comfortable shade. Jo.4:10; God said, "you feel sorry for yourself when your shelter is destroyed, though you did no work to put it there, and it is , at best, short-lived. And why shouldn't I feel sorry for a great city like Nineveh with its 120,000 people in utter spiritual darkness?" Think about it.

DAY TWENTY.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

PROPHETS OF VISION—
EZEKIEL AND DANIEL

Scripture Readings: Eze:1; Dan.7,8 (summarized from Living):
(Ezekiel was a priest who lived with the Jewish exiles.) "One day the heavens were suddenly opened to me and I saw visions from God. I saw, in this vision, a great storm coming toward me from the north, driving before it a huge cloud glowing with fire, with a mass of fire inside that flashed continually; and in the fire there was something that shone like polished brass. Then from the center of the cloud, four strange forms appeared that looked like men, except that each had four faces and two pairs of wings. Their legs were like those of men, but their feet were cloven like calves' feet, and shone like burnished brass. And beneath each of their wings I could see human hands. The four living beings were joined wing to wing, and they flew straight forward without turning. Each had the face of a man(in front), with a lion's face on the right side of his head, and the face of an ox on his left side, and the face of an eagle at the back of his head! Each had two pairs of wings spreading out from the middle of his back. One pair stretched out to attach to the wings of the living being on each side, and the other pair covered his body. Wherever their spirit went they went, going straight forward without turning." He goes on to describe other forms that glowed, and four wheels belonging to the four living beings and there were eyes on the edges of the wheels, and then he saw a throne high in the sky above the beings and a Man who was the vision of the Glory of the Lord. Daniel was in exile, but still prayed to God three times a day, God shut the lion's mouths, and gave Daniel favor with his captors by interpreting their dreams, then he had some of his own: Dan.7:1-7:"In my dream I saw a great storm on a mighty ocean, with strong winds blowing from every direction. Then four huge animals came up out of the water, each different from the other. The first was like a lion, but it had eagle's wings! And as I watched, its wings were pulled off so that it could no longer fly, and it was left standing on the ground, on two feet, like a man; and a man's mind was given to it. The second animal looked like a bear with its paw raised, ready to strike. It held three ribs between its teeth and I heard a voice saying to it, 'Get up! Devour many people!' The third of these strange animals looked like a leopard but on its back it had wings like those of a bird, and it had four heads!..A fourth animal rose out of the ocean, too dreadful to describe and incredibly strong. And it had ten horns." Well, wake up now, it was only a nightmare! God interpreted that one for Daniel. And many more prophecies were given about the events of the end times especially. We need to do a thorough study some time of all of these prophets of God, Isaiah, Jeremiah, thru Malachi.

DAY TWENTY ONE.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

JESUS—OUR SUPER PRAYER WARRIOR

I have not even begun to cover all of the Warriors of Prayer that are in the Bible. When I began this week, I naturally started off in the Old Testament, then I found so many that I never got to the New Testament Warriors such as John and Paul. But I will not leave out the most important one, Jesus. It is in His name that we end every prayer, so naturally, we must look at His prayer life while here on earth. It seems amazing to me that He had to pray to the Father, just like we do. I would have thought that He would have had some sort of mental telepathy with the Father and not needed to actually pray. But I suppose that there are a lot of things that Jesus did while on earth that were more for our good than His. As a matter of fact, everything that He did was for our good. So, one day His disciples came to Him and asked Him to teach them to pray. So He gave them the model prayer. We see in scriptures how Jesus prayed early in the morning, and late at night. He also prayed in between. So we know that prayer is essential, even to our Lord. It is really the "abiding in Him" that we have studied so much about. But something that I became aware of in all of these studies, was that the focus shifted..from the prayers of the warriors...to...God's answers to those prayers. The real story shines through so much brighter! The answers from God were all the miracles that we read about—the mighty prophets of God were all writing about God's Answers—God's Dialogue and communication with man—that is the most awesome part of the two-way action of prayer—first our part and second God's part and His part is so much more awesome than our part. Looking in all of the writings of Jeremiah, Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, etc. we see God's answers to us and His very emotional feelings and desires and His disappointments and His comfort and instruction and promises. He actually tells us what is going to happen in the future! That is why the prophets were so important! They wrote an accurate account of God's Words! Now when Jesus came, He was GOD'S AWESOME PRESENCE AND CONSTANT ANSWERS WERE MANIFESTED THROUGH HIS MIRACLES AND TEACHING!

Prayer

Praise You Lord for sending Your Spirit to these warriors of prayer so they could be counted on to record all the wonderful words of life. In Jesus Name, Amen

*FOOTPRINTS TO...
A CLOSER WALK*

JULY DEVOTIONAL

CHAPTER SEVEN

“PRAYER AND CARE”

FOURTH WEEK –

“SPELLING PRAYER”

DAY TWENTY-TWO.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE MODEL PRAYER

Scripture Readings: (NKJV) Matt. 6:5-14

“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them, for your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.’ For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Here is Jesus’ instruction on prayer. His prayer life was further instruction for us in defining prayer, and in constructing a prayer, and being in the very attitude of prayer, always. Our prayers can be just as varied from one to the other. He tells us to not just pray as a ritual, or something we say over and over with no meaning behind it. So we know that we are not to just recite His model prayer over and over and never construct our own prayers. He was showing us that we should pray “along these lines” as an example of the sort of prayers we should pray. Most prayers fall into the five area category that I outlined in Week Two of this study. There are more or less five categories: Asking for/receiving salvation; Praise, Repentance, Petition, and Intercession. Sometimes, we have all of these types of prayer included together. This is a well-rounded prayer. Starting tomorrow, I would like to spell out the word prayer and using each letter, talk about and match up with the Lord’s Prayer, those aspects of prayer that we can see in His example.

Some years ago, I was to take part in a single’s retreat on prayer and I was inspired by God to put together these insights into prayer. It is in no way an attempt to change the Model Prayer, only to be able to use this analogy to further understand how wide-ranging prayer is to be, perfectly free, without any encumbrances to keep us from fully reaching our goal in prayer—what is our goal? To connect with God.

Prayer

Lord, I just want to Praise You. I just want to come before You and tell You how much I adore You, and am so thankful for the wonderful privilege of prayer. I just want to feel Your presence so much that I can just reach out and touch You.

Continue teaching us about prayer, In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY TWENTY-THREE.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

P - The P of prayer is Praise

Praise Him and exalt Him realizing you are in His Holy Presence

Scripture Readings: Psalm 19

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech; and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults, keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression, Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

I had to start with the Psalms because nothing is quite so lovely as David's way of putting things. So, we must come to the place of meeting with God and we begin by praising the Lord. Just as Jesus did at the beginning of His model prayer. If we go back to what was written on Day 11 of this study, we will find us preparing to come to the Golden Altar, and looking at the requirements back then for worship, we equate them with what has been done for us now, so that we can come boldly to the throne of God. The sacrifice has been made by Jesus Christ upon the Cross; His blood has cleansed the horns of the altar and the worshipper; and Jesus is actually the Incense: 11Cor. 2:14-15: "But thanks be to God! For through what Christ has done, He has triumphed over us so that now wherever we go He uses us to tell others about the Lord and to spread the Gospel like a sweet perfume. As far as God is concerned there is a sweet, wholesome fragrance in our lives. It is the fragrance of Christ within us, an aroma to both the saved and the unsaved all around us."

Also, we must have Patience. We must wait on the Lord.

DAY TWENTY-FOUR.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

R - The R of prayer is to repent

Yes, we must repent of sins committed; of hidden sin to be revealed. We must come before Him as cleansed vessels. He cannot look upon sin. We need to get this out of the way at the beginning, and it will come immediately upon our praise to Him, getting us into His presence will reveal our sin and convict us of our transgressions. The Model prayer says: "Forgive us our debts (or trespasses) as we forgive our debtors." David puts it quite eloquently in Psalms 51(NKJV): "Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity; and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned., and done this evil in Your sight—that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the Joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering, the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the wall of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.
Amen"

The priests officiating at the Golden Altar, must first be cleansed with blood and water, before entering into the act of prayer. We, as New Testament believers, have been cleansed with the blood of Jesus and washed with the pure waters of baptism to come before God with nothing left that He could even chide us for. Jesus has died for all our sins. We have accepted His salvation and been forgiven for our sins. Halleluiah! BUT...we still must come and ACKNOWLEDGE any sin committed since then, in order to be forgiven for this sin. This is according to Jesus' Model Prayer and many scriptures that we do not have space to share at this time. I wrote a Poem on repentant prayer which is displayed below.



THE PROMISE OF PRAYER

Oh, Heavenly Father, forgive me now, for all the things that taint my vow,
Cleanse my heart of sins I've permitted,
from carelessness to enter, unbidden.

Take away discouragement which leads to bitterness
and plant within that space a seed of hopefulness.

Take away all boastfulness that leads to jealous pride,
and leave within, a quiet heart and a humble stride.

Take away my yen to judge that leads to gossiping.

Please give me understanding and mercy with it bring.

Take away all selfishness that leads to lust and greed,
and fill my heart so full of love that the Spirit can always lead.

Take away this helpless feeling which springs from lack of faith
Strengthen me to do all things, within your will I'm safe.

I know, dear Lord, it's in your grace, to take away all these sins, and all the guilt erase.
And, when my heart is cleansed and filled, seal it tight to keep within all your blessings on
which to build.

Amen

DAY TWENTY-FIVE.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

A - The A of prayer is to Ask

In the Model prayer, Jesus said, "Give us this day our daily bread". In other places He tells us repeatedly that if we will ask with faith, we will receive what we ask for from God. We have seen how the Warriors of Prayer certainly did get what they wanted, well, in most cases. Jesus told us in His Word that sometimes we do not have what we want because we do not ask; or we ask amiss. In our studies on the Golden Altar, we found that our prayers are hindered when we ask for things out of selfishness and the wrong motives. We should pray in an attitude of humility, realizing that what we already have is far more than most people in other parts of the world. Our attitude of praise and thanksgiving was partly because of these provisions that God has already so graciously given to us. The needs that we have must be genuine needs, asking that our needs will be met, and asking for His will to be done in a certain area and asking for guidance are all a part of this petition part of the prayer. There are many great ideas in books on prayer that we have all read before here or there. We can listen to beautiful music, read scriptures of comfort, and just different ways of approaching God, even taking a nature walk as we pray is refreshing. Isn't it wonderful that we have so much freedom in prayer, as opposed to the strict adherence to all kinds of rituals that were the instruction from God to His people before Jesus came and set us free? Halleluiah! The best advice I have ever been given on prayer is to pray for things that are eternal, not things that are just temporary. I would like to share one of the Scripture Prayers that I have compiled in a book I call "New Covenant Prayer Book". This is a prayer that I have gleaned from Philippians— (personalized) Most gracious Heavenly Father, my heart overflows with joy and praise to You! I pray for Your richest blessings; I know, Dear Lord, that You have begun a good work within me and will keep right on helping me grow in grace until Your task is finished on that final day of Christ's return. I pray I will overflow more and more with love for others—and also that You would help me keep growing spiritually in knowledge and insight. Help me do good, kind things which show that I am truly a child of God, so that I will bring praise and glory to You; and live as a Christian should - standing with other Christians together with one strong purpose, to tell the good news fearlessly, no matter what my enemies do! Lord, I pray that You will help me to live a clean, innocent life as a child of God in a dark world full of people who are evil and stubborn. Help me to shine out among them like a beacon, holding forth the Word of Life! Whatever happens to me, help me to rejoice, for everything else is worthless to me when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord! Amen

DAY TWENTY-SIX.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

Y - The Y of prayer is yield.

Yield yourself in total surrender to His Will - obedience to His commands. Yielding to God's Will means dying to self-will. Jesus yielded to the point of giving His life. He laid it down so we could have eternal life. We must be willing to lay down our lives, that is, laying down our own way; doing things our way; meeting our own needs; to now help others, meet others needs, in obedience to Christ, saying yes, and suffering for Christ, as He suffered for us. Jesus said in the Model: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as well as in Heaven!"

There are many things that we need to pray for. Praying for our own needs is a start, but should lead us into intercessory prayer. Because we are not an island, unto ourselves, everyone else's lives affect ours. So, we cannot be happy unless others lives are also happy. So we pray for their well- being and their health as well as our own. This is really where loving one another takes root; in the prayer closet. The continuation of the Scripture Prayer in Philippians will follow along these lines: "Thank You Father for helping me to become one with Him, teach me to count on Him alone, and give up on everything else; this is the only way I can truly know my Savior and to experience that mighty power that brought Him back to life again and to find out what it really means to suffer and die with Him. Lord, I know that it is a privilege not only to trust in You but also to suffer for You. We are in this fight together - help us to agree with each other in love, working together with one heart, one mind, and one purpose! For You have given us all to share of one Spirit! Because of what Christ has done, by humbling Himself, He was exalted to the heights of heaven and given a name above very other name; that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father! (from Ephesians-corporate intercession for the church) Oh Father, help us all to act in a way worthy of those who have been chosen for such wonderful blessings as these. Help us to be gentle and humble and patient with each other, making allowances for each other's faults, because of our love. Help us to be led along by the Holy Spirit and be at peace with one another. For we, the church, there is only One Lord, One Faith, and One Baptism, but Christ has given us each special abilities, and I praise you for these gifts that You give us so that we will all be equipped to do better work for You, to build up the Church to the position of strength and maturity, until finally we all believe alike about our salvation and about our Savior, and all become full grown in the Lord. Yes, to the point of being filled full with Christ! In His name, Amen

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

E - The E of prayer is expect - a miracle!

Believe in His promises and claim those promises as given. If we don't expect the miracle, how is it going to happen? Expecting the miracle is simply FAITH! I really like a little sign I saw once "Don't Give Up Five Minutes Before The Miracle!"

Whether we are interceding for others or for ourselves, we will need that armor of protection around us that will be there each time we proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord of our lives! Some of the promises of God are placed throughout His scriptures and when we claim these promises (in prayer) then we are expecting a miracle! Like in 11 Peter 1:1-4: (NKJV)" To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these (promises) you may be partakers of the Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the World through lust."

**Many of the promises are miracles of God! He has given us these precious promises to uplift us into His glory! Jesus uses some of this language in the Model: "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One!" Peter goes on and talks about how the fruits of the Spirit can be attained; one by one, building upon the last one named, until one can attain the highest fruit which is Love. These are all spiritual disciplines which we will get into next month, but for now I just want you to understand a little of what God has for us and are promises He does not intend to forfeit on. So, He gives us a safe-guard, our spiritual armor to keep satan from stealing those treasures from us. I would like to use another scripture prayer to illustrate what I want to share, hoping that you are not weary of all the prayer. That is something we should not allow ourselves to be, for prayer does please the Lord, and speaking His word in prayer is equally satisfying to Him. I will share from Ephesians-- scriptures in prayer: "Oh precious Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice and Your Word that has cleansed us and keeps cleansing us, to be Your spotless and pure bride, for we are all members of Your Body, and of Your Flesh, and of Your Bones! Help each one of us now to serve You, Lord, doing Your will from our hearts, help us to be strong in the power of Your might, help us to put on the whole armor of God, to resist the devil when he attacks us. Help us to always remember that we are not to fight against people, but against principalities and powers of satanic forces. So help us to keep wearing all our armor; the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes to speed us to share the gospel message, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God! We praise You Lord for all these pieces of armor that are given to us, as we pray continually throughout our day.
In Jesus Mighty Name, Amen**

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

R - The last R in prayer is rejoice.

Rejoice in the knowledge of His cleansing and power. An answered prayer is always ended on a note of rejoicing - if victory is achieved,

Now, we come to the end of our week on spelling prayer. Today we pause and think about all of the things that we have covered. There is so much to cover on prayer that I am afraid I have missed a lot of things that are really important. But, to finish out this week, we need to talk about rejoicing in prayer. In the Model Prayer Jesus told us about this when He said, "For thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory Forever!" He could not have said that without rejoicing! It is the victory in prayer! We can feel a sweet Joy come over us as we truly sense God's presence and feel His love within us. We know then, that our prayer has been heard, and furthermore, has been answered! As we have prayed throughout the week, we have praised Him and worshiped Him, and have repented of our sins; we have asked of Him whatever we had need of and included in that the needs of our family, at home and at church, and all of our neighbors as well, and the larger group—the world situation. We have not asked for anything that was not according to His will or for selfish reasons, and have yielded to His will and have been obedient in any area that He called to our attention and to any action that He asked us to perform. We have expected God's reply and response to our prayer in some way, believing that He will take care of everything we ask of Him in His own way, not ours. And we have stretched our faith and believed God for a miracle of healing, and of an answer to our problem, whatever it may be.

Now we rejoice in prayer from Colossians:

"Dear Lord, we will always be thankful for all things that You have taught us, and how we praise You for the Word! The Word of God has enriched our lives and given us wisdom to teach the Word to each other and to sing it out loud in songs and hymns and spiritual songs. Oh how we thank You with joyful hearts! Let whatever we do and whatever we say be as a representative of You, Lord Jesus, bringing us into the very throne room of the Father! Halleluiah! We offer Him the sweet smelling fragrance of the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for all the marvelous blessings that He has bestowed upon each one of us. We thank You Lord and we praise You Father, in Jesus precious Holy name, the name above every name in heaven and on earth, Amen

One of the things that really encourages me about prayer is something that I learned from my study of the Tabernacle. It is thought that since there are Cherubim embroidered on the linen ceiling in the Holy Place, and the smoke of the incense rises and is thought to waft the prayers upward, the cherubim were to carry the prayers on to heaven. Tomorrow we will see what happens to them.

*FOOTPRINTS TO...
A CLOSER WALK*

JULY DEVOTIONAL

CHAPTER SEVEN

“PRAYER AND CARE”

FIFTH WEEK –

“LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS”

DAY TWENTY-NINE.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FIFTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

OUR HIGH PRIEST

Scripture Reading: Rev.5:7-8: "He stepped forward and took the Scroll from the right hand of the one sitting upon the Throne. And as He took the scroll, the twenty-four Elders fell down before the Lamb, each with a Harp and Golden Vials filled with Incense—the prayers of God's people!"

Rev. 8:1-4: "When the Lamb had broken the seventh seal, there was silence throughout heaven for what seemed like half an hour. And I saw the seven angels that stand before God, and they were given seven trumpets. Then another angel with a golden censer came and stood at the altar, and a great quantity of incense was given to him to mix with the prayers of God's people, to offer upon the golden altar before the throne. And the perfume of the incense mixed with prayers ascended up to God from the altar where the angel had poured them out."

How Awesome! Even though we look on our form of prayer today as being all different and changed—in Heaven, it is apparently still being "applied" in the same way that it was in the original Tabernacle. Remember that this earthly Tabernacle was an exact copy of the Temple in Heaven. So we are given confirmation that everything is the same way now, through John's vision of the heavenly realm. Just to get an even better perspective of this, read Heb.9:9-12: " This has an important lesson for us today. For under the old system, gifts and sacrifices were offered, but these failed to cleanse the hearts of the people who brought them.

For the old system dealt only with certain rituals—what foods to eat and drink, rules for washing themselves, and rules about this and that. The people had to keep these rules to tide them over until Christ came with God's new and better way. He came as High Priest of this better system which we now have. He went into that greater, perfect tabernacle in heaven, not made by men nor part of this world, and once for all took blood into that inner room, the Holy of Holies, and sprinkled it on the mercy seat, but it was not the blood of goats and calves. No, He took His own blood, and with it He, by Himself, made sure of our eternal salvation."

As I said earlier, we can be very grateful that we have the freedom in prayer that we have, but think about how it is being "applied" in Heaven next time you pray. I think it will bless you as much as it does me.

Scripture Prayer from Ephesians:

Precious Lord, Oh how we rejoice! Let all our prayers to You be full of rejoicing and thanksgiving, for Your Word promises us the peace of God which passes all understanding that shall keep our hearts in Christ Jesus! For through You, Jesus, we can do everything You ask us to because we are given Your strength and power! In Jesus Name, Amen

DAY THIRTY.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FIFTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

Scripture Reading (Living) 1 Peter 2:5-9: "And now you have become living building-stones for God's use in building His House. What's more, you are His Holy Priests, so come to Him—you who are acceptable to Him because of Jesus Christ—and offer to God those things that please Him. As the scriptures express it, "See, I am sending Christ to be the carefully chosen, precious Cornerstone of My Church, and I will never disappoint those who trust in Him. Yes, He is very precious to you who believe, and to those who reject Him, well—the same stone that was rejected by the builders has become the Cornerstone, the most honored and important part of the building. And the scriptures also say, 'He is the Stone that some will stumble over, and the Rock that will make them fall.' They will stumble because they will not listen to God's Word, not obey it, and so this punishment must follow—that they will fall. But you are not like that, for you have been chosen by God Himself—you are priests of the King, you are holy and pure, you are God's very own—all this so that you may show to others how God called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light!" "Who then will condemn us? Will Christ? NO! For He is the one who died for us and came back to life again for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us there in heaven."

One of the most wonderful things about studying the Old Testament and learning about the first place of worship is how it teaches us many things about Jesus Christ. I have read whole books about the similarities between the Tabernacle and Christ, and all of the types and shadows in all of the rituals including the prophetic meanings behind the seven original feasts of Israel, as I have shared in the "Foot of the Cross" Devotionals. Jesus is God's Answer to our prayers. We are now New Testament Priests and have a ministry of Intercession. This is the Highest Office and Service of a Christian. Jesus is our High Priest and intercedes for us in Heaven, but here on earth, He has appointed us to be priests for those all around us who need to come to faith in Jesus, but need our help in intercession to get them there. Why? Because Jesus only prays for those who have appropriated the Blood of Jesus upon themselves in confession and redemption. We must be the ones to intercede for the sinner. Christ can do nothing for him, until he comes by way of the blood, for He has provided THE WAY and IT IS FINISHED! But intercession goes on forever. Here is Jesus' own intercessory prayer for us:

(John 17:20-23) "I am not praying for these alone but also for the future believers who will come to me because of the testimony of these. My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind, just as You and I are, Father—that just as You are in Me and I am in You, so they will be in Us, and the world will believe You sent Me. I have given them the glory You gave Me—the glorious unity of being one, as we are—I in them and You in Me, all being perfected into one—so that the world will know You sent Me and will understand that You love them as much as You love Me."

DAY THIRTY-ONE.....CHAPTER SEVEN
SEVENTH MONTH.....FIFTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE HELPER

Scripture Readings: (Living)Romans 8:26-28; John 16:13-15, 23-27

“And in the same way—by our faith—the Holy Spirit helps us with our daily problems and in our praying. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how to pray as we should; but the Holy Spirit prays for us with such feeling that it cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows, of course, what the Spirit is saying as He pleads for us in harmony with God's own will.” “When the Holy Spirit, who is truth, comes, He shall guide you into all truth, for He will not be presenting His own ideas, but will be passing on to you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future. He shall praise Me and bring Me great honor by showing you My glory. All the Father's glory is mine; this is what I mean when I say that He will show you My glory.” “At that time you won't need to ask me for anything, for you can go directly to the Father and ask Him, and He will give you what you ask for because you use My name. You haven't tried this before (but begin now). Ask, using My name, and you will receive, and your cup of joy will overflow. I have spoken of these matters very guardedly, but the time is coming when this will not be necessary and I will tell you plainly all about the Father. Then you will present your petition over My signature and I won't need to ask the Father to grant you these requests, for the Father Himself loves you dearly because you love Me and believe that I came from the Father.”

These are even more wonderful promises that the Lord has promised to His followers back when He was on the earth, and now, we see that promise fulfilled in us! Yes! We now have the Holy Spirit in us, helping us to pray as we should. He embellishes and interprets our prayers to the Father, so that He hears the eloquence of the Holy Spirit's interpretation of what we are saying and it is even sweeter perfume that is being wafted up on the incense of Jesus. Here is a scripture prayer from Romans:

Holy Spirit, we know not what to pray for but we are thankful that Your groanings will be delivered to the Father's ears on our behalf and all things will work together for good to we who love You and are called according to Your own purposes. For we are confident that if You are for us, how can anyone be against us? Who can ever separate us from Christ, for we have been joined into one body with Him. We are more than conquerors through the love of Jesus, so who could ever separate us from that Love? For Christ has risen from the dead and is reigning beside the Father's Throne and is now interceding on our behalf to the Father! When we have trouble or calamity, when we are hunted down or destroyed, is it because You don't love us anymore? And if we are hungry or penniless or in danger or threatened with death, have You deserted us? NO! You have told us that for Your sake we must be ready to face death at any moment of the day - we are like sheep awaiting slaughter, but despite all this - OVERWHELMING VICTORY IS OURS THROUGH JESUS!! You loved us enough to die for us! In Jesus' Glorious Name I pray, Amen