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"So we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us; we [as Christ's representatives] plead with you on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God," (II Corinthians 5:20).

Judy Hartman's Eight Week Teaching on Jack and Judy's book, *Effective Prayer*

God's School of Prayer: The Bible is your textbook. God is your teacher.

(Note: I use the King James Version of the Bible because I am most familiar with it, but also because it is in the public domain and can be used freely.

When you meditate on a verse, please use the version that you prefer, but be certain that it is true to the original manuscript.)

Lesson One: Chapters One through Four

Who can talk to God? There is only one way to have a two-way conversation with God. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time," (I Timothy 2:5-6). So, first of all, we have to be certain that you are a child of the one true God.

How do you know that you are a child of God? "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation," (Romans 10:9-10).

We think in our minds. We believe in our hearts. I will tell you how great the distance was from my mind to my heart. I cannot explain why my heart took so long to receive the glorious news that Jesus Christ came to live there. I was 27. The two friends who prayed me into God's kingdom treated me to a week at Forest Home Christian Conference Center Family Camp in Forest Falls, California. (I had graduated from the University of Redlands in Redlands, California and had spent

many days studying near the falls which were just a few miles from our college campus. Never had I heard of Forest Home.)

I spent the week with my eyes wide open, observing a joy on faces, a joy that I knew I wanted, a joy that I had not seen before, or had not recognized. I seem to have been born loving God. I talked to Him so often, but I never heard Him respond to me. I was very active in a denominational church that was adjacent to our elementary school. So, I went to choir practice after school and to youth meetings. I even had an early morning prayer meeting in my home before school. We all thought we knew God. Some probably did. The problem was that although we heard the Bible and said the Apostles' Creed, we never were told, or I did not hear it, that we needed to make a personal decision to surrender our lives to Jesus Christ.

Are any of you second born in your family? Second born children are usually compliant and naturally like to please people. I was born with a compliant nature. Therefore, doing the right thing came naturally to me. I did not try to be good. I just was. I never wanted to do anything bad. So, when I was confronted with the truth that I am a sinner, I could not figure out what I had done wrong. Then, I found out that I was born with a sin nature. I have the capability of doing the most gruesome act that anyone could do.

I was born in the image of God. I have God imprinted on my heart, but my nature was tarnished by the choice that Adam and Eve made to choose their own way over God's way. Not until Jesus Christ became alive in my heart did I receive the full impact of my sins. They came at me in full force. Pride and selfishness hit me right between the eyes!

I was home at last! My heart was in the heart of God. While at Forest Home I made the decision to give my life over to Jesus Christ. I already knew the Bible to be true. I already loved God with my whole heart. I did not know Jesus Christ as He so wondrously makes Himself known to His own. Each morning when I woke up, I would say, "Father, You know I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord, but we both know that I haven't grasped the truth of it." That went on for three months!

One morning I woke up and I knew Jesus Christ to be my Savior and Lord! From that day in September of 1967 to today, April 27, 2017, fifty years ago, I have known Jesus Christ to be alive in me and me to be alive in Him. How I thank Him. What would cause the truth to take so long to come alive in my heart? I can

only conjecture, but I will. I was born into a prosperous family. When we became not so prosperous, I already had a mentality that I was a prosperous person. I didn't even think of anything but doing well all during my childhood. I was a good student, not the top, but received honors here and there. I was recognized as a leader in student government. In fact, in my senior year, I was Secretary of the Student Body. We spent a whole semester on Robert's Rules of Order. Do you now that now when we have Lamplight Board meetings, I use Robert's Rules of Order to conduct the meetings?

Self-sufficiency is a dangerous weapon of Satan. God tells us: "And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God," (Matthew 19:24). People who have gifts, abilities, and skills and are self-motivated definitely have an anchor around them pulling them away from surrendering to God Who is the All Sufficient One.

Understanding that I am nothing apart from God is the most liberating reality. "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing," (John 15:5). God is not saying to do all that I can in my own strength and when I run out, call on Him. He is saying that I can do nothing on my own, nothing. Abiding in God through Christ Jesus for fifty years brings that reality home. I really cannot do anything apart from God and I do not want to fly on my own steam. I choose to live in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

The following passage explains what happened to me. *"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should*

walk in them," (Ephesians 2:1-10). This passage is one to print in a version that you prefer. Carry it with you. Weave your personal journey to salvation into this passage. Focus on the Word of God more than on your personal story.

What needs to take place in order for you to know that you are a child of God in Christ Jesus?

- Know that you are a sinner, born with a sin nature, that you are separated from God, that you are by default under the power and influence of Satan and all of his demons. "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that abundantly," (John 10:19).
- Repent. Turn from all thoughts and actions that you know are ungodly. Ask God to reveal anything that you may be thinking or doing that is detrimental in your life. "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things,*" (Philippians 4:8).
- Ask God to forgive you. (He has already forgiven you for every sin you ever committed or ever will commit, but your confessing it to Him acknowledges to Him and to you that you are turning from it.)
- Now with your whole heart pray: "Father, I come to you in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. I surrender my life to you. I am now born into Your family. Father, I thank You for sending Your Son to shed his blood for me, so that my sins are forgiven. I thank You that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and that He is coming back for me. I thank You that from this moment on I will always be with You. You will never leave me. Holy Spirit, flood me with Yourself. Empower me to live godly in Christ Jesus. Anoint me to boldly speak of You. I thank You, dear Father, for saving me. I am Your child, in Jesus' name, Amen."

When someone prays this prayer, follow up with the following essentials for walking with Christ Jesus.

- Welcome the person into the family of God. Explain that he or she has left the kingdom of darkness and entered into the kingdom of Light, that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying,

I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12 KJV).

- Explain: Now you will have the joy of getting to know God.
 1. Read the Bible. If you read three chapters in the Old Testament and two chapters in the New Testament, you will go through the Bible in one year. You can also listen to these chapters each day at www.biblegateway.com. Click on Audio Bibles. You can choose different translations. If you are interested in a certain topic, look in the concordance in the back of your Bible and find that topic. You will find verses there to look up, print out, and study. Write the verses on three by five cards or just print them out from biblegateway.com or whatever Bible website you use. I use biblegateway.com most of the time.
 2. Most importantly, carry passages and/or verses with you all of the time. Go over them whenever you have a free moment.
 3. Pray: now you can talk to God and He will answer you. I promise. We will be journeying in prayer all through this course. For starters, pray Scripture prayers. Pray them to God, your Father in heaven. Talk to Him about them. Say whatever is on your heart.
 4. Put on the whole armor of God each day. You will be learning about the work of each piece of armor in your life: Ephesians 6:10-20. The power of putting on the whole armor of God in today's world is beyond our comprehension.
 5. Pray Psalm 91 each day over your family, your loved ones, and those God puts on your heart.
 6. Listen to God. Ask Him questions. Keep a journal of what you hear in the quietness of your heart. You will learn to hear God speak to you.
 7. Begin prayer with worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for Who He is.
 8. End prayer with worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for Who He is in your life and what He will do today. Live with expectation and eagerly watch God work in your life each day.
 9. Find a church, a fellowship, where the presence of Jesus Christ is evident. The group will be focused on the Word of God, on worshipping God, on prayer, and on fellowship with each other, treating each other like family, the family of God. Don't settle for less. The fellowship will

also focus on reaching others for Christ and on helping the poor, the homeless, and the widows, as God tells us to do.

10. Tell others of your gold mine: you have come alive in Christ Jesus! From day one, share what has happened to you! You will live forever with Jesus Christ on earth and in heaven! (We will spend time on writing your story and just sharing it in your daily life.) Sharing your faith is one of the key ways that increases it. If a person is not interested, stop. You just open the door, in case the person's God-shaped vacuum in his heart is ready to be filled with God Himself in Christ Jesus.
11. Live in joyous expectation of what God will do in your life each day

Chapter One

How many people in your life are absolutely delighted when you call them? "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight," (Proverbs 15:8 KJV). The highest of royalties, the head of any government, and even the head of any religious group who does not come to our Father God through the shed blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, cannot communicate with God. You can. You have more wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, and might than people who are considered on earth to be the great in the world's sense (Isaiah 11:3). You can communicate with God, while others may try to make sacrifices to Him and he will not receive them.

Wake up each morning realizing that God will be delighted the moment you speak to Him. "*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him,*" (I John 3:1) Receive God's love each morning.

What do you lose when you do not pray? How does your cell phone work for you when it is not charged? You are God's cell phone. You are God's ambassador on earth to live and speak for Him each day, to increase His kingdom thorough His Son, Jesus Christ.

When God served food to the Israelites, He told them not to save food for the next day. If they did, it would be rotten (Exodus 16:1-4). Of course, some of them tested God. Their second-day food was full of worms and stank.

Daily appointments with God will keep your life fresh with just-off-the-press words from God into your life. Oh, who would ever want to miss meeting with God Who knows your every thought (Enjoy Psalm 139 often)

Questions: Chapter One

1. Can you be certain that the Lord knows every minute detail pertaining to the life of every one of the billions of people on earth? (I Chronicles 28:9 and Psalm 139:1-4-page 30)
2. What one word does the Bible use to describe your Father's attitude toward your prayers? (Proverbs 15:8-page 30)
3. When you pray, you must understand that you are praying to your loving Father and that you are truly His beloved child. How can you be certain that you truly are a child of God? What determines whether or not any person is a child of God? (I John 3:10; Galatians 3:26; I John 3:1; II Corinthians 6:18-page 30-31).
4. When you pray to God, you must understand that you are praying to your loving Father Who is absolutely delighted to hear your prayers. What does the Bible say about the depth of your Father's love for you? (Isaiah 54:10-page 31).
5. When you pray, you are not praying to a distant and far-away God. How can you be certain that God is with you at all times? Where is God located? (Ephesians 4:6; Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10; Isaiah 43:2-3-page 31-32)
6. Why was the Psalmist David calm, quiet, and confident when he faced adversity? (Psalm 16:8-8-page 33)
7. Can you be absolutely certain that God is right there with you when you face adversity? How can you be certain that He desires to answer your prayers? (Psalm 91:5-page 33)

Chapter Two

Do you know that God has secrets for His children? "The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant," (Psalm 25:14). God's secret is available to each of His children. As you revere and worship God, you come closer to God. "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him

that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life," (I John 5:20). Your relationship with God grows deeper each day. There is no end to the depth of your relationship with Him.

Note: Our book, *A Close and Intimate Relationship with God*, provides 498 Scripture verses telling how to continually draw closer to God

Today Christianity is criticized for being isolationist and non-inclusive. Oh, but if you know Jesus Christ, how very inclusive Christianity is. God gives each person the choice. "*The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous,*" (Proverbs 15:29).

8. When you pray to God, you must not be like the Pharisees. How did Jesus describe the Pharisees? (Mark 7:6-page 35-36)
9. Your Father wants you to have a close and intimate relationship with Him when you pray and at all other times. What does the Bible say is the secret of companionship with God? (Psalm 25:14-page 36)
10. Why did God hear every prayer of Jesus Christ throughout His earthly ministry? How does this Scriptural principle apply to your prayers to God? What is the fear of God? (Hebrews 5:7-page 36)
11. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, can you be certain that God wants to know you intimately? (I John 5:20-page 37)
12. God wants to have a close and intimate relationship with you? Who decides how close your relationship with God will be? (James 4:8-page 37)
13. What does the Bible say about the significant importance that Jesus placed on His prayers? How does this principle apply to the effectiveness of your prayer life? (Luke 5:15-16-page 38)
14. When you pray, can you be certain that God is listening to your prayer? What determines whether God hears your prayer? (Proverbs 15:29; John 9:31; I Peter 3:12-page 38-39)

Chapter Three

15. What words does the Bible use to explain how you should pray so that the supernatural power of God will be released as a result of your prayer? (James 5:16-page 41-41)

16. What does the Bible say about the prophet Elijah and the effectiveness of his prayers? What should you do to have an effective prayer life like Elijah had? (James 5:17-18-page 42)
17. Some Christians treat prayer as a routine habit. Their prayers are superficial. What was the Apostle Paul's attitude toward his relationship with God? Why should you have a similar relationship so that your prayers will be effective and not merely a religious exercise? (Philippians 3:10-page42-43)
18. The Bible teaches that the supernatural strength of God is available to you. What determines whether you will receive the manifestation of God's strength in response to your prayers? (I Chronicles 29:2; Ephesians 6:10-page 43)
19. How does God look at the problems you face that seem to have no possible solution? Why should you understand God's attitude toward whatever seemingly severe problems you are bringing to him in prayer? (Luke 1:37-page43-44)

Lesson Two: Chapters Four through Six
Chapter Four

God answers prayer. The ten verses in question number twenty-one reveal that God indeed answers prayer. There is no question about it.

20. Can you be certain that your Father wants to answer your prayer and that He is not looking at your faults and shortcomings when you come to Him in prayer? (James 1:5-page 47)
21. We have listed ten passages of Scripture that all have one magnificent Scriptural truth in common. What great spiritual truth do all of the following Scripture references teach? (Psalm 37:4; Proverbs 10:24; Matthew 7:7-8; Mark 11:24; John 14:14; John 15:7; John 16:23; John 16:24; I John 3:22-page 48-49)
22. Loving parents on earth want to give their children the desires of their hearts. Can you be certain that your heavenly Father also wants to give you the desires of your heart? (Matthew 7:9-11-page 50-51)

Chapter Five

God is your teacher. The Bible is your book of instructions.

23. What specific instruction does your Father give you in regard to your attitude whenever you approach His Word for Bible study, Scripture meditation, or any other reason? (Isaiah 66:2-page 54)
24. What attitude is God looking for from you so that you will learn what He is instructing you to do? (Proverbs 14:6, Psalm 25:7; Psalm 119:35-page 54-55)

25. What specific instructions does God give you that explain exactly how He wants you to study His Word? (II Timothy 2:15-page 55)
26. What specific instructions does God give you against following human tradition or doing what seems right to you as opposed to learning what His Word instructs you to do and faithfully obeying His instructions? (Proverbs 14:12-page 55)
27. Most Christians will say that they love God. What specifically has your Father instructed you to do to show that you truly do love Him? (I John 5:3; John 14:23; I John 3:22)
28. The Bible says that some prayers actually are revolting to God. What causes this to happen? (Proverbs 28:9-page 56-57)
29. What do some people do in regard to obeying God's instructions that makes them vulnerable to deception by Satan? (James 1:22-page 57)

Chapter Six

How can you hinder prayer?

- By not asking God
 - Ask God with a wrong motive or purpose
 - Ask for something that is ungodly
 - Pray with sin in your heart
30. What specifically do some people do that causes them to pray to God and fail to receive His answer to their prayers? (James 4:2-3-page 59)
31. Why does sin in your life sometimes cause God not to listen to your prayers? (Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:2-page 59-60)
32. If you know that you have sinned and you go to God with a humble and repentant heart, what will your Father do? (Psalm 139:23-24; I John 1:8-9; Hebrews 8:12-page 60)
33. Your Father wants to answer your prayers even if you have sinned. All that He asks is for you to be repentant and ask forgiveness for your sins. How did Jesus explain this principle in the parable of the Prodigal Son? (Luke 15:18-24-page 61)
34. What is the relationship between your unforgiveness of other people and the effectiveness of your prayer life? (Mark 11:25-26; Ephesians 4:31-32-page 61-62)

35. What does the Bible say about the relationship between a husband and wife and the effectiveness of prayer? (I Peter 3:7-page 62)