



**JOIN US FOR A 6-WEEK  
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

*A Guide on Getting to Know God*

**Tuesday Evenings @ 7:00 pm ~ November 10 - December 15**

For more Information and Registration  
[ChristianWorkingWoman.org](http://ChristianWorkingWoman.org)

*A Guide on Getting to Know God*  
Prayer Journal: Confession and Dedication  
Zoom #4 – December 1, 2020

**Psalm 90:14:** Satisfy me in the morning with your unfailing love that I may sing for joy and be glad all day long.

**Psalm 119:11:** I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

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

What do you think it means for the praise of God to always be on our lips?

We are focusing on the second section of the prayer journal, Confession and Dedication.

Have you ever thought about why we pray? Why does God make prayer the means by which we communicate with him?

**Matthew 6:8:** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

**Matthew 7:9 – 11:** “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup> If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

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

**Jeremiah 29:11:** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Prayer is not an exercise we do to impress, inform, or influence God. But God has ordained prayer as the way he unleashes his blessing and power on us.

**Matthew 7:7 – 8:** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

### What is confession?

Confession is:

- Clearing the air between you and God
- Facing up to your weaknesses
- Asking forgiveness for specific transgressions since your last prayer time, or which have just come to your attention
- Acknowledging your inadequacies and total dependence on God.

### Psalm 51:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. <sup>5</sup>Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. <sup>6</sup>Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

<sup>7</sup>Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup>Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. <sup>14</sup>Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

<sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. <sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. <sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

<sup>18</sup> May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

What sin prompted this confession?

When God cleanses you, how clean are you?

Three results of confession are: (Verses 13 – 15)

1. You will become a witness and teach sinners to turn back.
2. You will sing of God's righteousness.
3. You will declare God's praise out loud.

**1 John 1:9:** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Confession includes:

- Confessing specific, hopefully recent acts or words or disobedience that you are aware of.
- Bringing before God your known weaknesses and inadequacies.

Examples of weaknesses:

- Overreacting, Pride, Impatience, Lack of gentleness

It's much more miserable to be a sinning Christian than it is to be a non-believing sinner because we have the Holy Spirit within us to convict and remind us that we have sinned.

**Psalm 51:7:** Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Have you ever seen anything whiter than clean, fresh snow? When God forgives you, you are that clean before him.

Let me warn you that getting to know God is going to change your view of sin. What doesn't seem so terrible now is going to seem much more terrible. David said, "Restore to me the joy of my salvation." That's what you lose when you have unconfessed sin in your life – you lose the joy. And it's so wonderful to get it back again, to be able to help others again. David said, "Now I can teach transgressors thy way." To be able to sing and praise God again, to have the joy of your salvation restored.

## What is dedication?

Dedication is that part of our daily time with God when we bring before God what we want him to do in our lives.

Here are passages that I often pray as a dedication:

**Romans 12:1-2:** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**John 4:23-24:** Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

**Luke 11:1:** One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

**Philippians 4:8:** Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

**Philippians 2:3:** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,

**James 1:19:** My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

This is praying scripture into your life, and it is powerful praying. I cannot overstate how effective it is to pray in this manner and how it will change you. Richard Foster has written "To pray is to change. Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us. If we are unwilling to change, we will abandon prayer as a noticeable characteristic of our lives."

Coming before God, recognizing your weaknesses, recognizing the areas where you need improvement, bringing them before him daily will bring incredible changes in your life. So, get prepared for some exciting things.



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