

Lesson 5

PRAYING WITH OTHERS

1. **Matthew 18:19** says, "I tell you more: whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." Every Christian must schedule a regular time each day to pray. But Jesus says that it is also necessary to join with other Christians to pray. When we pray together our prayers encourage and strengthen each other. When we agree and join together in presenting our requests to God, God is pleased to answer our prayers. God is pleased to see Christians united together in prayer.
2. Jesus said, "For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them" **Matthew 18:20**. When Christians join together to pray and worship together, Jesus is there with them.
3. **John 14:13-14**. When we pray, we must pray in the name of Jesus. Also we must think about the power of Jesus and remember that he is all-powerful and that he has already defeated Satan. He is ready to hear and answer our prayers. There is something else, which we must think about: "Is this prayer request pleasing to Jesus, or are we asking for it to please ourselves?"

If the request is just to get something to please ourselves but it is not what Jesus wants for us, then God will not answer this kind of prayer. **James 4:3** says, "When you ask, you do not receive it, because your motives are bad you ask for things to use for your own pleasures."

4. **Matthew 18:20**. It is good to join with others to pray. When we pray together, we must remember that Jesus has promised to be right there with us, and he wants to hear us pray. Each person can talk to Jesus, thank him for all he has done, and give him praise. We can also tell him our worries, problems and needs.
5. This picture shows a church located in the middle of a community. The Christians live in various homes scattered through the town. Each week small groups of people gather in these homes and join together for prayer. These people do not wait for the pastor or a church leader to come and direct their prayer meeting. They know Jesus will be there with them, and so they meet together to pray. They pray because they feel burdened for their friends and neighbors who do not really know Jesus. God hears their prayers and he blesses their church.
6. When we meet together to pray, we must remember to pray the way the Bible shows us:
 - 6.1 **Colossians 4:2**: "Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God. " Think about all the good things God has done and be thankful. Rejoice and praise him.
 - 6.2 **Colossians 4:4**: "Pray, then, that I may speak, as I should, in such a way as to make it clear." Pray for pastors, Sunday School teachers and all who are preaching God's Word. Pray that God's Word will be preached in the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that preachers and teachers will be able to make God's Word clear and that all who hear will understand how to live and grow strong in their Christian life.
 - 6.3 **Galatians 6:1**: Pray for Christians who fall into sin. We must not gossip about them, or embarrass them but help them kindly. "Those of you who are spiritual should set him right but you must do it in a gentle way."
 - 6.4 **James 5:14-15**: Pray for all who are sick.
 - 6.5 **Romans 10:1**: God doesn't want anyone to be lost. We need to pray for our families and friends who are still lost in sin. "He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants all to turn away from their sins" 2 Peter 3:9.
 - 6.6 **Ephesians 3:16**: We must pray that God will fill us with his Holy Spirit and make us strong. God wants to answer this prayer. "How much more, then, will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" **Luke 11:13**.

Remember: Praying together with other Christians encourages and strengthens our faith, and it is pleasing to God. Remember also that when we meet together to pray, that Jesus is right there with us listening to everything we say. God loves to see his children meet together to pray.

