



Ladies of Grace
Bible Studies for Women

A Woman & Her Walk With God Series

Encouraging Women to Walk With God on the Brighter Side of Life

∞ A Woman & Her Prayers ∞

*“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things,
which thou knowest not.” Jeremiah 33:3*

One of the most exciting things that we learn as we use the Bible as our guidebook is that God wants to answer our prayers. It always brings me great comfort and confidence to know that when I walk with God, that I can ask Him about everything that I am not sure about, tell Him everything that I am worried about, and beg Him to give me everything that I am sure I need. One of the greatest blessings of walking with God is the assurance that we can receive the answers and blessings that we need as we deal with the everyday issues of our lives.

As we begin this study today, I want to ask you these questions ~ Is there something that you need? Is there something that you are worried about? Is there something that you don't understand? Is there something that you are struggling with? Do you need help from Someone that is greater than you are? If so, I'm going to show you how to pray the right way so that the truths of Jeremiah 33:3 will become evident in your own personal life, ***“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”***

What is prayer? Prayer is calling upon God. When we call upon God, what does it sound like? It sounds like this: “Hey God, my marriage is a mess, could you please do something about it?” “Oh God, my children are driving me nuts with their bad behavior, would you please give me the wisdom I need to correct them?” “Dear God, I need a new pair of shoes to wear and I don't have any money, would you please help me to get some?” “God, my nerves are frazzled today. I feel so tired and I'm sick of helping people, will you renew my mind and give me some rest so that I can be more patient?” Calling upon God is just like calling upon your mother or your best girlfriend, only the answers are much better!

Why is it so important to God that we pray to God?

- ◆ Prayer is a sign of humility, and God has called us in Micah 6:8 to walk humbly before Him
- ◆ Prayer is a sign of dependence, and as we walk with God, He wants us to become totally dependent upon Him (Philippians 4:6)
- ◆ Prayer is a sign that we have genuine faith in God (Hebrews 11:1;6)

I want to spend the rest of this study today showing you how to pray to God so that He will really believe that you mean it.

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1. **ASK.** You must ask God for the things that you need. Even though God **is** a mind reader, and even though He already knows all of your needs and desires, He still wants to hear you ask Him for them. (Matthew 7:7-11)
2. **GIVE.** You must give your whole need over to God. God won't believe that you are really asking Him to answer your prayer if all you do is ask Him for it and then go ahead and take care of it yourself! What He will think you are doing is doubting His ability to answer your prayers and that will rate you unstable and unsure of your prayers in His eyes. (James 1:5-7; I Peter 5:7)
3. **BELIEVE.** Believe that God will answer your prayers in the best way possible. How do you show God that you truly believe that He will answer your prayers? By waiting on Him to answer them in His way and in His time. (Matthew 21:22)

How does this three step plan work as you pray for things in your everyday life?

Here is one example: I am concerned that my oldest daughter find a godly husband that wants to serve the Lord full-time with his life. I am afraid that she will end up with someone that is not God's will for her if she waits too long. Here is how God wants me to pray about it:

1. Ask Him to provide this kind of a husband for my daughter.
2. Give my concerns about the "what ifs" over to Him and stop worrying about it or trying to control them (by setting her up with who I think might be right).
3. Wait and see how He is going to provide (don't ask her about who she is dating every time I see her).

Is praying the RIGHT way to God always easy? No, it isn't. And you know why? Because many of us have developed some bad habits that hinder us along the way.

Here are some of those bad habits that hinder us from truly praying to God in the way He wants us to: Worry, Control, Pride, Disbelief.

What happens to the spiritual, mental and physical state of a woman when she allows these things to hinder her from completely giving her concerns over to the Lord in prayer? She becomes discouraged spiritually, depressed emotionally, and ill physically. One of the main reasons that women suffer from anxiety and depression is because they allow the weight of problems and concerns that are bigger than they are to consume them. As a woman that walks with God, this is totally unnecessary. God wants to be our burden lifter. But the only way He will be able to fulfill this role is if we are willing to call upon Him completely with our prayer concerns. And how do we do this? By asking Him about them, by truly giving the concern of them over to Him, and then by honestly believing that He will take care of them for our best and others good.

I want to encourage you to practice praying completely about the things that you call upon God with this week. I know that you will feel closer to Him as you walk with Him and you will also be able to experience the peace that He promises to give to all who walk with Him and trust Him.