



### Scriptures

- **I John 5:14-15**

<sup>14</sup>This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

- **Genesis 4:25-26**

<sup>25</sup>Adam had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, and named him Seth, for, *she said*, "God has appointed me another offspring in place of Abel, for Cain killed him." <sup>26</sup>To Seth, to him also a son was born; and he called his name Enosh. Then *men* began to call upon the name of the LORD.

- **Psalms 51:1-2, 6-9**

<sup>1</sup>Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. <sup>6</sup>Behold, you desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. <sup>7</sup>Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup>Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. <sup>9</sup>Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. <sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

### Other Scriptures

- Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 5:45
- Mark 1:15
- Luke 13:3
- I John 5:14
- Prov. 20:27
- Acts 13:22
- I Sam. 13:14; 16:7
- Rev. 22:16
- Psalm 51:1
- Psalm 24:3-4
- Matt. 5
- Luke 12:15
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Romans 2:4
- I John 1:9
- John 7:38



### Main Points

- We are praying according to God’s will when our prayers line up with scripture.
- If we are praying for things that don’t line up with truth, we can’t be confident that those prayers will be answered.
- The Hebrew word for prayer is “*tefilah*”, or putting ourselves in a right relationship with God as we lift our heart and voice to Him--right posture in heart and words.
  - Prayers not really directed to God, do not connect with the deep places of God.
  - Prayers that are directed to Him, give Him all our focus, intention, and energy.
  - They are not directed toward the person we are praying for, to make them feel better. Who are you praying too? God or the person for whom you are praying?
- Being in the proper posture of prayer involves your heart being aligned and focused on God.
- The first mention of prayer in the Bible is found in Genesis chapter 4.
- By studying the prayers of men and women in the Bible, we learn to pray in a way that matters (deep calling to deep).
- David knew how to petition God. By studying his prayers we can learn his secrets.
- The Lord desires to be favorable to you because He loves you.
- If we are not cleansed on the inside, we cannot know God.
- Law of Similarity—As we become more like Jesus, He releases more of His nature to us.
- The instant we receive Jesus we are forgiven, but to be washed is a process.
- As His clean heart is created within us, we are brought into deep intimacy with Jesus.
- God cleanses us when we are willing to allow Him to cleanse us.
- Knowing these truths will transform your spiritual life with God.
- As we willingly repent, joy breaks forth in us.

### Discussion Questions

1. Is intimacy with God in prayer a desire of your heart? Our needs bring us to a place of hunger for the One who can meet our needs. Begin your prayer time today with an acknowledgement of how much you need God—for right posture. Pray David’s prayer in Psalm 51 as a starting place. Jot here some needs that you want to express to Him.
2. Are any of the needs you jotted down part of the deeper nature of God or are they all physical and material? Add to your list here, but include the needs of your character and emotional development. What are some things God may be speaking to you about today that you know His love would want to change in you? Hint: These are the things that pertain to the fleshly way of thinking and acting, rather than God’s truth in Scripture.
3. Keep an on-going journal of this communication with God. You are on a journey of tremendous importance, which will have its moments of victories and further lessons from Him. Your love for God will increase as you connect with Him in deeper and deeper ways.