

**HOPE OF
ISRAEL
MINISTRIES**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



"...out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38-39 NKJ)

The Power of Prayer!

Lesson 33

An Open Letter from the Staff...

Every really GOOD thing comes from YEHOVAH GOD. He alone can fill us with happiness and joy -- rid us of fears and worries -- give peace of mind and security and faith -- supply every need -- make our lives interesting, thrilling, ABUNDANT -- give us every BEAUTY, in the around, and the within! He alone can give us every blessing NOW, and eternal life FOREVER! To break the very first Commandment -- to have another god before the one and only TRUE God -- THAT is the greatest sin which cuts one off from YEHOVAH, here, and hereafter!

Yet knowingly or unknowingly, everyone has committed it. However, YEHOVAH God HAS provided a way of forgiveness, justification of the guilty past, and direct contact with HIM.

That WAY is to crucify the false god of SELF -- the way of REPENTANCE toward YEHOVAH, and FAITH toward Yeshua the Messiah. But what is REPENTANCE? It seems most do not know!

To REPENT means more than being thankful you are so GOOD that you have been able to see the TRUTH; and you are so GOOD that you are now accepting it. THAT IS NOT TRUE REPENTANCE!

REPENTANCE results not only from real godly sorrow for what you HAVE DONE, but for WHAT YOU ARE, as well. DO you have the potential of coming to RECOGNIZE your own worthlessness, depravity, inherent EVIL -- and REPENTING of it? You DO have the mind power, and the will, if you choose, to make the complete UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER to YEHOVAH, and to HIS WAYS, and HIS AUTHORITY, and HIS GOVERNMENT over your life!

And it is within your potential, if you'll PRAY and FAST with your whole heart UNTIL YEHOVAH grants it -- to REPENT, not only of what you are conscious of having DONE wrong -- but of WHAT YOU ARE! For "except ye REPENT," said Yeshua, "ye shall all likewise PERISH" (**Luke 13:3**). To really REPENT means to come to YEHOVAH completely BROKEN UP in contrition of the spirit of REBELLION that has been in your heart and to return to YEHOVAH "with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and REND YOUR HEART ... " (**Joel 2:12-13**).



HOPE OF ISRAEL MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 33

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About Our Cover...

The powerful stream of water thundering over Niagara Falls is certainly symbolic of the holy spirit the Messiah said would flow out of the hearts of converted Christians. Mankind desperately needs the POWER of the holy spirit to achieve YEHOVAH's PURPOSE for human existence. And YEHOVAH promises to give us His spirit as a gift -- if we will ASK for it through PRAYER!.

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The Power of Prayer!

LESSON 33

How much GOOD is there in human beings? Yes, HOW MUCH? How much GOOD is there, after all, in human nature?

There is good as well as evil in human nature -- it is a mixture of good and evil -- and this is a bad mixture. In the HUMAN manner of looking at it, there does seem to be GOOD, as well as evil. But let's take a more realistic look at ourselves -- as YEHOVAH GOD sees us -- and see whether there is GOOD in human nature.

Just WHAT ARE YOU?

The most terrible sin is to have another god which CUTS YOU OFF from the true GOD. And all have been cut off! All have sinned! The vast majority of all humans have no real consciousness of YEHOVAH God at all. YEHOVAH is not REAL to them. It is as if the blue sky above were a huge earth-encircling IRON CURTAIN about 100 miles thick, of some kind of the hardest, most solid blue-tinted IRON -- impenetrable -- and YEHOVAH is on the other side!

THIS WORLD is totally CUT OFF from YEHOVAH God -- just as if such a vast barrier shut the world off from all knowledge of YEHOVAH God. To most, He simply does not exist. Oh, of course, most people have HEARD that there is a God up there somewhere -- but they have been shut off totally from contact, and He is as unreal as if nonexistent!

What, then, is the heart, center, and very CRUX of this whole thing? It is this: The consciousness of the average person centers BASICALLY only on SELF, and those persons, things, or interests with which SELF is concerned.

And, in its larger sense, ALL of that is, simply, SELF! And what, then, IS SELF?

First of all, there is the LOCAL SELF. This self includes your mind and your body. There also are three dimensions -- and this is the first -- the WITHIN.

But the SELF is not limited alone to the WITHIN -- the actual PERSON -- his mind and body. Beyond and surrounding the LOCAL SELF is the EMPIRICAL SELF. This expands the SELF to the second dimension -- THE AROUND.

This encircling and expanding EMPIRICAL SELF includes, first of all, what most closely is OWNED by the SELF -- as human society would recognize ownership -- starting with your own clothing, your home or place of abode, your wife or husband, children, your automobile, your home furniture and furnishings, gadgets, other property located farther away -- all those people and things one regards as BELONGING TO HIM! In one's mind and heart, they become a part of SELF. If some force, occurrence or happening takes away or destroys one or more of these possessions, the SELF suffers.

If the SELF loses an arm, an eye, a leg, SELF is deeply hurt, because he has lost a part of self. By nature he feels no person or circumstance has a right to deprive him of what he considers HIS! In the same manner one grieves over the loss of a husband, wife, child, or "loved one" -- or even a close friend.

Why is this? Analyze it! Is it not because BY NATURE he has the sensory FEELING -- the attitude of mind -- that something that is HIS has been taken from him; and therefore the SELF resents the loss, feels wounded, and grieves? One may not consciously REALIZE that this is the very source of his grieving, of course. Nevertheless, it is the real, if unrecognized, cause.

Now as the circle AROUND the local self widens, it expands to include relatives, closest friends, social friends and fraternal "brothers," or "sisters," business friends, then lesser friends. Beyond that, the "party spirit" in human nature widens to include whatever athletic team he is rooting for, his political party,

and beyond that, his feeling of patriotism for his NATION. And, finally, being consciously a member of the HUMAN RACE, his empirical SELF subconsciously expands to INCLUDE THE WHOLE OF THIS WORLD -- with its civilization, its ways, its beliefs.

And this very competitive “party spirit,” being a PART of this world, and this world a part of SELF, it is only natural that there is a sense of hostility to the GOD who reveals that THIS WORLD, as well as the CARNAL SELF, IS EVIL!

And so we arrive at the realization that each man’s world, as far as it extends in his consciousness, becomes A PART OF HIM -- of SELF.

The world’s pleasures, sports, entertainments, become a part of SELF.

And what is the inherent NATURE of this SELF? Basically it is VANITY. Vanity is SELF-LOVE and SELF-EXALTATION. The very NATURE of vanity instills a love of the world, because the world is HIS world -- a part of the empirical SELF.

This very human nature -- vanity, self-love, self-exaltation -- implants within the self the basic spirit of rivalry -- the “party spirit.” That is why students of one college are loyal to THEIR team in sports, but AGAINST their team’s opponents. It is natural -- according to NATURE -- that people are loyal to their political party, opposed to the opposing party -- patriotic toward THEIR country, willing to fight against and kill people of another country in war. Their sports team, their political party, their country, all these are part of their own empirical SELF.

People want to BELONG. People want to be part of a group, a club, a team, a party. And why is this?

The answer carries us a little further.

When YEHOVAH God created MAN, He formed man of the DUST OF THE



Crowd viewing half-time show at a football game in the Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California. A great deal of human nature is expressed at such events.

GROUND. Man is composed of MATTER. But YEHOVAH is a spirit, and YEHOVAH IS CREATING, NOW, man in His own image SPIRITUALLY. What YEHOVAH created some 6,000 years ago was the clay model, from which the Master Potter may re-form and re-shape, spiritually, the man into His spiritual CHARACTER image. As we have, already, borne the image of the EARTHY, physical -- material -- we SHALL, if converted, bear the image of the spiritual and heavenly (**I Corinthians 15:45-49**). Therefore, what YEHOVAH God created in the first Adam was NOT YET COMPLETE. Man was made carnal, material -- but he was made to NEED the SPIRIT OF YEHOVAH GOD. Without this SPIRITUAL LIFE from YEHOVAH, man experiences a sense of emptiness -- a hunger and thirst for that which will SATISFY.

The only thing that will impart to him this sense of satisfaction, completeness, abundance, is YEHOVAH GOD’S spirit -- YEHOVAH’S nature -- YEHOVAH’S FULLNESS. Yet his carnal mind does not recognize that fact. Being incomplete, lacking in the spiritual waters and heavenly food -- YEHOVAH’S Word -- that would FILL him to satisfaction, he has a gnaw-

ing soul-hunger that leaves him miserable, empty, discontented. He seeks to quench his thirst and satisfy his soul-hunger in the interests and pursuits and pleasures of this world.

This very lack within him -- this spiritual NEED -- gives him an innate INFERIORITY COMPLEX. He senses his INFERIORITY, as compared to YEHOVAH God -- his lack of what he was made to NEED; but, not understanding what it is, he seeks to quell the painful sense of inferiority by conceit, and blowing up the ego -- the SELF -- with vanity and SELF-exaltation. This VANITY, then, is a substitute for YEHOVAH GOD and His spirit -- another god before the true God.

Since, then, his group, his club, his team, his party, his country, HIS WORLD, is all a PART of his EMPIRICAL SELF, he exalts it, he loves it, he is loyal to it -- and hostile to all opposing powers or forces. And this, too, becomes a kind of idolatry.

This world travels A WAY that is the very antithesis of THE WAY of YEHOVAH God. Therefore, since THIS EVIL WORLD is A PART of the EMPIRICAL SELF, the carnal mind of man IS HOSTILE TO YEHOVAH GOD! Do you now see WHY?

Human nature is SELF-LOVE. Yet this love is not true love, but LUST. The SELF, as a LOCAL SELF or taken at its widest expansion, is HOSTILE to YEHOVAH God. It has a contrary NATURE. It travels a different road. It is part of a different team, party, or group, or world, WARRING against YEHOVAH God and YEHOVAH's WAY. It is WAR -- and the SELF is lined up on the side of THIS EVIL WORLD, against YEHOVAH GOD! And this is idolatry. DO YOU begin to see why you need to REPENT of what you ARE?

In this SUPREME WAR of all wars, YEHOVAH God Almighty will accept no terms of PEACE but UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER!

The world is the ENEMY of YEHOVAH GOD. It is hostile to YEHOVAH GOD. Its educators have not retained YEHOVAH or His

revealed knowledge in their curricula. Its educational approach to knowledge is not from the basis of YEHOVAH's revelation of origins, purposes, causes and right ways, but from opposite, contrary and false concepts. Its historians in their hostility to the common enemy -- YEHOVAH GOD -- have deliberately rejected Biblical historic FACT, such as the Flood, the Exodus, the Creation.

Its science, its medicine, its economics, its political structures, its social systems, its religions -- ALL are hostile toward, and contrary to THE TRUTH and THE WAY of YEHOVAH GOD!

But now look at the individual! Look at YOU! The SELF is part of this evil world of Satan. This world is PART of the empirical SELF. The very NATURE in man is SELF-LOVE.

So by nature man loves HIS WORLD. His nature is saturated with love for the things that are AT WAR AGAINST YEHOVAH GOD. His love for, and sense of loyalty toward his group, whether small or large, means automatically A HOSTILE ATTITUDE toward whatever or whoever is opposed. So HUMAN NATURE automatically expresses resentment, jealousy, malice, spite, hatred, toward opposing parties, whether within or without his world.

You see, Satan's world IS divided against itself. A man hates soldiers of an opposing army in war -- yet those soldiers are a PART of the WHOLE world, which he loves. But this love, again, is actually LUST, for it is a love of the empirical SELF!

Before one can be converted, he must REPENT of WHAT HE IS, as well as what he has done. And now I wonder if you see WHAT MAN IS! I wonder if YOU, now reading this, begin to see what YOU really ARE!

Man is VANITY. Man is LUST. Man is hostile to YEHOVAH God, loyal to what is opposed to and WARRING against YEHOVAH and YEHOVAH's WAY! Man cannot find PEACE with his Maker on any terms but UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER. That means

forsaking this world and its ways and hostilities.

The first thing that enters the mind of natural man when his mind is first opened to some of YEHOVAH's Truth, or when the first suggestion of following it enters, is: "What would my friends -- family -- relatives -- group -- say?" They will oppose. If you go over on YEHOVAH'S side in this war for all eternity, THEY will say you are crazy, condemn you, accuse you, oppose you, persecute you.

You have to decide the question, in this war, of WHOSE SIDE YOU are on!

For IT IS WAR!

War to the DEATH -- and I mean ETERNAL DEATH, or else to ETERNAL LIFE. And you must choose which. You cannot have both.



Japanese delegation signs World War II unconditional surrender documents aboard the USS Missouri, September 2, 1945. Mankind is at war with YEHOVAH God and must surrender unconditionally to Him!

You must forsake utterly, and give up completely, the WORLD, and the SELF, or go on to the DEATH for eternity with it!

This world is AT WAR with YEHOVAH God. And this world is going to LOSE -- and very soon! You are living in its very last days!

You think you are pretty good? Do

YOU? Well let me tell you on YEHOVAH's authority that you are not good, but EVIL. To use expressive language -- and I hope I can drive it through and through into your consciousness -- you are, spiritually, so rotten you stink -- you are so foul you deserve nothing but eternal death -- you are so evil, by comparison to YEHOVAH GOD, you are NOT FIT to be called HIS SON! Yet, if you really REPENT of WHAT YOU ARE as well as the way you have lived, and REALLY turn around and go the other way, with YEHOVAH's power, YEHOVAH has provided a way of grace by which you may be redeemed, washed in the Messiah's blood, and actually be MADE righteous by THE HOLY SPIRIT of YEHOVAH GOD!

HOW much GOOD is there in YOU -- in your SELF?

Let YEHOVAH GOD and the Messiah answer you. Don't take my word. LISTEN TO THEM!

The Messiah said, "... there is NONE good but One, that is, GOD" (**Matthew 19:17**). Will you face the Messiah in the Judgment and dispute him, saying, "You were wrong, Lord -- I am GOOD!"? Or will you accept, you who think you are pretty good, the Messiah's WORD that NONE is good, except YEHOVAH GOD!

YEHOVAH's Word says to YOU: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (**Jeremiah 17:9**.) That means YOUR heart. It is spiritually SICK (see marginal rendering), and needs healing by the power of YEHOVAH GOD.

When people came to John the Baptist to be baptized, he told them how far from GOOD they were: He said " ... You brood of vipers, ... produce fruit that answers to your repentance ... any tree that is not producing good fruit will be cut down, and thrown into the fire" (**Matthew 3:7-10**, Moffatt translation).

If you are not bearing GOOD FRUIT, you will be thrown into the lake of FIRE. Now can a carnal human bear good fruit? Is there GOOD in a human? In **John 15**, Yeshua the Messiah compares us to BRANCHES of a vine -- it could be a grapevine. He is the vine, we are the branches (**verse 57**). A branch, he said, "cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine" (**verse 4**). IF we abide in Him -- are in constant CONTACT, SO that HIS GOODNESS flows into and through us, we shall bring forth GOOD fruit, "...for without me, ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered: and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (**verses 5-6**).

The Messiah said we are known by our fruits. And a bad tree CANNOT produce good fruit. Nor can a good tree bring forth evil fruit. If you, then, are pretty GOOD -- as many of you now reading this, even though already baptized and professing to be converted -- think you are, and are a GOOD "tree," it is IMPOSSIBLE to bring forth bad fruit -- that is, IMPOSSIBLE for you to sin. But you HAVE SINNED -- SO YOU are NOT GOOD. And if you are not changed so as to produce GOOD (SPIRITUAL) FRUIT, you shall be burned up in the lake of fire (**Matthew 7:17-19**).

The apostle Paul said: "In me dwelleth NO GOOD THING" -- or, as in the Revised Standard translation: "NOTHING good dwells in me."

I can WISH -- WANT to do, desire, or make a resolution, to do what is right -- but I cannot DO it! No, without YEHOVAH God, and His power within, you have no good in you, and can do no good. A carnal human may THINK he has good -- thinks good thoughts, has good intentions. But when we understand what GOOD really means, he cannot produce it!

You may say, "But I think MOTHER-LOVE is good. Is it not GOOD when a mother loves and cares for her baby?" As a carnal human looks at it -- humanly, perhaps -- but let's just look at this noble mother love, as an example of

HUMAN "goodness." That child is one of the CLOSEST portions of her empirical SELF. She regards it as HERS -- it's a part of HER -- and she loves herSELF, so she loves her child. Does your carnal mind still argue that this is really SPIRITUAL GOODNESS? If so, YOU NEED TO COMPREHEND WHAT IS YEHOVAH GOD'S GOODNESS AND REPENT!

A rich man becomes a philanthropist. Andrew Carnegie gave millions of dollars to establish public libraries in many cities. Wasn't that GOOD?

Well, LOOK AT IT a moment! He gave to HIS WORLD which he was part of and loved, didn't he? Just about all of the books in those libraries, except the few that are Bibles, are the writings of men HOSTILE to YEHOVAH God, and the product of this world's education. Yes, Yeshua the Messiah said the world LOVES ITS OWN, and showing love for and of the world is NOT the love of YEHOVAH GOD. YEHOVAH commands us to love NOT the world, nor the things that are IN the world. And did you ever notice that Mr. Carnegie's NAME is placed on these libraries, to perpetuate his name, and uphold his vanity for generations after his death?

A man or wealthy widow donates a great art collection to an institution -- but the donor's NAME is always there to exalt the "good" donor, and show off to people how "GOOD" he or she was! A person of means endows a college or university with a large sum -- but it is known as the "scholarship" of the donor! And ALWAYS philanthropists see to it that their gifts go to the places and uses of THEIR CHOICE. The donation BUYS the assent of the recipient to USE it as the donor demands"

Yes, by HUMAN STANDARDS, as HUMANS view things, there may be some "GOOD" in human nature, and in people. By human standards, Joseph of Arimathaea, who buried the body of the Messiah, was a "good man" (**Luke 23:50**), but, let Yeshua the Messiah settle this question once and for all: "If ye then, BEING EVIL, know how to GIVE GOOD GIFTS (see **James 1:17**) unto your children,

how much more shall your heavenly Father give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" (**Luke 11:13**.)

Here is the supposed "GOOD" mother giving "good" things to her child or baby. **HERE IS MOTHER LOVE** -- perhaps the "highest" love we can recognize in a human. And the Messiah says emphatically that she does it "BEING EVIL." She, herself, is EVIL inherently. And if a person is EVIL, can an evil tree bring forth GOOD (SPIRITUAL) fruit? Yeshua the Messiah says IT CANNOT.

What kind of fruit DOES a natural man, without YEHOVAH's spirit, produce? These fruits are listed. They are "...adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like" (**Galatians 5:19-21**).

Do we, BEING EVIL, produce GOOD fruit? Are the fruits of the flesh -- of human nature -- love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, GOODNESS? No, these are the fruits of YEHOVAH'S HOLY SPIRIT, which you cannot produce except YEHOVAH produce them in and through you BY His holy spirit. THESE are the fruits of YEHOVAH GOD, and they can come only FROM YEHOVAH GOD. That's why there is NO PEACE in the world!

I know many who have been baptized, and who THINK they have been converted, and ARE PRETTY GOOD IN THEIR OWN EYES! And I hope YOU of that category can know that I DO mean YOU!

But you are not as good as JOB!

Job was so "good" that even Satan could not detect any sin -- any evil. Job possibly had repented of what evil he had DONE, and turned from it -- for Satan could find no evil in what Job DID! But YEHOVAH found evil in what Job was! He was self-righteous! He was pretty GOOD, humanly speaking -- and HE KNEW IT TOO WELL! He had spiritual VANITY -- like some of YOU!

Well, how do YOU compare to YEHO-

VAH GOD? Where were YOU, when YEHOVAH created this earth? Can YOU sustain, control, and rule the UNIVERSE? Or are YOU about as small, compared to YEHOVAH, as a strutting peacock? Why, you don't even have his beautiful plumage!

Have you ever been really BROKEN UP about what a rotten, foul, deceitful, vain, and evil creature you have been?

It's about time many of our students get their eyes opened -- for THIS WORLD is nearing its END with the speed of space flight!

It is MUCH later than you think! May YEHOVAH God help you to SEE!

This world has its TWO dimensions -- the WITHIN, which is the LOCAL SELF, and the AROUND, which is the EMPIRICAL SELF! It's time to EXPAND your horizon now to the THIRD dimension -- the ABOVE -- on up to YEHOVAH GOD, for every GOOD and perfect gift comes down from ABOVE -- from YEHOVAH GOD whose supreme purpose is to beget each of us with HIS SPIRIT -- HIS LOVE -- HIS GOODNESS -- HIS very LIFE, which is ETERNAL LIFE -- the only complete, full, ABUNDANT life, full of goodness, happiness, joy, and PEACE FOREVER!

THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER

PROFESSING Christians PROFESS to pray. But few actually do! And fewer, it seems, really know WHY they should pray, and WHAT TO EXPECT AS THE RESULT OF PRAYER!

Prayer is stressed in the Bible, but neglected by many because so few realize the VITAL PURPOSE for prayer.

EMPTY Prayer

Prayer today has degenerated into a ritual of words -- a form, a ceremony, a vain liturgy of sanctimonious phraseology -- an utterly meaningless OBLIGATION WITHOUT A PURPOSE!

YEHOVAH God simply DOESN'T

HEAR empty prayers!

You have heard that powerful, believing prayer can move mountains, heal incurable diseases and raise the dead. Prayer was effective for the Messiah and the apostles, but too many Christians will admit their prayers aren't doing much today -- if anything!

You may know HOW to pray. But many of those who know HOW to pray -- DON'T PRAY! They don't grasp the vital reason WHY THEY SHOULD!

What have YOUR PRAYERS DONE LATELY? PRAYER IS SUPPOSED TO DO SOMETHING! DO YOU KNOW WHAT?

WHY Pray?

What, then, IS prayer? And WHY SHOULD WE PRAY in the first place?

Prayer is a personal, intimate, understanding communication with YEHOVAH God Almighty. And prayer is intended to help you achieve your GOAL in life -- the very PURPOSE FOR WHICH YOU WERE BORN!

Without meaningful, active and EFFECTIVE prayer, you can never hope to be born into YEHOVAH's Kingdom. Continuing prayer is a VITAL KEY to your salvation. And prayer, to be effective, must be continual, fervent contact with your Creator -- which you ATTAIN AND MAINTAIN DAILY if you expect to receive His gift of eternal life.

Knowing the goal of salvation, and receiving the faith of YEHOVAH God to achieve it, will get you off to a good start. But a good start is not a guarantee of a good finish!

In order to complete YEHOVAH's Master Plan for your life, you MUST PRAY and YOU MUST PRAY DAILY! MAINTAINING CONSTANT CLOSE CONTACT with YEHOVAH God Himself is absolutely essential to your salvation. For without YEHOVAH's instant help, you can't overcome the downward pulls of your human nature which lead to SIN!

The glory of YEHOVAH's Kingdom can be attained only with YEHOVAH's personal



Catholic priest in ritualistic prayer that is abhorrent to YEHOVAH God.

help through His HOLY SPIRIT. But you must PRAY TO RECEIVE IT!

Pray to Overcome Human Nature

1. Does YEHOVAH God warn that He does not hear those who PRACTICE sin? **John 9:31** and **Psalms 66:18**. And have ALL sinned -- transgressed YEHOVAH's perfect spiritual law -- and therefore come short of His glory? **Romans 3:23**.

2. Does the apostle Paul show that no one is righteous of HIMSELF? **Romans 3:10**. However, does He hear the prayers of the RIGHTEOUS? **James 5:16, last part**.

3. Do we sin because the NATURE of the carnal mind we are born with REBELS against YEHOVAH God and His spiritual laws? **Romans 8:7-8**. Is the human heart -- which the Bible refers to as figuratively representing the basic motives and intentions of our carnal minds -- wicked and deceitful ABOVE ALL THINGS? **Jeremiah 17:9**.

4. Does YEHOVAH God, who is Creator of all things, reveal that He has created EVIL as well as good? **Isaiah 45:7**. Then wasn't it YEHOVAH God who created our human hearts, or minds, which are prone to evil? **Psalms 33:15**. See also **Matthew 15:18-19** and **Mark 7:21-23**.

COMMENT: All of these sins -- mur-

ders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, covetousness -- are the OUTWARD ACTS of evil thoughts conceived in the mind. They begin in our desperately treacherous and deceitful hearts (our minds) which are subject to PRIDE and VANITY. That's what YEHOVAH God says in His Word. He ought to know. He created our minds!

YEHOVAH has actually given man a nature which is essentially the same as Satan's. And for a great and wonderful purpose -- as we shall soon see.

5. Even though YEHOVAH has created the evil propensity of human nature in us, is there HOPE for us? **Romans 8:20**. Why has YEHOVAH made us this way? Has He purposed to DELIVER US from the bondage of our corruptible human nature and bring us into His glorious kingdom? **Verse 21**.

COMMENT: YEHOVAH God is creating a wonderful, eternal and glorious Family in His own CHARACTER IMAGE. And He is accomplishing it out of human clay. It was YEHOVAH who placed human nature -- with its propensity towards evil -- within us IN HOPE that we will OVERCOME it with the power of His holy spirit, and thus achieve His glorious Kingdom!

6. Has YEHOVAH God plainly declared His purpose for us -- the purpose in which He takes GREAT PLEASURE? **Luke 12:32**. Shouldn't this GOAL of service in His Kingdom -- and being free of the bondage of human flesh and nature -- be OUR GOAL as well? **Romans 8:23**. Are we to long for it so much that we may actually "groan" within ourselves in ANTICIPATION of receiving sonship in YEHOVAH's Kingdom? **Same verse**.

COMMENT: YEHOVAH plainly states that He wants us to become His sons. But it is a MUTUAL GOAL! We, too, must desire with all our being to live forever in YEHOVAH's eternal Family.

When YEHOVAH declares His purpose for us, He will achieve it! Remember that He is all-powerful -- that He rules heaven and earth!

He has all things, and wants to SHARE them with us, and says He will make a place for us in His Kingdom. That ought to be our HOPE -- OUR GOAL IN LIFE!

YEHOVAH God has created man lowly -- weak and carnal -- subject to the downward pulls of human nature which lead to sin. But He does not want us to REMAIN lowly and sinful! He wants us to RISE UP ABOVE OUR NATURES by the POWER OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT, and develop His righteous, spiritual character in us.

7. Does YEHOVAH realize our weak frame -- that we are made of perishable dust? **Psalm 103:14**. And does He have pity on us -- have tender concern and mercy toward us? **Psalm 103:13, 17**.

COMMENT: Even though we are sinful by nature, we should not become discouraged. YEHOVAH understands our weaknesses, our failures and faults. He placed human nature in us for a PURPOSE -- so that we might overcome it and grow in His holy and righteous, spiritual character.

YEHOVAH knows we will stumble and fall short of His goals for us. But He wants us to learn that our sins are the result of human weakness, and THAT WE NEED TO COME TO HIM -- THAT HE ALONE IS OUR RESERVOIR OF STRENGTH WHO WILL GIVE US THE POWER TO OVERCOME!

8. Will YEHOVAH deal with us according to our sins? **Psalm 103:10**. Is He merciful to us if we fear to disobey Him, and have proper awe and respect for His power? **Verse 11**. Is it characteristic of YEHOVAH God to be very merciful -- to have mercy in abundance? **Verse 8**.

COMMENT: Many realize that they are inwardly wicked -- that they have committed sins and need YEHOVAH's forgiveness. But they are ASHAMED to come to Him and they are NOT SURE He will hear their prayer. Consequently their sins REMAIN UNFORGIVEN!

9. What causes us to be ASHAMED when we come to YEHOVAH in prayer? Have

our sins cut us off from Him? **Isaiah 59:1-2**. Whose fault is it that we are cut off from YEHOVAH God? **Same verses**. Yet will YEHOVAH hear our prayers if we come to Him in the RIGHT ATTITUDE? **Verse 1**.

COMMENT: YEHOVAH IS ALWAYS ABLE TO HEAR US! He is always WILLING to hear us if we will come to Him for forgiveness, and if we will TURN from our sinful ways. But because some are ashamed to come to YEHOVAH God, and because some REFUSE TO ASK HIS FORGIVENESS, YEHOVAH DOES NOT HEAR THEM!

YEHOVAH doesn't expect us to attain perfection all at once. He knows we will commit sins and will need to turn to Him for forgiveness.

What we must realize is that YEHOVAH wants us to learn that our HUMAN NATURE MUST BE CHANGED and that He alone offers FORGIVENESS FOR SIN!

Therefore He COMMANDS US to PRAY! Pray for His forgiveness and the strength of His holy spirit to overcome the evil propensities of our carnal nature!

YEHOVAH knows that without His SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH -- which He supplies through His HOLY SPIRIT -- we would constantly yield to the evil pulls of human nature and be drawn down into sin.

And so the realization that we ARE SINFUL by nature is a fundamental reason we should pray! We must pray to receive the STRENGTH of YEHOVAH's holy spirit to be able to OVERCOME OUR HUMAN NATURE!

Why Christians Need Forgiveness

1. Did the apostle John admit that all of us -- including Christians -- still commit sins and come short of YEHOVAH's glory? **I John 1:8** and **Ecclesiastes 7:20** compared with **Romans 3:23**. If we say that we do not sin, are we DECEIVING ourselves? **Same verses**. Then isn't it plain we, of ourselves, cannot overcome our evil nature and achieve membership in



Buddhist monk praying to a dead pagan god that cannot answer prayer!

YEHOVAH's glorious Family?

2. But will YEHOVAH God hear us if we are willing to confess to Him the sins we commit daily? **I John 1:9**. And will He cleanse us from our unrighteousness -- our transgression of His law? **Same verse**. Is that because He is faithful and just? **Same verse**.

COMMENT: YEHOVAH is absolutely just. He abides by His law. And YEHOVAH's law exacts the death penalty. His judgment for sinners is ETERNAL death! (**Romans 6:23**.)

But YEHOVAH has accepted the sacrifice of Yeshua the Messiah in our stead to pay for sin -- broken laws -- if we will REPENT of our sins and have FAITH in the Messiah's sacrifice for our sins.

We are then no longer cut off from YEHOVAH God because of our sins, because the Messiah was forsaken -- cut off from YEHOVAH God -- FOR US (**Matthew 27:46**).

3. Is YEHOVAH willing that anyone should die eternal death because of sin? **II Peter 3:9**. Doesn't He want everyone to repent of sins

so He can forgive them? **Same verse.**

4. Is YEHOVAH God alone able to forgive sins? **Luke 5:21** and **Daniel 9:9.**

5. Did John write his admonition so that Christians might AVOID committing sin? **I John 2:1.** But when we stumble through weakness or temptation and commit some sin, will the Messiah's sacrifice be applied to us if we repent and ask for YEHOVAH's forgiveness? **Same verse.** Didn't the Messiah's one sacrifice pay for the sins of the entire world? **Verse 2.** And therefore do all who repent and ask forgiveness have the Messiah as THEIR ADVOCATE -- someone to speak for them -- at the Father's throne? **Verse 1.**

The Messiah's Office as High Priest

1. Has YEHOVAH God given the Messiah a responsibility -- an office of AUTHORITY -- which makes it possible for him to intercede for us as our Advocate in heaven? **Hebrews 5:7-10.** Did the Messiah have to LEARN to obey through suffering like the rest of us? **Verses 8-9.** And did this therefore qualify him to act as our High Priest? **Verse 10.**

2. Did the Messiah have to pray to YEHOVAH God FERVENTLY for the SPIRITUAL STRENGTH to keep from sinning under temptation, and thus be kept from incurring the death penalty? **Hebrews 5:7.** Was the Messiah thus able to overcome the very sins we have to fight daily? **Hebrews 4:15.**

3. Because of the suffering he experienced, is the Messiah QUALIFIED to help us when we have need because of temptation or weakness? **Hebrews 4:14-15.**

4. Can our very worst sins be forgiven by YEHOVAH God? **Isaiah 1:18.** And forgotten? **Isaiah 43:25.**

COMMENT: Yes, man's very WORST sins -- as "scarlet" -- may be completely forgiven and FORGOTTEN by YEHOVAH God for all eternity -- "be as white as snow."

5. Then what is YEHOVAH's COMMAND to every Christian? **Hebrews 4:16.** Can

we come before YEHOVAH's heavenly throne and expect to receive mercy and grace -- unmerited pardon -- and the POWER to help us in our times of need? Are we to approach YEHOVAH's throne with BOLDNESS? **Same verse.**

COMMENT: Notice that YEHOVAH does not say "if" you pray. He commands that Christians come BOLDLY before His throne in prayer. It is essential that we pray constantly -- day by day -- if we are to receive YEHOVAH's mercy and power so we can ultimately inherit His Kingdom.

Prayer is absolutely necessary in our preparation for YEHOVAH's Kingdom. We desperately need YEHOVAH's supernatural, DIVINE HELP to keep us from wandering from His ways of love. And we need His merciful forgiveness when we fail!

6. Does **Matthew 6:6** indicate that YEHOVAH God EXPECTS Christians to pray?

COMMENT: Notice that Yeshua did not say if, but "when" you pray. Yeshua expects his true followers to be PRAYING Christians! We must pray constantly from the heart if we want to be born into YEHOVAH's Kingdom!

7. Does the Messiah sit at the right hand of YEHOVAH God the Father on His throne? **Hebrews 10:12.** Does he make loving intercession for us constantly to YEHOVAH God? **Romans 8:34-39.**

8. Does **Romans 3:23-24** point out that we would never make it into YEHOVAH's Kingdom if it were not for the Messiah, our loving elder brother?

COMMENT: We indeed do have a golden eternity ahead of us in YEHOVAH's joyous Family, if we will only avail ourselves of YEHOVAH's tremendous POWER and FORGIVENESS through prayer. Otherwise, we will fail!

9. Wasn't it at great personal SUFFERING that this wonderful opportunity to be a part of YEHOVAH's own Family has been made available to us? **Hebrews 2:9-10, 17.**

COMMENT: The Messiah, our High

Priest, who intercedes for us to our heavenly Father so that his blood may cover our SPIRITUAL sins, is active on our behalf AT THIS VERY MOMENT -- if we will only CALL UPON YEHOVAH GOD IN PRAYER!

YEHOVAH ALONE Can Save Us!

1. Is YEHOVAH God our SALVATION? **Psalm 27:1**. Can He always be depended upon to deliver us from all of our trials, temptations and sins? **Same verse**. Will He stand by us even though our own family might forsake us? **Verse 10**.

2. Doesn't **Psalm 3:8** show that our salvation is entirely in the hands of YEHOVAH God?

3. Are we to cry out to YEHOVAH God in prayer, as the Messiah did, when we are weak and on the verge of disobeying Him? **Psalm 38:16-22** and **Hebrews 5:7**.

4. If we have been overcome by temptations and sin, may we still ask YEHOVAH to forgive -- "purge away" -- our sins? **Psalm 38:10** and **79:8-9**. And may we ask Him, in prayer, to have MERCY upon us and still grant us salvation, even though we have sinned? **Psalm 85:6-9**. Wasn't this written for YEHOVAH's SAINTS who still sometimes sin, but have turned from the foolishness of their former sinful ways? **Verse 8**.

5. Does **Ephesians 6:10** tell us TO BE STRONG in the power of YEHOVAH'S MIGHT? Is that because our own human power can't deliver us from temptation and sin?

COMMENT: Yes, we are to be strong in the power of YEHOVAH's might -- the POWER of His HOLY SPIRIT -- which we can receive through prayer!

6. Is the preparation of our spiritual "armour" -- which we use to fight against the devil and his demons -- to be through PRAYER and SUPPLICATION? **Ephesians 6:11-18**.

7. Does our struggle against Satan and his demons, the world around us and the evil pulls of our own nature become LIGHTER when

we go to YEHOVAH God in prayer for the strength to resist them? **Ephesians 6:10** compared with **Matthew 11:27-30**.

COMMENT: Through prayer to YEHOVAH God, our way into His Kingdom and overcoming our human nature can be made secure.

8. Is our loving Heavenly Father merciful and ready to forgive us when we call upon Him in prayer? **Psalm 86:5-6** and **103:1-3**.

9. Even when we have REBELLED against Him, may we still be forgiven? **Daniel 9:9**.

10. Is it also YEHOVAH's will to forgive us our PHYSICAL sins? **Psalms 103:3** and **Mark 2:1-11**.

COMMENT: Sickness, disease and injuries are the PENALTY of PHYSICAL SIN! Yeshua the Messiah himself said so! And YEHOVAH God says it is His will to FORGIVE our physical sins. Healing is forgiveness of the sin, and MIRACULOUS REMOVAL of the PENALTY.

YEHOVAH heals us not by the Messiah's blood -- but by his STRIPES we are healed (**I Peter 2:24**). He paid the PENALTY of physical sins IN OUR STEAD. He did the suffering FOR US, so YEHOVAH can remove it from us by the POWER of the holy spirit -- if we will repent of breaking YEHOVAH's physical laws and ACCEPT, in faith, the Messiah's suffering for us! (**John. 5:14; James. 5:14-15**.) It is as much YEHOVAH'S WILL to heal as it is to SAVE US from the death penalty of spiritual sins!

11. Isn't YEHOVAH full of compassion and mercy? **Psalm 86:15-17**.

12. Can even our VERY WORST sins be forgiven? **Isaiah 1:18**.

COMMENT: Yes, even the most heinous crimes may be forgiven. YEHOVAH God will forgive ALL of our sins IF we will sincerely repent from the heart and determine to the very deepest depths of our being that we will NEVER PRACTICE THEM AGAIN.



This full suit of armor is symbolic of the SPIRITUAL “armor” YEHOVAH instructs Christians to use against Satan and his demons.

YEHOVAH God is indeed forgiving and very merciful!

Pray Fervently!

1. Should we be very FERVENT in our prayers to YEHOVAH God when asking for His forgiveness, or for the strength to overcome temptations which are about to overpower us? **James 5:16.**

2. How is such prayer described in the Bible? **Psalm 27:7; II Chronicles 32:20** and **Psalm 62:8.**

COMMENT: Notice the words “cry with my voice” in **Psalm 27:7**; “prayed and CRIED” (crying out figuratively and ACTUALLY, at times) in **II Chronicles 32:20** and “pour out your heart” in **Psalm 62:8.**

3. Are we shown, by David’s example, that we should throw our WHOLE HEART into our prayers? **Psalm 119:58, 145.**

4. Did the Messiah set us an example of FERVENT prayer? **Hebrews 5:7** and **Luke 22:44.**

COMMENT: Before the Messiah died for us on the tree, he prepared for his ordeal with FERVENT prayer. He was so earnest in seeking his Father’s will (**verse 42**), that he literally SWEAT BLOOD in the chilled Garden of Gethsemane.

5. What is the Messiah’s command to all who would follow him? **Luke 22:45-46.**

COMMENT: The Messiah set us the example. His fervent and frequent prayers to YEHOVAH God for spiritual strength had everything to do with his final victory over sin and death.

The same applies to us today! We should pray FERVENTLY to YEHOVAH God for the STRENGTH TO RESIST SIN!

6. Should we pray with a fervent desire to be ANSWERED? **Psalm 27:7-9** and **102:1-2.**

Hope of Israel Ministries -- Preparing the Way for the Return of YEHOVAH God and His Messiah!

The Power of Prayer!

YEHOVAH WILL Answer!

1. Can we have absolute confidence that our eternal heavenly Father WILL HEAR US and deliver us from our fears and troubles? **Psalm 34:4, 6**. Do **verses 17 and 19** also show that YEHOVAH will DELIVER US from all of our afflictions?

COMMENT: YEHOVAH will answer our fervent prayers for deliverance from every adverse circumstance. And He will grant us His forgiveness and His divine strength so we may be strengthened against disobeying His laws in the future!

2. Does YEHOVAH promise us all kinds of help if we ask Him in faithful, BELIEVING prayer? **Matthew 21:22**.

3. Should our FAITH in the fact that YEHOVAH will hear us be UNWAVERING? **James 1:5-7**.

COMMENT: We must learn to TRUST YEHOVAH to the utmost. Learn to EXPECT answers to your prayers! YEHOVAH reveals Himself as a REAL God -- a LIVING ACTING God. Take YEHOVAH at His Word without doubting Him for an instant!

4. Should we therefore place our WHOLEHEARTED trust in YEHOVAH God? **Psalm 71:1**. If we do, doesn't it follow that we will never be confused? **Same verse**.

5. And knowing that YEHOVAH God is our sure salvation, should we offer our prayers with THANKSGIVING, and let our requests be known to Him? **Philippians 4:6** and **Colossians 4:2**. Does **Philippians 4:6** bear out the fact that we should trust implicitly in YEHOVAH God and not become fearful of the results?

COMMENT: "Be careful for (anxious about) nothing... " (**Philippians 4:6**). Yes, we are to have ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE in YEHOVAH God, and not worry about the outcome.

6. Does **Psalm 56:9** also show that we should have total confidence in YEHOVAH's power to overcome all of our enemies -- including Satan and our human nature?

7. Can we be confident that if we pray to

YEHOVAH, He will take care of all our needs? **Matthew 6:11** and **Psalm 23:1-6**.

COMMENT: "The Lord is my Shepherd (my Guide through prayer and the study of His textbook for living -- the Bible), I shall not WANT..." (**verse 1**).

8. Can we offer up our prayers to YEHOVAH God with ABSOLUTE faith -- a settled conviction -- that He will watch over us because He is concerned for our very best interests? **Matthew 7:7-11**.

COMMENT: "For what man (typical of YEHOVAH God the Father) is there of you, whom if his son (mankind) ask bread (the life-giving sustenance of eternal life -- YEHOVAH's holy spirit), will he give him a stone?" (**verse 9**).

YEHOVAH is FAR MORE WILLING to give us His SPIRIT OF POWER if we will ASK FOR IT!

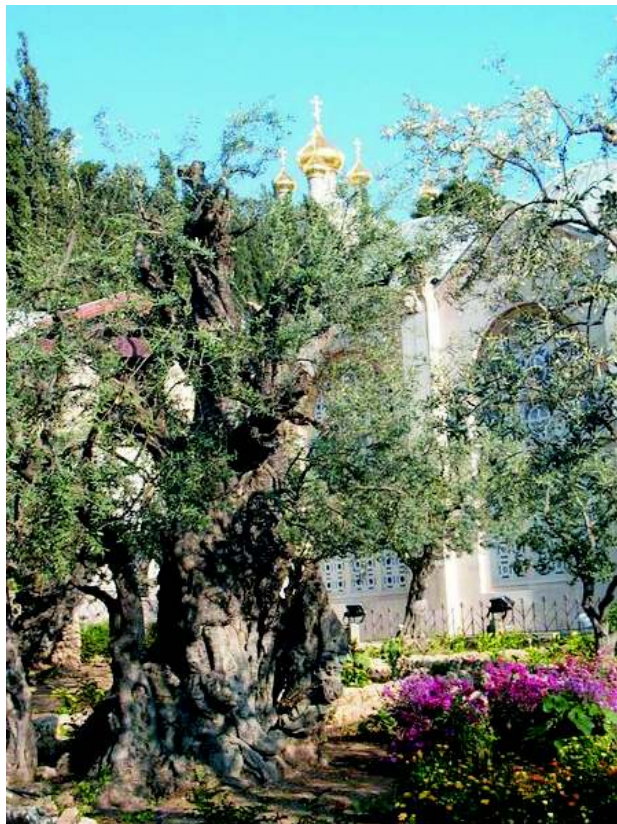
Pray for a CLEAN HEART

1. Following David's example, what should we pray that YEHOVAH God will do WITHIN US after He has forgiven our sins? **Psalm 51:1-17**, especially **verse 10**. Carefully read and study this entire Psalm, since it shows the wholehearted attitude of TOTAL REPENTANCE we must have for YEHOVAH God to hear our prayers.

2. Did David first acknowledge his own sins, and then ask YEHOVAH's forgiveness? **Verses 1-9**. Did David realize that the basic motivations of his human heart were evil from his birth? **Verse 5**.

COMMENT: David knew that our sinful actions are the results of the thoughts, motives, and intents of our wicked human hearts. He knew that repenting of evil deeds IS NOT ENOUGH! We must pray that YEHOVAH God will help us to repent of the motivations and intents of our carnal minds -- the inordinate lusts and evil desires which lead us to commit sins.

We must TOTALLY and LITERALLY REPENT OF WHAT WE ARE!



Ancient olive tree at the traditional site of the Garden of Gethsemane. It was in Gethsemane that the Messiah prayed fervently for the strength to endure his ordeal.

3. Does YEHOVAH God make it clear that He is primarily concerned with what is going on in our hearts -- the thoughts and intents of our MINDS? **Isaiah 66:2**. And isn't it clear that man's NATURAL heart, or mind, is far from right in YEHOVAH's sight -- that man's NATURAL attitude is far from acceptable to Him? **Isaiah 64:6-7**.

4. Then shouldn't we pray as David did -- asking YEHOVAH to CREATE IN US A CLEAN HEART? **Psalm 51:10**. Do we need to have YEHOVAH put within us a RIGHT ATTITUDE -- one motivated by service to others, and not by selfishness? **Same verse and verse 13**.

COMMENT: David clearly saw that his own heart was evil. He realized that he needed to have YEHOVAH God Almighty create a CLEAN HEART within him.

YEHOVAH wants us to pray as David

did, and ASK Him to change our human nature! That is the PURPOSE for prayer in helping us to develop YEHOVAH's spiritual character so we can attain the goal for which we have been born!

Unless YEHOVAH is now in the PROCESS of creating clean hearts and minds in us by the power of His spirit, we will never inherit eternal life. YEHOVAH God will not give eternal life to anyone who has NOT surrendered to Him and whose heart is NOT being guided by the love of His holy spirit!

Clearly we must have a NEW HEART gradually created within us. A mind inspired by YEHOVAH's spirit and totally submissive to His laws. We must receive from YEHOVAH a heart which is the DIAMETRIC OPPOSITE OF OUR HUMAN NATURE. We desperately need a TOTALLY CLEAN, PURE HEART!

5. Did David realize that YEHOVAH will look to the man whose earnest desire is to have a clean heart created in Him? Did he understand that YEHOVAH will hear the prayer of a man whose attitude is humble and submissive and is REPENTING DAILY of the sins he still commits as a result of being motivated by his carnal, evil heart? **Psalm 51:16-17**.

6. Has YEHOVAH God promised to look to the man whose spirit -- the altitude of his mind -- is humble, repentant, and stands in awe of His Word? **Isaiah 66:2**.

7. Has YEHOVAH promised to be near such people when they pray for His help? **Psalm 34:18**.

8. And has YEHOVAH promised to forgive our sins and WRITE HIS laws in our hearts, if we will turn to Him? **Jeremiah 31:33-34**.

9. Will YEHOVAH do this by the power of His spirit? **Hebrews 10:15-17** and **II Corinthians 3:3**.

10. What, then, should we DO, realizing all of the foregoing? **Hebrews 10:22-25**. Should we be confident that our sins are forgiven (if we have truly repented), and that we can now draw near to YEHOVAH God? **Verses 22-23**. And should we seek FELLOWSHIP with others who

have been forgiven, and whose hearts are being cleansed by YEHOVAH God Almighty? **Verse 25.**

COMMENT: YEHOVAH has begun to create a clean heart and mind in His own character image within those who have yielded themselves to Him. He has called them out of this world and into HIS TRUE CHURCH where they can be INSTRUCTED IN HIS PERFECT LAWS IN PREPARATION FOR BEING BORN INTO HIS KINGDOM!

How to SEEK YEHOVAH God

1. Does James show why mankind is suffering wars, and why Christians have been CALLED OUT of this evil world? **James 4:1-2, 4.**

COMMENT: Mankind in general is CUT OFF from YEHOVAH God because of their sins -- because they will NOT come to YEHOVAH God to repent of their sins and their evil human nature. For this reason the world has continued in the ways of war until now, at the tip-end of mankind's rule on this earth, the evilly motivated human heart of man has brought us to the brink of COSMOCIDE -- SUICIDE OF THE HUMAN RACE!

2. Why has man FAILED in life? **James 4:2.** Are men all too often UNWILLING to ask YEHOVAH God for help and forgiveness? **Same verse.** And does the professing Christian world really know how to pray PROPERLY?

3. Isn't man's failure to ask forgiveness and to pray properly the result of his wicked human heart which is motivated by lust and envy? **Verse 5.**

4. Does YEHOVAH warn that He resists those who are PROUD? **Verse 6.** But does He promise to give GRACE -- unmerited pardon for sin -- to those who are willing to HUMBLE themselves? **Same verse.**

5. What, then, is YEHOVAH's command to all mankind? **Verses 7-9.** Isn't the first step plainly up to us? Must we repent of sin and RESIST the pressures of Satan and this world

which influence our human nature? **Verse 7.**

6. Must we also cleanse our lives of sin? Must our evil HEARTS -- minds, attitudes -- be cleansed and purified? **Verse 8.**

7. Are we to thoroughly repent and sincerely sorrow for the evil acts we commit because of yielding to our human nature? **Verse 9.**

8. Finally, what else must we do? **Verse 10.** If we will really humble ourselves in the sight of YEHOVAH God Almighty, who looks on the heart, has He promised to lift us up -- to forgive and STRENGTHEN US? **Verse 10.**

COMMENT: YEHOVAH promises to strengthen us now by His spirit. But He also promises to literally RAISE US UP by a RESURRECTION into His glorious Kingdom as His spirit-born Sons -- SONS OF YEHOVAH GOD!!

Pray for Strength to RESIST SINNING

1. If we ask, will YEHOVAH God be our helper? **Psalms 30:10.** Can we ask YEHOVAH to LEAD US in righteousness -- in obedience to His Laws? **Psalms 5:8.**

2. Will YEHOVAH cleanse us of secret faults -- those which lie HIDDEN in our human nature -- if we ask Him? **Psalms 19:12.** Will He help us to keep ourselves from exalting the self and being presumptuous? **Verse 13.**

3. Can we ask and expect YEHOVAH God to examine our INNER MOTIVES and to test us in order to help us overcome sin in our lives? **Psalms 26:2.**

4. How can a young person cleanse his ways before YEHOVAH God? **Psalms 119:9.** Doesn't this apply to anyone who seeks YEHOVAH with his WHOLE HEART? **Verse 10.** Is it also necessary to KNOW and STUDY YEHOVAH's Word to be able to keep from sinning? **Verse 11.**

5. Did David show us by his example how we should pray to YEHOVAH for a clean heart, and that we might have His strength to RESIST SIN and live by His Laws? **Psalms**

139:23-24.

COMMENT: YEHOVAH God Almighty knows our hearts individually. If we call upon Him for help, He will provide us with the strength we need to combat the evil pulls of our human nature. He will also reveal the innermost thoughts of our hearts and minds, and help us to repent deeply of following the vanity of our carnal minds.

We must rely on YEHOVAH God for the SPIRITUAL strength we need to overcome sin in our lives, and to purify our hearts.

YEHOVAH wants us to constantly seek Him for the power to overcome. And we must ask Him for it through prayer. This is the **ONLY WAY** to receive His SPIRIT OF POWER!

Our Heavenly Father wants each one of us in His Family. That is His purpose for our lives -- the purpose for which we were born. He is on His throne in Heaven ready to forgive us our sins and shortcomings, and grant us His supernatural help -- if we will only come to Him in PRAYER and ASK FOR IT!

PRAY EVERY DAY!

1. Should we continue INSTANT in prayer? **Romans 12:12.** What does this mean?

COMMENT: We should, as many other scriptures show, be in an ATTITUDE of prayer. It is possible to let your mind dwell on YEHOVAH God as you go about your daily routine -- speak to Him silently as you work or play -- LET HIM DIRECT YOUR EVERY THOUGHT AND ACTION.

But this is only possible if you are ALSO praying ON YOUR KNEES EVERY DAY!

2. Did David know that DAILY prayer was important to his spiritual life? **Psalms 55:17.**

3. Did Daniel know that REGULAR contact with YEHOVAH was extremely necessary? **Daniel 6:10.**

4. Did David spend much time praising YEHOVAH in prayer? **Psalms 119:164.**

5. Did David think about YEHOVAH's Law all day long? **Psalms 119:97.**

6. Are we admonished NOT TO GIVE UP praying every day? **I Thessalonians 5:17.**

COMMENT: You should always feel free to take all of your innermost thoughts to YEHOVAH in prayer and ask Him to guide you. Talk over everything with Him. Ask Him to direct your daily life.

David was a man after YEHOVAH's own heart (**Acts 13:22**). That is why this lesson has drawn so much from David's own examples of prayer. David went to YEHOVAH in prayer about every circumstance.

The Psalms are the prayers and songs, the meditations and thoughts of David. They were inspired by YEHOVAH God to be a part of the Bible. YEHOVAH knew we could learn from David by studying the Psalms.

7. Are we to let the mind of Yeshua the Messiah dwell within us? **Philippians 2:5.**

COMMENT: The Messiah's mind was pure -- his heart was SPIRITUALLY CLEAN in YEHOVAH's sight. He prayed continually for the power to KEEP from sinning. And Yeshua the Messiah is the EXAMPLE we are to follow today (**I Peter 2:21**).

8. If we pray as we should, will we be confident, thankful, and have the peace of YEHOVAH God in our hearts? **Philippians 4:6-7.**

COMMENT: YEHOVAH wants us to be in His Kingdom. He wants us to come to Him for forgiveness and the power to grow in His character. He wants us to ask Him to help us overcome sin in our lives, and live by His Commandments.

BUT YEHOVAH CANNOT HELP US UNLESS WE COME TO HIM AND ASK FOR THAT HELP IN PRAYER!

YEHOVAH made us free moral agents. We must CHOOSE to rely on Him and ASK for His help -- to humble ourselves, recognizing our innate weaknesses, and depend on Him for the spiritual strength we need.

So PRAY TO GOD EVERY DAY!

Pray continually, regularly, fervently, and expect YEHOVAH to answer!

You must establish a regular habit of

DAILY PRAYER if you expect to be born into YEHOVAH's Kingdom. You must MAINTAIN PERSONAL CONTACT WITH YEHOVAH GOD to receive His gift of eternal life.

When you do, your prayers will accomplish a MIRACULOUS CHANGE in your life through the power of YEHOVAH's spirit! And you will achieve the very purpose for which you have been born!

NOTES:

Additional Reading...

The Awesome Power of Earnest Prayer!

The Peril of False Repentance

Prayer Cloths and Special Miracles

A Prayer to YEHOVAH

The History of the Talis

A Book of Hours, published about 1510-20, showing King David praying to YEHOVAH God after his adultery with Bathsheba. Alongside the picture is Psalm 6.



The Power of Prayer!

Check Your Progress...

Question 1: Prayer today has degenerated into a _____ of words.

Question 2: YEHOVAH God wants us to learn that He _____ is our source of strength to overcome.

Question 3: Is it true that the Messiah's present commission as High Priest is to intervene on our behalf before YEHOVAH God? _____

Question 4: Is it true that YEHOVAH God does not promise to exalt us if we humble ourselves? _____

Question 5: We should come _____ to YEHOVAH's throne for mercy, pardon and power He promises to give us.

Question 6: We should pray like David did: "Create in me a _____"

Question 7: What is YEHOVAH God willing to give us to overcome the inherent weaknesses of our sinful human nature? _____

Question 8: Is it true the Bible does not give us any specific reasons for praying other than to receive physical blessings? _____

Question 9: Do true Christians still sin occasionally after baptism? _____

Question 10: We should keep ourselves _____ to YEHOVAH God through prayer so that we can immediately draw upon His power.

Question 11: David literally _____ to YEHOVAH at times, often with tears.

Question 12: YEHOVAH God's ears are always open to the _____

Question 13: Can we be "instant in prayer" every day by speaking silently to YEHOVAH God instead of praying daily on our knees? _____

Question 14: YEHOVAH God is primarily concerned with what's going on in our _____

Question 15: YEHOVAH is not willing that anyone should _____ because of sin.

The answers will be found in the next lesson. Approximately 3 weeks after receiving Lessons 33-36, you will receive a mail-in test that covers these four lessons. The test will be returned to you after grading. Following the completion of the Hope of Israel Bible Correspondence Course you will receive a **Certificate of Completion**. If you complete the course with a grade of 75% or better you will also receive an **Outstanding Student Award**.

