



Favored 1 Ministry

“Growing Together in God’s Word”



The Favored 1 Magazine

This week’s featured study

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Philippians 4:6–7 (KJV)

“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

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Welcome

Dear Friends,

Welcome once again to **The Favored 1 Magazine**, where we continue **Growing Together in God's Word**. Over the past several weeks, we have been building our faith one step at a time. We began by learning to **trust** God with all our heart, then we challenged ourselves to **live** like Christ, and last week we continued our journey by learning what it means to **walk** in the Spirit. Each lesson has reminded us that our strength comes not from ourselves, but from our faithful Heavenly Father.

This week we take another important step in our spiritual journey by learning what it means to **Grow in Our Prayer Life**. Standing firm in our faith is essential, but God also calls us to faithfully walk with Him each day. To Grow in Prayer means choosing to talk with Him daily, meditate on His Word, and allow prayer to influence our thoughts, our words, our decisions, and our actions. And allow the Holy Spirit to guide us along the way. As we spend time together in God's Word this week, my prayer is that you will be encouraged to draw closer to the Lord and experience the joy, peace, and strength that come from living each day under His guidance. May the Lord richly bless you as we continue.

Growing Together in God's Word.

In Christ,

Johan

Favored 1 Ministry

From My Heart

Over the last 40+ years, the one thing I have learned is how important prayer is when talking with God. It is a two-way communication that is difficult to explain to someone who doesn't know the relationship we have with God. There's something special about knowing that Jesus is listening to my innermost thoughts and desires and is not being judgmental and knows exactly what I mean, need etc. Prayer is important also to get closer to God and let Him get closer to you. Prayer builds your trust in Jesus, and it also strengthens your relationship with Him.

Weekly Bible Study

Growing Through Prayer

Introduction

Prayer is one of the greatest privileges God has given His children.

We don't have to approach God through someone else. We don't have to wait for a special occasion. We can come before Him every day, in every circumstance, knowing that He hears us.

Prayer allows us to bring our burdens, fears, questions, hopes, and thanksgiving before God.

But prayer is more than asking God to change our circumstances.

Prayer changes us.

As we spend time with God, we learn to trust Him more. We begin to recognize His voice through His Word. We become more willing to surrender our own plans and seek His will.

Prayer doesn't always give us the answer we expected.

Sometimes it gives us **peace while we wait for the answer.**

Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:6–7 (KJV)

This is an excellent central passage because it connects **prayer, thanksgiving, God's peace, and trusting Him with our concerns.**

Four Study Points

1. Bring Everything to God

We often decide that some problems are too small to bother God with or that we should figure things out ourselves.

But Scripture tells us to bring **everything** to Him.

Our concerns matter to God because **we matter to God.**

1 Peter 5:7 (KJV)

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

Thought:

You don't have to carry what God has invited you to give Him.

2. Prayer Teaches Us to Seek God's Will

Prayer isn't simply:

“God, this is what I want. Please make it happen.”

As our relationship with God grows, our prayers begin to change.

We begin asking:

“Lord, what is Your will?”

Jesus gave us the perfect example when He prayed:

Matthew 6:10 (KJV)

“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

Thought:

Prayer isn't about getting God to follow our plans. It's about learning to surrender our plans to God.

3. Prayer Gives Us Peace While We Wait

One of the hardest parts of faith is waiting.

Sometimes we pray and the answer doesn't come immediately.

Sometimes we don't understand what God is doing.

But Philippians 4 teaches us that when we bring our concerns to God with thanksgiving, **His peace can guard our hearts and minds.**

Thought:

God's peace doesn't always mean the situation has changed. Sometimes it means **He has changed how we face the situation.**

4. Prayer Draws Us Closer to God

The ultimate purpose of prayer isn't simply receiving blessings.

It's knowing the One who blesses us.

James 4:8 (KJV)

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”

The more time we spend with God, the more we learn His character, His Word, His heart, and His will.

Thought:

The goal isn't simply to have a stronger prayer life.

The goal is to have a stronger relationship with God.

Reflection Questions

- Do I bring my concerns to God, or do I try to carry them myself?
 - When I pray, am I seeking God's will or only asking Him to bless my plans?
 - How do I respond when God doesn't answer my prayer immediately?
 - What has prayer taught me about trusting God?
 - What can I surrender to God through prayer this week?
 - Am I spending time with God even when I don't need anything from Him?
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This Week's Challenge

The 10-Minute Prayer Challenge

For the next seven days, set aside at least **10 intentional minutes with God**.

Spend the time in four ways:

1. Thank Him

Name at least three things you're thankful for.

2. Talk to Him

Bring your concerns, needs, and desires before Him.

3. Listen

Spend time quietly reflecting on His Word.

4. Surrender

Ask:

“Lord, what do You want me to surrender to You today?”

At the end of each day, take a moment to ask:

“Where did I see God working today?”

Closing Encouragement

Prayer doesn't always change our circumstances immediately, but prayer changes the way we walk through them.

We may enter prayer worried and leave with peace.

We may enter confused and leave willing to trust.

We may enter carrying a burden and leave knowing we don't have to carry it alone.

And sometimes the greatest answer to prayer isn't something God gives us.

It's the deeper relationship we develop with Him while we wait.

Closing Scripture
Jeremiah 33:3 (KJV)

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

Volume 1 | Issue 6