

Lesson 4 – Permission to Speak Freely

INTRODUCTION

In the previous lessons we discovered that a proper understanding of God, the Bible, and Christ as Savior are essential to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Another important aspect of growing your relationship with Jesus Christ is a proper understanding of prayer. This lesson will help us realize four essential components of our communication with Him.

PRAISE

Praise is calling out an aspect of God's character. Read the following verses and identify some of the ways we can praise God.

Luke 17:11-17

Luke 19:37-40

Psalms 33:1-3

Praise can be done in all kinds of places and in all kinds of ways. The more specific praise gets, the more it encourages and deepens our relationship with Jesus Christ.

REPENT

Sometimes a U-turn is the quickest way to get back on track. Repentance is the U-turn. Read the following verses to see how repentance contributes to our communication with Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 30:15

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus doesn't want us plodding along with guilt, or wondering how to work our way out from under our mistakes. When we repent, we turn away from what interferes with our relationship to Jesus Christ, and we restore the freedom we have with Him.

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ASK

Jesus wants us to ask. Some of us have no problem asking, yet some of us would rather drive in circles for hours than ask for directions. The Bible makes it clear that there is a ton of good stuff we don't have, simply because we never asked.

Luke 11:9, 10

John 16:24

James 4:2

Asking is not weak. What's weak is hanging onto everything yourself and trying to solve problems that are way too big for you to handle. What's weak is asking for help from the ultimate helper and then not accepting an answer because we think it's wrong. (Sometimes we have no idea what we need.)

YIELD

To yield means to give way to influence – to pay attention, to love and to be led to a response. Read the following verses to discover how Jesus practiced yielding in His own prayers.

Mark 1:35-39

Luke 22:39-42

Jesus was proactive about giving way to His father's influence. He cared more about being in a place that lined up with God's will for His life than He did about following His own plans and desires.

CONCLUSION

A good relationship develops when people spend time getting to know each other, listen, get real, and respond. It's the same with our relationship to Jesus Christ. A growing relationship with Jesus Christ doesn't just stay in our head, it gives and receives. It moves and grows. It's simple: Prayer is about relationship.

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HOMEWORK

This week, your homework is to talk to God each day using the P-R-A-Y model. This framework can help you if you're having difficulty getting started or simply want to put some structure to your conversations with God.

PRAISE

Spend a few moments telling Jesus what you really think about Him. Thank Him for any goodness, blessings, or protection you are experiencing in your life. Jot down a few words or thoughts if that helps you stay focused.

REPENT

Talk to Jesus about the things in your life you think He'd want you to change. If you can't think of anything, ask Jesus to help you out. Then listen. Jot down whatever comes to mind. Ask Jesus to help you make these U-turns. He will.

ASK

Ask God for what you want. Keep track of the things you are asking God for and when they are answered. It will be a great reminder to you that God is paying attention.

YIELD

Spend some time in quiet stillness before God. Invite Him to speak to you and guide your life. Listen and allow God to interrupt your plans to show you His.