

Prayer Can Change Your Marriage
by Ron Auch

Study Guide

CHAPTER 2 — “WHY SHOULD WE WORSHIP GOD?”

Is material prosperity a sign of God’s favor?

What is the difference between the beggar and the lover?

If we pursue God first what is the result?

Personal reflection . . .

Think about your worship time with God. Make every moment with God the best it can be in order to develop a love relationship with Him. If you are lacking true worship, begin taking time to worship God when you are alone in your prayer time. Worship Him for who He is versus what He can give to you.

CHAPTER 3 — “FRUIT FOR GOD”

Do we have the ability to choose what kind of fruit we will bear? If so, how? (Gal. 5:17).





What is “fruit for God”? (Gal. 5:22–23).

What is “fruit for death”? (Gal. 5:19–21).

Can our circumstances be justification for doing nothing for God? (Isa. 55).

What is prevenient grace?

What is the significance of the stone, seed, and tower? (Isa. 55).

How does God use our response to others to meet their needs? How can our response produce fruit for death?

What is an apostate believer?

What is the result of not producing the right kind of fruit?

Personal reflection . . .

“A soft answer will turn away wrath.” Think about your “answers” to your family and co-workers . . . are you producing fruit for God? Ask God to help you in this area.

CHAPTER 4 — “PRAYER AND INTIMACY”

What is the purpose of marriage? (Eph. 5:31–32).

How can we be intimate with God?

What is the significance of the hand in an intimate relationship (yada; yadah)?

What is the parallel between the marriage ceremony and giving up your life for Christ?

What does it mean to use God's name in vain?

Personal reflection . . .

Reflect on Matthew 7:21–23. God has given us an incredible way to know Him. We need to pray in order to develop an intimate relationship. Begin today so that you may know Him.

CHAPTER 5 — “THE SPIRIT OF HARLOTRY”

Read 1 Corinthians 7: 4–5. How does this verse relate to Christ's relationship with His church?

What was the object lesson in Hosea 1:2? How does that relate to the prayerless church?

What is a “spirit of harlotry?” (Hos. 5:4).

Read 1 John 2:16. How do men and women differ in this struggle?

What step can we take to restore our marital relationship to its right place of intimacy?

Personal reflection . . .

Repentance . . . the church must repent in order to come back to prayer. Ask God for forgiveness and begin a prayer life.

CHAPTER 6 — “THE BITTER HEART”

What is pride?

How does humility keep us from bitterness?

Jesus paid a price for rightdoing. He set an example for us to show us how we should behave when we are persecuted for doing good. What purpose does this serve in our lives? How should it change the way we look at ourselves?

How does bitterness affect our judgment?

How can we better understand God's grace?

Personal reflection . . .

How we treat the ungodly separates us from their world. The moment you return good for evil, you are separated from the world. Pray and ask God to help you in this area, so that you may bear the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Think about the Cross and our sin. Thank Him for repaying our evil with His good.

CHAPTER 7 — “NO REPENTANCE”

What is the literal translation of “Christian”?

Part of our identity as a Christian is that of a “virgin — the Bride of Christ.” What does this mean? (1 Cor. 7:34).

What is the meaning of devotion? Paul told the church in Corinth that we should be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit . . . how do we do this?

What is the result of lack of devotion to Christ (our husband)?

What is the result if we persist in sin? (Ezek. 16:38; 1 Cor. 5:5).

Is it possible for man to lose his ability to repent? Can he still be forgiven? (Heb. 6:4–6).

What happens when we presume upon God’s grace and forgiveness by committing the same sin over and over (willful sins)? (Ps. 19:13; Gal. 5:13).

Personal reflection . . .

Our battle against sin is only as effective as our devotion to Christ. When you pray, set your eyes upon Jesus and be taken up entirely with Him.

CHAPTER 8 — “KNOWING GOD: KNOWING YOUR SPOUSE”

What two things make up a fulfilling union? (Ps. 1:2).

(Reading the Word)

(Prayer)



Why do we struggle with letting God speak to us through His Word?

Does intimacy (prayer) enhance communication (the word of God)? If so, why?

What is the problem with the idea of “equal submission?” (Eph. 5:18–21).

What is the husband’s role regarding submission to God? (Eph. 5:25).

What is the significance of the bride’s need for security?

What is the difference between submission and obedience? Why is it important to know this?

How can we sharpen our spiritual hearing? (Mark 4:22–25).

Personal reflection . . .

Our obedience to the basics of God’s Word is what sharpens our hearing so that God can give us the direction we need for our homes. Pray, witness, be kind. Begin today so that you can hear.

CHAPTER 9 — “SUBMITTING TO A DISOBEDIENT HUSBAND”

What is submission? (1 Pet. 2:13–25).

Why do we struggle with submission?

How can a wife win her unbelieving husband through her submission? (1 Pet. 3:2).

What if submission leads to the unbelieving husband saying he does not want his wife to attend church . . . how does her obedience change the way he sees her? How does this strengthen her trust in God?

What is essential in order that the husband may see God in his wife?

Does this submission apply when it comes to sin or immoral behavior?

What is righteousness?


Personal reflection . . .

Have you ever been criticized for your obedience to God? Did the criticism affect your decision to obey God? Just like Noah, the decision to obey God can be difficult, especially when others criticize. Pray and commit yourself to God in obedience.

CHAPTER 10 — “DEVELOPING GODLINESS”

Why do we seek resolution to our problems on our own versus prevention through prayer?

Why are little romantic gimmicks a short-term solution in a marriage relationship?



Why do we find it difficult to trust God? If we learn to trust Him, what happens to our expectations? How do we develop that trust?

Why is tribulation the basis for hope? Is it automatic? (Rom. 5:3–5; Ps. 102:2).

How can you see your spouse the way God does?

Does God ever offer solution without sacrifice?

Personal reflection . . .

We sometimes become more concerned about our rights than our responsibilities. In doing so, we cannot forgive because it is our “right” not to. But forgiveness is our responsibility just as Jesus gave up His life so that we may live. Do you have any unforgiveness? Ask God to help you put it behind even if it seems you have a “right” to hold onto it.

CHAPTER 11 — “A SPOTLESS BRIDE”

What is the husband’s main objective for his bride? (Eph. 5:27).

If we claim our child's salvation, is that enough?

Why is it essential to a family that a father die to self?

Personal reflection . . .

Is there anything in your life a hobby, a job, etc. that keeps you from lifting up your family every day in prayer? Ask God for help in this area?

CHAPTER 12 — “BUT NOW ABIDE”

What are the three stages of our marriage?

What is the result of tribulation?

When compassion is not our catalyst for faith, the result is:

Personal reflection . . .

God's character is the greatest and that character is saturated in love. Ask God to develop His character in you.

CHAPTER 13 — “THE PRAYER LIFE”

What is a legalistic approach to prayer? What is the result?

What three things can help to start a prayer life? (Matt. 26:40; Acts 3:1; Luke 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17; Matt. 21:13).

What is “unspiritual?”

What are the similarities between tithing and a time of prayer?

Personal reflection . . .

“Here is my lifestyle, there is no room for prayer.” Instead we should say, “Here is prayer, how must my lifestyle change in order to work it into my life.” Decide what time each day you will pray and give that time to God. Develop a relationship with Him.

CHAPTER 14 — “THE HOUR OF PRAYER”

Why do we need structure/design for our prayer time?



Based on Matthew 6:9–13, what guidelines can we follow to stay focused in prayer?

What does worship of God develop in our relationship with Him?

What is intercession?

What is petition?

Why is confession important?

Personal reflection . . .

Begin your hour of prayer today and if you need help to stay focused, try to break it down into the five areas discussed in this chapter.

CHAPTER 15 — “PRAYING FOR THE REBELLIOUS”

When we are praying for our unsaved loved ones, what should our objective be?

What are strongholds? What step should we take concerning strongholds in the unbeliever? Why?

What are speculations?

What is one of the greatest struggles any person has in their relationship with God?

How does my obedience to God affect the unbeliever?

How can we counteract a proud spirit (rebellious heart)?

Personal reflection . . .

Developing your prayer life and praying consistently brings you into God’s presence and changes you. Begin today.



CHAPTER 16 — “PRAYING FOR YOUR FAMILY”

What are the five areas in which we can pray for our family in order to cause growth? (Luke 2:52; Isa. 11:2–3).

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of _____.”

What is the significance of praying for a “spirit of counsel and might to be upon them?”

Is prayer the only form of sacrifice we need to do for our children? If not, what else should we do?

Personal reflection . . .

Prayer is to become a lifestyle, not just something we do to make sure God blesses our children. Make your prayer real and full by also being a living example to your family.

CHAPTER 17 “PRAYING AS A FAMILY”

What are the different roles of each member of a family (as a mini-church)?

What are the two basic areas we should include in our family devotions?

2 Timothy 3:15 _____

Luke 11:1 _____

What are some important results of family devotions?

What is the primary goal of spiritual activities for our children?

Personal reflection . . .

Proverbs 22:6 states, “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Even if family devotions (praying and reading the Bible together) can sometimes seem frustrating, don’t give up. You are developing attitudes in your children that will keep them close to God. Plan to start a family devotion time.

CHAPTER 18 — “PRAYING THROUGH”

What are some biblical examples where people prayed through? (Hab. 2:1–4; Luke 18:1–8; 2 Cor. 12:8–9; Heb. 10:35–38).

What happens when we concentrate on only the answers to our prayers?

What is the meaning and outcome of patience according to James 1:2–8?

Temptation is not a sin nor is having a weakness — only yielding to either of them is a sin. Does God offer help in this area? (1 Cor. 10:13).

How can we become strong through our weakness?

Personal reflection . . .

Prayer shapes us. Continuing to pray for something until God gives us an answer changes who we are. Don't give up, pray through. He wants to change us.

CHAPTER 19 — “KEEPING THE VOW”

How does God view a vow? (Prov. 20:25).

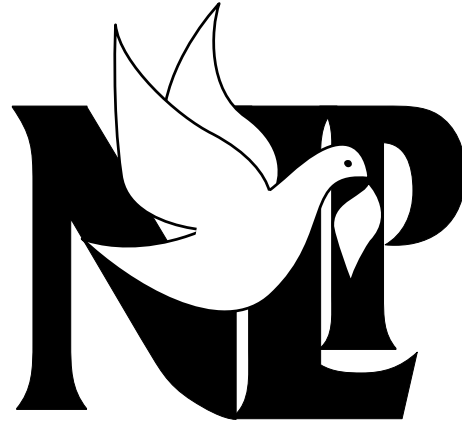
What were the three parts of Samson's vow? (Num. 6:3–8).

What did the dead lion symbolize?

What did Delilah symbolize?

Personal reflection . . .

Don't play with sin. If you have made a vow, pray daily that you will keep it.



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