

CLI Leadership Bible Study: Lesson 9

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ

Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader (Day One) *Diamond in the Rough*

A praying Christian leader is like an exquisite, brilliant, living diamond. When a diamond is cut with precision and polished with care, it catches light and glitters. However, when we look at the gemstone, we do not usually think of the slow and systematic process that went into making it sparkle. This is true of the praying leader who shines forth the light of Christ. We appreciate the presence of this holy saint but do not usually think of the deliberate and consistent practice that he or she has in spending time with God.

The process of making a diamond into a beautiful stone begins with the master diamond cutter choosing a diamond in the rough. A diamond in the rough (pronounced ruf) refers to an uncut or rough diamond. It is not polished but looks like a clear or crystal rock. The expression itself has come to mean something that has a rough exterior that hides something valuable on the inside.

After the diamond is chosen, the master diamond cutter saws or cleaves it into separate pieces. In other words he separates the diamond into one or more pieces that he will work into separate gemstones. Similarly, God separates us from the world so that we no longer belong to it (John 15:19, 17:15-18).

God, the Master Diamond Cutter, begins the process of making an individual into a praying leader by looking for those “diamonds in the rough.” That is, those hearts that have a rough exterior but with something precious inside. People do have stony hearts that resemble a diamond in its extreme hardness. In fact, our hearts are so impenetrable (cannot enter or pierce) that it is *only* through the Master’s hand that we can be transformed. Just like a laser¹ saws into a diamond, the hardest of natural materials, so the Spirit can saw into the human heart.

Unlike the diamond, the human heart must respond to the Master. At the Master’s touch, the heart’s positive response will be **prayer**. The person will tell God that he or she believes and trusts Jesus as Savior and Lord. It is with this first **prayer** of salvation that you and I are on our way to becoming a valuable, brilliant, and living diamond.

Advancing Christ's Light in Prisons

¹ A laser is a device that generates an intense beam of light (or other electromagnetic radiation) by stimulated emission of photons. Lasers are used in drilling and cutting, alignment and guidance, and in surgery.



1. What thoughts come to your mind when you think of yourself as a valuable, brilliant, and living diamond?

****See end of lesson for repeat of questions and blank spaces for you to write your answers.** *When all the questions have been completed, return your answer sheets to CLI. You may keep this lesson for your own study or review. You may pass also it on to another or discard.*

You are of great worth to God and He desires to be in fellowship with you (1 Corinthians 1:9). God loves you and has called you to shine in this world (Philippians 2:15). Prayer is not only the means of companionship with God, it is also the means by which you and I are able to live lives worthy of the Lord and produce good fruit (Colossians 1:9-10).

Read Mark 1:35 and Luke 5:16 and answer questions 2-4:

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Mark 1:35

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Luke 5:16

2. When did Jesus, our Leadership Model, pray?
3. What kind of places did Jesus go to when He prayed?
4. Why is this a good pattern for you?

Read John 11:41-42 and answer questions 5-8:

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me."⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."
John 11:41-42

5. Did Jesus pray out loud in the presence of other people (v. 42)? Yes No
(Circle one)
6. Considering that Jesus prayed alone and with others, what does this tell you about your own prayer life?
7. Jesus said, "Father, I _____ you that you have _____ me" (v. 41).
8. Jesus prayed, "I knew that you _____ hear me" (v. 42).

Jesus showed us that prayer is our means to connect and relate to God while alone and while with others. **Jesus was confident that God heard His prayers and that He would answer.** God wants you to be confident in Christ that your prayers are heard and will be answered according to His will. Confidence brings answers and shows that you trust in God's faithfulness and honor. A leader must pray in faith and believe God is listening and that He will act perfectly and powerfully all the time. Faithless prayers will not be answered (James 1:6-8). They are an affront (intentional insult) to God's own faithfulness and sovereignty.

9. Why do you think God wants *you* to be confident in praying to Him?

Virginia, Diamond in the Rough

Virginia was born deaf and has lived her life in silence. When she was fourteen she went on a mission trip with her parents to Brazil. For the first time she saw broken people crying out to the Lord and hands raised in worship. God used the experience to fan into flame Virginia's passion for Christ and her desire to serve Him.

Even though Virginia had a desire to serve God, she felt helpless and alone. Communication with others was difficult because her speech was often unintelligible to those who did not know her well. She did not know how she could serve God in her deafness.

Virginia explains, "I felt as if I was rejected by life. I was in tears, battling strong lies and thoughts tormenting me from the evil one. I believed that I needed ears to hear the voice of God."²

"Virginia spent two long, difficult years struggling with her disability, feeling worthless. She resented the hardships of being deaf; like most girls, she wanted to fit in with her friends and classmates. Even more, she wanted to be a missionary, and she couldn't see how this was possible.

Finally, one night as she lay in bed feeling torn apart and broken, she saw a vision of the Lord. She fell to her knees as Jesus stood before her, and an amazing thing happened: she heard Him speak. 'Virginia,' He said, 'I am willing to be yours.'

Her depression lifted instantly. She could hear Jesus! She might not be able to use her physical ears to hear the sounds of the world around her, but her spirit could still hear. God spoke directly to Virginia's heart, intimately connecting her to Himself."³

² St. James, Rebecca, *Sister Freak*, Warner Faith, New York, 2005, pp 206-207.

³ *Ibid.*, 207

A few months later, Virginia went outside on a warm summer day to seek God. She sat in the soft, sweet grass and prayed to understand God's calling for her life. Again, she felt God speaking to her spirit: "Virginia, you are My chosen servant. I call you. I will go before you. Come with Me to the corners of the earth."⁴

Although she still had some doubts about her ability, she trusted Jesus and after graduating from high school, she went to the inner city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she was used by God in crime- and drug-filled neighborhoods. "Although the people she served could not understand what she said, Virginia connected powerfully with everyone she met. Heroin addicts and homeless people found unconditional love in Virginia's eyes and hands. They found comfort as Virginia prayed for them."⁵

Others were encouraged to follow Christ as they watched this young deaf girl reaching out to others. At twenty-two she began to lead high school students on short term mission trips to other countries. She mentored and taught with a passion that changed lives.

Today Virginia serves in a closed country as a full time missionary with her husband. A closed country is one that does not allow, or limits to some degree, Christian ministry and the gospel to be preached. Of course no country is closed to God and His people who pray and call upon His name.

Virginia is no longer a diamond in the rough, but a valuable, brilliant and living diamond in God's family. She shines forth the light of Christ while sharing His love with others. God took her physical disability of deafness and used it to help and encourage others. And God can use your physical disability or strange circumstance to change the world. Listen and talk to God each day and night and you will also reflect the light of God.⁶

Personal Application: Meditate on and memorize 1 John 5:14-15 & Romans 12:1-2 and answer the question that follows.

10. *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*¹⁵ *And if we know that he hears us-- whatever we ask-- we know that we have what we asked of him.* 1 John 5:14-15 (Write memory verses in answer section)

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid., 208

⁶ Ibid., 206-210

11. *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.* Romans 12:1-2 (Write memory verses in answer section)

12. How can *you* be confident of praying and knowing God's will?

13. Take time in the next few days to seek God and ask Him about the calling on your life. What did He impress upon your heart or spirit?

Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader (Day Two) Bruting the Heart

After sawing, the diamond enters a process call bruting whereby different shapes are produced. For the round brilliant diamond, it means that it is crudely shaped into a circular form. This is done by rubbing the stone against another diamond on a high-speed lathe⁷ specially designed for that purpose. Thus the bruter takes the rough form with its sharp edges and less than perfect shape and prepares it for its final design.⁸

God is the Bruter in our prayer life. He takes the misshapen heart and begins changing its form. Now the physical heart is the organ located in the center of the body that keeps the blood circulating throughout the human frame.

However, we are referring to another meaning of the word *heart*. In the Bible, our English word *heart* also means the center of the human spirit. This is the origin or source of our emotions, thoughts, motivations, and actions. You might think of this heart as the one that is responsible for circulating Christ's light throughout our life.

God wants us to have pure, spiritual hearts for prayer. He desires us to have holy emotions, thoughts, motivations and actions. It may be easier when we are alone with God meditating on His Word and away from other people to be saintly. However, it gets more difficult when we come into contact with others who ignore, insult, mistreat or even physically harm us. These folks, strangers or relatives, friends or enemies, can be compared to the other diamonds that rub against us on that high-speed lathe.

⁷ Lathe is a machine for holding and turning pieces of wood or metal etc. against a tool that will shape them.

⁸ Hensley, Robert, "Insider Secrets for Diamond Shopper" article from Diamond Helpers, www.diamondhelpers.com.

God may even use the very ones that you are leading to scrape against you! God will use all the irritants in your life, both people and circumstances, to refine and redirect your way of thinking. You will be changing and getting into better shape each day. Now the lifeless stone that we are using for our illustration will feel no pain on that lathe, but you, the *living* diamond most certainly will.

"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Luke 6:27-28

14. Read Luke 6: 27-28. In verse 28, Jesus commands us to bless those who curse us and to _____ for those who _____ us.

But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? Matthew 5:44-45

15. Read Matthew 5:44-45. In verse 44 Jesus tells us to love our enemies and _____ for those who persecute us, so that we may be _____ of our Father in heaven.

Although Jesus is God's only Divine Son, we can also be like Jesus and become a beloved son. Being a beloved son of God is the highest attainment for mankind. Yes, even a woman can become a son with all inheritance rights to serve and to rule (Galatians 3:28-19, 4:6-7; Hebrews 12:5-8). The word *son* does not imply that the woman becomes a male. The word *son* represents a Christian's position (place, location, and state) in relation to God (Ephesians 1:3-8).

In the first century patriarchal society, daughters did not have the same legal rights as sons. A patriarch is a male head of the family and a patriarchal society is one dominated by men. The law did not allow women to own or inherit property. Indeed in some cases they were considered property themselves.

Thus Paul's statement, *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*²⁹ *If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise* (Galatians 3:28-29), would have been radical (drastic) at that time. But no matter your heritage or gender, being a son of God requires following the SON and doing the Father's will. Jesus shows us how a son prays. A Christian leader is a son of God and follows the SON in prayer.

16. Share a time when someone hurt or insulted you, and yet you still prayed for that person?

17. Is there anyone in your life right now that you do not want to pray for? Yes No (Circle One)

18. If you answered yes above, please share a few broad details of the situation. How may your CLI Bible Minister pray for you so that you will pray for this person and others who hurt you?

We must be on constant guard to keep our emotions in check. Understand that the mind must be disciplined just like the body. When you were a baby, you had no control over your hands, feet or even bodily functions. You really could not do anything for yourself. The idea of being in that stage again would be terrifying for most people.

The mind has to be disciplined just as rigorously as the body so that holy, pure and righteous thoughts are natural. God cares about the way we think, and our thoughts will be judged (Matthew 5:27-30, Acts 8:22). Your aim or goal is to always think the way Christ thinks.

When you think like Christ, you will also pray like Christ. *For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.* Matthew 12:34b. Speak to God with an overflow of holiness, purity and righteousness. *Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.* Proverbs 4:23 A wellspring is the source or origin of a stream. Thus from your heart, you will pray prayers of life for yourself and others.

Read 2 Corinthians 10:5 and answer questions 19-21:

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
2 Corinthians 10:5

19. Is it possible to take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ? Y N (Circle One)

20. Why are obedient thoughts to Christ important to *your* prayer life?

21. What are some practical ways that you can train and discipline yourself to take every thought captive so that your prayers are pure and acceptable to God?

Watching what goes into your mind is a good practical way to start disciplining your mind. Read Christian books, listen to godly music, and watch movies that

honor Christ. If you are having a problem with a particular subject such as praying for your enemies or unforgiveness, search the Scriptures and immerse your mind with what the Bible says about those subjects. The concordance (word directory to find Scripture passages) and subject index in the back of study Bibles are helpful.

Do not read, listen to, or watch anything that perpetuates wrong thinking. This is war against the powers of darkness who want to trick and manipulate you into having their agenda on your mind instead of God's. Walk away from unhealthy gossip, talk or joking. Remember you are the leader and not the follower. If you are ridiculed or persecuted, be joyful for great is your reward in heaven (Matthew 5:10-12).

Pray and ask for prayer. A leader is humble and will ask for prayer from other devoted Christians in their struggle for righteousness. You need back-up. Bear in mind that you are not fighting this battle alone.

"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16

22. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:16 that we have the _____ of Christ.

I was going through a particularly hard time emotionally. Someone very close to me had hurt me. I was feeling rejected, unloved and certainly unappreciated. It was difficult not to nurse my "self-righteous" and "poor-me" attitude. In the midst of my personal storm I *was* seeking God; I did not like, nor did I want to have these negative feelings. But it was so hard!!

As I read that I had the mind of Christ, I started saying that to myself each day. *I have the mind of Christ. I have the mind of Christ.* One day soon after I had said that *I have the mind of Christ*, unkind thoughts of that person crept into my mind. But my "Mind of Christ" called out: *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* Luke 23:34 (Now, I was not given the chapter and verse but I am listing it here for your reference.) I was shocked at the forcefulness of the words in my mind. We most certainly do have the mind of Christ and we need to discipline ourselves to listen and respond.

Personal Application: Ask God to bring to your mind someone who has mistreated you. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you Christian love for him or her and to lead you in praying for this person daily for one week. At the end of the week, please answer the following question:

23. What did the Lord reveal to you during the week about this person or situation?

Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader (Day Three) Faceting the Heart in Prayer

After the bruting where the diamond has been roughly shaped into its round form, the next stage is faceting. A round diamond usually has 58 facets or planes. This long and delicate process grinds each flat plane onto the diamond's surface. As with each stage in the diamond process, this step takes a lot of skill and patience.

The word *facet* was originally used in 1625 to describe the planes on the diamond. It is derived from the French word *facette*, which means little face. When you look closely at a brilliant stone, you can see all the different faces or planes reflecting the light from within. In fact, that is why the 58 facets were designed. This design has proven very successful in refracting⁹ and reflecting the most light that falls upon the diamond and then back to the viewer.

God is faceting living stones so that they will also be successful in refracting and reflecting His light. There are many facets to a leader's prayer life such as prayer and fasting, prayers of praise and thanksgiving, intercession for healing, miracles, casting out demons, provision, mercy, revivals etc. Please study the Bible for examples of these and other kinds of prayer.

The first step in the faceting process is to grind the large facet at the top of the diamond. We might liken this to the time that you spend alone with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit because as a Christian leader, your personal and prayer relationship with God is foremost. The other facets of your prayer life and indeed your leadership assignments will flow naturally out of your quiet time with God.

Read Deuteronomy 4:29 and answer questions 24-25:

But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul. Deuteronomy 4:29

⁹ Refraction is commonly explained in terms of the wave theory of light and is based on the fact that light travels with greater velocity in some media than it does in others. When, for example, a ray of light traveling through air strikes the surface of a piece of glass at an oblique angle, one side of the wave front enters the glass before the other and is delayed (since light travels more slowly in glass than in air), while the other side continues to move at its original speed until it too reaches the glass. As a result, the ray bends inside the glass, i.e., the refracted ray lies in a direction closer to the normal (the perpendicular to the boundary of the media) than does the incident ray.

24. Moses tells the Israelites that if you seek the _____ your God, you will find Him if you look for Him with all your _____ and with all your _____.

25. As a Christian leader, how are *you* seeking the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul?

One of the ways we seek God with all our heart and soul is to sit at His feet or in His presence as soon as we rise in the morning. We begin to look for Him with our first waking moment. God is on our mind and in our heart. We ask the **Holy Spirit to guide our prayers** (Romans 8:26) so that our communication with God is pleasing to Him and brings us closer in fellowship as well as in effective service.

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? Deuteronomy 4:7

26. According to Deuteronomy 4:7, the LORD our God is _____ us whenever we _____

Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'
Matthew 7:23

27. Read Matthew 7:23. Do you think it likely that Jesus will tell believers *sincerely* seeking Him in prayer each day, "I never knew you" ? Yes No (Circle One) Explain your answer:

The Holy Scriptures are an integral (essential, fundamental) part of prayer and knowing God. Now, God can and will work in other ways if His Word is unavailable. Missionaries in Muslim or closed¹⁰ countries where the Bible is forbidden tell stories of Jesus appearing to individuals so that they might believe. God will take care of those who absolutely have no access to His Word.

Nevertheless believers should do all they can to get and meditate (think deeply) on God's Word. There was a group of believers in a closed country where the Bible was not allowed. The leader of the group got a hold of one Bible and proceeded to tear out the pages so that each person would have some of God's Word. They would then exchange the pages with each other.

¹⁰ A closed country is one that is not open to Christ. People will be imprisoned or killed for sharing the gospel. It is generally closed to any religion other than the one professed by the political leadership.

Most likely you are not in a closed country right now. If you are, take the Scripture in this study, memorize it and give it to other believers to write down and memorize. Share with nonbelievers as the Spirit of God leads.

The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to us. That is, He reveals and shows Himself to us through His Word. Knowing Scripture keeps us from making up things about God. It also helps us to pray as we come to know God and understand His ways. As a leader you must pray to God in the way He desires.

For example, God is sovereign (Psalm 71:16, Isaiah 10:10). Knowing that God is in control of everything makes a big difference in how you will make your requests. If you did not know that God has the power and control of all circumstances of your life, you would lack confidence in God's ability to deliver or make good on His promises. He wants you to trust in His ability when you pray. God is able! He is in a position to do anything and everything.

Recall the verse you memorized in day one of this lesson: *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.* 1 John 5:14

28. According to 1 John 5:14, if you ask anything according to God's _____ He hears you.

Human will is the mental faculty by which a person decides upon and controls his or her own actions or those of others. God's will is similar. He has determined a plan or a purpose for everything in all creation. Thus when we pray according to what He wants and approves, He brings it to pass. The Christian leader seeks God day and night to know Him and get his or her life in line with His plan.

Within Scripture is God's determined plan and purpose for creation. All people are part of creation and thus the plan for your life lies within the pages of Scripture. Your leadership, although unique in certain aspects, will always fall within the boundaries God has outlined in His Word which is centered on Christ.

Personal Application: Below is an example of praying Scripture. Read, study and pray:

What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. Philippians 3:8-9

Almighty God, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I willingly lose all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law or legalism, but that which is through faith in Christ –the righteousness that comes from You O God and is by faith. Amen.

Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader (Day Four) Polishing the Heart

After the diamond is faceted, it is polished. The verb polish simply means to make smooth or shiny, usually by rubbing. It also means to improve, complete or perfect in some way.

“Polish influences how well light is able to pass through a diamond and is very important to a diamond's brilliance. It is necessary to select a diamond that is laboratory certified with good, very good or excellent polish. Diamonds that have poor to extremely poor polish are less brilliant because they have microscopic polish lines that blur the surface of the diamond. These polish lines reduce the amount of light that enters or exits a diamond.”¹¹

The Holy Spirit is the Christian leader’s Polisher. The more highly polished that you are, the more like Christ you will shine and the more powerful your prayers. Would you like to be a praying leader who is E – Excellent, Flawless with maximum power? Then welcome the Holy Polisher into your life to start working on absolutely every aspect of your life. This includes attitudes, thoughts, dreams, family, work, finances and relationships.

29. Have you surrendered every aspect of your life to the Holy Spirit? Y N
(Circle One)

30. Is there anything you are trying to control and have not given to God? Y N
(Circle One)

31. Pray and ask God to loosen your grip on everything in your life except Him. How can your CLI Bible Minister pray for you in this area?

Laser Prayers: Just as I am inserting this note on laser praying, you also can pray at anytime or at any place. Even in the middle of a conversation with someone, you could silently ask God for help or wisdom. Your prayer laser sent to God the

¹¹ Sun Jewelry website: <http://www.sunjewelry.com/diamond-education-polish.html>

Father and He in turn can laser a direct and precise hit. He never misses the mark and always answers and accomplishes that which He desires.

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Jude 1:20

32. Read Jude 1:20. Jude,¹² the half brother of Jesus, tells us to build ourselves up in our most holy faith and _____ the Holy _____.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18

33. Read Ephesians 6:18. The apostle Paul tells us to pray (v. 18a) _____ the _____ on all occasions with all kinds of _____ and requests.

We are to pray “**in**” the Holy Spirit with all kinds of prayers. “**In**” is a common word that we say all the time. It is also a simple word with just two letters.

“**In**” is a part of speech called a preposition. The preposition establishes a relationship such as space, time, accompaniment (addition), cause, or manner between its object and another word in the sentence. The Holy Spirit is the object in Jude 1:20 and Ephesians 6:18, and prayer is the other word (verb) verb in each of these sentences or verses. Thus there is a relationship between the Spirit and our prayers. The Spirit moves in accordance with our prayers and at the same time affects them.

Let us look at some of the definitions or meanings of the word *in*. First it means within the limits, bounds, or area of such as *in the living room* or *in the water*. Praying in the Spirit means that you are totally immersed in the Spirit. He surrounds you and envelopes you.

34. When you pray, are you aware of the Spirit’s presence? Y N (Circle one)

When you are in the living room or in the water, you are conscious of your surroundings. You know where you are! In the same way, you need to be sensitive, responsive and alert to the Spirit’s presence. Be intentional in looking for the manifest (evident, clear) presence of God. Look past your physical surroundings and be aware of the Holy Spirit.

¹² Jude is another form of the Hebrew name Judah and Greek Judas. Mary was Jesus’ and Jude’s mother; however Joseph was Jude’s biological father and Jesus’ step father. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and is God’s Son.

Yesterday during our staff prayer time with CLI I prayed that we would have an opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. About an hour after our prayer time I went to the bank to make a deposit and decided to stop by a “dollar store” to pick up a couple of birthday cards. As I was checking out, I noticed a couple in front of me. The Holy Spirit gave me a keen interest in them.

I watched their interactions with each other and the sales clerk. They were not sure they had enough money to pay for their purchases, but they did. I also noted their appearance and clothing. When it was my turn to pay I was glad that I had a dollar and change so I would not have to break the twenty dollar bill I saw in my wallet.

As I was walking through the parking lot I felt the Holy Spirit tell me to give the twenty dollars to the couple who were in their car by that time. I sat in my car and prayed, “By the time I get the money out of my purse I think they will be gone. If this is really You Holy Spirit, please keep this couple in their car until I can make it over there.”

I took out the twenty dollars, two gospel tracts and looked over to see if the car was still there. It was. Then I walked over to the car and knocked on the window. The man looked a little startled but opened his door. I asked him if he had heard of Jesus. He said he had. I said, “Jesus wanted you to have dinner and He asked me to give you this.” I handed him the twenty dollars and the two tracts. He hesitated and I said, “It is free, no strings attached.”

After he took it, I left and prepared to leave. I had pulled the car out of the space and was startled to see the woman standing by my car. She had tears in her eyes and told me the man was touched by the gesture and so was she. She had been abused for many years and did not think God loved or cared for her.

I got out of my car and we talked for awhile. The Spirit moved me to share the gospel and Evangeline prayed and trusted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. And yes, that is her name: *Evangeline*. It is of Greek origin and means “good news” or “messenger of good news”.

Now there may be times when you do not sense the Spirit’s presence but you can still be assured that He is with you. Of course you should always seek the Spirit’s advice and counsel regarding any sin in your life that might be grieving or quenching Him (Ephesians 4:30, 1 Thessalonians 5:19). After you have confessed (admit wrong) and repented (turn away) from your sin, relax. There will always be times in a believer’s life when God’s presence is not as evident as other times. The point is to continue to seek your Holy Guide and Confidante and have faith that He is with you. He desires to be known and acknowledged so that you may bring glory

to God (John 16:14). Whether or not you are able to perceive the Holy Spirit, be assured He is working in your life and those around you for God's immortal (eternal, enduring) purposes.

Another definition of *in* is having the activity, occupation, or function of, such as a *life in politics; the officer in command*. Your activity, occupation and function of praying is guided and influenced by the Holy Spirit. For example, if one chooses a job in politics, he will function within that particular government system. As a Christian leader you are a son of the Most High God and you pray according to the Spirit's system, which is also God's system. Remember the Bible is the blueprint that has all the instructions for God's system.

35. Are you functioning or performing according to the Spirit's governing body?
Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

Now we all fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23) and no one is functioning or performing *perfectly* according to God's Word. But the important thing is that you are seeking God's will and are purposeful in choosing His standard. You are aware of the Spirit and praying in a manner that is consistent with the Bible.

Praying, indeed living in the Spirit is a critical step. So let's take a look at another meaning of our little friend *in*. This word also means with the characteristic, attribute, or property of. The Christian leader's prayers should be characteristic of God's heart. The Father, Jesus and the Spirit are one. Therefore pray in a way that would be typical of Jesus' prayers. Search the Gospels and study how Jesus prayed and what was important to Him.

Lastly, *in* indicates doing something with an aim or purpose in mind. When you pray in the Spirit, you have God's aim or purpose in mind. In other words, your prayers are God centered.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. Romans 8:26-27

36. Read Romans 8:26-27. How do God and the Spirit help us pray for God's purpose?

The Spirit dwells in believers (John 14:16-17) and intercedes (asks on one's behalf) in accordance with God's will. God and the Spirit are one, so when God

searches your heart He will find the Spirit pleading on your behalf with His aim and purpose in mind. God hears your prayers through His Spirit.

Personal Application:

37. Pray “in” the Spirit and ask God for an opportunity to serve Jesus in love today. Share how the Spirit led You:

Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader (Day Five) Cleaning the Heart

The final stage in preparing the diamond involves thoroughly cleaning it in acids, and examining it to see whether it meets the quality standards of the manufacturer.¹³ Let’s talk about the cleaning aspect of the diamond process. It is the final stage of the diamond cutting process but in actuality it is really an ongoing process in the life of the diamond. For example, diamond jewelry will attract dust, dirt and grime. Even the natural oils from a person’s body will adhere to the diamond and dull its shine. Soap and water are not strong enough to remove the oils but instead the diamond needs to be cleaned with a stronger solution such as ammonia and water.

Now just as the diamond is cleansed and examined, you the *living* diamond must go through a similar process. Ask the Holy Spirit, the Examiner, to reveal any sin in your life. The blood of Jesus acts like acid and dissolves all the dirt and grime that your flesh may attract. In Lesson 7 you received a *Confession Guide* that will be helpful in fully examining your life for sin. You do not want that dirt and grime dulling your shine.

Another way is to simply ask God if there is anything that is hindering (delaying, obstructing) your prayers. Pray: *Lord, is there anything hindering my prayers?* Let’s look at two areas that may cause problems to leaders in their prayers: Staying Strong/Courageous and Listening.

I. Staying Strong and Courageous

Definition: The word strong does mean having physical strength but it also means being firm and emotionally resilient (flexible). It means that one has the necessary emotional qualities to deal with difficult situations including pain, sorrow, loss, and risk. A strong person is firm and urgent about matters of importance.

Definition: Courage is the ability to face danger, difficulty, uncertainty, or pain without being overcome by fear or being sidetracked from a chosen course of

¹³ Wikipedia, online encyclopedia, Diamond cutting, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamond_cutting

action. A courageous person is bold, alert, secure and able to prove himself in a purpose.

Read Joshua 1:9 and answer questions 38-40:

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

Definition: A command is an order given by someone in authority. It is not a suggestion but explicit instruction to do something. The one in authority expects the command to be followed.

38. God is speaking to Joshua, appointed to take over the leadership of the Israelites after Moses had died. God *commanded* Joshua, "Be _____ and _____. Do not be _____; do not be _____ for the _____ your _____ will be with you wherever you go."

39. What is the reason God gives to His leader Joshua for being strong and courageous?

40. What meaning does God's command to Joshua have for *you* as a Christian leader?

Definition: Humble means being modest and unassuming in attitude and behavior. It also means being respectful towards other people. A Christian definition of humility is a personal quality in which one shows dependence on God and respect for other persons.

Did you know that a person can be *strong* and *humble* at the same time? Being humble means seeking God and turning away from personal agendas and prestige. Joshua's assignment was to take the Israelites across the Jordan River and into the land that God had promised them through their forefathers (Genesis 12:1-3, 7). The Israelites would have to physically battle other tribes and nations for the Promised Land. This was God's plan and Joshua was to be strong and courageous because he was leading in God's will.

Just as Joshua was leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, our assignment is to lead others into the promised land of heaven (2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1). As a Christian leader, you will be engaged in spiritual battles of your own! Leaders are to take back strongholds from the devil. These are areas that Satan and his

followers dominate or occupy. They may be individual strongholds like an addiction, group strongholds like gangs or industry strongholds like pornography.

41. Name one or two strongholds that are in your midst (near you) and how the battle is going?

42. How may the CLI Bible Minister join you in prayer in regard to these battles?

Satan could be a powerful foe, but God says not to be afraid or fearful because He will be with you. He anoints, sends, equips and empowers. Through prayer, God's orders and strength will flow to you. You receive your orders and say, I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13) and "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8).

Remember that God does not ask you to be strong and courageous – He **commands** it. If you feel that you lack strength or courage, you are to **confidently** ask God. In this way you are revealing a deep respect and trust for your Sovereign Commander. He is with you at all times and all times are under His control.

II. Listening

Joshua was a good listener. He listened to God and therefore he knew what he was supposed to do. In fact he listened so intently that we have God's words recorded for us in the Book of Joshua. Are you paying close attention to what God is saying to you? Listening is an art and can be developed. As in all things, God will help you hear Him and do what He asks.

'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.' Jeremiah 33:3

43. In Jeremiah 33:3 God says to "Call to me and _____ will _____ you and _____ you _____ and _____ things you do not know.

What a great and wondrous promise! God will answer us when we pray and tell us great and unsearchable things! However, if we have a one-way conversation going on we are going to miss a lot. It will also be difficult to hear from your Commander-in-Chief if you are not in a receiving mode.

Read 1 Samuel 3:10-11 and answer questions 44-46:

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."¹¹ And the LORD said to

Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle."

1 Samuel 3:10-11

44. What was the first thing Samuel said to God?

45. What did the LORD say after Samuel replied that he was listening?

46. How do *you* listen to God?

Some practical ways to listen to God are by quietly reading the Bible and waiting for God to speak to you through the text. God may speak to you through other people and circumstances throughout the day. Invite God to speak to you each day and be prepared to listen. Most of us will get a clear impression that God is speaking to us although we do not hear His audible voice.

Satan, our enemy, will be trying to disrupt your communication with God and sometimes you may get mixed messages. Even your own heart may work against you at times to interpret God's message in the wrong way. Always pray that you hear and obey correctly.

Remember that God will not ask you to do anything that is against His commandments which are preserved for you in the Bible. Jesus says the greatest commandment is to love your God and the second is to love your neighbor. Everything that God asks you to do will be filtered through these two commandments (Matthew 22:36-40). By the way, do not ask for new assignments until you have completed your previous ones. Immediately perform any and all duties in God's grace.

Personal Application: Meditate on Psalm 138:3 and 145:18:

When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted. Psalm 138:3

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
Psalm 145:18

47. Seek to listen to the Lord today. What did He impress upon you?

Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader (Day Six) Brilliant Living Diamond

Yes, a praying leader is like a brilliant living diamond. You sparkle on earth with the light of Christ. You serve God in love and faithfulness. The LORD has a wonderful plan for your life and He will complete it (Philippians 1:6).

God may give you a vision (image, idea, revelation) of something that He is going to do and how you will be a part of His work. It may take time to come about, so do not become discouraged. All that you do is within God's timetable. It could happen in the next second or it may take years. Stand firm and believe.

Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets. Amos 3:7

48. God says in Amos 3:7: Surely the _____ LORD does nothing without _____ His _____ to His _____, the prophets.

Read Genesis 18:17-19 and answer questions 49-50:

Then the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?"¹⁸ Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.¹⁹ For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." Genesis 18:17-19

49. Did God tell Abraham what He was going to do? Y N (Circle One)

50. Was God's plan for Abraham alone or for all nations on the earth?

God's plan for Abraham was for all the nations of the earth to be blessed! They would have a way to God through Christ, who would be born from Abraham's descendants. When God shares a vision with you, it will be to honor God by blessing or helping others.

51. Has God given you a vision? Y N (Circle one)

If you do not have a vision, pray and ask Jesus for a vision that glorifies God and is fruitful for the Kingdom.

52. Would you like to share your vision?

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

Hebrews 1:1-2

53. Read Hebrews 1:1-2. Is it possible to receive a vision from God of what He is going to do apart from Jesus Christ? Y N (Circle one)

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15

54. Jesus says in John 15:15 that a servant does not know his _____ business. Instead, I have called you _____, for everything that I learned from my _____ I have made _____ to _____

In waiting for your particular vision or Kingdom assignment, remember that Jesus has shown us by His life how to live each day. His vision and Kingdom assignment was the restoration of mankind to God. He would die for the sins of the world in order for this vision to be accomplished. However, until the day He died on the cross, He walked in love and purpose to honor God. We also need to live each day to the fullest in love and purpose as we wait for our personal promises or visions to be revealed and accomplished.

Remember that Jesus made disciples and commanded us to do the same. Think about who you know that might benefit from your love and leadership. Pray for the opportunity to make disciples who will in turn take on Christ's mantle (transferred role) and make disciples.

We used an example of a diamond during our study on prayer to give you a visual of how precious and brilliant you shine when you communicate and live in God's presence. Contemplate (think about) your own prayer life as a leader and pray for guidance on how to improve it. Pray that your heart would be revived as well as those Christians in your sphere of influence.

- End Lesson 9 -

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 9
CLI Christian Leadership Study: Prayer of a Leader

Name & Number: _____ Date: _____

Name of Institution: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader (Day One) *Diamond in the Rough*

1. What thoughts come to your mind when you think of yourself as a valuable, brilliant, and living diamond? _____

2. When did Jesus, our Leadership Model, pray? _____

3. What kind of places did Jesus go to when He prayed? _____

4. Why is this a good pattern for you? _____

5. Did Jesus pray out loud in the presence of other people (v. 42)? Yes No
(Circle one)

6. Considering that Jesus prayed alone and with others, what does this tell you about your own prayer life? _____

7. Jesus said, "Father, I _____ you that you have _____ me" (v. 41).

8. Jesus prayed, "I knew that you _____ hear me" (v. 42).

9. Why do you think God wants *you* to be confident in praying to Him? _____

Personal Application:

10. Write 1 John 5:14-15 from memory: _____

11. Write Romans 12:1-2 from memory: _____

12. How can *you* be confident of praying and knowing God's will? _____

13. Take time in the next few days to seek God and ask Him about the calling on your life. What did He impress upon your heart or spirit? _____

Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader (Day Two) Brutening the Heart

14. Read Luke 6:27-28. In verse 28, Jesus commands us to bless those who curse us and to _____ for those who _____ us.

15. Read Matthew 5:44-45. In verse 44 Jesus tells us to love our enemies and _____ for those who persecute us, so that we may be _____ of our Father in heaven.

16. Share a time when someone hurt or insulted you, and yet you still prayed for that person? _____

17. Is there anyone in your life right now that you do not want to pray for?
Yes No (Circle One)

18. If you answered yes above, please share a few broad details, and how your CLI Bible Minister may pray for you? _____

19. Is it possible to take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ? Y N
(Circle One)

20. Why are obedient thoughts to Christ important to *your* prayer life? _____

21. What are some practical ways that you can train and discipline yourself to take every thought captive so that your prayers are pure and acceptable to God? _____

22. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:16 that we have the _____ of Christ.

Personal Application:

23. What did the Lord reveal to you during the week about this person or situation?

Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader (Day Three) Faceting the Heart in Prayer

24. Moses tells the Israelites that if you seek the _____ your God, you will

find Him if you look for Him with all your _____ and with all your

_____.

25. As a Christian leader, how are *you* seeking the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul? _____

26. According to Deuteronomy 4:7, the LORD our God is _____ us whenever we _____.

27. Read Matthew 7:23. Do you think it likely that Jesus will tell believers *sincerely* seeking Him in prayer each day, "I never knew you" ? Yes No (Circle One) Explain your answer:

28. According to 1 John 5:14, if you ask anything according to God's _____ He hears you.

Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader (Day Four) Polishing the Heart

29. Have you surrendered every aspect of your life to the Holy Spirit? Y N
(Circle One)

30. Is there anything you are trying to control and have not given to God? Y N
(Circle One)

31. Pray and ask God to loosen your grip on everything in your life except Him.

How can your CLI Bible Minister pray for you in this area? _____

32. Read Jude 1:20. Jude, the half brother of Jesus, tells us to build ourselves up in our most holy faith and _____ the Holy _____.

33. Read Ephesians 6:18. The apostle Paul tells us to pray (v. 18a) _____ the _____ on all occasions with all kinds of _____ and requests.

34. When you pray, are you aware of the Spirit's presence? Y N (Circle one)

35. Are you functioning or performing according to the Spirit's governing body?
Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

36. Read Romans 8:26-27. How do God and the Spirit help us pray for God's purpose?

Personal Application:

37. Pray "in" the Spirit and ask God for an opportunity to serve Jesus in love today. Share how the Spirit led You: _____

Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader (Day Five) Cleaning the Heart

38. God is speaking to Joshua, appointed to take over the leadership of the Israelites after Moses had died. God *commanded* Joshua, "Be _____ and _____. Do not be _____; do not be _____ for the _____ your _____ will be with you wherever you go."

39. What is the reason God gives to His leader Joshua for being strong and courageous? _____

40. What meaning does God's command to Joshua have for *you* as a Christian leader? _____

41. Name one or two strongholds that are in your midst (near you) and how the battle is going? _____

42. How may the CLI Bible Minister join you in prayer in regard to these battles?

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you and _____ you _____ and _____ things you do not know.

44. What was the first thing Samuel said to God? _____

45. What did the LORD say after Samuel replied that he was listening? _____

46. How do *you* listen to God? _____

Personal Application: Meditate on Psalm 138:3 and 145:18:

47. Seek to listen to the Lord today. What did He impress upon you? _____

Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader (Day Six) Brilliant Living Diamond

48. God says in Amos 3:7: Surely the _____ LORD does nothing
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50. Was God’s plan for Abraham alone or for all nations on the earth? _____

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52. Would you like to share your vision? _____

53. Read Hebrews 1:1-2. Is it possible to receive a vision from God of what He is going to do apart from Jesus Christ? Y N (Circle one)

54. Jesus says in John 15:15 that a servant does not know his _____ business. Instead, I have called you _____, for everything that I learned from my _____ I have made _____ to _____.

Next: Lesson 10: Faith of a Leader

Rev 03/5/2014

