**MAKING THE MOST OF GOD’S RESOURCES FOR YOUR GROWTH**

**Lesson 8: Prayer**

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.* (Colossians 4:2)

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

*And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lost heart.* (Luke 18:1)

“Prayer is not made so that God can find out what we need, because Jesus tells us, “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him” (Matthew 6:8). God wants us to pray because prayer expresses our trust in God and is a means whereby our trust in him can increase. In fact, **perhaps the primary emphasis of the Bible’s teaching on prayer is that we are to pray with faith, which means trust or dependence on God**. God as our Creator delights in being trusted by us as his creatures, for an attitude of dependence is most appropriate to the Creator/creature relationship. Praying in humble dependence also indicates that we are genuinely convinced of God’s wisdom, love, goodness, and power—indeed of all of the attributes that make up his excellent character. **When we truly pray, we as persons, in the wholeness of our character, are relating to God as a person, in the wholeness of his character. Thus, all that we think or feel about God comes to expression in our prayer.** It is only natural that God would delight in such activity and place much emphasis on it in his relationship with us.” (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, p. 376)*

***Some important questions concerning prayer:***

*What is prayer?*

*Who do we pray to?*

*Why should we pray?*

*How should we pray?*

*When should we pray?*

*Where should we pray?*

***Most important question:*** *What does God say about prayer?*

**Biblical Prayer**: Prayer is an expression of our dependence upon God and a vital part of our relationship with him (Matthew 6:6; Ephesians 6:18-20; Colossians 4:2-4).