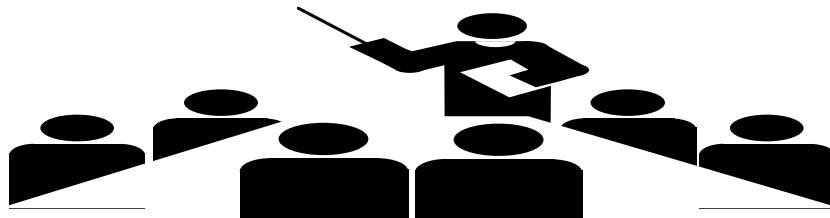


# BIBLE STUDY SERIES



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**Heal Our Land**

## BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

### THEME: HEAL OUR LAND: PREREQUISITES FOR FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

#### LESSON #1: HUMILITY

Key Verse: 2 Chronicles 7: 14

*If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chron. 7: 14*

**PROPOSITION:** We who are called by God's name (Christians) hold the keys to the healing of the Land: if we meet the conditions, God will hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal the land. The first prerequisite for this healing is **humility**.

**DEFINITION:** Humility comes from the Latin word *humus*, which means "ground". The humble person is one who lives, so to speak, on the ground floor. They are not self-important, nor self-assertive; they do not insist on their own rights or their own way; and they do not put on a show of false modesty in order to impress people. The Greek word for humility is *Tapeinos*. It means to have an accurate estimate of oneself in relation to God and others. The humble acknowledge that all they have and all they are, they owe to God; and they submit to Him.

#### 10 MARKS OF TRUE HUMILITY

1. Responsiveness to God and His call (Matt. 18:1-4)
2. Dependence of God and not upon oneself (1 Pet. 5: 6)
3. Teachableness and willingness to learn (James 1: 21)
4. Proper view of self (Romans 12:3)
5. Proper view of others (Phil. 2: 3, 4)
6. Proper treatment of others (Romans 12:16)
7. Willingness to forgive (Romans 12: 17, 19)
8. Proper treatment of enemies (Romans 12: 20, 21)
9. Willingness to serve others (Matt. 23: 11, 12)
10. Willingness to obey and submit to God (Phil. 2: 8; James 4: 6, 7)

#### 10 PROMISES TO THE HUMBLE

1. WISDOM (Proverbs 11: 2)
2. HONORS (Proverbs 15: 33; 18: 12; 29: 23)
3. WEALTH & LIFE (Proverbs 22: 4)
4. SALVATION (Psalms 18: 27)
5. SUPPORT & STRENGTH (Psalms 147: 6; James 4: 10)
6. REMEMBRANCE (Psalms 9: 12; 10: 12)
7. REVIVAL (Isaiah 57: 15)
8. GRACE & HELP (James 4: 6; Luke 14: 11; 18: 14; 1 Pet. 5: 6)
9. GUIDANCE & INSTRUCTION (Psalms 25: 9)

There are two ways to be humbled: (1) God can humble us through experiences and chastening; (2) we can humble ourselves freely and willingly. The last option results in forgiveness and healing. But if the humility is collective and involves many of God's people, the forgiveness and healing can be all encompassing. Let us all humble ourselves that God may "Heal Our Land."

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### THEME: HEAL OUR LAND: PREREQUISITES FOR FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

#### LESSON #2: PRAYER

Key Verse: 2 Chronicles 7: 14

*If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, **and pray**, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chron. 7: 14*

**PROPOSITION:** We who are called by God's name (Christians) hold the keys to the healing of the Land: if we meet the conditions, God will hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal the land. The second prerequisite for this healing is **prayer**.

**DEFINITION:** Prayer very simple is communicating with God. It is our means of 1) drawing close to God (Isaiah 50: 8 James 4: 8); 2) Getting things from God (Matthew 7: 7); 3) Experiencing the Peace of God (Philippians 4: 6, 7); 4) Receiving the Wisdom of God (James 5: 14, 15); 5) Unleashing the Power of God (Hebrews 4:14-16). Prayer is the expression of our dependence on God.

#### PRAYER & POSTURE

There are many postures one can take in communicating with God. Men and women of God have 1) Stood (I Samuel 1:26; Daniel 9: 20); 2) Knelt (I Kings 8: 54; 2 Chronicles 6: 13); 3) Bowed (Genesis 24: 26; Exodus 4:31); Fallen on their faces (Numbers 20: 6; Josh 5:14); Prayed with uplifted hands (Nehemiah 8: 7; I Tim. 2: 8). The position of the body is not as crucial as the condition of the heart. Zion Methodists traditionally pray on our knees or seating with our heads bowed when praying publicly as a symbol of humility and reverence to God.

#### PREREQUISITIES FOR PREVAILING PRAYER

1. A relationship with God (James 5: 16)
2. Humility (Psalms 101: 5; James 4: 6)
3. Faith (James 1: 6, 7; Mark 11: 24)
4. Submission to God's will (John 3: 22; Psalms 66: 18; Proverbs 28: 9)
5. Forgiveness (I Timothy 2: 8; Matt. 5: 23, 24)
6. Mercy (Proverbs 21: 3)

#### GUIDELINES FOR PREVAILING PRAYER

1. Brevity (short) Matt. 6: 7, 8; 23:14; Eccles. 5: 2)
2. Sincerity (James 5: 16)
3. In secret (Matt. 6: 6)
4. Continuous ( I Thess. 5: 17)
5. Regular and systematic (Daniel 6: 10; Psalms 55: 17)
6. In Jesus Name (John 14: 13)
7. In accordance with His word and will (John 15: 7; I John 5:14, 15)
8. Importunity (Luke 11: 5-10; 18: 1-8)
9. Rightly motivated (James 4: 2, 3)
10. Aided and inspired by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8: 20; Eph. 6: 18)

#### THE POWER OF UNITED PRAYER

1. It guarantees God's presence and provision. (Matt. 18: 19, 20)
2. It made the day of Pentecost possible. (Acts 1: 14; 2: 1)
3. It broke Peter out of prison. (Acts 12: 5-17)
4. It did the same thing for Paul and Silas. (Acts 16: 25-27)

## BIBLE STUDY

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### THEME: HEAL OUR LAND: PREREQUISITES FOR FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

#### LESSON #3: SEEKING GOD

Key Verse: 2 Chronicles 7: 14

*If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, **and seek My face**, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chron. 7: 14*

**PROPOSITION:** We who are called by God's name (Christians) hold the keys to the healing of the Land: if we meet the conditions, God will hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal the land. The third prerequisite for this healing is **seeking God**.

**CLARIFICATION:** What does it mean to *seek God*? It means at least five things:

1. To seek a relationship with God. (Acts 17: 27)
2. To seek fellowship with God. (Psalms 105: 4)
3. To seek to put God first in your life. (Matt. 6: 33)
4. To seek God's reign in you life. (Matt. 6: 33)
5. To seek God's righteousness. (Matt. 6: 33)
  - a. Imputed righteousness (Romans 3:21-23; 4: 3-6; 10: 1-3)
  - b. Personal righteousness (I Timothy 6: 11; 2 Tim. 2:22)
  - c. Social righteousness (Amos 5: 24; Proverbs 14: 34)

**THE PROCESS:** When and how do we seek God? There are three guidelines:

1. We must seek Him while He may be found. (Is. 55: 6; Hos. 10:12)
2. We must seek Him with our whole heart. (Deut. 4: 29; Jer. 28: 13)
3. We must seek Him thru Christ alone. (John 14: 6)

**THE BENEFITS:** How does seeking God enhance one's life?

1. Life, spiritual and eternal (Amos 5: 4, 6)
2. Righteousness (Hosea 10: 12)
3. Shelter from God's wrath (Zeph. 2: 3)
4. Joy (Psalms 105: 3)
5. Strength (Psalms 105: 4)
6. Deliverance (Jeremiah 29:13, 14)
7. Needs supplied (Matt. 6: 33)
8. Desires granted (Psalms 37: 4)
9. Forgiveness (2 Chronicles 7: 14)
10. Healing (2 Chronicles 7: 14)

## BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

### THEME: HEAL OUR LAND: PREREQUISITES FOR FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

#### LESSON #4: REPENTANCE

Key Verse: 2 Chronicles 7: 14

*If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, **and turn from their wicked ways**; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chron. 7: 14*

**PROPOSITION:** We who are called by God's name (Christians) hold the keys to the healing of the Land: if we meet the conditions, God will hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal the land. The fourth prerequisite for this healing is **repentance**.

**DEFINITIONS:**

1. Repentance is a change of mind, caused by godly sorrow for sin, resulting in a reformation of life.
2. Repentance is the "about face" of a new commitment.
3. Repentance a commitment to a faith and way of life that involves turning from a previous way.
4. To repent is to make a decision than changes the direction of one's life.
5. To repent means "to turn" from evil to God; from idols to God; from evil ways to God's ways.

#### THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN REPENTANCE

**1. The Intellectual Element: (A change of view)**

- a. Recognition of sin (Psalms 51: 3)
- b. Recognition of personal guilt (Psalms 51: 4)
- c. Recognition of defilement (Isaiah 6: 5)
- d. Recognition of helplessness (Romans 7: 18)

**2. The Emotional Element: (A change of feeling)**

- a. Godly sorrow for sin. (2 Corinthians 7: 9, 10)
- b. Broken-heartedness and contriteness over one's sin. (Psalms 51: 17)

**3. The Volitional Element: (A change of will)**

- a. Willingness to confess one's sins. (John 1: 8, 9)
- b. Willingness to turn from our sins and forsake them. (Isaiah 55: 7)
- c. Willingness to seek pardon. (Psalms 51: 1, 9)
- d. Willingness to seek cleansing. (Psalms 51: 2, 7, 10)

#### REPENTANCE: A CONDITION FOR FORGIVENESS AND HEALING.

*God cannot forgive or heal that which we are not prepared to confess and forsake.*

**1. Repentance in the unsaved results in salvation, forgiveness and eternal life:**

- a. Pardon and forgiveness (Isaiah 55:7; Acts 3: 19)
- b. Eternal Life (Ezekiel 18: 21)
- c. Salvation (Acts 2: 38; Psalms 34: 18b)

**2. Repentance in the saved results in unhindered fellowship with God; an effective prayer-life; spiritual growth and spiritual renewal:**

- a. Forgiveness. ( 1 John 1: 8, 9)
- b. Answered prayer. (2 Chronicles 7: 14)
- c. Close fellowship with God. (Psalms 34: 18a)
- d. Spiritual growth and prosperity. (Proverbs 28: 13)
- e. Restoration from “Backsliding”. (Jeremiah 3: 22)
- f. Spiritual renewal. (Psalms 51: 10-12)
  - 1) Cleansing (7)
  - 2) Joy (12)
  - 3) A willing spirit (12)
  - 4) Zeal for evangelism (13)
  - 5) Sincere praise. (15)
  - 6) Acceptable worship. (16-19)

**LET US TAKE GOD AT HIS WORD. LET US HUMBLE OURSELVES, PRAY, SEEK HIS FACE, AND TURN FROM OUR WICKED WAYS, SO THAT HE WILL HEAR OUR PRAYERS, FORGIVE OUR SINS, AND HEAL OUR LAND.**