

**God Centered Prayer**  
**Lesson Three: Godly People Pray**  
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**Introduction: Do you consider yourself to be a Godly Person?**

A. Every Christian is called to be godly (**1 Tim. 2:2; 4:7-8; 6:11; 2 Tim. 3:12; Tit. 2:12; 2 Pet. 3:11**).

1. Godliness is not for the “spiritual elite” only, but for every Christian to practice in life (**2 Pet. 1:2-4**).
2. There is no higher compliment that can be paid to a Christian than to call that person a *godly* person.

B. What does it mean to be godly?

**Godly** (from EUSEBOS): “pious, devout, godly,” indicating reverence manifested in actions” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary); “well-reverent, i.e. pious” (Strong’s Greek Dictionary).

**Godliness** (from EUSEBEIA): “to be devout,” denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary).

**Godliness** (from THEOSEBEIA): “the fear or reverence of God,” from theos, “god,” and sebomai (Vine’s Expository Dictionary); “devoutness, i.e. piety” (Strong’s Greek Dictionary).

1. Godly people have reverence for God – fear which motivates them to serve the Lord (**Heb. 12:28-29**).
2. Godly people are committed to God’s teachings (**2 Tim. 3:10-12**); their godliness is not based on appearances, but by good works (**1 Tim. 2:9-10**).
3. Godly people strive to be like God Himself! (**2 Pet. 1:3-7**).
4. Godly people are deeply concerned about pleasing God; their attitude is “*Godward*” – every work they do is directed toward God (**Col. 3:17, 23**).
5. Godly people are God conscientious, God centered, and God driven (**2 Cor. 1:12**), in preparation for Christ’s return (**Tit 2:11-13; 2 Pet 3:10-12**).

C. Godly people pray.

1. Many godly servants of God in biblical times were committed to prayer (e.g., Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Samuel, David, Elijah, Hezekiah, Ezra, Jeremiah, Daniel, Jesus, Peter, Paul, etc.).
2. God commands Christians to be devoted to prayer (**Acts 2:42; Rom. 12:12; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2; 1 Thes. 5:17**).
3. *If you truly have a heart for God, you will pray!*

**I. “Let everyone who is Godly Pray to Thee” (Ps. 32:6).**

A. The example of David and God’s willingness to forgive (**Psalm 32**).

1. David’s example serves as an example to us to seek the Lord for forgiveness “while He may be found” (**Ps. 32:1-6**).
2. Rather than foolishly delay forgiveness, like David who “kept silent” about his sin, the *godly* will take advantage of God’s offer to pardon sin.

B. Why the godly pray to the Lord “*in a time when Thou mayest be found.*”

1. God created us with the intention that we would seek Him and find Him and enjoy His fellowship (**Acts 17:27**).
2. The godly are God-centered, concerned about pleasing God - focused on having a right relationship with God *everyday* (**1 John 1:5-10**).

3. The godly who reverence God are humble enough to admit their sin and their need for God's mercy and forgiveness (**Ps. 32:5; 1 John 1:9; e.g., Ps. 51:1-4; Luke 18:13-14**).

4. The pious or godly mind will not postpone forgiveness, but will pray to God without hesitation, believing and trusting in His mercy (**Ps. 32:10**).

5. For those with godly hearts, drawing near to God is of the utmost importance!

C. "*The great flood waters*" cannot reach the godly person who prays (**Ps. 32:6**).

1. Just as God "*brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly*" (**2 Pet. 2:5**), so will all unrepentant sinners be swept away at the Judgment.

2. Like an "*overwhelming flood*" (cf. **Nah. 1:8**), God's wrath will judge this world, yet the godly who sought forgiveness will be safe from danger.

3. A firm foundation in the Lord will not only save us from God's wrath, but will keep many flood waters from overtaking us (**Luke 6:46-49**).

a. The overwhelming guilt of sin (**Ps. 32:3-4**).

b. Temptation (**1 Cor. 10:13; cf. Ps. 71:1-3**)

c. Distress, affliction, or persecution (**Ps. 69:1-2, 13-15**)

4. To *remain* godly people, we must be committed to prayer so that the flood of worldly influences does not overcome us (**2 Pet 2:20; 1 Jn. 2:16**).

a. Protection and deliverance from the world comes from putting our faith in the Lord (**Ps. 32:7; cf. John 16:33; 1 John 5:4-5**).

## II. "The Lord Has Set Apart the Godly Man for Himself."

A. The Lord listens *favorably* to the prayers of the godly (**Ps. 4:1**).

1. God gives His attention to the prayers of the godly! (cf. **1 Pet. 3:12**).

2. The godly calls upon God: "*O God of my righteousness!*" – The One in whom he trusts completely to do what is right for him in his distress.

3. In contrast to the "sons of men" (**Ps. 4:2**) who deceive and do him wrong, God who is righteous will always do what is good and best.

B. God *sets apart* the godly as His own special people from the world (**Ps. 4:3**).

1. Godly people belong to God and therefore God pays special attention to their prayers and their need for His help (cf. **1 Pet. 2:9-10**).

2. God listens to their prayers because they are *godly* – they truly love Him, reverence Him, and are devoted to Him.

3. The godly are "set apart" because they are separated from the world and are committed to God's purposes rather than their own (**2 Cor. 6:17-18**).

## III. Prayers of Godly People Accomplish Much (James 5:16).

A. There is power in prayer spoken by a righteous (or godly) person.

1. As seen in the Psalms, those who are godly are assured an answer when they call upon God in prayer (**Psalms 4, 32, 34, etc.**).

2. Prayer is not vain, weak, or passive for the godly. Their prayers are strong and mighty; they work! (e.g., **James 5:16-18**).

B. Prayer is "*effectual fervent*" (from ENERGEIO / energy – active, working, powerful) because it is offered by a godly person *in faith* (cf. **Mat. 21:22**).

**Conclusion: "All Who Desire to Live Godly in Christ Jesus" Will Pray!**