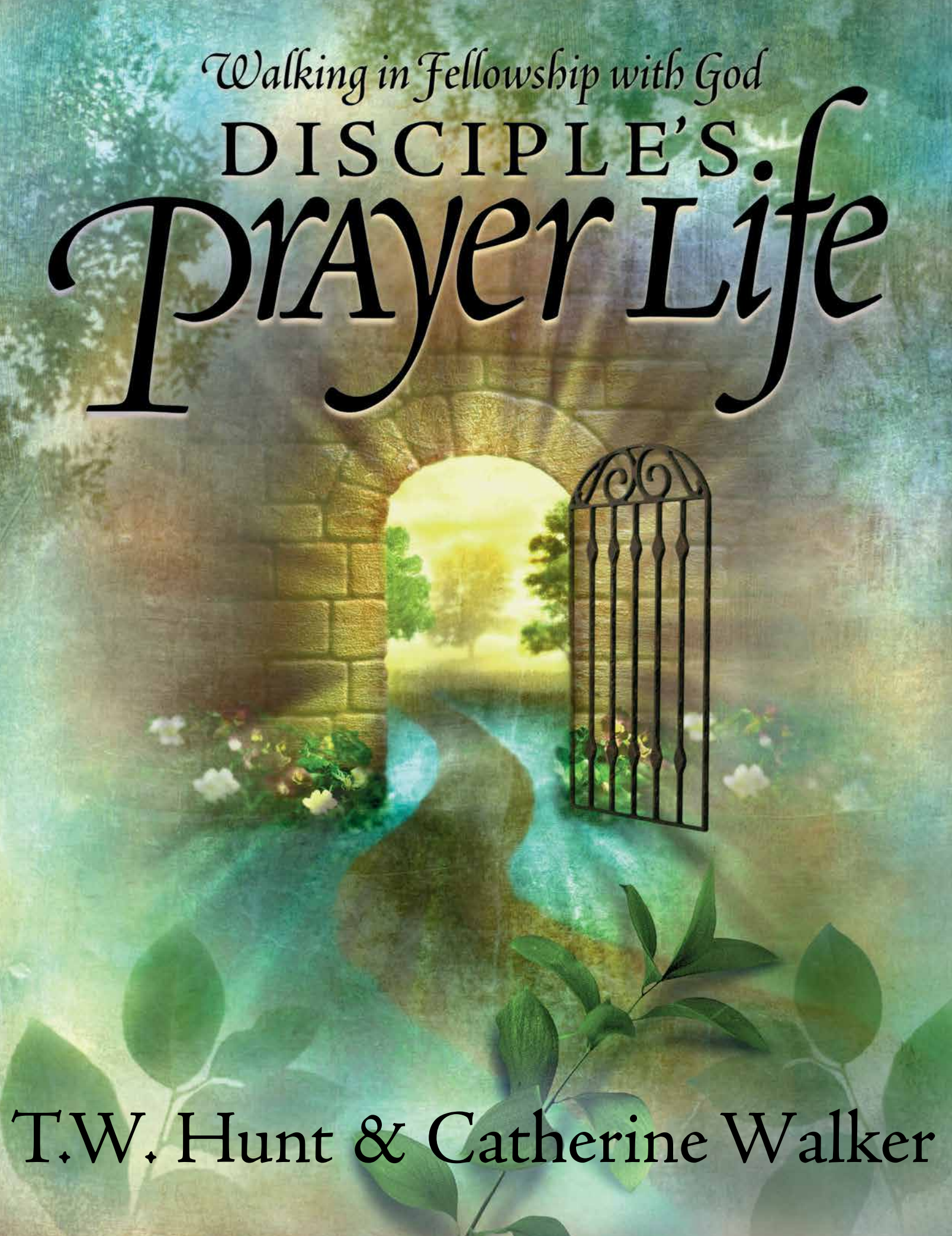
Walking in Fellowship with God

DISCIPLE'S PRAYER LIFE



T.W. Hunt & Catherine Walker

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"In 1974 God called Glaphré to a life of prayer. What began as a private ministry
of prayer developed into a nondenominational teaching ministry called *Prayerlife*.
Prayerlife helps people around the world, from children to adult,
develop intimate fellowship with God. There are audio and video seminars
for all ages and other devotional materials available."

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The Authors

T. W. Hunt, who wrote the content for *Disciple's Prayer Life,* has given much of his life to teaching others the ways of the Lord. For 24 years he taught music and missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Forth Worth, Texas. For 7 years prior to his retirement T.W. served as a prayer consultant for The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was a member of the Bold Mission Prayer Thrust Team that issued a Call to Prayer and Solemn Assembly on September 17, 1989.

T. W. is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist College and holds master of music and doctor of philosophy degrees from North Texas State University. In addition to *Disciple's Prayer Life: Walking in Fellowship with God,* T. W. has written numerous articles and several other books, including *Music in Missions: Discipling Through Music, The Life-Changing Power of Prayer* (previously published as *The Doctrine of Prayer), The Mind of Christ,* and *From Heaven's View.* T. W. also compiled and wrote portions of *Church Prayer Ministry Manual.* T. W. lives in Spring, Texas.

Catherine Walker, the writer of the learning activities for this course, served as a missionary in China and Indonesia from 1946 until 1980. During this 34-year period she taught Bible and wrote seven seminary textbooks for the Indonesia Seminary. Her *Bible Workbook and Study Guide,* volumes 1 and 2, has been used by Bible students for more than 40 years. After retiring from the mission field, Catherine served as special assistant to the president for intercessory prayer at the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. A native of Georgia, she attended Wheaton College, Columbia Bible College, and WMU Training School (now a part of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary). She received her doctor of education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Catherine resides in Richmond, Virginia.

[week 1]

Developing a Life of Prayer

Giving God a Reason

On the outskirts of Longview, Texas, I realized with horror that the clutch on our car had gone out! In only two hours I was to be in Shreveport, Louisiana, to begin the first session of a Bible conference on the mind of Christ. To get to the foreign-car repair shop without a clutch, I had to put the car into second gear with the engine off, then hold tightly while the car bucked like a horse as I started the motor. Every stop sign or light required us to buck to a stop and buck to a start again.

I prayed and my wife prayed with me: "Father, I am going to teach the very work and character of Jesus. That itself is a legitimate basis for asking You to get us to Shreveport in time. Paul prayed that You would fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power in the lives of the Thessalonians, 'that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ' (2 Thess. 1:11-12). That is what I am on my way to do—glorify the Lord Jesus. It is Your work I am doing, Your Word I am teaching, and Your Son I am glorifying. On these bases we ask that You get this car fixed in time for us to arrive before the conference begins."

The shop owner gave me the bad news that the hydraulic brake valve had gone out. He began to call parts shops, finally locating the part in a shop that was about to close for the day! The man jumped in his car and raced off to get the part. More than a half hour later, he returned obviously worn-out, pointed his finger in my face, and exclaimed: "Mister, you're not living right! Just after I left here, I had a flat. After I got the flat fixed, I got stopped by a train. Then in downtown traffic at a left-hand turn, the car ahead of me stalled, the driver threw up the hood, and I could not pull right into the heavy traffic."

By that time he had the attention of everyone in the shop. The mechanics were staring at me. I told him: "Let me give you another view of these troubles. I am on my way to lead a Bible conference, and you have just informed me that Satan doesn't want me to get there. Now I am more excited about what God wants to do in that church!" The whole shop stared open-mouthed at my pronouncement, so I finally broke the silence. "Did you get the part?" Well, yes, he did.

After handing the valve to the mechanics, he told me of his own faith in the Lord and volunteered to lend me a car. However, my prayer had not been for another car. I had prayed for God to fix our car. I told the man I believed that the mechanics would finish quickly. In a few minutes the mechanic brought me the key. I had been concerned about the expense, because we do not travel with much money. When I asked about the charges, the mechanic grinned as he replied: "Mr. B. [the owner] told us not to charge the preacher for the part; he wants to give it to you. We mechanics decided that you were different from anyone we had ever met before. We would also like to give you our labor!"

We sang and praised the Lord all the way to Shreveport—and arrived in time!

Key Idea

A correct basis for our asking gives God a reason to answer our prayer.

This Week's Learning Goal

You will understand four reasons God answers prayer. You will begin using these reasons as bases for your prayer requests.

Verses to Memorize

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Ps. 37:4).

"This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us" (1 John 5:14).

Related Prayer Guide

Prayer guide 1, "Giving God a Reason," page 205

Day 1
Introduction to *Disciple's Prayer Life*

Today's Learning Goal
You will understand the way *Disciple's Prayer Life* is organized, and you will demonstrate your commitment to improve your fellowship with God in prayer.

Welcome to a study of *Disciple's Prayer Life: Walking in Fellowship with God*. You are beginning the study of one of the most exciting subjects of your life, one you can study for the rest of your life. You were created for fellowship with God, your Creator. As you learn about and practice the ways men and women of the Bible walked in fellowship with God, you will discover that your own relationship with God will become a fresher experience every day.

This book is not one to be skimmed in an eager search to find new ideas about prayer. The teachings presented must be experienced if they are to be learned. The unique feature of this course is constant interaction between information about prayer and practice based on that information. The teaching in your workbook is highly experiential. You will learn much in prayer by following the instructions given throughout each week's study. Only God knows what He plans to do in your life as you seek to have continuous fellowship with Him in prayer. We have a very ambitious learning goal for this course:

Course Learning Goal

After completing the study of *Disciple's Prayer Life: Walking in Fellowship with God*, you will understand and be able to apply biblical principles that develop intimacy with God and effectiveness in prayer. You will demonstrate your commitment to God's leadership about your involvement in a personal or church prayer ministry.

Read the course learning goal again and circle the key words that describe the kind of prayer life you can expect to develop. Write those key words here:

_____ _____ _____

At least three concepts will characterize your prayer life after you complete this course.

You may have written other words, but at least three concepts will characterize your prayer life after you complete this course: greater *intimacy* with God, *effectiveness* in prayer, and a *commitment* to become involved in a personal or church prayer ministry. Read more about this course.

Disciple's Prayer Life: An In-Depth Experience with Prayer

Disciple's Prayer Life is an in-depth study that will take you on a journey into God's Word to examine biblical prayers and the practices of biblical prayer warriors; to discover biblical principles of prayer; and to develop a more meaningful, powerful prayer life. LifeWay provides a variety of courses designed to equip laypersons for ministry in the church and in the world. *Disciple's Prayer Life* is designed to equip you for a ministry of worship and intercession, or praying for others.

MasterLife by Avery T. Willis Jr. is a foundational in-depth discipleship course. Though *MasterLife* is not a prerequisite for this course, it provides spiritual preparation for the basic disciplines and ministries of the Christian life. If you have not experienced *MasterLife*, you may want to study it next.[1]

Disciple's Prayer Life features these characteristics:

- You will interact with this self-paced workbook for 30 to 60 minutes each day.
- You will meet once each week for a group session to process and practice what you have learned during the week.
- Practical exercises will help you make learning life-related and life-changing.

Getting Started

Resources you will need. You are reading your primary resource—your *Disciple's Prayer Life* workbook. You will also need a Bible, a pencil, and extra paper.

Get acquainted with your workbook. Check the following steps as you complete them.

❑ **Using the contents page (p. 3), turn to the first page of each week's study. Read the key idea and the learning goal for each week. Which week's topic are you most anxious to study?** _____

❑ **Locate the 12 prayer guides beginning on page 205. These prayer guides are practical resources you will use throughout the course to learn to pray more effectively. After you study a prayer guide as directed in your workbook, regularly review the guide so that you can use the concepts and principles in your daily prayer life. You may photocopy the charts in these prayer guides for your personal use in prayer.**

❑ **Find the prayer articles and charts on pages 218–25. These are additional tools you will use during your daily quiet time. You may photocopy the charts in these sections for your personal use in prayer.**

❑ **Cut out the Scripture-memory cards that begin on page 243 and carry them with you to review often.**

❑ **If you plan to lead a group study of this course, overview the leader guide on pages 226–42.**

The most important thing you will do in this course is to pray.

Your Daily Quiet Time

The most important thing you will do in this course is to pray. Therefore, you will be asked to have a daily quiet time with God. To keep notes of your communication with the Father, you will use the Daily Master Communication Guide in the margin of each day's lesson to record what God says to you and what you say to God. Each day you will need to select a Scripture verse to focus on during your quiet time. You may choose one of the verses from the day's lesson, or you may choose your own verse.

Examine today's Daily Master Communication Guide on page 9.

After you have completed this course, plan to continue the important practice of a daily quiet time. You can create your own prayer journal by recording in a blank journal or notebook your daily communication with God. You may also want to duplicate and insert in a three-ring notebook the prayer guides on

pages 205–17, as well as the prayer articles and charts on pages 218–25. Feel free to photocopy the charts in these sections of your workbook for your personal use in prayer.

Study Tips

Five days a week you will be expected to study a segment of material. Thirty minutes to one hour of study time will be needed each day. Throughout this course you will be asked to answer questions, reflect on problems, pray, or complete other assignments. To gain the most from this course, pause in your reading to complete each assignment as you come to it. If you do not follow this approach, you will miss significant opportunities to learn and apply teachings that will change your life. Look on *Disciple's Prayer Life* as a teacher who is working with you one-to-one. When he asks a question or gives an assignment, he awaits your response. Then, in most cases, he gives you feedback on the correctness of your response.

To gain the most from this course, pause in your reading to complete each assignment as you come to it.

Each week's study recommends two "Verses to Memorize." You may choose to memorize one or both. Work on your memory verses every day and *review, review, review.* At the end of each week you will be asked to write your verse(s) from memory. You will also share your memory verses in the group sessions.

Turn to page 218 and read "How to Memorize Scripture." Select one of your memory verses for this week on page 5 and study it according to the instructions you read.

Decide on a definite, quiet place for study where you will be reasonably uninterrupted. A table or a desk will enable you to spread out your books and have all of your resources at your fingertips.

Begin each day's study with a brief prayer. God is concerned that you learn to pray. He wants to fellowship with you in prayer. His Holy Spirit will be your special Teacher, so welcome His activity in your study times.

Each day ends with an assignment called "Walking in Fellowship with God Today." This section gives you a specific suggestion for your prayers during the next 24 hours. It usually helps you focus on and apply concepts or principles you have studied that day. Take these assignments very seriously. Our primary desire and prayer is that you develop intimate fellowship with God. Walk and talk with Him every day. You may want to jot the suggestions on a card or in your daily schedule planner to remind you of the assignment as you go through the day.

Disciple's Prayer Life will require faithfulness and commitment to the task. If you will spend time in God's Word and in prayer as suggested in this workbook, your life will be changed forever after these 13 weeks. If you are serious about learning to pray more effectively, prayerfully consider making the *Disciple's Prayer Life* Covenant that follows.

Disciple's Prayer Life Covenant

Because I want to learn to pray more effectively, I covenant with God and my *Disciple's Prayer Life* group to study faithfully *Disciple's Prayer Life* between sessions and to contribute openly during our small-group sessions. Furthermore, I will seek to attend every session, to have a daily quiet time, and to pray daily for those in my *Disciple's Prayer Life* group between sessions.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Group members:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

Walking in Fellowship with God Today

1. If you signed the *Disciple's Prayer Life* Covenant, you made a significant commitment of yourself to God and to your *Disciple's Prayer Life* group. Throughout the next 24 hours, reflect on your commitment and pray this prayer: "Lord, teach me to pray."

2. Read "How to Have a Quiet Time" on page 218. Then have your quiet time, focusing on the verse you memorized today. Complete the Daily Master Communication Guide in the margin.

1. To order *MasterLife*, write to LifeWay Church Resources Customer Service; One LifeWay Plaza; Nashville, TN 37234-0113; fax 615.251.5933; email *orderentry@lifeway.com*; phone toll free 800.458.2772; order online at *www.lifeway.com*; or visit the LifeWay Christian Store serving you.

Daily Master Communication Guide

Scripture reference:

_____

What God said to me:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

What I said to God:

_____

_____

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