

THE PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS
CELL GROUP STUDIES



PRAYER

LESSON 1 - THE PRAYER OF FAITH
LESSON 2 - PRAYING THROUGH

Bring your Bible and a Friend and come join us.

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PRAYER

LESSON 1 - *THE PRAYER OF FAITH*

(1 John 5:14-15 KJV) And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: {15} And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

.....they may know before they get it that God has heard their prayer and granted the thing they have asked. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 112)

1. TO WHOM THE PROMISE IS MADE

(1 John 5:13 KJV) These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

...anyone who does not believe on the name of the Son of God has no right whatever to take this promise to himself,...(John 1:12)...So John himself interprets ‘believing on the name of the Son of God’ to mean receiving the Son of God, that is receiving Him to be to ourselves what He offers Himself to be to all who put their trust in Him, our personal Savior who bore our sins in His own body on the cross, and our Lord and Master to whom we surrender the absolute control of our thoughts, our will, and our conduct. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 113)

(John 1:12 KJV) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

(John 14:13-15 KJV) And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. {14} If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. {15} If ye love me, keep my commandments.

...of course to keep his commandments we must know them, and to know them we must study his Word, in which he has revealed His will to us. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 100)

(1 John 3:22 KJV) And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

..they know instinctively what will please God and what will displease God, and in every action of their lives seek to do the thing that pleases god, whether it please men or not, and not to do the thing that displeases God, no matter who else may do it. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 95)

2. HOW WE MUST PRAY IN ORDER TO KNOW THAT GOD HAS HEARD OUR PRAYERS AND GRANTED THE THING WE HAVE ASKED

A. WE MAY KNOW THE WILL OF GOD BY THE PROMISES IN HIS WORD

(James 1:5 KJV) If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

So when I go to God and ask for wisdom, if I am a believer on the name of the Son of God, I know with absolute certainty that God has heard my prayer and that wisdom will be granted. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 115)

(2 Corinthians 1:20 KJV) For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

They are absolutely sure, and if you plead any plain promise in God's Word you need not put any 'ifs' in your petition. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 116)

IN JESUS CHRIST WE HAVE CONFIDENCE, NOT UNCERTAINTY

(Jeremiah 29:13 KJV) And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Your growth and mine into the likeness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be in the exact proportion to the time and to the heart we put into prayer. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 17)

(Ephesians 1:3 KJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

That is to say, Jesus Christ by His atoning death and by His resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father, has obtained for every believer in Jesus Christ every possible spiritual blessing...Go through your Bible and you will find it definitely stated that every conceivable spiritual blessing is obtained by prayer. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 18)

(Psalms 139:23-24 KJV) Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: {24} And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

(Psalms 19:12-14 KJV) Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. {13} Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. {14} Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

(Psalms 25:4-5 KJV) Show me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. {5} Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

(Luke 11:13 KJV) If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

(2 Corinthians 3:18 KJV) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

IS IT GOD'S WILL FOR ALL PEOPLE TO HAVE ALL OF THE GIFTS?

(1 Corinthians 12:28-31 KJV) And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. {29} Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? {30} Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? {31} But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.

BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE THE SPECIFIC THING YOU PRAY FOR

(Mark 11:24 KJV) Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

We are to believe that we shall receive-...Not something or anything, as it happens; but some particular thing we ask for. (Charles G. Finney, *REVIVAL LECTURES*, Flemming H. Revell, p. 76)

(Hebrews 11:6 KJV) But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

To put an if into God's promise where god has put none, is tantamount to charging God with being insincere. (Charles G. Finney, *REVIVAL LECTURES*, Flemming H. Revell, p. 77)

(Proverbs 30:5 KJV) Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

'Search the Scriptures,' and see where you can get either a general or special promise, or a prophecy, on which you can plant your feet. Go through your Bible and you will find it full of such precious promises, which you may plead in faith. (Charles G. Finney, *REVIVAL LECTURES*, Flemming H. Revell, p. 86)

For instance, suppose it is a time when wickedness prevails greatly, and you are led to pray for God's interference. What promise have you? (Isa. 59:19) Here you see a general promise,.....(Charles G. Finney, *REVIVAL LECTURES*, Flemming H. Revell, p. 78)

(Isaiah 59:19 KJV) So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

(Psalms 103:17-18 KJV) But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; { 18 } To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

Now, here is a promise made to those who possess a certain character. If any parent is conscious that this is his character, he has a rightful ground to

apply it to himself and his family. (Charles G. Finney, *REVIVAL LECTURES*, Flemming H. Revell, p. 79)

(Isaiah 65:24 KJV) And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

...in whatever circumstances a child of God may be placed, God has provided in the Bible some promise, either general or particular, which He can apply, that is precisely suited to his case. (Charles G. Finney, *REVIVAL LECTURES*, Flemming H. Revell, p. 79)

B. CAN WE KNOW THE WILL OF GOD WHEN WE PRAY, EVEN WHEN THERE IS NO DEFINITE PROMISE IN REGARD TO THE MATTER ABOUT WHICH WE ARE PRAYING?

(Romans 8:26-27 KJV) Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. {27} And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit when we pray to make known to us what is the will of God in the matter about which we are praying, and to show us (if the thing is according to His will)...(R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 118)

3. PRAYING IN FAITH

(James 1:5-7 KJV) If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. {6} But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. {7} For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

‘The prayer of faith’ in the Bible sense... is the prayer that has no doubt whatever that God has heard the prayer and granted the specific thing ‘which we have asked of Him’. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 121)

(Mark 11:24 KJV) Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

When we pray to God, and pray according to His will as known by the promises of His Word, or as known by the Holy Spirit revealing His will to us, we should confidently believe that the very thing we have asked is granted us. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 122)

A. To pray the prayer of faith we must, first of all, study the Word of God, especially the promises of God, and find out what the will of God is and build our prayers on the written promises of God. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 123)

(Romans 10:17 KJV) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The faith that is built upon the sure Word of God is an intelligent faith, it has something to rest upon. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 124)

(James 5:14-15 KJV) Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: {15} And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

‘The prayer of faith; shall save the sick,’ God tells us in James 5:15; but it is not always possible to pray ‘the prayer of faith,’ only when God makes it possible by the leading of His Holy Spirit. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 126)

(Mark 9:23 KJV) Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

There is no limit to what ‘the prayer of faith can do’; and if we would pray more and pray more intelligently, and pray ‘the prayer of faith’ there is no telling what we could do. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 127)

(Matthew 18:19-20 KJV) Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. {20} For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

And not only your intercession for the penitent, but all your united prayers, shall be heard. How great, then, is the power of joint prayer! If two of you—Suppose a man and his wife. (John Wesley, *WESLEY’S NOTES ON THE*

4. ABIDING IN CHRIST

(John 15:7 KJV) If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

A. To abide in Christ is to renounce any independent life of our own, to give up trying to think our thoughts, or form our resolutions, or cultivate our feelings, and simply and constantly look to Christ to think His thoughts in us, to form His purposes in us, to feel His emotions and affections in us. It is to renounce all life independent of Christ and constantly to look to Him for the inflow of His life through us...

B. If we are to obtain from God all that we ask from Him, Christ's words must abide or continue in us. We must study His Words, fairly devour His Words, let them sink into our thoughts and into our heart, keep them in our memory, obey them constantly in our life, let them shape and mold our daily life and our every act. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 59)

PRAYER

LESSON 2 - *PRAYING THROUGH*

(James 5:16-18 KJV) Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. {17} Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. {18} And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

These words of God set forth prayer as a working force, as a prayer that brings things to pass that would not come to pass if it were not for prayer...But praying is working. It is the most effective work that anyone can do; that is, we can often bring more to pass by praying than we can by any other form of effort we might put forth. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 27)

(1 Kings 17:1 KJV) And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

(James 4:2 KJV) Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

‘Ye have not, because ye ask not.’ A message from God is contained in those seven short words...”why is it,’ many a Christian is asking, ‘that I make such poor progress in my Christian life?’ Why do I have so little victory over sin? Why do I win so few souls to Christ? Why do I grow so slowly into the likeness of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?’ And God answers in the words of our text—‘Neglect of prayer. You have not, because you ask not.’ (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 13)

**NOTICE THE CONNECTION IN THE EARLY CHURCH
BETWEEN THEIR SUCCESS AND THEIR PRAYER LIFE.**

(Acts 2:47 KJV) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

(Acts 4:4 KJV) Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

(Acts 5:14 KJV) And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

(Acts 6:7 KJV) And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

(Acts 2:42 KJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

(Acts 6:4 KJV) But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

A considerable proportion of the membership of our evangelical churches today do not believe even theoretically in prayer, that is, they do not believe in prayer as bringing anything to pass that would not have come to pass even if they had not prayed. They believe in prayer as having a beneficial "relax influence".....(R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 16)

PRAYING THROUGH

(Luke 11:5-10 KJV) And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; {6} For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? {7} And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. {8} I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. {9} And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. {10} For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

(Matthew 15:21-28 KJV) Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. {22} And, behold, a woman of

Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. {23} But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. {24} But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. {25} Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. {26} But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs. {27} And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. {28} Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Our heavenly Father delights in the holy boldness on our part that will not take 'no' for an answer. The reason why he delights in it is, because it is an expression of great faith,....God does not always give us the things we ask the first time we ask them, but then we should not give up; no, we should keep on praying until we do receive. We should not only pray, but we should pray through. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. (130-131))

(Luke 18:1-8 KJV) And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; {2} Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: {3} And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. {4} And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; {5} Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. {6} And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. {7} And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? {8} I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

...when we begin to pray we ought to pray on until we get the thing that we desire of God. The exact force of the parable is, that if even an unrighteous judge will yield to persistent prayer and grant the thing that he did not wish to grant, how much more with a loving God yield to the persistent cries of His children and give the things that He longs to give all the time, but which it would not be wise to give, would not be for the person's own good to give,

unless they were trained to that persevering faith that will not take ‘no’ for an answer. So we see again that God does not always give us at the first asking what we desire of Him in prayer. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 132)

(Matthew 26:44 KJV) And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

PRAYING THROUGH IS NOT THE SAME AS VAIN REPETITIONS

(Matthew 7:7 KJV) Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

PRAYING IN THE HOLY GHOST

(Jude 1:20 KJV) But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Indeed the whole secret of prayer is found in these three words, in the Spirit. It is the prayer that God the Holy Spirit inspires that God the Father answers. (R. A. Torrey, *HOW TO PRAY*, Moody Press, p. 47)

(John 14:16-17 KJV) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; {17} Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

(Romans 8:26 KJV) Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

He teaches us how to pray. True prayer is prayer in the Spirit; that is, the prayer the Spirit inspires and directs. When we come into God’s presence we should recognize “our infirmity, “ our ignorance of what we should pray for or how we should pray for it, and in the consciousness of our utter inability to pray aright we should look up to the Holy Spirit, casting ourselves utterly upon Him to direct our prayers, to lead out our desires and to guide our utterance of them. (R. A. Torrey, *HOW TO PRAY*, Moody Press, p. 48)

(Ephesians 6:18 KJV) Praying always with all prayer and suppli-

cation in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

“praying in the Holy Spirit” is determination in our praying, the determination to get what we ask from God, a persistence in asking until we get it. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 141)

HOW TO PRAY TO GET WHAT YOU ASK FOR

(Acts 12:5-8 KJV) Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. {6} And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. {7} And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. {8} And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

FOUR THINGS IN ACTS 12:5 SHOW US HOW TO PRAY TO GET WHAT WE ASK FOR

1. “Unto God”

I do not believe that one in a hundred of the prayers of Protestant believers are really unto God...If there is to be any power in prayer, if our prayer is to get anything, the first thing to be sure of when we pray is that we have really come into the presence of God, and are really speaking to Him. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 61)

(Hebrews 10:19 KJV) Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

(Hebrews 4:15-16 KJV) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. {16} Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

But on the ground of the shed blood of Jesus Christ the vilest sinner who ever walked this earth, who has turned from his sin and accepted Jesus Christ and trusts in the shed blood as the ground of his acceptance before God, can come into the presence of God any day of the year, and any hour of the day or night, and with perfect boldness speak out every longing of his heart and get what he asks for from God. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 63)

2. "without ceasing"

If we are to pray with power we must pray with intense earnestness throwing our whole soul into the prayer. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 70)

(1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV) Pray without ceasing.

3. "of the church"

(Matthew 18:19-20 KJV) Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. {20} For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Someone else has a burden on his heart, he comes to you and asks you to unite with him in praying for this thing and you consent, and you both pray for it. Now you are "agreed" in praying but you are not agreed at all "as touching" the thing that you ask. He asks for it because he asks you to ask for it. You are not at all agreed "as touching" the thing that you ask. But when God, by his Holy Spirit, puts the same burden on two hearts, and they thus in the unity of the Spirit pray for the same thing, there is no power on earth or in hell to keep them from getting it. Our Heavenly Father will do for them the thing that they ask. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 75)

4. "for Him"

BE SPECIFIC IN YOUR PRAYERS

PRAYING WITH THANKSGIVING

(Philippians 4:6-7 KJV) Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. {7} And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

(Luke 17:17 KJV) And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

Thanksgiving is one of the inevitable results of being filled with the Holy Spirit and one who does not learn 'in everything to give thanks' cannot continue to pray in the Spirit. (R. A. Torrey, *HOW TO PRAY*, Moody Press, p. 65)

(Ephesians 6:17-20 KJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: {18} Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; {19} And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, {20} For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Here we see the power of prayer to bring blessing and boldness and efficiency to ministers of the gospel.....any church may have a mighty man of God for its pastor, if it is willing to pay the price, and that price is not a big salary but great praying. (R. A. Torrey, *THE POWER OF PRAYER*, 1924 Zondervan, p. 34)

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