



# Praying With God Video Course

## Session One: Introduction

John and Heather Alcock

*'After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly' Acts 4: 31*

# Session One Introduction



*'The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].'* James 5: 16b

## Welcome to Praying With God Video Course

In the video introduction, John described how he learnt to pray effectively and lead prayer groups in the tense and violent political situation in South Africa in the 90's. Almost everyone today, believers and non-believers, is sensing that we are living in critical times. For the Church of Jesus Christ, this is a time for intense intercession. Our prayers 'avail much' and effective prayer has the potential to bring the lost to salvation, to change global events and situations and to prepare the way for the return of the Messiah. Our prayers will also refresh us and give us opportunities to commune with God.

The Old Testament gives many accounts of how when the people of Israel turned to God in prayer and fasting, there was revival. Historically, moves of God and revivals have been preceded by seasons of travailing prayers, for example, Charles Finney and Father Nash.

The key to change is effective and powerful prayer. This involves praying effective prayers and praying WITH God rather than TO Him. He has given us the tremendous privilege of partnering with Him.

In this course John shows how, when we pray WITH God, our prayers will be effective and powerful. He will cover:

- ‡ Why you need to pray even if God knows all
- ‡ What happens when you pray
- ‡ How to pray in the will of God
- ‡ How corporate prayer meetings can be more effective
- ‡ How to pray spirit led prayers
- ‡ How to pray with God

## Suggestions on how to use the workbook and videos

Listen to or watch the videos first and follow up by working through the session notes. The notes and information in the workbook roughly follow the videos, but there is additional content.

Most sessions have some activities for you to complete such as Bible Studies, Reflective Questions, or Activations.

The activities are indicated by the following icons:



Key scripture verses



Notes



Key points



Reflective Questions



Activations



Bible Study

## Activities



### Reflective Questions

1. Is prayer easy or difficult for you?
  
2. Do you frequently see answers to your prayers? Have you seen remarkable results from your prayers? Record them below.

## Activity: Locating My Prayer Life

Think about your prayer life and locate where you might be in the following statements. Ring the number closest to how you feel or think. For example, in statement 1, if you are always talking to God on a daily basis, throughout the day, ring 1.

I am always talking to God	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	There are days I never pray
God always answers my prayers	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	God is not interested in my prayers
I believe my prayers make a difference	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	I don't think my prayers change anything
I believe God hears my prayers even if I don't see an answer	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	When there is no obvious answer, I don't think God has heard my prayer
I enjoy praying in a group	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	I don't like praying with others
My prayer life is dynamic and growing	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	My prayer life is dead
I believe the Holy Spirit can help me to pray	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	I feel alone when I pray
I often ask the Holy Spirit to help me pray	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	I never ask the Holy Spirit to help me pray



## Activation

Read the following scripture from Romans 8: 26-27 and spend a few minutes asking God to help you go through this course and to show you what He would like you to know. Write down what He may say to you.

*'In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.'*