

## PRAYER LESSON 135

### Praying to the Triune God

Jesus taught us to pray and he continues to be involved in our prayers. Paul wrote in Romans 8:34 that Jesus is **at the right hand of the Father interceding for us**. The writer to the Hebrews in Hebrews 7:24-25 says **because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them**. And Hebrews 9:24 says that when Christ ascended **he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence**.

We find in Hebrews 4:15 Jesus described as **one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin**. It is good to know that Jesus, who lived among us and knows what it is like to be one of us, is at the Father's right hand interceding for us.

The question then arises, "Should we pray to Jesus or only to the Father?" All of Jesus' teaching and all of the apostles teaching would lead us to pray only to the Father. There is no precedent in scripture for praying to Jesus or to the Holy Spirit. Yet, each member of the trinity is completely God, and therefore, there is probably nothing to prohibit our directing our prayers to any of God's persons.

Each member of the trinity is involved in our prayers as it is only as a result of the Spirit's presence that we would even think to pray, and our only access to the Father is as a result of the work of Jesus in removing the sin barrier between us and God. Therefore, it is wise to acknowledge the presence of the Spirit as we pray, and also to acknowledge that we come to the Father in the name of Jesus.

Remember that Jesus is at the Father's side interceding for us. We do not need to pray according to some prescribed formula, but simply from our hearts. The triune God is always listening.