

The Ailbe Seminary

The Fellowship of Ailbe



Realizing the presence, promise, and power of the Kingdom of God.

The Parameters of Prayer
Ladders 2.6.1.1

Introduction and Overview

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Course Introduction

Welcome

Spiritual life begins in prayer, is sustained by prayer, grows through prayer, and finds its greatest delight and focus in prayer.

Nothing could be more important, therefore, than for all Christians to understand the nature and promise of prayer, and to enter fully and consistently into this discipline, as often as possible.

The Parameters of Prayer is designed as an introduction and overview of the life of prayer, to guide students into a better understanding, greater appreciation, and more consistent use of this great privilege and gift.

Course Purpose

The Parameters of Prayer examines the scope and practice of prayer as the foundation of all spiritual disciplines. Our purpose is to enlarge your vision of prayer, deepen your understanding of this discipline, and lead you into more consistent and satisfying use of prayer as the basis for your walk with and work for the Lord.

This course is open to all students. However, *The Parameters of Prayer* also introduces the resources of our Men's Prayer Movement, to show men how they can become involved in growing in prayer and enlisting and teaching other men how to practice and benefit from this discipline.

Course Goals

As in all our courses, our goal is to encourage and lead you into greater love for God and your neighbors. Love for God is developed in prayer as we draw near to Him, delight in His presence, and are transformed by His glory. In prayer, as we intercede for our neighbors, we grow in love for them as well, as we prepare in prayer to serve them with the love of Jesus. Our goals, therefore, are simple:

1. To explore the broad parameters of a life of prayer, and to lead students into a deeper and more consistent practice of prayer, within those parameters;
2. To equip students to lead others into greater consistency, fruitfulness, and delight in prayer.

The more we pray with understanding and vision, the more we will grow in love for God and others. When you sense this happening in your life, you can know that your prayers are being heard and answered according to the good purposes of God.

Course Outline

Here is in outline of the course *Parameters of Prayer*:

Unit 1: Foundations for Prayer

- Lessons 1 and 2: The Promise of Prayer
- Lessons 3 and 4: The Primacy of Prayer
- Lessons 5 and 6: The Preconditions of Prayer

Unit 2: Flourishing in Prayer

- Lessons 7 and 8: The Practice of Prayer
- Lessons 9 and 10: The Potential of Prayer
- Lessons 11 and 12: Prayer for the Kingdom

A more complete Schedule of Assignments is provided upon enrollment.

Course Format and Materials

This course uses a varied approach to teaching and learning. The assignments are designed to take no more than 10-12 hours per week, and this includes incorporating your study of prayer into your daily practice of prayer:

Brief video presentations: These are available online. The videos introduce the themes of the next two Lessons and highlight the most important points.

Individual study materials: The primary content of each of two Lessons is contained in the study series, *The Parameters of Prayer*. The six studies in this series include reading, reflection, and practical exercises to help the student gain a better understanding and more consistent practice of prayer. To supplement this study, a series of *Morning and Evening* readings, entitled, *Give Him No Rest*, is provided in PDF.

Supplemental reading on prayer: In addition to the daily *Morning and Evening* readings, the following books are required for this course, and can be purchased at the online bookstore of The Fellowship of Ailbe (www.ailbe.org):

If Men Will Pray, by T. M. Moore (you will need 2 copies of this booklet, [click here](#))
The Poetry of Prayer, by T. M. Moore (to purchase, [click here](#))
Restore Us!, by T. M. Moore (to purchase, [click here](#))

If purchasing *The Poetry of Prayer* and/or *Restore Us!* works a hardship on any student, please let us know, and we will provide you with PDF copies of these books at no charge.

Participation in prayer: Each student will **keep a daily prayer journal**, a record of daily prayer activities and highlights, throughout the duration of the course. In addition, each student will **enlist a friend for a month-long exercise in growing together in prayer**. This will be explained in the Lessons for the course. Each student is required to **attend one meeting of a Revival Prayer Group**. These groups meet online, and will be provided a schedule of meeting opportunities. Further, students will **find a prayer partner** to meet with throughout the course to share and pray about what they are learning.

Submissions: Six times throughout the course you will be asked to submit for review various materials related to the Lesson you are studying.

Optional Online Discussions: Opportunities are provided, at intervals throughout the course, for students to meet together with Course Readers and Course Presenters to discuss matters relative to the course. Students will be advised of the dates and times of these optional sessions, and sent a link to join in our online conference room.

How to Proceed

This course is divided into 12 Lessons and is designed to be completed in 90 days. Plan to do one Lesson per week. Lessons are divided into two parts to give you enough time to complete all the assignments and prepare for your Submission. Complete all the assignments before proceeding to the next Lesson.

It is very important that you take the time not just to read and hear about prayer, but to *practice* prayer according to the guidelines and exercises provided. Your Submissions will pay particular attention to what you are learning in those times of prayer as assigned.

When you have finished the course, please provide us a few words of feedback, to help us improve our teaching, using the questionnaire at the end of the Schedule of Assignments.

We hope you will find this *Parameters of Prayer* to be a challenging, stretching, and rewarding experience of growing in this most fundamental of Christian disciplines.