

G P S - God's Prayer Strategies



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INTRODUCTION:

How many times have you heard someone ask for prayer because they did not have confidence in their own prayer? They were not sure their prayer would work. This book will help you realize the potential in prayer and give you the knowledge to know how to pray. This book is designed to bring you and/or your church to a higher level in prayer, become part of the end-time harvest and be a light in the darkness.

We have all prayed corporately, hoping that somebody's prayer would hit the mark. The military has developed what they call "smart bombs" which incorporate GPS (global positioning systems). With this technology, it only takes one programmed smart bomb to hit the mark. So it is with our prayers. As we understand God's GPS (God's Prayer Strategies), we can become much more effective in our prayer life.

A "dumb bomb" is a bomb that is simply dropped from an airplane. The bomb is considered "dumb" because it simply falls to the ground without actively steering itself. A bomber might have to drop dozens or even hundreds of dumb bombs to hit his target effectively.

The smart-bomb technology feeds the bomb's computer its current position and the GPS coordinates of the target. Then the control system adjusts the flight fins to "steer" the bomb in the right direction. According to the U.S. Air Force, the system is accurate to within 40 feet (13 meters). When everything goes right, the bomb generally hits within a few feet of its target.

We want our prayers to hit the mark the same way! Whether it's finances, healing, relationships, etc., we need to know that prayer applied properly hits the mark every time.

The power of our prayer is dependent on our faith in God, and the effectiveness of our prayer is dependent on our ability to release that faith and receive when we pray.

Hebrews 11:6 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.

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

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CHAPTER 1

PRAYER MUST BE FOUNDATIONAL

From this book, you will be able to:

1. Develop and maintain a powerful prayer strategy.
2. Stir an appetite for prayer within the local church.
3. Establish and train dedicated prayer leaders.
4. Link your vision to prayer strategy.
5. Understand how smart prayers and GPS can work for you personally and within the church.

God has always moved through the church by worship and prayer. Prayer cannot be a random activity or a loosely organized effort. God has always

desired that prayer would be at the center of the local church because that is where it belongs. It deserves all the attention and thought that the most important activity of the church requires because it is the most important activity of the church.

- Vision must be in place for effective prayer.
- Preaching must proclaim the truth of prayer.
- Leaders must demonstrate the value of prayer.
- Leadership must provide the way for prayer to come to the forefront of the local church.
- Prayer leads the way to a victorious church.

It is very easy for a regularly scheduled prayer service to become the major prayer emphasis in the local church. When that happens, prayer simply becomes another “thing” the church does. It takes its place among all the other “ministries” of the church. Prayer then becomes secondary instead of foundational. The biblical ideal is for prayer to be foundational to everything done in and through the church.

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

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

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 13:1-3 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

The Comprehensive Prayer Plan for Strategic GPS Prayer

- 1. It must be Bible based:** A comprehensive prayer plan is built on biblical prayer principles. Every believer must be careful to participate and teach only biblical prayer and

activities. (This must be learned and taught.) Never teach personal opinion and/or experience that does not line up with biblical truth.

2. **It must be Multi-Cultural:** Every church has a variety of cultural, social, and spiritual needs. The three strategic foundations, (Personal Prayer, Corporate Prayer, and Kingdom Prayer) offer a basic structure for the church to build their prayer plan. These foundations are flexible and adaptable for any church. The more prayer options you offer to people, the more people will be praying.
3. **It must Saturate the Church:** Allow the church to experience “total prayer saturation.” Pray for believers, nonbelievers, and personal needs. Allow prayer to saturate the entire life and ministry of each believer, church, and community.
4. **It must be Evangelistic in Focus:** Focus church members on prayer that takes the Gospel to the world. Our relationship with Christ should cause others to see Him in us. We should learn to pray for and be ready to share Jesus with everyone in “our world”.

What is GPS - Gods Prayer Strategies?

GPS is an idea that can inspire us to renew our passion for the Lord Jesus. It invites us to recognize the power of God's kingdom in our lives, families, and churches. It helps us to join God's work through Christ-like living, service, and witness.

GPS is not a denominational plan. It is a Bible plan. It is a call to stir the fire of prayer once again, to be a vital part of God's kingdom business. Just as an electronic GPS system will tell you where you are in the natural, Gods GPS will not only tell you where you are today and guide you through your tomorrow, it will guide you to where God wants you to be spiritually. It will answer the question: Lord, what do you want me to do?

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

In Matthew 6:9-10, Jesus tells His followers to pray, "Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Prayer is central to His teaching on how the kingdom of God moves through our lives and the world. This passage demonstrates that if congregations are to be instruments of the kingdom to a lost and dying world, prayer must be

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foundational and central to the body and all of its activity.

A COMPREHENSIVE GPS MINISTRY IS A
BIBLE-BASED PRAYER STRATEGY THAT
ASSISTS INDIVIDUALS AND CHURCHES AS
THEY SEEK TO EMPOWER KINGDOM
GROWTH IN THEIR WORLD.

CHAPTER 2

USING GPS IN YOUR CHURCH AND PERSONAL LIFE

A THREE-PART PLAN

A GPS Ministry includes three strategic foundations. These prayer foundations can provide direction for each event and activity. (Refer to the bullet points to help stay on track with Personal Prayer - the first foundation.)

1. Personal Prayer

Renew a personal passion for Jesus through praying constantly and in every situation.

*Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and
renew a right spirit within me.*

I Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

This portion of the prayer plan highlights the personal foundation in prayer. As believers, we should begin to practice an unceasing prayer life. Prayer must assume its primary and foundational place in the center of our lives. The following suggestions can help us all to pray constantly and in every situation.

- Encourage ministry staff and church leadership to model a life of prayer.
- Keep testimonies concerning answered prayer in front of the congregation.
- Lead the corporate body in personal prayer.
- Encourage personal prayer while providing devotional and inspirational reading materials for the congregation.
- Challenge the congregation to increase time spent in personal prayer.
- Realize that without Christ we can do nothing, but with Him all things are possible. (see John 15:5, Phil. 4:13)

2. Corporate Prayer

Reclaim the church as a “House of Prayer” with a passion for lost people. The second foundation is Corporate Prayer.

Mark 11:17 And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? . . .

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

When individuals begin to pray unceasingly they will create a house of prayer.

As prayer becomes foundational in a congregation, the focus of ministry turns toward the Father’s focus on a lost world.

Developing A Healthy Corporate Prayer Strategy

Every important area or activity in which the church is involved should be covered by focused prayer. Also, a large cross-section of the church should be actively providing prayer support.

Prayer should always cover major aspects of the church:

- Leadership
- Vision and Direction
- Major Projects
- Congregational Needs
- Community Needs
- The Nation and the World

Prayer should include various segments of the church:

- Women
 - Men
 - Children
 - Leaders
 - Ministry Teams
 - Worship Team
 - Evangelism Team
 - Youth Leaders
 - Media, etc.
-
- Develop a church prayer room ministry that focuses on personal, corporate, and kingdom prayer.

 - Challenge the congregation to make their

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homes lighthouses of prayer and outreach.

- Begin a “prayer station” or “prayer booth” ministry in the innercity, at yard sales, carnivals, craft shows, flea markets, and during county and state fairs. (A nonthreatening environment where people can receive private and individual prayer.)
- Begin a midweek prayer time that focuses on prayer for nonbelievers, believers, and evangelistic mission efforts.
- Develop men’s, women’s, senior adults, youth, and children’s prayer cell groups.
- Encourage home prayer meetings before revivals and/or evangelistic meetings.
- Include prayer topics in your weekly bulletin or handouts.

The Early Church Had Daily Corporate Prayer

Matthew 18:19-20 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.

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20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 21:13 "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer. . ."

Luke 1:10 And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Acts 16:16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind,

be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

I Timothy 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--

3. Kingdom Prayer

Respond to God's call to unite believers in focused prayer for global evangelization. The third foundation is Kingdom Prayer.

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

John 17:20-21 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

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That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

As individuals and churches become houses of prayer with a passion for lost people, we begin to see the need to look toward the worldwide harvest. Churches begin to consider ways to join other congregations in prayer events (e.g., National Day of Prayer, See You at The Pole, etc.)

If we begin our strategy with the kingdom foundation or the corporate foundation first, we will become frustrated. We must begin at the beginning. It must begin with personal prayer.

1. Beginning a prayer strategy with the personal foundation leads believers into a personal relationship with Christ through prayer.
2. The corporate prayer foundation reclaims the church as the house of prayer.
3. Then you have a diverse and growing number of people who are interested in the kingdom foundation of prayer.

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- Encourage congregational participation in the National Day of Prayer.
- Provide ways for youth to unite with other youth for the “See You at The Pole” prayer effort.
- Mobilize families to participate in supportive prayer events. (The night before SYATP.)
- Lead the church in times of prayer for the missionaries they support.
- Sponsor interdenominational pastors’ prayer groups and prayer meetings.
- Encourage longer and more frequent times for corporate prayer that focuses on specific prayer needs.

Linking Vision To Prayer Strategy

In Mark 11:24 it says if we believe we receive when we pray, we shall have. God allows leaders to see into the future for vision and to establish direction. Allow the congregation to pray for clarity for the leaders. Then use that vision and direction the leaders receive as a focus for prayer. The future of

the church is dependent on those prayers.

- What is important to you?
- Keep vision in front of you and your congregation.
- Praying for a certain vision helps to establish that vision and produce the fruit of that vision. For instance: Praying for the lost quickens vision for evangelism.

Acts 4:24-31 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

26 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.'

27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

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30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

31 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.

CHAPTER 3

LET'S GET STARTED

Developing a strategic plan for prayer will be determined by your vision. What has God called you to do? If you have not written this down, take the time to do it now.

It is important to identify the prayer strategies that are working and effective versus those that need to be adjusted or even eliminated.

Incorporate focused (laser/smart - pg. #24) prayer into every area of ministry. Implement prayer as a primary part of each ministry outreach, program, etc.

**PRAYER IS NOT WHAT WE DO
IT IS WHO WE ARE**

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Make provision for prayer groups to meet at a time and in a place that will best accommodate them. Use the suggested 16 steps to help you create a GPS Ministry in your church.

1. Select through prayer a church prayer ministry coordinator. The Pastor or whomever he/she selects should fill this position.
2. The Pastor and prayer coordinator select through prayer a prayer team that will work together with the Pastor to create a Comprehensive GPS plan that is unique to your church. The team can vary in size based on the size of the church and church needs.
3. The prayer coordinator should head the team and be responsible to the Pastor. The prayer team can also provide evangelism and prayer training.
4. The Pastor should take the lead in promoting, teaching, modeling, and reminding the congregation of the importance of prayer.
5. Encourage individual prayer. Use this opportunity to identify and recruit

intercessors through prayer retreats, prayer rooms, home prayer groups, special prayer services, etc

6. Launch new prayer groups at work places, through the Sunday school, in small groups, and Discipleship Training. Encourage prayer groups to meet before and during the worship services.
7. Provide a prayer room. Include resources to help people pray and grow in prayer.
8. If you have a Wednesday night Bible study service, include a prayer time or run a prayer service parallel to the Bible study. (Pray for believers, nonbelievers, individual spiritual growth, church vision, etc.)
9. Create prayer chains for groups of people in your congregation and community. Groups can be created by ethnic group, profession, or interest. Men, women, singles, youth, lawyers, construction workers, and so on can pray specifically and intentionally for others in their profession – locally, nationally, and globally. Postal workers, police officers, and other

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service providers could pray for the homes on their routes.

10. Develop prayer lists of people in the community. Pray for the names in the telephone book, etc.
11. Participate in national prayer events, national day of prayer, prayer at the pole, etc.
12. Schedule a corporate prayer time during the worship service, pray in groups, pray for missionaries, etc., and make prayer a vital part of the worship service.
13. Create GPS Prayer teams in every community and/or on every street.
14. Schedule on-site prayer with as many groups as possible and as often as possible.
15. Plan a mission trip that includes a prayer team.
16. Partner with other churches to participate in community, state, national, and/or international prayer events.

CHAPTER 4

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING

Proper training is key to establishing a solid infrastructure for prayer both individually and in the local church.

- Continually bring clarity to the focus and purpose of prayer, before and after times of prayer. Don't assume everyone is up on what you are up on. (There is a balance here. If you spend too much time on teaching, you could lose interest in the prayer time. People have come to pray. Teaching must be short and to the point.)
- Teach the importance of maintaining a mind and heart of unity within the prayer group.

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- Determine the level or type of prayer you may be comfortable allowing in a specific group.
- Prayer styles are easily learned and passed on to new people.
- The leader/coordinator needs to know how to maintain order while staying on track with the purpose of prayer.

Creating an Appetite for Prayer

Prayer can become dry unless it is watered and tended in the hearts of believers. We must never lose sight of personal prayer. This will ensure effectiveness and potency throughout the years. It is not enough to be excited about prayer for a month or two.

- Recognize where key points of prayer may be established. A certain subject or group may be key to stirring the passion for prayer.
- Keep the passion for prayer by preaching it!
- Keep the passion in prayer by teaching it!
- Develop a way to continually share answers to prayer with the entire church body.

CHAPTER 5

SMART PRAYERS USING GPS GOD'S PRAYER STRATEGIES

1. Locate yourself:
Find out where you are. What is the need?
Why do you want/need to pray?
2. What is your target:
Find out where you want to be. Consider the promises of God. Find the promise or promises that answer the need. Build your faith on: 1-God's promises and 2-God's faithfulness.
3. Program the prayer:
There are 8 specific types of prayer taught in

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chapter 7 - page 35. Find the prayer or combinations of prayer for your specific need.

4. Release the prayer and make an explosive force for God.

The Bible talks about different types of prayers. Know what type of prayer to pray and how to pray.

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplications in the spirit.

Remember Mark 11:24 - This is the time to believe you have recieved.

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

I have had individuals ask me to pray. When I ask them, "What can I pray with you about?", they act surprised and just want me to pray as though it's a magic wand I wave to cure whatever might be wrong. Prayer doesn't work that way. The Bible shows us there are specific prayers for specific needs and they operate in specific ways. When these prayers are prayed in the right way, they become like *smart bombs*. One prayer prayed the right way will hit its mark.

PRAYER SCHOOL

CHAPTER 6

CULTIVATING YOUR PRAYER LIFE

What is Prayer?

As we begin the study of prayer, it is necessary to define the meaning of prayer. Sometimes we think that prayer is simply talking to God, asking Him to answer our requests. That is partially true. Prayer is really a two-way conversation with God. We talk to God but we must also listen to God. It is a conversation between both parties. Prayer is the strongest link between man and God – it needs to be the Christian’s way of life.

If you are a new believer or one who has not spent a lot of time in prayer, it is important to know that we can come to God at any time. We have a relationship with Him as the result of accepting Jesus as our Lord

and Savior. We are looking for a meaningful relationship/fellowship with Him.

Relationship

Relationship with God is positional. By believing and accepting Jesus as Savior and Lord, we have come into the body of Christ. We have passed from death to life. We have “positionally” become a Christian and our position with God is our relationship with Him. It is important that we go to God building that relationship into a meaningful fellowship.

Fellowship

Fellowship is the result of spending time with Him. If we desire a successful Christian walk, we should learn to cultivate our prayer life. Then we can experience fellowship with the Lord. Fellowship with the Lord is not taught, but something that is caught. It is something that has been birthed in our hearts. Something that is meaningful and essential to our Christian life. This lesson will help us find that place of fellowship with the Lord. We will have to choose to desire that fellowship. When we choose to spend time with Him we will be on our way to catching the heart of God.

Begin to spend time each day in prayer. Time alone with the Lord will help our relationship become

fellowship. The purpose of this lesson is to help develop that daily time with the Lord into a habit that will set the course for a lifetime of intimacy with Him.

Building Relationships

Let's hunger to be in God's presence more and more. Desire that prayer will become an important part of our day and our life. If we are going to develop a loving relationship with others, we must first develop a solid, loving fellowship with the Lord.

Why Should We Pray?

There are many reasons to pray. First, we were created to have fellowship with our Creator. God desires for His children to worship and praise Him. This will create an intimate fellowship. He desires for us to get to know Him, thanking Him for what He has done. We learn to bring our problems to Him, but more importantly, we just share ourselves with Him. God created us in such a way that our fellowship with Him brings fulfillment and satisfaction. It is the reason we were created.

God Dependent vs Man Dependent

The most important thing a believer can do is to spend time with the Lord. If we go to God first, from the very beginning of our walk with the Lord,

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we will learn to become “God dependent” instead of “man dependent.” We will lean on God instead of other people. While there is nothing wrong with talking with other Christians concerning problems in life, our prayer life will be more effective if we learn to go to God first. God designed us to be dependent on Him, not dependent on others or ourselves. As Christians, we cannot effectively live life on our own, independent from God. We need a lifeline to God as He guides and instructs us through life. It is through a life in prayer that we cultivate our love life with the Lord and learn to depend on Him for everything. It is never too late to develop this type of relationship. Being in this place puts God in the center of our lives. And that is exactly where He wants to be and needs to be.

- Go to God first to worship Him. He wants to be worshipped.
- Go to God first to praise Him. Acknowledge Him before others.
- Go to God first to thank Him. Develop a thankful heart toward the blessings He has given us.
- Go to God first to commune with Him. That is why He created us.

- Go to God first to put Him in His rightful place in our life. This acknowledges God as the Creator and center of the universe.
- Go to God first with our problems. Allow Him to solve our problems instead of relying on other people.

A Balanced Christian Life

A balance of the knowledge of the Word of God and time in prayer is very important in our lives.

Most Christians tend to lean one way or the other, to lean more toward prayer or lean more to reading the Word. If we concentrate more on the Word over prayer, we run the risk of becoming judgmental. If, on the other hand, we concentrate more on praying than on the Word, we run the risk of becoming unsound in our thinking. The risk of hearing from the devil and not knowing it is not only a possibility, but a probability. We must be able to discern what we are hearing by the Word of God. The balance of the Word of God and prayer is vital for a happy, secure, full life in Christ.

Alone with God

It is impossible to know God deeply with shallow conversation. Intimacy with Him requires time and

trust. The deepest working of the Holy Spirit comes during time spent alone in His presence. When we set aside time for fellowship with God, we enter into the richest experience of the Christian life.

Our Conscience is the Voice of Our Spirit

As believers, we can follow that voice. We must realize that our conscience is the voice of our spirit. When we realize that our spirit has a voice, and we can hear it, then we can listen. The Bible says, “The spirit of man is the candle (or light) of the Lord.” Proverbs 20:27. In other words, God is going to speak to our own spirit to guide us. When we spend time with God in prayer, we should spend much of the time listening to that voice, the voice of our spirit. That voice will be a sense of peace and it will never contradict the Word of God. How many times have we reasoned something out, but down on the inside it seemed like we should do something else? Then later on, we realized we should have followed that inner voice. That inner voice is our conscience. That’s the voice of our spirit. That’s where God speaks.

Acts 23:1 And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience. . .

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Proverbs 20:27 The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD. . .

II Peter 1:21 Holy men of God spoke (the WORD) as they were moved by the HOLY SPIRIT.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The Character of God

If we have a wrong concept of God, it can affect our prayer life. It is vital that we understand that God loves us and wants the very best for each one of us. To understand God more deeply, we need to know how He works in any given situation. God has a personality and character. He has a method to everything He does. He is not so secretive that we have no idea how He operates. God is predictable! In His predictability, God wants us to know how He operates in any given situation. He wants us to know His ways, to learn His method of operation. That can only be learned through the Word and prayer.

Job 22:21 Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

“Abba Father”

In the New Testament, God is primarily referred to as Heavenly Father. It is God’s desire to have many sons and daughters. The Greek word for father is “Abba.” The word father, however, has different meanings to different people. If we grew up with a loving, caring father, our concept of a Heavenly Father will probably be loving and caring. If our earthly father, however, was not loving and caring but possibly abusive, we could view our Heavenly Father in the same way. We need to realize that our Heavenly Father is the father we always wanted and dreamed of. Even if we were fortunate to have had “close to the perfect father”, we need to see that God is far better than any earthly father could ever be. God’s character is flawless.

Positions in Prayer

When we read the New Testament, we need to realize that God taught His people to pray under the Old Covenant. He taught not only the heart of prayer, but He also taught the positions of prayer. His instructions did not change under the New Covenant. Because of that, there are only a few references regarding positions in prayer in the New Testament.

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I Timothy 2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Hebrews 12:12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down...

In Scripture, God shows us many ways to pray. We see that people knelt, laid on the ground, sat, and stood before the Lord. The primary way that God's people prayed in the Scriptures was standing with uplifted hands; eyes wide open, looking up into the heavens. Since Scripture is not specific as to what kind of position to use in prayer, we are free to pray in whatever position we are led to pray. We will discover that God will have us pray in all kinds of positions. Our physical position is not the important thing in prayer. It is what goes on in our spirit and soul that matters. So, pray in whatever position you are comfortable.

In every culture, raising hands is a sign of surrender, and that is exactly what we are doing when we raise our hands to God. We are surrendering our very life to Him.

CHAPTER 7

VARIOUS KINDS OF PRAYER

When we pray, not all praying is the same and not all prayers are prayed in the same way. In the Amplified version of Ephesians 6:18, the Word of God tells us that there are manners, or kinds, of prayers.

Ephesians 6:18 (Amplified) Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).

There are different kinds of prayers with different kinds of rules. The root reason for discouragement in prayer is because we use wrong rules for different

kinds of prayers. As an example: In sports there are different rules for baseball, football, soccer, and bowling. The question is then – what would happen if we took a football and ran around the bases of a baseball field and expected a goal as we rounded home plate? Or what would happen if we tried to pass a bowling ball down the 50 yard line? This may sound crazy, but the results are the same. We can't really expect to have effective answers to prayer by praying the wrong kinds of prayers and in the wrong way.

Using the Right Rules in Prayer

When we pray, it is important to use the right rules for the prayers we are praying. The rules for the Prayer of Faith are different from the rules for the Prayer of Commitment, and we will discover that the Prayer of Consecration is different than the Prayer of Commitment.

Eight Different Kinds of Prayers

In this lesson, eight different kinds of prayer will be discussed, as well as their meaning.

1. The prayer of Petition/Faith
2. The prayer of Consecration
3. The prayer of Commitment

4. The prayer of Praise and Worship
5. The prayer of Agreement
6. The prayer of Intercession
7. United Prayer
8. Praying in the Spirit

1. The Prayer of Petition - more commonly known as the Prayer of Faith.

What is the Prayer of Faith?

When we ask God for something, we must believe that we have received. When we ask God, we **MUST** believe He answered our prayer. That is the key – believing from our heart, not just hoping from our head. Faith means we believe we have what we ask for. Another word for asking is “petition.” We are petitioning God for something we believe He has already promised.

“If It Be Thy Will”

Many of us have prayed to God saying “if it be Thy will.” What we don’t realize is we have negated our prayer before we finished our sentence. There is only one time in all of Scripture where this kind of prayer was prayed. It was prayed by Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before His death. Jesus was not asking God for something in faith. He started

out by pleading with God to remove the burden of having to go to the cross. However, while He prayed, He knew within Himself that He came to this earth to die for our sins. After relinquishing his will, He accepted His God-given task toward us. Then He prayed the Prayer of Consecration, stating “not my will, but Yours be done.” We can’t say we believe God will provide our needs, and then tag that prayer with “if it be Thy will.” That prayer then becomes a prayer of “I’m not sure what God is going to do, but I sure do hope it is His will to provide me with what I have asked.” That kind of prayer is filled with doubt and unbelief. It is certainly not a prayer of faith.

Base Your Prayers on the Word of God

To have faith that our prayers are answered, we have to have a foundation of truth. In other words, we need to base our prayers on what God says in His Word. Our Bible is filled with promises – promises that we can depend on for our life. God wants us to find a promise or promises that apply to our situation and then stand on them. That is what faith and trust are all about.

Promises to Lean On

There are many, many promises that we can lean on

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in the Word of God. Some of these wonderful promises are:

- Salvation – “If you confess with your mouth, and believe in your heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).
- Healing – “By Jesus’ stripes ye were healed” (I Peter 2:24).
- Various petitions – If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (John 15:7 KJV).
- Receiving faith – “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God” – the more we hear it, the more we build up our faith to believe it (Romans 10:7).
- A solid more mature Christian life – “God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness” (II Peter 1:3).

It is important that we pray according to the Word of God, believing that we receive when we pray.

We are Righteous Saints

Many times as Christians, we feel we are not worthy of what God has already provided. Sometimes we

may think that God can heal others, but not us. We consider ourselves as sinners, because that is what we have been taught. That kind of believing is not based on the Word of God, only the opinion of man. In every book of the Epistles, which are the books in the Bible that are specifically written to and for the Church, believers are always referred to as saints. Christians are never called sinners.

To the church at Rome

Romans 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints...

To the church at Corinth

II Corinthians 1:1 ...unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia...

To the church at Ephesus

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus...

To the church at Philippi

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons...

To the church at Colosse

Colossians 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse...

Once we come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, we are no longer referred to as sinners, but saints. We may sin, but that doesn't make us sinners. God's people are covered by the blood of Jesus Christ and God sees His people through the blood. Fortunately, when we do sin, we have I John 1:9 to rely on.

I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we as Christians use the word "sinner" over ourselves or other Christians – we end up with a sinner's mentality. "Woe is me, I am a worm, a sinner - all I ever do is sin." That kind of thinking pulls our faith down and causes us to sin even more. We need to have a right attitude about ourselves – seeing ourselves as Christ sees us. We are saints in Christ. We are righteous in Christ. We need to concentrate on who we are in Christ, not on what the devil did to us before we came to believe in Jesus. When we see ourselves as righteous, it causes

us to sin less and be more conscious of who we are in Him. As we stand before God as a righteous saint, claiming the promises that He has given us in His Word, our spoken prayers bring us to stand firm. That is exciting news!

2. The Prayer of Consecration

The Prayer of Consecration is when we dedicate, or consecrate, our life to God – for God to work His life in us. Let’s take another look at the phrase “if it be thy will.”

Luke 22:41-42 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone’s cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, saying, “Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done.

It was in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before His death that Jesus prayed to His Father, asking that He not have to go to the cross. He was so distraught that He even sweat drops of blood. Jesus knew that He had to go through with the painful agony of crucifixion, and after working through His prayer, He conceded by saying, “not my will, Father, but Yours be done”. What Jesus did was consecrate His life to the will of His Father. Jesus is not asking us to go to the cross. He already did that

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for us. What He is asking us to do is submit our will to our Heavenly Father, and consecrate our lives to Him. Sad to say, many Christians accept Jesus as their Savior, believing in Who He is and what He has done, but still want to live their life their own way. Our concerns are that by submitting to God, we will miss out on our own desires. God is asking that we make Jesus the Lord of our life. He is asking us to submit every part of our life to the will of God – then He will change our desires.

I Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

We should not be masters of our lives any more. We belong to God, and God wants us submitted to Him. When we dedicate our life to the Lord, we should be willing to say, “Whatever You desire for me, that’s what I desire. Whatever Your will is for me, that is my will. Not my will, but Yours be done. Lord, I give my life to You.” That is the only time we should pray “if it be Thy will...” Then we allow God to work in our life and take us to where He wants us to be. We don’t have to settle for second

best. He wants to give us His best. God has a plan and purpose for every one of us. What He has for His children is far greater than you or I could ever imagine. As we yield daily to His purpose, our prayers become what He wants and our lives continually rise to a higher level.

3. The Prayer of Commitment

The purpose of the Prayer of Commitment is to keep us free of anxiety and fear that strangles the Word of God in our lives.

Matthew 6:33-34 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

I Peter 5:7 Casting all your cares upon him; for he careth for you.

It is important to pray this kind of prayer daily so the cares of this world won't enter in. Cares are like thorns that choke out the seeds of the harvest. The cares of this world choke out the seeds of God's Word attempting to sprout in our hearts. Commit your family and personal concerns to the Lord every

morning. It can be so easy to worry about them, but when we turn them over to the Lord, we can then live in peace knowing He is caring for them. It is critical to our spiritual growth that we make the decision every day to give all of our cares to God so the prayer of faith will work for us.

4. The Prayer of Praise and Worship

The Prayer of Praise and Worship is most often done in church in a group setting, set to music. It can, however, be done and should be done in private as well.

The purpose of Praise is to acknowledge God for Who He is and what He has done. We are telling Him and others how good He is.

Worship, on the other hand, means to reverence the Lord – it is something that happens just between you and Him. We are pouring out our love for Him. God wants us to come into His presence to love and worship Him. It is also a time for the Lord to prepare our hearts to receive His Word. People can be set free, healed, and delivered during times of Praise and Worship.

5. The Prayer of Agreement

The main idea behind the Prayer of Agreement is the power of unity and harmony among Christians. Taking the faith of at least two believers and uniting them in prayer brings multiplied power to prayer.

Matthew 18:19-20 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. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

God states that when one person prays, He will put 1,000 angels to flight on our behalf. With two people agreeing, He will put 10,000 to flight. That means we are 10 times more effective with just one more person. There is power in agreement. Power in agreement-prayer multiples.

Deuteronomy 32:30 (KJV) How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

The devil's principal thrust in everything he does is to bring division to the body of Christ. If he can't bring division, he will try and stop the flow and power of God any way he can.

But we do not fight the devil. He will do everything he can to cause us to believe he is all-powerful. The only power he has is the power we give him through our unbelief. Our fight is the fight of faith.

I Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith. . .

We must know, understand, and believe the Word. Prayer partners can stand with us, help us and encourage us with our faith. There are times when we need someone to stand with us. Sometimes it is easier to believe together than by ourselves.

Selecting a Prayer Partner

When we are pursuing a prayer partner, be very choosy. Obviously, choose one whom you can agree with. What we want is a double-barreled prayer of faith, a laser prayer, a smart prayer. If we are standing for healing, we want a prayer partner who understands the healing scriptures and believes them. No “hopin’ and a- prayin’”, but “believin’ and receivin’”.

6. The Prayer of Intercession

The prayer of intercession in its simplest form is praying for others or “standing in the gap.” All believers have this ministry. Right now, Jesus is

seated next to the Father in heaven interceding for us (Ephesians 1:20). We are Christ's body here on the earth. He is our head and we are His body. Our ministry of intercession is an extension of Jesus. Jesus is interceding for us, and we need to intercede for others. The Bible says that we are to pray for two different kinds of people – the saved and the unsaved.

I Timothy 2:1-2 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

God wants us to pray first of all that people get saved or born again (John 3:7). The Word teaches us how to pray for them.

Luke 10:2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

It is God who draws men to repentance, to believe in Jesus. It is we who tell people about the Lord. Then it is their decision to receive. So if we pray for other people to cross our loved ones' paths, then we must be willing to be laborers in someone else's

prayers. Praying the Word of God over people is a great way to pray for both believers and nonbelievers. The following scripture passages (known as the Pauline prayers) are good prayers to pray over people. Just add their names as we pray these prayers.

Ephesians 1:16-19... do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.

Ephesians 3:14-19 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height; to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Colossians 1:9-12 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

God Doesn't Change – Circumstances Change

It must be pointed out that prayers do not change God. The truth is, God has already moved on our behalf. God always remains the same. The Word of God tells us that there is no variation of change in Him. Circumstances, however, can change. Prayer is one of those things God has given us to accomplish the changes in circumstances. It is our faith that brings those things that have already been accomplished in the spiritual realm and manifests them in the natural realm. Think of it like your kitchen water faucet. There is already water pressure behind the handle, it just needs to be turned on. The promises of God are already “yes and amen” we just need to believe.

Man Has a Free Will to Choose or Reject God

When we pray for others, we must remember that God gave us a free will to choose. He made us choosers not puppets on a string. However, He does want us to make the right choice. He wants us to choose Him. He wants us to choose the Word. God can reveal, but He leaves it to us to make the choice. As an example: if we are praying for someone's salvation, we cannot force salvation on them with our prayers. Everyone has a free will to choose or reject Jesus. Our prayers go to the Father. The Holy Spirit does a work in their life. He brings laborers across their path to show them the way, to lift the blinders from their eyes, but that person ultimately has to make the decision to accept or reject Jesus.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

We know that He is the answer to every problem and every situation we might have. As a result of our prayers, God provides opportunities and circumstances to show the goodness of God. The Holy Spirit works in their life to show them the way, but it is still up to them to choose. Our choice should always be to pray, to love, to support, and to guide. As long as there are people in need, we should never stop praying!

7. United Prayer

United Prayer is coming together corporately to pray, whether it is in church or a prayer group setting. The results can be spectacular, because of the power of unity and harmony. The Prayer of Agreement is in force here in multiple numbers. The Bible says we are to pray for kings, or in our case presidents, and people in high places who govern over us. Our prayer is for peace in our land, for the governing officials above us to be submissive to God's will in their lives, as well as our country.

I Timothy 2:1-3 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour.

God says, "If my people will humble themselves and pray...I will heal their land." As Christians, we are His people. We should always be praying for our nation.

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear

from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

8. Praying in the Spirit (Praying in Tongues)

There are times when we have burdens and a desire to pray, but we do not know what or how to pray. This is when we can pray in the Spirit, meaning praying in other tongues. Praying in the Spirit prays the perfect will of God. Praying in the Spirit should be done throughout our day because it is the Holy Spirit praying through us.

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

One way the Holy Spirit helps our infirmities or weaknesses is by enabling us to pray in the spirit – in other tongues. Praying in the spirit allows us to go beyond what we know. Praying in the spirit bypasses the mind. When we pray in the spirit, we pray the perfect will of God. Our prayer knows no limits. It is the Holy Spirit speaking through our spirit to the Father in the Name of the Son. That is prayer that cannot be overthrown.

Do we understand what we are praying when we pray in tongues? For the most part, we do not. It is the Holy Spirit praying through us, and it is the perfect prayer to your heavenly Father. The Apostle Paul stated he spoke in tongues a lot – far more than other people. He also said that praying in tongues is vital to our prayer life. He states that we are to mix praying in tongues and praying with our understanding together.

I Corinthians 14:18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

I Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

When we pray in other tongues, the Spirit of God helps us go beyond the limitation of our mind and brings us God's answer to the situation or problem. Through the operation of the Holy Spirit, we are no longer held in bondage to the natural or mental world.

Note: I Corinthians 14:15 states that Paul prayed in the spirit before he prayed with his understanding. As we pray in the spirit first, we will overcome many

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frustrations in prayer. Many times things that we pray in the spirit will resolve things we were going to pray with our understanding.

The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener and Standby (John 14:16, The Amplified Bible). His ministry is to bear us up, to help us, to strengthen us.

The Holy Spirit does not do the work by Himself. He comes to our aid. He is our Helper.

When we spend time praying in the spirit, we give the Holy Spirit an opportunity to pray the perfect will of God for our lives. We may not know what the perfect will of God is, so we cannot pray effectively with our understanding. But the Holy Spirit knows exactly what to pray.

The Holy Spirit gives us utterance that is based on absolute knowledge. He goes right to the root of any situation or circumstance we may face.

Romans 8:27 (The Amplified Bible) And He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit [what His intent is], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads [before God] in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will.

What a blessing this is! When we pay attention to the promptings of the Spirit, we can pray out things that we're not even aware of. Many times we only know the *result* of something wrong in our lives.

For example, we might be asking God to heal our body. We think sickness is the problem, when sometimes the sickness is the result of something else. According to the verse above, the Holy Spirit is prompting us with the answer. He may be saying, for example, *We should forgive our friend*. But we pay no attention to that prompting because the sickness in our body is speaking so loudly, and many times we don't make the connection between our healing and our love walk. As we pray in the spirit, the Holy Spirit is revealing the key to our healing – forgiveness. With our cooperation, the Holy Spirit reveals our weakness. We hear His voice and obey. We forgive. Then we are back in agreement with God's Word. Sickness loses its foothold. We have victory!

Let Your Spirit Speak by the Holy Spirit

I Corinthians 2:7 says, "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory."

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I Corinthians 14:2 says, "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries."

A mystery is something we cannot know with our intellect. It is beyond our knowledge. Mysteries are in the realm described in Ephesians 3:20 – beyond what we can ask or think. The Bible says, *"We know in part, and we prophesy in part"* (I Corinthians 13:9). But if we are praying in the spirit, we are not praying "in part." When we pray in the spirit, the Holy Spirit reveals the mysteries of God to us. It is critical that we pray and intercede in the spirit. God wants to do some things in the earth that we have never even thought of, much less asked for. The Spirit of God can move in the natural realm when people ask Him. In Exodus 3:7-8 God said, *"I have heard their cry and I am come down to deliver them."* God knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations (II Peter 2:9). He has the way for the Church to rise up as the glorious Church without spot or wrinkle.

Pray God's Will

Since we can only do the will of God one day at a time, we should find out every day what His will is. Praying in tongues prays out the wisdom and will of

God. In the spirit, we are decreeing the plan of God. When we pray in the spirit, we pray the perfect will of God.

When we continually pray the will of God, He will be able to complete His plan on the earth through us. Jesus told the disciples to pray, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” When we pray in the spirit, we give Him place to manifest His glory and fulfill His plan. When we pray in the spirit, we speak the mysteries of God. When we pray His will in the spirit, the Holy Spirit can reveal what God is doing in the earth and how we fit into His plan.

There have been many times in my life when I have needed answers from God through prayer. I’ve needed direction or insight as to what to do in a particular situation. I would begin to pray in other tongues, asking the Lord for wisdom and direction. Sometimes the answers would come quickly, however the key was to pray until. Pray until you have the answer. Remember, in most cases we are not waiting on God but He is waiting on us. It requires us to calm our mind and our thoughts in order to hear His “still small voice”.

Romans 7:6 So now we serve not under [obedience to] the old code of written regulations, but [under obedience to the

promptings] of the Spirit in newness [of life]. Amp.

Remember, the Holy Spirit will never contradict or say anything contrary to the Word of God. This is why it's so important to have a balance of the Word and prayer.

The Blending of Different Prayers

Many times prayers will blend and flow together. We can pray more than one kind of prayer at a time. For instance: We can be praying with someone, petitioning God, using the Prayer of Faith, and because we are in agreement with another person, we are also praying the Prayer of Agreement. If we are in a group or church setting, praying the Prayer of Faith, we are also praying with the Prayer of Unity. The Prayer of Consecration is dedicating ourselves to God, for God to do His will in our lives. If we are praying with someone, consecrating ourselves to the Lord, and the other person is agreeing, we have at least two kinds of prayer in operation. The prayer of Praise and Worship is loving God for Who He is. We are not interceding for anyone then, we are not petitioning God for any of our needs, we are simply loving Him. But we could be praying in the spirit while interceding for someone else or petitioning for ourselves. We could

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also be worshipping God while we are praying in other tongues. We can see that prayers can and do blend and flow together. Remember, not all rules apply to all prayers. We can flow from one type of prayer to another. We will often be praying two or more different types of prayers at the same time. Even though we can have an understanding of these different types of prayers, we should not make them the focus. Prayer should always be the focus.

CHAPTER 8

PRAYING IN FAITH

What is Faith?

Faith can mean a lot of things. It can mean believing in your own ability to be productive in your business, believing in your ability to be productive even in your ministry, or believing in any area of your life that regards your own ability. It can also mean the belief that money is going to solve your problems and bring you happiness, satisfaction or contentment. It can also mean believing in someone else's ability to benefit you in some way.

The Bible's Definition of Faith

The Bible's definition of faith is not believing in your own ability, but believing in God as revealed in His

Word. This is what distinguishes the faith of Christians from other faiths, religions, cults, philosophies, or ideologies. The Bible says faith in the Word of God comes one way, and only one way.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

It is essential to get the Word of God rooted and grounded in us for it to become real Bible faith. The Scriptures contain many promises. To those who plant the Word of God in their lives, it will produce the kind of faith that results in receiving the promises of God.

The Word of God is the Basis for Life

As soon as we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, we need to make the Word of God the basis for life. It must be the source for all of life. The ways of the world have shaped the way we think and act. Now the Word of God needs to take that place. It's the Word that needs to shape the way we think and act. It is then that the manifestations of a changed life will take place. If our source is not the Word of God, it is not truth. No matter how loving and sincere a person may be, whether it is a trusted college professor, parent, respected friend, preacher,

pastor, a textbook or philosophy, if it's not the Word, it's not truth.

Your Prayer Closet

A prayer closet is any place where you can get away with God. It can be a comfortable chair, by the side of the bed, or even a closet. The place is not the important thing. The important thing is that you find a place where your heart and thoughts can be turned to God without outside distractions. Find a private place with plenty of time in which to pray. Take your Bible with you. Refer to God's promises while you pray. Use the Word as a support for your prayers. Prayer and the Word go hand in hand when you bring your requests before God.

Building a Prayer Life

A solid prayer life is an intricate part of the God-kind of faith. When your prayers are practiced in faith, one's prayer life will take a dramatic turn toward thinking like God. True praying begins by the simplicity of prayer and its childlike elements. The aim is not to speak eloquently to God, but simply to talk to Him like you would your closest friend. It is not official or religious, neither is it formal or ceremonial, but it's developing your relationship into fellowship with Him. As we mature

in the Word, so should our prayer life. That means our lives should be lived out of our prayer closet. As we submit to God's direction, our lives are lived in holiness and obedience. As we seek His presence and our hearts yield to Him, it becomes the way we live our normal daily life.

Prayer is a Force

Prayer, like faith, is a force. Its unlimited possibilities run parallel with the promises of God. It is there for the receiving when we put it to use. Prayer involves the whole man – spirit, soul, and body. We can pray throughout the day, but there are times when we need to place ourselves in our prayer closet. We stop the body from daily activity and position it to pray. It takes the soul (our mind, will, and emotions) interacting with the human spirit to seek the Holy Spirit within. As our prayer life grows, it will move to a constant fellowship with the Lord. Prayer involves fellowship.

Without Faith It is Impossible to Please God

The Bible says that we cannot even please God without faith. As a new believer, one of the primary thrusts is to learn to please God.

Hebrews 11:6a But without faith, it is impossible to please Him. . .

We must not only have faith to please Him, according to His Word, but believe that our rewards and blessings in this life are a result of seeking Him diligently.

Hebrews 11:6b ...for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Faith, rightly understood, is the bridge between the spiritual realm and the earthly physical realm.

The thoughts of this world are: If we can't reach it with our five physical senses (see, hear, taste, touch, or smell), then it is not real – it does not exist. We are dealing, however, with faith from the spiritual realm, not the natural. When properly understood, we will know that the spiritual realm is more real than the physical and can lead us to a victorious life in the spiritual and physical realm. Faith is the vehicle that brings spiritual truth into manifestation in the natural physical realm. To receive from God, it must come from the spiritual realm into the physical realm by faith.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

From Hope to Faith

Hope is the first ingredient in developing our faith. Hope is where we begin our faith walk, hope in the Word of God.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Or you could say it like this, “Faith gives substance to the things we hope for.” As we continue to look at hope and faith, remember this: Hope is in the future. Faith brings that future into the present. Faith is now.

When we read a promise in the Bible, (something that we desire in our heart to receive), it enters into our mind for the first time as hope. At that point, it is simply a glimmer of hope. As we continue to build our faith through reading and speaking that promise over and over again, it will grow into what the Bible refers to as the God-kind of faith or faith that acts.

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

If, for example, we have a sickness, and have had it for some time, and we read in the Word of God or hear a preacher say “by whose (meaning Jesus’)

stripes ye were healed” (I Pet 2:24), it’s possible at that point to act on it in faith and be healed. However, many times it will begin as hope. We may not necessarily believe it yet, because it has not dropped down into our heart as faith. But we do have hope – a glimmer of hope. Our mind is telling us that “just maybe healing could come to me - maybe I don’t have to have this sickness any longer.” Hope springs alive in our mind. As we keep meditating on that promise, it will, in time, become faith that acts or the God-kind of faith. This is the basic explanation of the development of faith.

The Process of Faith

This process of faith is a spiritual principle that God put within the hearts of all men. It motivates us to believe. It takes hope and develops it into a faith that acts. If you believe, but are not willing to act, it’s not the God-kind of faith yet. James 2:18 speaks of faith without works and faith with works. Faith without works is not fully developed faith. The God-kind of faith is always ready to act. It will work in every area of life.

Prov 23:7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. . .

In the business world, progressive business management has been teaching that if they can

impart executives and managers with a self-image that is positive, they can come to the place where they believe and see they can be successful. When they do, they will then take the steps to act on it. The difference is that those in the secular world want people to believe that success comes from their own ability. Our own ability, however, only goes so far. The Bible teaches us to believe in the ability of God, living in and through us. His supernatural wisdom and power is what gets the job done. There is a world of difference. Everyone eventually comes to that stark reality in his or her life, either earlier or later, that life is full of situations beyond our control or ability. The sooner we come to the realization that we cannot do things on our own, the sooner we can turn to God for His strength. When we do, we can then realize that within ourselves, we can do nothing, but through Christ, we can do all things.

Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.

The Real Truth – The Word of God

What we believe in must be Bible truth. It needs to be the anchor for our life. Our faith must be based on the Word of God. That will build the God-kind of faith. The world has a form of godly principles

without biblical truth; so, relying on the world's system causes wrong thinking and wrong believing. It simply comes from the mind of man. Learning and knowing the Word of God, along with the Holy Spirit's revelation within us, is how we find real truth and develop the God-kind of faith.

Two Ingredients That are Part of the God-kind of Faith

The Factor of Love

There are two other factors that must be mixed with faith to make the God-kind of faith work in our lives.

Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision. . .but faith working through love.

The Bible says "God is love" and God is a Spirit. So love is spiritual. Love operates from the spirit of man. It is a decision of the mind to operate in love. Faith is made powerful by love. Believing in God's Word will cause things to come to pass; we are, however, referring to the God-kind of faith which is made powerful through love. God's will, promises and plans for our life will come to pass when we believe; but love must be the motivating factor

behind our faith. For instance: We can use our faith to believe for cadillacs, condominiums, or large sums of money to hoard up for ourselves. We can say, “I am a successful faith person, because look at what I have believed for.” God wants us to prosper – yes – but not to hoard it for ourselves. That kind of thinking is not seeking first the kingdom of God. It’s important to know that God is not against having good things. On the contrary, he wants us to be blessed – to be a blessing to others. Motive is the key. Our thinking cannot be focused inward, but outward. Love makes our faith effective for God’s purposes. Then we will be using our faith for things that will bless others. Our motivation to believe God must be to be a blessing.

The Factor of Patience

The second element that must be mixed with faith is patience.

Hebrews 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Patience is also a decision. Patience is a decision of the mind and for the mind.

Personally, I had a battle for many years trying to sort out how to have faith and patience at the same

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time. I would hear “faith is now” – but we must be patient. Until I realized that faith operates in the spirit of man and patience operates in the soul or mind of man, this was confusing. We have the potential to become incredibly strong if we can get a hold of this. As I was sitting at my desk the other day, I jotted this down:

1. The spirit of man uses faith
2. The soul of man uses patience
3. The body of man uses motion

This is a key to developing the three-part man; spirit, soul, and body. These three elements can be used to make us strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Ephesians 6:10, 18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. . .Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. . .

Just as motion is used to strengthen the body, patience is used to strengthen the soul and faith is used to strengthen the spirit. The God-kind of faith cannot be used in the soul of man, just as patience cannot be used in the spirit of man. The spirit of man must say, “I have it now” while the soul of man remains patient and calm until it is manifest in the

natural. When these elements are used in their proper way, they can help us to become very strong; spiritually, mentally, and physically.

If we are going to inherit the promises of God, patience must be present in our mind for faith to work in our heart. The Greek meaning for “patience” is the ability to remain constant and unchanging. It means that regardless of the circumstances or external pressures, we remain the same; we do not change, we remain constant. Patience must be in place for our faith to produce. This is of vital importance, because as soon as we take a stand in faith, we trust that God is providing. Satan will come and try to destroy our shield of faith. Our faith in God’s ability needs to be stronger than the circumstances, symptoms, and trials that may come against us. If we use the words of our mouth negatively – in other words, we start agreeing with our circumstances or symptoms – and we start saying things like “I don’t know how much longer I can handle this sickness or trial”, then we start to develop a crack in our faith. At that point, it could be just a matter of time before our faith is destroyed. Remember, the devil wants to destroy our faith in God. His job is to steal, kill and destroy. Patience is that ingredient which keeps us from responding to

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that pressure. Patience is that element which causes us to remain unchanged in the face of any symptom, circumstance or trial, so we do not become discouraged and faint before the manifestation of our harvest. Patience is the element that must accompany our faith if we are to reap the promises of God.

Have you ever recorded a sports game in order to watch it at a later time? Then, before you have a chance to see it, you hear that your team won. Now, when you watch the game and discover that at halftime your team is behind, it doesn't bother you because you know, in the end, you win. That's what patience mixed with faith does for us. Even though we may see a variety of difficult situations and circumstances, we can know, based on the Word of God, we win!

- Faith says, "I have it now."
- Patience keeps our faith strong until we see the completed manifestation in the natural.

I love what Pastor Hagin says, "I cannot be defeated and I will not quit." That is faith and patience in action.

The God-kind of faith works by love and patience.

- We need to have our needs met so we can be a light to the world.
- We need to have an abundance so we can give to others.
- We need to be freed from any sickness or bondage so we can minister life to others.

The Only Christians Who Don't Harvest the Seeds They Have Planted are the Ones Who Quit

A good example of faith can be found in Joshua. Let's look at the Scriptures as an example of faith, by looking at someone who received the promises from God. God spoke to Joshua, who was Moses' right-hand man. Moses had died, and Joshua was now in command.

Joshua 1:2-5 Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them; the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

God told Joshua what belonged to him. It was his through the seed of Abraham. He wanted to claim his inheritance. The Scriptures also tell us that, as Christians, we are the seed of Abraham, and should claim our inheritance as well.

Galatians 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.

We can learn how faith operates by reading Joshua 1:8. God is telling Joshua how to be successful in receiving those promises.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law. . .(meaning the first five books of the Old Testament – originally known as the Book of Moses) shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

We receive our promises – just as we saw in the Book of Hebrews – by faith. These verses regarding Joshua succeeding and receiving his promises are simply a description of the operation of faith. There are three words we need to underline in Joshua 1:8 – 1. Meditate, 2. Mouth, and 3. Do – which is meditation, confession, and action.

These are the Three Principle Elements of Faith in Operation:

Meditation

Meditation on the Word of God: The first element of faith in operation. God taught Joshua how to care for His Word...*but thou shalt meditate therein day and night.* We also see in Psalms that this man is going to be blessed – someone whose delight is in the Word of God and who meditates on it day and night.

Psalm 1:13 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Whatever we receive from God is by faith. Prosperity in any form comes to us through faith. The person who will meditate day and night in the Word of God will develop the God-kind of faith; therefore, he will prosper.

What is Meditation?

The Hebrew word for “meditate” literally means to mutter or murmur - so it bears a direct relationship to confession. As we think about something, we are muttering over and over to ourself. In other words, we are confessing it to ourself. The Hebrew word for meditate also means to imagine. To imagine means to mentally picture what we are imagining. When we meditate on the Word of God, we find a promise in the Word that we need, and then we mentally imagine ourself walking in that promise. If we need healing, then we see ourself healed. We see ourself doing what we can do when we are healed. Take a promise from the Word of God that we need and build those desired mental images of ourself as though we are healed.

If we need finances, we need to build a mental image that far outweighs what we may be experiencing at the present time. For instance: We need to build a mental image of ourself that is more real than what we are experiencing now. We need to see the windows of heaven being opened in our life. We must mentally imagine having enough money to pay all of our bills, pay our 10% tithe, give at least 10% more in an offering and still be able to buy a new refrigerator or automobile. We must mentally see

ourselves prosperous. Mentally imagine yourself prospering until that image is more real to us than the circumstances we are experiencing. That's meditation. We need to let such thoughts consume us on a regular basis. However, don't stop meditating after you see that first manifestation. We must continue to meditate on the Word day and night in order to believe and receive. The Word of God should consume our thoughts. We should see to it that it is the dominant source of data or material that we think on during the course of the day. As the Word of God dominates our thought process – as we mentally imagine ourselves being a fulfillment of what the Word says we are, those images will drop into our heart. We will be in faith and our promises will come to pass. Many times God will reveal things we can do in the natural to walk out our faith.

Confession

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth...

Confession, the second element of faith in operation, is so important and yet so misunderstood by many in the body of Christ. It is important that we confess with our mouth what is in our heart. According to the above scripture passage, what we speak from our mouth must not leave our heart. In

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other words, we cannot speak and then forget what we said – we need to keep it within our heart continually. We are to confess the promises of God, meditate on the promises of God, and then speak the promises out of our mouth. What we think and speak comes out of our heart, and what is in our heart is what we think on and speak.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

Other verses that speak of the importance of confession:

Matthew 12:34 ...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Mark 11:23 'For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

Action

Acting on the Word: Being a doer of the Word is the third element of faith in operation. God said to Joshua - . . .*that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein.*

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We must act on the Word of God.

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Here is the question to ask ourselves. What would I do? How would I act? What would I say, if I believed the promise to be true?

James 2:20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Acting on the Word is the God-kind of faith. Act like the Word is true.

How to Be in Faith

The thrust of this teaching is to show us how to believe - how to have the God-kind of faith. Confession is a vital part of the God-kind of faith. Many Christians have said, "I would like to believe that, but my mind is filled with doubts." It is vital that we eliminate words from our vocabulary that are based on how we feel or what we see. In its place, we need to put the Word of God in our mouth

concerning our situation. As we keep confessing the Word of God, it will eventually become a heart belief. When we hear or read the Word of God, we should speak what we hear, then meditate on what we spoke and heard. It becomes a revolving growth to our faith. At some point, the very words that we have read or heard will drop into our heart. When it does, we have produced the God-kind of faith. Faith that is filled with action.

Romans 10:17 Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

We may begin by confessing the Word of God simply as a mental thing, knowing we are not in real faith. The good news is that if we continue reading, hearing, and confessing God's promises, they will eventually drop into our heart. We cannot continually confess the Word of God without it getting down into our heart. It has to drop into our heart as we continue to confess it. God designed us that way. For instance: The Scriptures say that by Jesus' stripes we were healed. Those words will form images within us. As we continue to confess those words over and over again, those images will eventually become what we believe in our heart. When those words become what we believe, and in abundance, then we will receive.

How Do You Practically Build Up Your Faith?

There are many different ways. But in every situation, examine everything by the Word of God. We must train our spirit man to line up with the Word of God, and let that be our guide. Test everything with the Word of God.

- We can read and meditate on the Word of God.
- We can sit under good anointed preaching that supports the Word of God.
- We can sit in class and hear a Bible teacher.
- We can listen to good faith tapes/CDs/digital files that support the Word of God.
- We can read a good anointed book that supports the Word of God, etc.

Let's put the Word of God in our mouth. Speak it over and over. We will receive faster and easier when we speak God's promises from our own mouth. As we confess the Word of God, we are hearing it, and the Bible says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. As we hear the confessions we are speaking, mental images are being formed on the inside of us, and at some point that is going to be what we will see – that image that was formed down on the inside of us. That image

will become our standard of truth. Then we will believe, and it will be in our heart. Every single person has challenges in life – even Christians. Our challenge could be in our family, sickness in our body, our job, relationships or finances. We all need to live and walk, standing in faith for something. When attacks come, and they will, please remember this verse.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Jesus and faith in His Word is the answer. We can overcome every single challenge in life. Don't ever let the devil destroy something that the Word says we can have.

We Are Made in the Image and Likeness of God

We are made in the image and likeness of God, so we need to imitate God.

Romans 4:17(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

God would not tell us to confess His Word unless He had already confessed His own Words. God says in the above Scripture that He calls those things which do not exist as though they did. God spoke and this world was called into being. In the beginning, in the book of Genesis 1, God said:

Genesis 1:3 God said, Genesis 1:5 God called, Genesis 1:6 God said, Genesis 1:8 God called, Genesis 1:9 God said, Genesis 1:10 God called, Genesis 1:11 God said, Genesis 1:14 God said, Genesis 1:20 God said, Genesis 1:24 God said, Genesis 1:26 God said. . .Let us make man in our own image. . .Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth, subdue it, have dominion over everything. Genesis 1:31 God saw everything he had made and behold, it was good.

God spoke, and then there was. It is God who gives life to the dead and who speaks those things that be not as though they were.

This is where some Christians go overboard. Our faith cannot go beyond the Word of God or the promises of God. We cannot believe beyond the promises of God. F.F. Bosworth once said, "Faith begins where the will of God is known."

Calling Things into Being

We are made in the image and likeness of God and so we should imitate Him. We need to confess God's Word in the area of our life where we are either struggling or we fall short of God's best. It is not denying the present situation – that would be foolish. Instead, we are calling into being what the Word of God says. It may be for healing, prosperity, deliverance, mending of relationships or a countless number of other things. Keep in mind that God called things into being and He asks us to do the same thing. We can speak those things that “be not as though they were.” We are lining up our situation with the promises of God. As we put the Word of God in our thoughts and mouth, it will become a reality. Faith speaks those things that be not as though they were, not those things that are as though they're not. If you are sick and want to be well, confess I Peter 2:24.

I Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

We confess what the Bible says, “I am healed”. The Bible does not tell us to say; “I'm not sick,” it tells us to say, “By His stripes I am healed.” If I was healed,

then I am healed. Do you see the difference? It's not ignoring the fact that you are sick, it's calling those things that be not as though they were.

**Faith is you making your life
conform to the Word of God**

Faith is not something waiting to happen, that is hope. We must remember the difference. Faith is now. Hope is in the future. We are talking about faith. Faith is us making our life conform to the Word of God.

James 2:20-22 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

If we can't act on what we say – if we can't put into action what we are imagining and talking – then we are not in the God-kind of faith. If we are just a hearer and not a doer, the Bible says we are deceiving ourselves.

James 1:22-25 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man

beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Meditation, Confession, and Action

When we put this all together, we will be walking out God's will for our lives. We will have pulled God's promises from the realm of the spirit into the realm of the natural. We will have literally called those things that did not exist into being. One of the things that meditation, confession, and acting on the Word have in common is they will get the Word of God from our head to our heart. When we put all three elements together, we will then be operating in the God-kind of faith. The images that we put on the inside of us will be experienced as a result of our thoughts, speech, and actions.

The Lord said this to me several years ago:

“Faith is believing that when you speak God's Words, they have the power to change your circumstance from the facts of this world to the truth of God's Word.”

CHAPTER 9

PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

This lesson will center on several principles in prayer. These principles are important for all believers to know and understand.

Some of the things in this chapter we have seen in previous chapters. We will look at them again, but through different eyes and different illustrations. Now it's time to put it all together.

1. We Must Ask to Receive

The requirement that we must ask to receive may seem elementary; but there are many people who only hope and expect something to happen. Let's remember that God is limited by our prayers; by that

I mean, if we don't ask, we won't receive. Yes, God knows our hearts, and yes, we must ask.

Matthew 7:7-8 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Remember, when we ask we must ask in faith. What is it that you want from God? Could it be healing, prosperity, the salvation of a loved one? Maybe what you want from God is a new job, or protection from the enemy. As real as our desires may be, there are certain conditions that must be met in order to receive. Let's look at those conditions:

2. Know the Will of God in Prayer

What is the will of God? What is His will for me? How can I know His will? It is important to know that we can always trust God's Word, it is His will. Our Bible becomes our written instructions, our road map to success. That means to be effective in prayer, we need to spend time in the Word getting to know God and His will, which takes time.

Let me ask a question. Can we be Christians without spending time in the Word of God? The answer is yes! Can we be effective Christians without spending

time in the Word? The answer is absolutely no! We cannot be effective unless we know God and are obedient to His Word.

God's Word is His Will

God wrote His Word for us, for our benefit, for our success. We can overcome everything that comes against us with His Word because His Word is His will.

It is also very important to know what God says about the different types of prayers we can pray. How and what we can pray is found in the Word of God. God's promises are His will for our lives. So find and pray the promises of God.

Examples of Prayers

What if we are praying for healing in our body?
What is a Scripture verse that we can lean on?

I Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

What if we don't have the finances to pay our mortgage? First, we must ask the question, are we tithing? The Bible tells us to give back to Him 10%

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of our income. If we do that, He will open the windows of heaven. Are we giving Him something to work with?

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Are we doing everything we know to do, according to the Word of God? If so, then here are some promises:

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us...

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

What if we are praying for the salvation of a parent or a child?

Paul G. DeNeui

Matthew 9:37-38 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;
38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

What if we are praying for protection?

Psalms 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

In the Word of God, there are literally hundreds of promises we can pray. God wants us to remind Him of His promises. Reminding God of his promises is not for His benefit, but for ours.

3. Pray in Faith

F. F. Bosworth said, "Faith begins where the will of God is known." The Bible says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (We are looking at prayer and faith all throughout this book. Take the time to read and reread these chapters.)

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

Let's take a look at this verse again. When the Apostle Paul wrote this letter, there was very little written about faith, who Jesus was, what He had done for us, or the promises He had given to us. The Apostles Paul, Peter, James, and Jude had written letters to the churches, but they were not in wide circulation at the time. It took time for their writings to be circulated among the churches throughout Asia Minor and finally over to Rome. (In time, these letters became what we call "the epistles" in the New Testament.) These letters were addressed to certain churches and then circulated to a group of churches where the pastors would read them to their congregations. The people in the churches *listened* to the letters being read. Their faith was built based on what they *heard*. For centuries, people *heard* the Word of God and then grew in their faith. It wasn't until recent years that people have had their own copies of the Bible. The Apostle Paul was accurate when he said, "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

Even when the Old Testament writings were available, they were not available to everyone. They were stored in synagogues or temples. They were read when people gathered together for worship. Do you remember in Luke 4 where Jesus was in the

temple for worship and the priest asked Him to stand up and read from the scrolls? That is an example of how people heard the Word.

Out of the Heart the Mouth Speaks

An Old Testament writing states: Out of the heart, the mouth speaks.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart (spirit) with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

God taught Joshua how to strengthen his spirit and become successful by hearing and speaking the Word of God.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Meditating on the Word of God

The word “meditate” means far more than to think or imagine. Actually, it means to “mutter” over and over so we can hear ourself think. It can be described best by explaining how a cow chews its cud. The cow chews, swallows, regurgitates, chews,

swallows, regurgitates, etc., over and over until its cud can be digested. We need to meditate on the Word of God the same way. As we think, we mutter or speak it to ourself, and just as soon as it comes back to our memory, which could be right away or later on in the day, we should meditate (or mutter) on that Scripture again. We end up thinking on it again and again, which means we should be speaking it out, over and over until it can be digested to give us spiritual nourishment for growth. The Apostle Peter wrote, “If a man speaks, let him speak the oracles of God”.

I Peter 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.

The Word of God Comes in Many Forms

We have the Word of God available to us in many ways. We can listen to the Word of God on tapes and CDs, on computers or mp3 players, on our cell phones, at home, in the car, jogging, just about anywhere. We can hear the same message throughout the week by just pressing a button. This gives us the opportunity to listen, speak, listen, speak, etc.

Have Confidence in the Word of God

We are not going to have confidence in our prayers until we have confidence in God and His Word. We must read the Word of God to know the will of God. When we know His will, we can have the confidence we need to speak and receive. Receiving requires the God-kind of faith.

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

Jeremiah 1:12 Then said the LORD unto me, "Thou hast well seen, for I will hasten My word to perform it."

Come with Boldness to the Throne Room of God in Prayer

God has told us that we can confidently, and with boldness, have access to His throne room. We need to grab onto God's promises from His Word and confidently come to Him in prayer. As we pray, it is important to make every prayer a statement of faith, no "hopin' and a-prayin'". Maybe you have used that phrase or heard someone say it: "hopin' and a-prayin'". No, we need to pray, believe, and receive.

Ephesians 3:12-14 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him...For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

4. Seek First the Kingdom of God

Have you ever noticed that the ones who get their prayers answered are the ones who appear to lead righteous, holy lives? Living a righteous life means we know who we are in Christ. We want to please Him. We grow by submitting ourselves to the Word of God and conforming our thoughts to what God says. Then we become more successful and effective in prayer.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

James 5:16 ...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (The Amplified version of this last verse says: the prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available dynamic in its working.)

We do not get our prayers answered by how good we have been. We get answers to prayer based on our faith in God's Word.

The more we conform to the Word of God, the greater our faith will be, and the more we will learn who we are in Christ.

We are Righteous Before God

We are righteous before God because of our relationship in Christ. We have right standing with God when we accept what Jesus has done for us. It becomes a reality to us the moment we became born again. We need to keep building ourselves up in the Word of God so our faith grows strong, then we can lean on the power of prayer. Prayer and the Word go hand in hand.

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

We read in a previous lesson the importance of the balance of prayer and the Word of God. If we read the Word of God more than we pray, it's possible to run the risk of becoming judgmental. If we pray more than we read, it's possible to run the risk of believing things that are not biblically sound. To be a balanced Christian, we need the Word of God and prayer operating in our life equally.

5. Use Fervency in Prayer

Fervent means sincere, praying from your heart. Rote prayers, or prayers repeated without meaning, are ineffective; so are written prayers if done in a rote fashion. Rote prayers are those prayers learned from memory, or just spoken from the mind, but not experienced in the heart. God wants us to pray from our heart with the God-kind of faith.

James 5:16 The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

6. When We Petition, We Pray to the Father

When we petition or ask for anything, we are to pray to the Father. The Bible says that it is the Father who we pray to. Jesus said that the only way to get to the Father is “through Him.”

John 14:6 I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father, except through Me.

Jesus said that when we ask for something in prayer, we must not ask Him. We must ask the Father in His name.

John 16:23-24 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Hitherto have ye

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asked nothing in my name, ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Ephesians 3:14-15 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.

An Example in Prayer

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He said, pray like this: *Matthew 6:9 Our Father, which art in heaven...* Jesus did not mean that we simply pray what we know as the Lord's Prayer, but to use this prayer as an example for our prayers to the Father.

7. Use the Name of Jesus as Our Authority in Prayer

It is through Jesus and His shed blood that we come to God, it is on Jesus' authority we can pray to God.

John 16:23-24 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

That does not mean we simply tag on the name of Jesus at the end of our prayers. Many people,

without thought, just say “in Jesus’ name” at the end of every prayer. It is important to understand that His name is our authority to come to the Father. If it wasn’t for what Jesus did on the cross, we could not have access to the Father. Use the name of Jesus frequently as your authority, but address your prayers to the Father.

Unscriptural Terms in Prayer

Never pray “for Jesus’ sake”. Let me ask you this question. For whose sake are you praying? Is it Jesus? No, He doesn’t need help, we do. We pray for our sake. Another wrong phrase is using the wording “in Christ’s name”. There is nowhere in scripture that says to pray in Christ’s name. Jesus is the Christ but, we are to prayer in the name of Jesus. There is power in that name. When you make a petition for anything, start your prayer by saying “Dear Father.” Then use the name of Jesus as your authority, whether it is during or at the end, or both. His name is the key. His name gives us access and authority.

8. Use the Holy Spirit in Prayer

The study of the person of the Holy Spirit could easily cover a full course and more. We are going to take only a small portion of this lesson to discuss the Holy Spirit in prayer.

We Become “One” with Christ Through the Power of the Holy Spirit

When we became born again or saved, the Holy Spirit entered into our spirit. In other words, when we come to believe and accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, believing all that He has done for us, the Holy Spirit comes into our human spirit to reside. We have become “one” in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit who resides in us. A phrase often used for that experience is called the “New Birth” or being “Born Again”. Jesus said in John 3:7 “Ye must be born again.” The Holy Spirit takes up residency within our spirit, desiring to fellowship with us and change our life. Our conscience, which resides within our human spirit now becomes the access point to the voice of God. It is a very still small voice living within us to help guide us in our life. To hear and respond to that guidance, we must release the control of our soulish area – our mind, will, and emotions – and turn it over to God by the renewing of our mind to the Word of God.

Our Soul Needs to Be Renewed

The area of our soul, containing our mind, will, and emotions, has been conditioned by our environment, seared from the sensitivity of the Holy Spirit within our human spirit. Our soulish area has been

conditioned by a lifetime of thinking, habits, and way of life. It needs to be renewed by the Word of God and to the Word of God.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

When we come to Christ through the New Birth, we come carrying a lifetime of baggage. The entrance of the Holy Spirit is the beginning of the transformation that must take place. Many Christians live a lifetime simply praying with their minds. God wants us to use our human spirit and reach Him through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a spirit to Spirit communication.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Voices of the Three-Part Man

This is a good place to understand voices: the voice of our spirit is our conscience, the voice of our mind is our reasoning, and the voice of our body is our physical senses. As an example, we can all think of times when our reasoning did not agree with our conscience.

Since the Holy Spirit lives within our human spirit, He reaches out to commune with us, but He communes with our spirit through our conscience. Our conscience is the voice of our spirit. It is that still small voice within, communicating what we need to know. It is here where we find the throne room of God, deep within our spirit. Once we yield our mind, will, and emotions to our human spirit, we reach the throne room of God, allowing the Holy Spirit to commune within us.

The Holy Spirit's Help in Prayer

As we come to the Lord in pray, there may be times we do not know how to pray. Our minds are limited when it comes to prayer. That's why I believe the Apostle Paul put praying in other tongues first.

1 Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

Many times, I will pray in other tongues first and then if there is anything more to pray after that I will pray in my known tongue. Because the Holy Spirit lives within our human spirit, we can allow Him to pray through us. He searches our heart and the heart

of the Father. He can pray through us to the Father according to His will – not ours.

Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself (Himself) maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 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.

Inside a believer is a longing to reach God in a way that our minds are not able to do. It is a deep cry within. God made us that way.

Praying in the Holy Spirit

Part of the help that the Holy Spirit gives in our prayer life is to pray “through” us to God the Father. It is done by an utterance that is not the native tongue of the believer. When we pray in another language, different from what we know, it is the Holy Spirit praying through us as we give utterance to God, however He wants to speak. When we intercede to God through the Holy Spirit with groanings that cannot be uttered in articulate speech, it is the Holy Spirit groaning or praying through us. When we don’t know how to pray we can allow the Holy Spirit to pray for us and through us. It is the

Holy Spirit within us praying the perfect prayer. We may not know what we have prayed, unless we receive the interpretation, but we do know it was God within, the Holy Spirit, who prayed to the Father.

9. Pray Specific When Praying for People

The term used when praying for others is “intercession.” Intercessory prayer means we are standing in the gap between another person(s) and God. We are praying for others. When we pray for others, we need to be specific. Don’t just pray, “God bless the starving children over in Africa” or “save my family”. We need to learn the secret of intercessory prayer. It is important to pray for people by name. Don’t lump them together and put them into a group. Don’t just pray that God will save souls – because God already did that through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Intercession means claiming people’s salvation for God, praying that God would bring laborers to that specific person. Call out their names to God in prayer, claiming their souls in the name of Jesus. Be specific when we pray for others.

10. The Prayer of Faith and Free Will

When we pray for other people, we must remember that God gave us a free will to choose or reject Him

and His ways. That is how He created us. You cannot expect God to change the minds of people. Because He created us with a free will, we must honor that by allowing others to make their own choices as well. God can reveal truth, but He cannot make them change. God can put the right laborers in their path to speak to them or situations that can assist them to make choices, but ultimately, people still make their own decisions. If we are praying for someone's salvation, we can't force salvation on them with our prayers. It is our prayers that go to the Father. The Father does a work in their heart, He can bring laborers across their path, but if that person refuses, we cannot do anything more but continue to pray. God is the one who brings a person to a decision, but that decision must be freely made. If you are praying for someone's healing, and if that person refuses to believe that God can heal them, chances are that person will not be healed. The comforting thought is that God is at work to do His will in the person we are interceding for. He provides the right circumstances, people, and opportunities. His desire is for people to believe the Word. When we agree with God, it becomes a very powerful prayer.

11. The Principle of Binding and Loosing

The principle of binding and loosing in prayer is something we all need to be aware of. We have authority over the devil and all of his demons, to bind them and all of their powers when we pray. Jesus gave us that authority because He knew we would need it.

Matthew 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

It is important to know that when we use our authority over Satan we are not praying to him, we are commanding him. Praying belongs to God, not Satan. We bind the devil's powers through our authority in the shed blood of Jesus by commanding him to loose what belongs to us using the name of Jesus. Soft requests will do little good. We must firmly command him to let go of his hold, release his grip. We must use our authority. Satan may try to fight back, but he has to give up because we have commanded him, using the strong authority of the name and blood of Jesus.

Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils...

12. Unforgiveness Hinders Ours Prayers

Matthew 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Answers to prayer will be hindered by an unforgiving heart. Even though it may seem understandable to hold an offense against somebody who has hurt us, we cannot afford to harbor any offense.

Forgiveness is an Action, Not a Feeling

Forgiveness is an action, not a feeling. In other words, if we make the decision to purposely forgive someone, the feelings will eventually come. The feelings may not come right away, but just know they will come. Forgiveness is a decision that we make, and when we make it, we choose to act upon it.

13. Be Persistent in Faith

Jesus said speak to our problems, but pray for the things we desire.

Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

This is not prayer. This is speaking the Word in faith to the problem and commanding it to leave. Jesus told us to speak to the mountains (problems in life) with the voice of authority. When our words are spoken in faith, they will move mountains. The problems will have to go.

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

This is prayer. How many times should we pray the same prayer? Some people say pray only once. Others say pray until it is answered. Let's look at the Word of God to answer that question.

Pray believing! That is the key to how often we should pray. If we don't believe we receive when we pray, we are still in hope and not in faith. The above scripture states that when we pray, we must believe we receive. It is when we believe we receive, we will have. If we keep pleading with God to answer our

prayer, we are not in faith. Faith is always now. Faith is never in the future. So ask once and then thank the Lord for the answered prayer. Again, after you pray, thank and thank and thank the Lord until you see the manifestation. When you do this, you will see results. Keep the switch of faith turned on. Remember the principles of love and patience. This would be a good place to review chapter 8, read and reread it again.

Pray Without Ceasing

The Bible says we are to pray without ceasing. We don't just say a prayer in the morning, but we are talking to God all day long. Little "popcorn" prayers are wonderful. We speak to God, and He in turn speaks to us. That is what conversation is all about. An earthly example would be: I don't just talk to my wife once in the morning and at night before we go to sleep. I speak to her off and on all day long. We sometimes have long and lengthy conversations, and sometimes little sentences. That is a relationship with fellowship.

14. When Do I Pray?

When we pray is totally up to us. Since prayer is conversation with God and the Bible says He never leaves us or forsakes us, we can pray anytime and

anywhere. Talk to God as often as you would your closest friend.

John 15:15 ESV No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends. . .

John 15:13 ESV Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Proverbs 18:24 ESV A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Everything in our life should be supported by prayer.

15. Accept Responsibility in Prayer

Many times we want to relieve ourselves from all responsibility in prayer. In other words, if our prayers do not get answered, we blame God. We think God carries the whole responsibility for unanswered prayer. That is not true. We must take responsibility for our own prayers.

Often we wonder why we haven't been healed. The Bible tells us that Jesus is our healer. He already did everything necessary for our healing 2000 years ago when He received the stripes on his back and hung on the cross. We must understand that it is up to us

to believe and receive it. This is how prayer works. It is our believing that connects the unseen to the seen. Whenever there is doubt or fear, we are in unbelief. It isn't God's unbelief, but ours. Also, if we are believing for our healing, but neglect our body and do things we know are not right or harmful to our body, why blame God? Put responsibility where responsibility is due – on ourselves.

Praying for Others

What if we are praying for healing or salvation for someone else and it doesn't happen? We must remember that the person we are praying for has a free will. If we are praying for salvation and he or she refuses, choosing to go against God's will, we cannot blame God. God will not violate the free will of choice. Healing seems to be a difficult manifestation for many Christians. So many Christians do not have a level of faith that brings them to believe in answered prayer, particularly in the area of healing and prosperity. They may think God could answer other people's prayers, but not theirs. Should that person not be healed, you cannot blame God for the lack of healing, because the Word of God tells us that we receive by faith. Their faith holds a vital key for their healing. It takes time to build faith. It becomes difficult to believe in the midst of a bad report, pain and suffering. This is why

it is so important to build up our faith while we are healthy. When or if a bad report comes, we already have a large warehouse of healing scriptures on the inside of us to keep us strong in faith. Our belief system is then conditioned to choose healing instead of the bad report.

16. Don't Undo Prayers

Many times we undo our prayers by the words we speak. We can effectively pray, but we can also undo prayer by speaking negatively against the very things we prayed. An example would be if we were praying for finances. Then as soon as we stopped praying, we started talking about how broke we are, believing that we will never get enough money to pay whatever we prayed for. Then we wonder why the money doesn't come in. We wonder why our prayers are not working for us. What good does it do to pray if we speak against the very thing we have been praying? We wind up criticizing what God is supposed to be doing for us. We wind up confessing that God really isn't working on our behalf, nullifying our prayers. All of our prayers spoken were then for nothing.

Another example: We are parents and our child turn rebellious. We pray to God that our child would

obey. In the meantime, we tell our child that he or she is terrible and will never amount to anything. We just undid our prayers by our negative words toward our child. Many people then blame God for not answering prayer.

Worrying is another way to nullify our prayers. We spend a lot of time and effort to go before God to ask for something. Then after we pray, we get scared and start to worry that maybe our prayers won't come to pass. Please understand that our prayers are too important for us to nullify all of our hard work with worry, fear, or wrong spoken words. Praying takes time and it is a lot of work. When we pray, do everything to keep prayers positive. Our positive attitude and thanksgiving toward the Word will build our faith.

17. When Not to Pray

As long as there is breath in a person, we pray for them to become born again. No matter what someone may say, unless the Lord has said anything different, we must pray. It is possible for them to come to the Lord all the way up until their last breath. Never stop praying.

I Timothy 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

In the area of healing, unless the Lord has said to stop praying for a person, or the person who is ill has decided against healing and desires to go to heaven, we must continue to pray in faith for their healing. Then stand in faith that God will manifest the healing.

Healing is Always There for Us

According to the Word of God, believers can be healed all of the time. Jesus took the stripes on His back for our healing, and died on the cross for our salvation. He already bore our infirmities – so we don't have to.

As we mature in Christ, we will know what the Word of God says. We will know the promises in the Bible. Then, we will stand on what we know. Living by faith, we can receive 100% of the time.

We Confess

Our faith always works because our faith is standing on the Word of God.

CHAPTER 10

BIBLICAL LAWS

It's important to have an understanding of the laws that God has put in place on the earth. Understanding these laws helps us to understand how God works, both in the natural and the spiritual. God has established these laws for the operation of the world and the protection of mankind. It is important to understand these laws so we can operate effectively in prayer.

Law of Gravity

What goes up must come down. It is a law that God set in the earth. No matter what, this law is in operation, whether we like it or not, or even whether we believe it or not. It is a pull that cannot be

stopped. What goes up must come down. There is, however, a higher law that supersedes the law of gravity; it is the law of aero-dynamics or the law of lift. Airplanes operate on this law. The law of gravity is still in operation, functioning as it was meant to. However, the higher law of lift supersedes this law and takes over the law of gravity. What goes up will continue to go up, as long as the law of lift is in operation. When it ceases, the law of gravity will immediately take over.

Man without God is destined to an eternity in hell. At the time of death, that person is automatically pulled down to hell, the force of gravity at work. It is a force that cannot be stopped unless a higher law is in place within that person. Jesus gave the promise of the Holy Spirit. He said He would not leave us alone or forsaken. He would send the Comforter to live within those who believed.

John 14:16-18 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever;

17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

When we first become Christians, a wonderful miracle takes place in our lives. We become one with Christ. God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, comes to live on the inside of us. While the Holy Spirit comes to commune, guide, instruct, and change us, He has another function – raising us to heaven to spend eternity with Christ. The Holy Spirit becomes that higher law in our life. The force of gravity that would have pulled our spirit down to hell has been superseded by the power of the Holy Spirit to lift us to heaven when we die.

Just as Jesus was raised from the dead, so will those in Christ be raised from the dead. The Holy Spirit will become like the force of aero-dynamics. He is that higher law of lift.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Law of Seedtime and Harvest

The whole kingdom of God, both physical and spiritual, runs on the law of seedtime and harvest. When you plant a seed and it is watered and cultivated, that seed will sprout and multiply.

The principle of seedtime and harvest can work for us or against us. We will reap what we sow. God set that law in motion on the earth.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

The seeds we sow in life are important, meaning we need to sow and cultivate the right kind of seed. If we are kind to others, they, as a general rule, will be kind to us. If, on the other hand, we are cruel to others, others will be cruel to us. Because we reap what we sow, we need to sow and cultivate the right kind of seeds to bring in a harvest that will become a blessing in our lives. Bad seed, or weed seeds, will only bring in a harvest of negative things or curses in our life. We do reap what we sow! The law of seedtime and harvest is both a physical and spiritual law set by God.

Law of Night and Day – Four Seasons

In the earth, there will always be night and day, as well as the four seasons. This is a natural law that God created to govern our earth. Trees, plants, grains, fruits, and vegetables must have time of budding, growth, and harvest. There is then a dormant season of rest before it begins again.

The principle of seasons works in conjunction with the law of seedtime and harvest. The seeds we sow in life require time for budding, growth, and harvest.

Mark 4:26-29 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

The Law of Our Spirit, Soul, and Body

We were originally created to live forever. After Adam and Eve agreed to Satan's terms as opposed to God's, the curse came on all mankind. At that point life started its downward spiral, and today life exists for mankind only about 80-90 plus years. Science cannot figure out why man dies. Our cells were created to recreate themselves. About every seven years or so, our flesh goes through a whole new renewal process. Our physical bodies came from dirt and – because of the curse – to dirt we will return. Every part of our body was uniquely designed to function in a continuous renewal, but now we become weak and die. The fall of man brought about sickness and disease, ultimately

bringing on death, which was not part of God's beautiful creation.

Our spirit being, the real us which includes our soul (mind, will, and emotions), came from God. After Adam and Eve allowed Satan to be the god of this world, it has become our choice where we will go at the time of death. If our commitment is to God, we will return to God. However, if it is to Satan we will go to Satan.

Spiritual laws are meant to keep order. They are God's way for mankind to function properly and to keep within the authority that God gave us. These spiritual laws are in constant motion, whether we believe and understand them or not. If we violate any of them, we cannot expect God to intervene and go against the very laws He created.

The Law of Free Will

God designed man to have a free will. He has never forced Himself on anyone. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were given one command – not to eat of the tree of good and evil. If they did, there would be the consequence of death.

Genesis 2:15-17 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

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And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." NKJV

God did not force this command on mankind, but He gave them the ability to choose. In choosing, however, they were choosing between life and death. Adam and Eve chose to disobey, ultimately causing their death. It brought about their ultimate death and the death of mankind, (death meaning separation between God and man). Now, it is God's desire that all mankind be saved and come to the knowledge of truth. God does not want anyone to perish. Man has the freedom of choice; to choose God or the ways of the world, which lead to spiritual death.

I Timothy 2:4-5. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Just as God set up the law of free will, we cannot force our will upon others. Each person has been given the gift of choice; to choose life or death, blessings or cursings. Our prayers on their behalf can help bring them understanding of what life in Christ is all about; however, ultimately they will, individually, have to make their own choice.

The Law of Authority

God, as the ultimate authority, gave mankind authority over the earth when He placed Adam in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

With that authority came responsibility, and with that responsibility came accountability. Man chose to give up his authority when he believed Satan above God. Satan intended to take over the earth as its god, and have mankind as his slave. To do so, mankind had to be under him, being subject to his authority. Man fell for Satan's schemes, and gave up his authority to Satan.

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not...

Under the New Covenant, Jesus came to earth to take away Satan's authority and set us free. He came to destroy the works of the devil, to fulfill the law, and become the perfect sacrifice for sin.

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Matthew 28:18-19 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 "Go therefore. . .

I John 3:8 . . .For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Satan is still the god of this world. However, as Christians we are no longer bound by him, because of what Jesus did on the cross. We have authority over Satan. We have the name of Jesus, the name that is above every name.

Philippians 2:9-11 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Using the name of Jesus, believers can take back

their spiritual authority to defeat the devil and his works.

Luke 9:1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Continue to study the scriptures and learn of the authority we have in Christ. Look to the scriptures that have the phrases: In Him, In Whom, and In Christ. Become aware of who you are in Him.

The Law of Sin and Death

The law of sin and death is a law where destruction rules. It cannot be stopped or changed by human will or human flesh. There can be no sin without death; neither can there be death without sin. The two go hand in hand. Every time we sin, a little portion of death enters in. Death, generally as a slow process, works destruction – spirit, soul, and body.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

The law of sin and death has been broken to all who have accepted Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord.

The Law of the Spirit of Life

As believers in Jesus, we are free to live by the Spirit of Life. Physical death is an ultimate reality, should the Lord tarry, but eternal life, spiritual life, with Jesus is ours because of what He did on the cross.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The law of the Spirit of Life is a spiritual law that God has put in place. Not only can we experience the spirit of life, but we can also operate in it while we are here on the earth. Just as God called life into being, we can call life into being. Ten times in the 1st chapter of Genesis, God called this world and its contents into being. Then He created man, with His tongue, and said “it was very good.”

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.

God created man to operate in the law of life and through the power of the spoken Word, the power of the tongue.

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Man had total authority to rule over every living creature. He was to rule by speaking things into existence with his words. Man, however, gave it to Satan through his deception. Through Jesus and His shed blood, we can take back our authority on the earth.

James 3:3-5 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

5 Even so the tongue. . .

Summary

There are several different principles that are vital regarding prayer. Learning how to pray effectively is one of the most important things a believer can do in his or her Christian walk. There are many reasons to pray. If you want to cultivate a close relationship with the Lord, if you want to be successful in your Christian walk, and if you want to fulfill God's purpose for your life an intimate prayer life is essential. The most important, however, is because God desires to have a close fellowship with His creation. He desires to be worshipped and praised, fellowshiping with those He loves.

I Timothy 2:1-4 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks be made for all men. . .

In practice, we all use different types of prayer during our prayer times. What may start as a prayer of faith can soon develop into supplications, etc. Developing smart prayer strategies will empower us to effectively utilize all types of prayer to further the kingdom of God.

How many times have you heard someone ask for prayer because they didn't know how to pray or they were not sure their prayer would work or get the job done. This book will help you realize the potential in prayer and give you the knowledge to know how to pray.

This book is designed to bring you to a higher level in prayer. If you are a Pastor it can help take your church to a higher level in prayer. Become part of the end-time harvest and be a light in the darkness. Just as the old "dumb bombs" fell to the ground, in a free fall, hoping that some of them would hit the target. We have all prayed hoping that somebody's prayer would hit the mark. As the military developed what they call "smart bombs", using GPS (global positioning system) it only takes one programmed smart bomb to hit the mark. So it is with our prayers. As we understand God's GPS (God's Prayer Strategies) we can hit our mark with one strategic faith-filled prayer.