

**Believers Backpack Series 003**

# **Prayer**

**Ed Horak**

# Prayer

## *2<sup>nd</sup>. Edition*

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## **Prayer**

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## Chapter 1

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# Introduction

### Powerful Prayer can be Learnt

*Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray,..."* **Luke 11:1**

**T**here was a time when Jesus disciples asked Him to teach them about prayer. They had been following Him for some time, seeing and experiencing great miracles. Yet they saw something in His relationship with His Father that they wanted to know more about. They felt a need to grow closer to God. Deep was calling to deep.

So He taught them on prayer, and in the following passage of scripture you will discover timeless prayer pointers that will change your life.

### Timeless Prayer Pointers

*"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray:*

*Our Father in heaven,*

*Hallowed be Your name.*

*Your kingdom come.*

*Your will be done*

*On earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our debts,*

*As we forgive our debtors.*

*And do not lead us into temptation,*

*But deliver us from the evil one.*

*For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

*"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*

*But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

**Matthew 6:5-15**

## Prayer

These prayer truths bridge across both the old and new covenants. He came to clearly reveal the Father's heart and will through His life, death and resurrection. His words about prayer still inspire us to enjoy a fruitful intimacy with our God who loves us and delights in our well being. Like all else Jesus taught, his truth on prayer stood in stark contrast with the current teaching of His day.

In His sermon on the mount, He was repeatedly obliged to say: 'You have heard...but I say...' He thus highlighted the need to unscramble the confusion about God's truth in a variety of areas. This booklet focuses on prayer as taught by Jesus Himself.

## Chapter 2

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# Practicing Prayer

## When you pray, not if you pray

*'And when you pray...'* **Matthew 6:5-8**

**P**rayer must be practiced. If we don't pray, who will? We have a responsibility to pray, so prayer is not a matter of 'if', but 'when'. It is imperative that we pray. Without it we merely exist. But life is vital – it must be connected to the author of life: God Himself. Prayer is our covenant lifeline to God in heaven. Man was given authority and dominion on earth. This was sold out to satan at the fall, and had to be purchased back by Jesus through His unqualified obedience. He restored it to man at His ascension, and then left to intercede at the right hand of Our Father in heaven.

We are to extend His kingdom on earth, and so prayer becomes our essential communication channel. We receive His instruction, comfort, and fellowship through prayer.

## Pray Daily

Prayer is a daily expression of need. It is not an appendage to a busy life. Rather prayer's priority is that we need God if we are to do His will on earth. Many people seem to get by without prayer, but in the end nothing of lasting value is achieved without first laying a foundation in prayer.

## Avoid Improper Motives

*'...you shall not be like the hypocrites...'*

The Bible goes on to say that when we pray we should avoid hypocrisy. A hypocrite is someone who appears as one thing on the outside, but another when you dig beneath the surface of their lives.

Prayer's reward is that God hears us when we pray. Prayer is about intimacy with God, and not impressing our fellow man with our piety.

## Get Private

*'...go into your room...'*

Jesus encourages us to shut the door to the outside world. We need God's perspective on our lives more than the world's barrage of opinions. Only God's will brings about relevant and lasting change. If our minds are full of what is on the daily news and talk shows, we are sure to need some time alone in quietness to be still enough to hear God's voice. God's unique perspective is our reward. It sets us apart from the ordinary unproductive noise of the world. God sees into the secrets of your heart and brings renewal as you allow His Spirit to impart His life to us in unpretentious prayer.

## Prepare yourself

*'Do not use vain repetitions'*

Prayer is not a matter of eloquence but of enlightenment. God is not impressed by information. He knows what we have need of, before we even pray. What He wants to know is, do we know Him and His ways? That is why Jesus goes on to give specific focus to our prayer. God has no time for rambling. His kingdom runs on precision. He knows what He has promised. The issue is: do we know what He has promised?

God does not hear our prayers in heaven because we are wordy, but because we come to Him prepared and precise in our petitions. When we approach the king of the universe, we are not to be casual about it.

Words are too precious to be idle and unproductive. They either produce life or death. That power is in our tongues, so we are exhorted to let our words be few. Indeed the focus is not so much on what we think we need: our shopping cart of petitions, but more on hearing the voice of the Father.

*Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil.*

*Do not be rash with your mouth,  
And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God.  
For God is in heaven, and you on earth;  
Therefore let your words be few. **Ecclesiastes 5:1-2***



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Chapter 3

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## Proper Approach

### The Father and His Family

*'Our Father in heaven  
Hallowed be Your name'* **Matthew 6:9**

*'Our'*

**G**od is committed to family and sees us not as isolated individuals but as members of His family. Modern societies have been conditioned to think in terms of individual expression and fulfillment, and have to be reminded that wholeness is only found in loving community. Lonely selfishness has never been God's will for His children.

*'Father'*

To be a father means to be a life giver. God is our life giver. He originated our lives and must be seen as the one who initiated everything good about us. He is the source and for life to continue we have to be in touch with the source. He is not distant or an absent father. Rather, God is as closely present as we will allow Him to be. He desires to be involved in every aspect of our lives.

Unfortunately some people filter their view of God through some bad experiences they have had with their earthly father. Often there is regret, even hurt, which is sometimes so deep that God becomes hard to relate to as 'Our heavenly Father'! Our minds in these cases have to be renewed to His genuine love for us. Let a revelation of Jesus change the way you think about Father God, for He came to show us that He and His Father were one.

*'In heaven'*

We need a vision of heaven. Heaven is not mere 'pie in the sky.' It is a real place with real people worshipping and enjoying a real God. God is in control, there's harmony there, and the people do not question God's love, integrity and purposes. They are perfectly submitted to His loving and protective ways. Heaven is a place that we are to aspire to. It's our template, our model to order our lives after. We are to bring heaven down to earth. We are to be so heavenly minded that we are some earthly good. That's the way Jesus was. He only did on earth what He saw His Father doing in heaven. Prayer helps to bring heaven down to earth!

## Approach God with praise on your lips

### *'Hallowed'*

The proper approach into God's presence is through thanksgiving and praise. When we pray, we enter into the presence of our King, and there is a proper protocol. We are to bring gifts. The gifts God accepts from us are thanksgiving and praise. As we draw near to God, we present these gifts of appreciation for what He has already done for us. He has saved us, delivered and healed us in Christ, and is due proper honor. To 'hallow' means to venerate and set apart God's name as holy. Something is holy when it is seen as special and worthy of respect. Our salvation in Christ's name is unique. We should not make it common.

### *'Be your name'*

His name represents all that God is and has promised to do. He is our savior, deliverer, healer, protector, provider and much more. In fact, He is all we need. In Him we are complete and He deserves all praise. We approach God on the basis of Jesus standing in the gap for us as mediator. He acts as a bridge between our shortcomings and God's perfection. When we understand the power in the name we cannot but hallow it. All of God is summed up in the name of the 'Lord Jesus Christ'. Here is Isaiah's glimpse of the magnificence of His name.

*And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa 9:6*

Prayer must be offered in the name of Jesus. We pray to the Father in Jesus name, not to the Holy Spirit or even Jesus, but to the Father. Yes, we have fellowship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit and personally address them, but petitionary prayer is offered to the Father in Jesus name. This is what Jesus teaches in our text and in the following record:

*And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. John 16:23-24*

Make it your habit to pray to your Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus with the inspiration guidance and help of the Holy Spirit.

## Chapter 4

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# Purpose and Program

## Kingdom Principles and Purposes

*Your kingdom come*

*Your will be done.* **Matthew 6:10**

God has an orderly kingdom run on His kingdom principles. He has a throne, exercises authority and is committed to training us up as sons and daughters to rule under Him in His kingdom. He is to be obeyed and it is His kingdom that must come. We are no longer in charge. When we confess Jesus as Lord we abdicate the throne of our lives and give God the authority to rule and reign over us. We surrender to His supreme wisdom and authority. His goodness in sending Christ to die on our behalf and save us from sin, self and sickness leads to our repentance. His absolute goodness and trustworthiness was perfectly revealed in Jesus as He laid down His life so that we might lay ours down and pick His up. This great exchange is taken when we take up our cross and follow Him. The way into God's kingdom is through the cross, though what Jesus has done for us.

His kingdom purpose is to establish righteousness, peace and joy in the hearts of everyone by the Holy Spirit. This requires our cooperation or submission to His purposes and will. We are called as a holy nation to show forth His praises as a people consecrated to His purposes. He first establishes His dominion in our hearts, then delegates authority to us in Jesus name so that we can extend His kingdom in the hearts of those we are commissioned to reach. Prayer is therefore focused on His purposes, plans and pursuits, not ours. As seek His kingdom, He sees to it that our needs are met.

When we align our will with His, we can expect His promised provision. Where God is allowed to guide, He will provide. Where we remain in control, we slip back into the common grace of God available to all mankind: the just and the unjust. Only the obedient enjoy God's special grace and favor.

We need to consecrate our will to His and renew our minds to think in line with His thoughts. Only when we voluntarily yield to His will, do we prove the will of God and His kingdom comes. Jesus had to do just this in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was tested at this critical hour to see the depth of His Father's dominion in His life: would he suffer the pain, indignity and torment of the cross for undeserving sinners? Thank God He showed us the way and submitted to the seeming madness of the plan. His obedience opened the way for our liberty from sin, sickness and lack.

*Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." **Luke 22:39-42***

## Deal with Selfishness

Selfish desire has no place in God's kingdom. If we try to twist God's arm to build our kingdoms, we surely suffer frustration, for God opposes the proud. Pride drives a man to establish his own significance. Allow God to establish His significance in your life as you submit to His kingdom ways.

*"For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.  
"For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways,  
And My thoughts than your thoughts. **Isaiah 55:8-9***

## Renew your Mind

In Christ, we are instructed to present our bodies (before the king) so that our minds may be renewed! As we meditate on His word and continue in worship, we are renewed and begin to think like God! Our thoughts become like His, and we identify more and more with His pursuits. We are lifted up to His higher level and see things from His perspective. Like a child we are 'raised' in His household of faith and adopt His goals and dreams.

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*  
**Romans 12:1-2**

## Chapter 5

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# Promised Provision

## Stand on the Promises

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

**Matthew 6:11**

**B**read in the Bible speaks of God's provision in both the material and spiritual realms. The Old Testament Israelites ate manna or bread from heaven as they wandered through the wilderness under Moses' leadership. They were physically sustained by this manna. Yet God's provision went deeper. They were also sustained by a vision of the Promised Land. In God there is always a future and a hope.

They had food for the body but also for the soul. To properly exist we need both our physical and spiritual needs met.

God has promised to give us our daily bread. Life is lived in increments, one day at a time. We are today what we thought, said and did yesterday. That is why prayer is to be a daily thing, a lifestyle. We are sustained by what we eat. Let us 'eat' the word of God on a daily basis.

As we learn to partake on a daily basis of God's wonderful provision and in that food's strength begin to participate in His plan, we can expect to enjoy God's abundance. However, if we relegate our feeding to a convenient God slot, say once a week at 'church', our Christianity will be weak and anemic at best. How many people do you know who only eat one square meal a week?

## Daily Dependence

God wants to encourage a daily dependence on Him. He does not want us to think we can store up our own resources and get by without Him. He is keen on giving us fresh bread from heaven each day. Do not live on yesterday's leftovers. They are never the same as a freshly cooked meal today. Make it your habit to ask God for the daily bread He has for you. As we give Him our attention and focus each day, He gives us our promised bread, whatever we need.

*Blessed be the Lord,*

*Who daily loads us with benefits,*

*The God of our salvation! **Psalm 68:19***

## Chapter 6

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# People in Prayer

## Relationships

*Forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors* **Matthew 6:12**

**L**ife is really all about relationships. How we live our lives towards others is connected to our relationship with God. We cannot expect to enjoy His forgiveness, if we are not prepared to forgive others when they do us wrong. As we forgive those closest to us that we enjoy God's forgiveness.

*If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.* **1 John 4:20-21**

If we say we love God and then act in hate toward our fellow human beings, then we are deceived. Our faith only works when we walk in love and forgiveness. We cannot even expect our prayers to be answered unless we are prepared to pass on the gift of forgiveness. Jesus taught that forgiveness and answered prayer go hand in hand.

*"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."* **Mark 11:25-26**

I am sure you can think of many people who have done you wrong. The wake up call comes when we realize that we have also wronged other people. God is in the business of straightening out all the wrongs, if we are prepared to play our part. We are all standing in the same line, so pass it on.

Jesus was able to do it from a position of great weakness. He was pinned to the cross, falsely accused, unjustly tried and cruelly crucified, yet found the strength to forgive His persecutors.

*Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."* **Luke 23:34**

Stephen picked up this spirit of forgiveness when he too was brutally murdered by religious fanatics fueled by disobedience, ignorance and envy.

*And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.* **Acts 7:59-60**

## Prayer

Like Stephen, we are called to release forgiveness in every situation. Little sins and large ones must be forgiven each day. Otherwise we build up bitterness and become hardened and protective in our relationships. Peter was astonished to learn that forgiveness was to be lifestyle, something to be exercised daily. The neat thing about daily exercise is that you become good at what you do regularly.

*Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.*  
**Matthew 18:21-22**

These are high standards indeed, and impossible to meet without God. But certainly possible with Him, especially when we realize that The Holy Spirit lives within us to spread the love around.

*Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* **Romans 5:5**

When we look to how we feel about the hurts, we do not have what it takes to forgive. However, when we look to the Holy Spirit within our hearts, we find the courage and capacity to walk in love and forgiveness to those who have wronged us.

## Chapter 7

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# Protection and Purity

*And do not lead us into temptation  
But deliver us from the evil one. Matthew 6:13*

**T**his side of heaven we have to contend with temptation and evil. It is naive to think that all we need to be is nice good people and things will work out. No, we have an adversary, the devil, who is bent on our destruction. He is the thief who comes only to steal, kill and destroy all that is good. He must be recognized for who he is and defended against.

Satan's plan is to put temptation in our way, so our daily prayer is for God to lead us not into that temptation, but away from it. God is always ready to warn us through His Word and by His Spirit to stay away from evil. We must learn to be sensitive to His voice warning us of danger up ahead. When we take the time to ask the Holy Spirit to show us things to come, and heed His warnings, we are protected.

*He will guide you into all truth...  
He will show you things to come. John 16:13*

## Purity Keeps Us in Touch

Our purity keeps us in touch with God. He hears the prayers of the righteous whose obedience keeps them from evil. Heeding the Holy Spirit's voice keeps us pure.

*The LORD is far from the wicked,  
But He hears the prayer of the righteous. Proverbs 15:29*

## Delegated authority

When Jesus conquered death, hell and the grave at the cross and at His resurrection, He did it for us. His plan was to defeat the devil and set us free to follow Him. He delivered us from the power of the enemy, and when we accept Jesus, we accept His victory over the evil one. We are already delivered from satan's power through what Jesus has done. We are to believe this and begin exercising our authority in Jesus name.

*He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,  
Colossians 1:13*



## Prayer

Jesus has already delegated this authority over evil to the church and we are expected to exercise it over evil.

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. **Matthew 28:18-20***

Think about it, we are responsible to act in Jesus name and on His behalf. We are His representatives to the world. The implication in this passage is that we are in union with Christ, following Him and His ways, obedient to His commands and enjoying His protection and provision.

We never see Jesus being left 'high and dry' by His heavenly Father when He ministered on earth. God's covenant ensures that we too are not left at the mercy of the enemy when we set about fulfilling the great commission. His righteousness is our breastplate protecting our hearts. He makes us pure by what He did on the cross. He does not lead us into temptation, and delivers us from evil.

### Jesus has prayed for you

I find it encouraging knowing that if Jesus prayed for Peter that His faith should not fail in the face of the enemy's temptation, then He will be praying for me too.

*And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; **Luke 22:31-32***

You might feel at times that you are about to cave in and give up. Rest assured Jesus has prayed for you that your faith might not fail. He will deliver. Stand firm in your faith. Hold up that shield of faith and quench every temptation Satan throws at you. They will come in the form of thoughts, like fiery darts that want to stick to you, and burn into your inner man. Have faith in Jesus ability to protect you.

*Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. **Hebrews 7:25-26***

One central reason why Jesus lives, is to stand in the gaps we open up through ignorance and disobedience, and make intercession for us.

## Chapter 8

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# Problem Solved!

### Does God always answer our prayers?

**Y**ou may wonder whether God really hears your prayers. Sometimes it seems that the answers are few and far between. Maybe prayer has become a hit or miss exercise for you, and the delight of communing with God has been lost. Prayer has become dutiful, and not the joy it should be. If this describes your prayer life, there is hope.

God wants you to know that prayer is your lifeline of communication with Him. Through prayer you get in touch with God and He with you. God's wants you to be confident in your prayer relationship with Him. When you are confident, you are assured as to the reliability of something. Prayer is not a matter of 'maybe', 'later' and 'you never quite know with God.' God always answers 'yes' when you pray according to His will! This may surprise you, but it is true.

### Confidence in Prayer

*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1 John 5:14-15*

God not only hears our prayers, but answers in the affirmative every time...when we ask according to His will! It's that simple. Don't let unbelieving folk talk you out of this foundational truth. God's ear is open to His children as they approach Him in confident faith. If we approach Him with a 'maybe You will or maybe You won't' attitude, we reveal an ignorance of His character, as well as a laziness in not finding out ahead of time what His already revealed will is for the matter at hand.

### Your Faith begins When You Know God's Will

When you know the will of God you can approach Him in total confidence. Sure, there are occasions when a prayer of consecration is appropriate. This is another matter. Where His will is not clearly prescribed for us in His word, we are to pray "Your will be done". But where His will is clearly revealed, we are expected to approach Him boldly and ask for His promised provision, and know with confidence that He hears us.

## Deal Double Mindedness a Deathblow

Decide what it is that you need and want from God. He expects us to be specific and definite. The ‘whatever’ approach to life is not going to cut it with God. He is always specific, precise and definite. He wants to raise us up to be the same. James puts it this way:

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. **James 1:5-8***

James cautions us to be sober-minded about prayer. If we pray when we are not convinced, or confident, we should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. This environment of uncertainty is where satan operates to bring discouragement. Give him no place through ignorance. Take the time to be disciplined enough to get to know the will of God through His word. Build your faith so that when you go to God, you do so with inspired confidence and assurance.

When you find a promise that applies to your need, you can be sure that God’s answer to a prayer prayed on the basis of that promise is going to be yes! Not no, maybe, or even later, but yes! God’s kingdom runs on certainty and confidence, not human uncertainty.

*For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. **2 Corinthians 1:20-21***

## Patience

We are expected to exercise patience when we pray. Faith and patience are cooperating spiritual disciplines that produce results. If satan can hinder or delay an answer to prayer, he can tempt us to get off track and back off standing in faith. He is after your faith, and seeks to nullify it through circumstances that stand contrary to your expectations in God. Hold fast to your confession of faith even when contrary circumstances seem to cloud the issue.

*And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

**Hebrews 6:11-12**

## Daniel Stands in Faith

The answer to Daniel’s prayer was delayed twenty-one days in reaching him. Daniel had set His heart to understand a vision he had seen, and only after twenty-one days did he receive an answer. His angelic visitor had been delayed by opposing spiritual forces. Daniel had been heard on the first day, and was heard because of his faith filled words. Yet there was a time delay, not because God ordered it, but because satan was Daniel’s adversary!

*In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision. In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.*

## Prayer

*Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz!...*

*Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come." **Daniel 10:1-5,10-14***

One can only imagine what would have happened if Daniel's faith had failed after a few days. It seems fair to say the angel would have had to turn around: mission –unaccomplished! Thank God, Daniel's faith was supported by patience, and the angel got through. Be encouraged to stand your ground in faith and patience so that you too can receive your answer.

## Chapter 9

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# Practical Ways

### Receive the Help of The Holy Spirit.

**J**esus has given us the Holy Spirit to help us pray practically. We need therefore to grow in a relationship with the Holy Spirit who knows the what, when, and how to's of prayer. He knows all things, lives on the inside of our spirits, and will help us when we look to Him in faith. He expects us to do the praying, but will play His part and help us!

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **Romans 8:26***

When we yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit's help, He adds a dimension to our prayer lives that transports us instantly into the spirit. This kind of intercessory prayer (prayer for others) can only be understood when the groaning referred to are seen in the light of being filled with the Spirit and speaking in other tongues. There are situations where our understanding of what is required is limited. Yet the Holy Spirit knows what's needed, and He lives within us as our helper. As we yield to Him, and pray in tongues, He is then given the opportunity to help us and indeed pray through us with groanings that cannot be uttered in articulate speech.

### Get the Help of a Trusted 'Prayer Partner'

Another way we can build confidence in prayer is to solicit prayer partner agreement from trusted individuals who identify with the way we believe and think. This is important, because the Bible teaches that we cannot walk together unless we are in agreement (Amos 3:3). Get the help of someone who is 'spiritually compatible' with you.

Where one is powerful, two are more powerful in the spirit realm. Like two friends lifting a heavy load together, united prayer allows heavier 'spiritual loads' to be lifted.

*Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." **Matthew 18:19-20***

We are expected to carry our own personal prayer responsibilities, but where an issue becomes too heavy for one to carry, we are to 'bear one another's burdens.' (See Gal 6:2).

When we come into agreement and gather for the purpose of united prayer, Jesus obliges us by His Spirit and is in our midst to mediate the answer to the prayers we pray. The power of united prayer is

## Prayer

illustrated in the book of Acts when the church was under fiery persecution. The apostles had been threatened not to preach in the name of Jesus any longer. They responded to this intimidation by going to 'their own company' and soliciting prayer support by those who walked with them in agreement. They lifted up their voices together in united prayer to God and received renewed boldness to continue speaking in the name of Jesus despite the severe threatening of the established religious hierarchy.

*And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord...  
...And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:23-24,31*

## Chapter 10

# Prayer's Pattern

**H**ere is a pattern of prayer you can now use. It summarizes what we have looked at over the previous chapters. Use it with your Bible handy and add your own emphasis and scripture as you get used to or practiced in using it in your prayer time.

Remember prayer is not so much about getting the technique right, but about approaching your relationship with God on the basis of His word. The more you know and use His word in prayer the more you will touch His heart, enjoy fellowshiping with God and get answers to your prayers.

Be sure to speak your prayers out loud to God. Don't just think them. It is what you believe in your heart and speak out your mouth that makes a difference.

### **Matt 6:9-13**

In this manner, therefore, pray:

*“Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.*

*Your kingdom come.*

*Your will be done*

*On earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our debts,*

*As we forgive our debtors.*

*And do not lead us into temptation,*

*But deliver us from the evil one.*

*For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”*

## The Pattern

### **Parenting**

*‘Our Father who is heaven hallowed be Your name’*

-Thank God for being Your Father and accepting you into his family.

-Bless the name of Jesus, your savior.

**John 1:12**

**Psalms 134:1**

### **Purpose**

*‘Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’*

-Pray that God's purposes are established in your life, your family, job and church as well as your neighborhood, city and nation.

**Jeremiah 29:7**

## Prayer

### Provision

*'Give us this day our daily bread.'*

- Thank the Lord for supplying all your needs:  
spirit-soul and body.

**3 John 2**  
**Philip. 4:19**

### People

*'Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.'*

- Pray that God's love be released to and through you in forgiveness to others today.
- Forgive those that sin against you at home, at work, even at church.

**Romans 5:5**

**Matthew 5:44**

### Protection

*'Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'*

- Pray for strength to stand your ground.
- Thank Him that the Word in you is powerful enough to resist any temptation.
  
- Acknowledge and use God's armor.

**Ephesians 4:27**

**Matthew 4:4**  
**Ephesians 6:11**

### Priorities

*'For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory.'*

- Commit to put the Lord's agenda first.

**Matthew 6:33**



## Chapter 11

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# Prayer Checklist

**U**se this summary of prayer tips to check up on your prayer life from time to time. Recognize that God wants you to get answers to your prayers, but He wants you to pray according to His will and in the proper manner. Otherwise satan will take advantage of your lack of precision. God watches over His word to perform it in your life. However He is not obliged to watch over our casual opinions. His word is His gift to us. So pray according to His word.

### Prayer Tips

- Get the word into your heart: **Proverbs 4:20-22**
- Decide what you want from God. **James 1:6-8**
- Find specific scriptures that promise you what you are asking. **2 Corinthians 1:20**
- Pray to the Father in Jesus name. **John 16: 23-24**
- Ask God in prayer for what you want. **Matthew 7:7-8**  
–Don't pray the problem, pray the promises.
- Mix thanksgiving and praise with your prayer. **Philippians 4:6**
- Then stand your ground in faith and wait for God to honor His Word. **Hebrews 6:12**

Final note:

Prayer is not so much enacting a formula, but establishing a living and real relationship with your heavenly Father through Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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**If you have never accepted Jesus as your Lord**

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God has made it possible for you to get into right relationship with Him.

He sent His Son Jesus into the world to live, die and rise again from the dead so that you could be forgiven of your sins, live a life that pleases Him, and joined to Him forever in heaven when you die.

God expects you to **acknowledge** your need for His forgiveness, **believe** that He raised Jesus from the dead, and be prepared to **confess** Jesus as Lord before witnesses in the world you live in.

*Accept His free gift of eternal life today. Turn away from your sinful past, wholeheartedly put your trust in Him today. Pray this prayer out loud from your heart, you will be giving your life back to him, and He will love, protect and provide for you all the days of your life.*

*Dear God in heaven,*

*I accept that I need your forgiveness for my sin.  
I repent and acknowledge that I cannot save myself.  
I believe that you raised your only begotten son Jesus from the dead.  
I ask you to come into my heart right now and be my Lord.  
I confess you Jesus as the Lord (master) of my life.  
I promise to serve you all my days.*

*Thank you for saving me. I am now your child, accepted into your family.*

*In Jesus name I pray, Amen.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend,

Now that you have prayed this prayer, get into a good Bible believing church that focuses on Jesus and His word, read your Bible starting with the Gospel of John in the New Testament, and tell someone that you have accepted Jesus as Your Lord. Pray to your new heavenly Father every day, and look to God to help you in every area of your life.

God bless you.