

**THE
REALITIES
OF
PRAYER**

BY

LARRY SIEMANS

REVISED OCTOBER 1996

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is a subject that most Christians know something about, but do they really know why they pray, the importance of prayer, the power of prayer, how to pray, if their prayers are really heard, etc? Most people have heard of prayer even before they became Christians and maybe even prayed occasionally.

However, after they become a Christian it seems that the church assumes that they know how to pray. For the most part there has not been instruction and teaching on prayer to the new born-again believer or to the Christian of many years.

It is at this point that I would like to briefly let you know about my life as a Christian. I was born in 1948 and born again during my initial year of college at 18 years old as a result of my roommate praying each night for months for my salvation. It was quite a transformation as my old self, personality, interests and desires disappeared overnight and I truly became a new creation. However, for the next twenty years I went through the motions of Christianity as I was still serving the world and all it had to offer. My wife and I were faithful members of a local church, but we were serving God only on Sundays. We did not know that God had a much greater and much more fulfilling purpose for our lives until January 1987 when we received Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives. Until then we had received Him as our Savior only.

What a difference He has made in our lives since then as He has grown in us as we have grown in Him.

During the past six years, I have been blessed with tremendous teachings on prayer from among the best teachers and preachers and have seen God answer countless prayers ranging from salvations to individual healings. I feel that each one of us are not just to be blessed, but are to be a channel of blessing and should tell others what we know so that they will also reap the benefits and grow closer to God. For over two years the Holy Spirit has given me the following two Bible verses which have directly affected my thinking and the direction of my life:

"...to whom much is given, much is required..."

Luke 12:48

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."

Hosea 4:6

With this in mind and the leading of the Holy Spirit, I have purposed to accumulate the enclosed data in a sincere hope that it will educate, inspire and challenge the reader in the area of

prayer as it has so greatly done in my life. No other subject that I have ever studied has changed my life as has the subject of prayer.

Due to limited space this is by no means a comprehensive study of every area of prayer, but it is intended to be an overview of major areas of prayer that I feel are life-changing.

For reference purposes the scriptures in each chapter are quoted from the King James Version of The Holy Bible.

LARRY SIEMANS
2309 Tamarisk
Plano, Texas 75023

CHAPTER 2

WHY PRAY?

Why pray? Does God hear my prayers? Do they do any good? Does God really answer prayers?

All of these are perfectly legitimate questions that millions of Christians throughout the ages have probably asked several times.

Prayer was designed by God as a means of man communicating with God. One of the early mentions of prayer in the Bible is as follows:

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God." Ezekiel 22:30,31

Because God is sovereign and He has given man a free will, He will not override man's will. Therefore, He has instituted prayer as a means of getting His will done on earth. Man prays for God's will to be done on earth; man does not need to pray to have his own will done. God will not interfere with man's will. In other words, if there is no one praying and interceding for a person or nation, God will let them go down the path of destruction. However, since it is not God's will that any person perish, He will start answering on the behalf of those people praying. In fact, throughout the Word of God, He encourages us to pray:

"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."

II Chronicles 7:14

Please note that any time the Word of God mentions "my people", God is referring to Christians.

"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." Isaiah 55:6

"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."

Matthew 7:7,8

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matthew 9:38

"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint:" Luke 18:1

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6

"Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thessalonians 5:17,18

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

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

As we can see from above, which are just a few of the many scriptures concerning prayer, God really wants us to pray. He not only invites us; He intreats, He importunes, He urges. He even begs us to exercise this privilege of communicating with Him. No other creature in the world has this privilege.

Since God will do nothing except in answer to prayer, then the entire responsibility for prayerlessness or ineffective prayer falls entirely upon us. In the scheme of prayer, God's part is already done. While His promise to answer is according to His will and not to our will, this is fine since we should never want anything but God's will since He knows the ending before the beginning for everything.

Prayer was devised by God to give us "on-the-job" training to be the overcoming victorious child of God through Jesus Christ. He has delegated to us the responsibility and authority to enforce His will right here on earth.

"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:19

"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." Matthew 18:19

Hopefully, from above, it is clear that the greatest thing anyone can do for God and for man is to pray. It is the highest call of God upon man. Individual lives, governments and nations rest upon the prayers of man. S. D. Gordan said, "You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed."

E. M. Bounds said, "God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be." As we can see, prayer should be the most important business of our day.

Heaven holds the key by which decisions governing earthly affairs are made but we hold the key by which these decisions are implemented. Prayer is not persuading or begging God to do something He is unwilling to do. It makes possible God's accomplishing what He already wants to do. The content of all true prayer originates in the heart of God. It is He that inspires the prayer in the heart of man and the answer to every God-inspired petition is already prepared before the prayer is uttered. God is just waiting for the believer to be obedient to His call to pray.

Most people say that they are too busy to answer this high call to pray and commune with God. We have more leisure time than ever before (television, sports, hunting, fishing, golfing, boating, etc.) but less time to pray. We are not only cheating God and the world but we are cheating ourselves. By our failure to pray we are frustrating God's high purpose in our lives and others. We are depriving the world of God's best plan for it.

Remember, prayer is the greatest activity anyone can do for God and man. By making prayer the most important part of your daily life; the least-gifted, least-known person in the world may become greater in God's book than the most brilliant and most famous person in the world who fails to pray.

In conclusion, there are four reasons why we as born-again Christians should answer God's call to pray:

1. For the Lord's sake--God wants us to love Him always, obey Him and have communion(fellowship) with Him.
2. For our sake--It is time for us to punish the devil, not the devil punish us. He has done that too long. There is no more time for "middle of the road" (lukewarm) Christianity.
3. For Zion's (the church) sake--The church is the apple or pupil of God's eye. The true church of born-again believers is the Bride of Christ.
4. For our world's sake--The world has no answer for all the problems-AIDS, increasing violence, drug

abuse, child abuse, teenage suicides, etc. It is time for us to lose our life for the eternal purpose of Jesus Christ and building His Kingdom.

"Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Mark 8:34

CHAPTER 3

SPENDING TIME IN PRAYER

"The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."

Psalms 34:15,17

"He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him."

Psalms 91:15

"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." Proverbs 8:17

Since 1987 I have discovered that the key to spending time in prayer is to make it a regular part of your daily life just as is eating, sleeping, working, recreation, etc. It should develop into a rhythm of your life.

I have really found Proverbs 8:17 above to be so true in my daily routine. It seems that if I don't spend time in prayer as soon after I get up in the morning as possible, I won't do it. The telephone starts ringing and other things start happening to distract, sidetrack, or hinder me from praying. Therefore, I have made it a vital part of my life (the most important part of my life) to seek God in prayer early in the morning before anything else. It is remarkable how the rest of the day goes after you have spent quality time with your heavenly Father. We should take care of our business with God first and always before we take care of our business with the world.

We should always pray each day even if we are too tired and don't feel that our prayers that day are going any higher than the ceiling. It is most important that we develop a rhythm of prayer (a habit). I once heard that in order for something to become a habit, a daily part of our life, we need to do it every day for three weeks. But, since the devil (Satan) knows the power of our prayers to God and hates it, he will do his best to try to discourage us in our prayer time and get us out of our rhythm of prayer. Therefore, it is most important to not give any place to the devil and pray each day even when we are too tired or don't feel like it.

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

The devil tries to make us doubt the effectiveness of our prayers. He will tell us that it is not doing any good, that God does not hear you, that you are not worthy, that you need your rest, that you can pray later knowing full well that you will probably get too busy, that others are praying and you don't need to, etc. Any thing to distract us, discourage us, delay us, keep us from doing God's will in our life to pray.

Following are some key points about doubt that we should be aware of:

1. We sometimes doubt our own ability to pray effectively. When this happens, we often leave it up to someone else to pray. We then only pray in emergency situations--Cries of despair.
2. Everyone in the Bible struggled with doubt at some time. Ex. Moses, David, Peter
3. The devil will try to make you feel that you are the only one that has doubt.
4. Doubt is not in your heart, but it is in your head.
5. We often have unrealistic expectations of ourselves, others and God. When this occurs, it sets us up for big disappointments. We then pray less and in general terms, not specific, so that we won't be disappointed.
6. We may not always pray with perfect faith but we should always continue to pray and pray specificly. Specific prayers will get specific answers.
7. We don't always have to know that God will but we should always know that God can only when and after we pray.
8. Whatever God does in answer to prayers is because we are faithful and obedient to Him. God is in complete charge and always does what is right.
9. God is and God can and we should pray that God will. If it doesn't happen, we should believe that He is working it to my good. Even though I may not understand it all at that time. Remember, God is not the problem.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

10. What is in our head (our mind) often keeps us from walking in victory through Jesus Christ in us. Faith should move us; our heart, our spirit should move us.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight:"

II Corinthians 5:7

11. Do not doubt in your heart. There is always some doubt in your head but **don't** pay any attention to it. Do not speak aloud any doubts in your head. The devil cannot read your mind, but when you speak aloud any doubt then you are agreeing with the devil's report and he can then really use it to come against you. It is important to know that the devil cannot read your mind, but he can put thoughts into your mind such as doubt and evil. The spoken word is **very powerful**--it brings either life or death.
12. Even though you may not have received the answer to your prayer, do not doubt that God has heard your prayer and is in the process of answering it. Many times our prayers involve God doing a work in other people, situations, things, etc. before He can give us the specific answer to our prayer. However, keep praying it each day until you either receive the answer or that burden is lifted from you and you feel a release from praying it.
13. Remember most of all that your prayers do make a difference when you pray. Do **not not** pray.

CHAPTER 4

PRAYING WITH PURPOSE

We should always pray with purpose, not just going through the motions. I have found that in addition to communing with God, praising Him and thanking Him, I pray much better when I have a burden or purpose that I need God to answer. We should pray with focus, purpose and intent.

**"Where there is no vision, the people perish."
Proverbs 29:18**

Other words for vision are revelation or prophetic word.

Many people when they pray are moved by their condemnation and not by their confidence in who they are in Jesus Christ. The way we respond to God in prayer is a reflection of our relationship with Him.

**"According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him."
Ephesians 3:11,12**

We always pray to get God's will done in earth in our lives. There is no need ever to pray to get our will done. Concerning our will, we will do it anyway.

Many times in our prayers we major on the minor things that are not important. We should major on those things that affect our destiny and the destiny of this world.

Four things that we should major on each day as we pray are:

1. **Wisdom**--This is the understanding or insight which is the ability to see into or perceive. It is looking at life from God's point of view. It is probably one of the least prayed for things among Christians but it should be perhaps the most important thing to pray for.

**"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."
Proverbs 3:13**

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of

**God, that giveth to all men liberally, and
upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."
James 1:5**

2. **Fruit of the Holy Spirit**--It is the work of the Holy Spirit that produces or grows the fruit of the Spirit in us. No person can produce the fruit by himself. The Holy Spirit grows it in you and relieves all stress and produces character and integrity in you. We should pray that each of our lives be good soil (dirt) for the fruit of the Holy Spirit to grow (produce) in us.

**"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness,
faith, meekness, temperance: against such
there is no law." Galatians 5:22,23**

3. **Gifts and anointing of the Holy Spirit**--We should pray for the release (revealing) of the gifts and anointing of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives. We should pray that we know what our main gift is, to use it to serve and bless others, and to be good managers or stewards of it and with the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

**"As every man hath received the gift, even so
minister the same one to another, as good
stewards of the manifold grace of God."
I Peter 4:10**

**"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given
to every man to profit withal."
I Corinthians 12:7**

**"...and the yoke shall be destroyed because
of the anointing." Isaiah 10:27**

We should never neglect the gift of God in us or we could lose it. We should pray each day for God to fill us with the Holy Spirit again and again. We should not think that we are filled once and that is all we ever need. For example: A pitcher of water is filled but as you drink from it, it needs refilling. We are filled as we yield and surrender to God at that moment.

4. **Our heart**--We should pray over our heart to keep it or guard it with all diligence because out of your heart flows the issues of life and out of the

abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. If you have a pure heart, it will change your life before your mind realizes it. We should pray for the following:

- a. A pure and holy heart.
- b. A hungry heart for God and His ways.
- c. A hearing heart that God will open the eyes of our understanding and give us His Spirit of wisdom, knowledge, understanding and revelation.
- d. A healthy and happy heart at all times and that the joy of the Lord is our strength.

CHAPTER 5

PROGRESSION OF PRAYER

God is calling His church, His believers, to pray. But to many of God's people, prayer is a lost art or something they really don't know how to do effectively with results. Prayer should progress from the DESIRE to DISCIPLINE to DELIGHT.

DESIRE

The Holy Spirit of God births within us the desire to pray and seek God. The emphasis on prayer should be on the someone we are with and not on something we do. We should focus on being with God. The whole purpose should be fellowshiping and openness with God. By praising and worshipping God in our prayer and entering into His presence through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, it can prepare us for intimacy with God. We should come to His heart and become vulnerable in His presence. God is seeking intimacy with us or what is referred to as YADA which means to become very close to Him, to know Him, or the opposite of being casual.

"...but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." Daniel 11:32

DISCIPLINE

Then as we obey the call of God to pray, desire matures within us and moves us into a place of holy discipline before the Lord. The root word of disciple is discipline and the underlying idea is a disciplined follower of Jesus. Jesus' life was a disciplined life of prayer, and the power of God flowed out of Him. If we want to see the power of God move in our lives, we must have a continual renewal of our relationship with God through a disciplined daily prayer life.

Lack of discipline in the believer's life is the biggest cause in them for not praying each day in a consistent rhythm of prayer or reading the Bible daily. This is due mainly to not having developed a plan. Hopefully, by the end of this study on prayer, you will have established a plan of daily prayer and Bible reading.

Prayer should be personalized each time we pray. We should ask the Holy Spirit to help us to pray and for Him to reveal to us what He wants us to pray for.

We must be persistent in our prayers and never give up. We never lose until we give up. Persistence is a filter system in our prayer life to filter out or purge that which is not really important or God's will. Persistence is the character of prayer. It is very important that we keep praying for what we are praying for. For example, our nation.

Prayer must become practical in that we should ask and expect an answer to it. There must be reality in prayer.

Prayer must become powerful as we exercise the responsibility and authority that Jesus gave us to bind the strongman (the devil). Remember, we have all authority over all the power of the enemy. The enemy only has as much power as we allow him to have in our lives. In prayer we should take back what the enemy has taken or stolen from us. The enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy as discussed in John 10:10. It is time for the church and the believers to wake up.

"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Mark 1:35

DELIGHT

After we have disciplined ourselves to pray each day, prayer then moves to the third level--DELIGHT. We delight to do His will. We rejoice in seeking His presence, His power, and His provision. We look forward to spending time with Him.

CHAPTER 6

THE PATTERN OF PRAYER

From the moment a person becomes a Christian by receiving Jesus Christ into his heart as his personal Lord and Saviour (being born again as explained in the Book of John, Chapter 3), he is taught to pray but not how to pray. There has been very little, if any, teaching on this most important part of the Christian life. Jesus Christ who knew the most about the importance of prayer and prayed to the Father tells us how to pray—

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

Matthew 6:9-13

This is most often referred to as the Lord's Prayer but it is really our prayer.

As we expand on these scriptures, we will see that these are meant to be a pattern, a format, a guide, or an outline that encompass everything that we will ever need to pray. We will see that there is much more to these words than mere words. Jesus cautioned us to not use vain repetitions when we pray—

"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." Matthew 6:7

The above prayer scriptures (Matthew 6:9-13) can be broken down into seven different components relating to each of our lives and our needs. They are as follows, each of which will be discussed in detail in a separate lesson:

1. **Personal or Paternal--**
Our Father which art in heaven,
2. **Presence of God--**
Hallowed be thy name.
3. **Priorities--**
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

4. **Provision--**
Give us this day our daily bread.
5. **Pardon--**
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
6. **Power or Protection--**
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
7. **Praise--**
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Jesus Christ wants us to spend quality time in prayer.

"What, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Matthew 26:40,41

As you begin to pray according to the pattern given to us by Jesus you will find that one hour spent with God is not that long or difficult. Soon you will find that you may want to devote more time than one hour in prayer. One hour each day is less than five percent (5%) of your life. Is that too much to spend with God? As you spend more time in prayer you will see your life change in so many ways.

CHAPTER 7

OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN

As we begin our prayer time each day, we begin by praying to our Father, our heavenly Father. It is very important that we know God as our Father, our intimate loving Father, so that each time we pray we can get more into the inner depths of our relationship with God. As we become more intimate with God, God will continue to take us deeper into Him as He abides in us. Eternal life is not just being saved by His grace and living an abundant life but it is knowing God intimately and His Son Jesus Christ who God sent to die for all our sins because He loved us so much. Normal Christianity is having our roots firmly planted intimately in God and the shed blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness and remission of all our sins.

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the vail, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"

Hebrews 10:19-23

As said above, the key to knowing God as Father is by the shed blood of Jesus. It has already been done. We have the confidence or boldness to enter into the holiest place by the blood of Jesus. God is **not interested in our performance**; it is our acceptance of the blood shed by Jesus for the forgiveness and remission of all our sins--past, present and future sins.

The blood of Jesus Christ is our springboard to getting closer to God. **We enter into God's presence by what Jesus did**, not by what we did or did not do or what we are going to do.

CHAPTER 8

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

As a continuation of the first part of the prayer, we continue to enter into God's presence with our praise for the benefits and promises provided in the new covenant of grace purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ. We begin to thank God for the blood of Jesus and its power to forgive, save, atone, deliver, heal, redeem, provide, etc.

The word hallowed means "to be sanctified or set apart; to be praised; to be adored". When we are born again, we are set apart- old things (ways) have passed away, all things are becoming new. We are to set apart and praise God for who He is as the following eight Old Testament names define Him and the benefits of Him through the blood of Jesus Christ:

1. Jehovah-tsidkenu--Our righteousness.

We are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus through the blood He shed for our redemption.

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin: that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." II Corinthians 5:21

Righteousness is equal to Jesus Christ plus nothing.

"And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:" Colossians 2:10

Thank God that all your sins-past, present, and future-are all forgiven.

"...the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:7,9

2. Jehovah-m'kaddesh--Our sanctification.

God sanctifies us, sets us apart and by the power of His Holy Spirit endwelling in us, He empowers us to live holy lives and to be spiritually and morally pure.

**"...but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." I Corinthians 6:11
Also see I Thessalonians 4:3,4 and 5:23**

Thank God that He is setting you apart, is at work in you, and is putting you into the place of the Body of Christ that He wants you to be.

The benefit of Jehovah-tsidkenu and Jehovah-m'kaddesh is the promise of forgiveness of sin and deliverance from sin's dominion over our lives.

3. Jehovah-shalom--Our peace.

God is our peace that breaks down all barriers that try to keep us from Him. The Hebrew word shalom is translated "peace" and represents wholeness and harmony with God and contentment and satisfaction in life.

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

Christ's atonement or reconciliation is the basis of peace with God as He paid the price for all our sins with His death at Calvary.

4. Jehovah-shammah--He is present.

It is the promise of God of His presence in us as believers.

**"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you."
I Corinthians 3:16**

Thank God for revealing His Glory, presence and anointing to you each day and that others will know that you are different and will see Jesus through you.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

The benefit of Jehovah-shalom and Jehovah-shammah is the enjoyment of the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

5. Jehovah-rophe--Our healer.

The word rophe means to restore, cure, or heal,

not only in the physical sense but also in the spiritual and moral sense.

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5

"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." I Peter 2:24

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." Hebrews 13:8

Thank God that Jesus bore our sorrows and griefs on the cross, and by His stripes He has healed our physical body, our inner self, and given us a sound mind and whole healthy body. Thank Him that the joy of the Lord is our strength.

**"...the joy of the Lord is your strength."
Nehemiah 8:10**

If you don't have any strength, the devil is going to take advantage of you, and you will not be as effective in the Kingdom of God. The greatest faith words you can ever say to God are **"Thank You."** Thank God a lot and for every thing that you have and that happens to you. It will stir your spirit up.

As you have probably determined, the benefit of Jehovah-rophe is the enjoyment of soundness in health and healing.

6. Jehovah-jireh--Our provider.

On the cross at Calvary Jesus shed His blood to remove the curse of failure, frustration, futility and inferiority; and delivered us from the curse of the law.

**"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."
Romans 8:2**

God is willing and able to meet every one of our needs.

"He that spareth not his own Son, but delivereth him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13
"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

Thank God that He meets all your needs and that He is your source and strength.

The benefit of Jehovah-jireh is that we enjoy the freedom from the curse of the law and have success through Jesus Christ. We are overcomers through Him.

7. Jehovah-nissi--Our banner of love and victory.
Jesus is the banner of our redemption and warfare through His victory at Calvary. Because of God's love, He gives us the victory and makes us more than a conqueror. Because Jesus Christ has abolished death, we no longer have to fear death.

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31
"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Romans 8:37
"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." Isaiah 54:17
"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." I John 4:4

8. Jehovah-rohi--Our shepherd.
Jesus is your shepherd, He cares for you in every thing, leads you, restores your soul, and is your companion or friend. Because He is our shepherd, we are free from death and hell because our sin was taken away at Calvary. Thank God that we are an eternal being, already experiencing eternal life.

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." John 10:11
"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin: and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 15:55-57
"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and

they shall never perish neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10:27,28
 "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." II Corinthians 5:8

The benefit of Jehovah-nissi and Jehovah-rohi is freedom from the fear of death and hell.

RECAP OF EIGHT COMPOUND NAMES OF GOD

| <u>BENEFIT</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>MEANING</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| SIN | Jehovah-tsidkenu | "Our righteousness" |
| | Jehovah-m'kaddesh | "Our sanctification" |
| SPIRIT | Jehovah-shalom | "Our peace" |
| | Jehovah-shamma | "Our presence" |
| SOUNDNESS | Jehovah-rophe | "Our healer" |
| SUCCESS | Jehovah-jireh | "Our provider" |
| SECURITY | Jehovah-nissi | "Our banner" |
| | Jehovah-rohi | "Our shepherd" |

When you know Jesus personally and everything that He has done for you through His death, burial, descent to hell, defeat of satan, resurrection, and ascension to heaven to be with the Father; you will never again be able to willfully sin successfully. You are a changed person and are victorious through Jesus Christ in you.

CHAPTER 9

THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

During this part of your prayer time, you pray over the priorities in your life. God does not impose or force His will upon people. He has given each of us a free will to govern every area of our life. However, since God knows the ending before the beginning concerning everything, it makes sense to do His will rather than our own will. There are **two wills**--Perfect will (God's) and Permissive will (ours). When we are in God's perfect will, things will go smoother and will result in what God wants for us much quicker than when we are in our will. A simple example of Perfect will versus Permissive will can be shown by a law in geometry which says that the shortest distance between two points A and B is a straight line. This is God's perfect will for our lives. However, if we try to get from point A to point B by ourselves (permissive will), we may venture or detour to the right or left of the straight line several times before we eventually get to point B. That is assuming that we don't get discouraged or get into serious trouble or give up beforehand.

There are four major categories in which you pray for God's will to be done. They are yourself, your family, your church and your nation and the world as explained below:

YOURSELF

Begin with yourself. If you are not right with God, then you are wasting your time praying.

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

Believe in the power in the blood of Jesus and declare Jesus Christ as Lord of your life in everything. Do not major on the minor things in your life as you pray, but major on the major things concerning you such as your relationship with God, health, marriage, job, finances, relationships, etc. Other major items are as follows:

1. Pray for God's wisdom and revelation concerning every area of your life.
2. Pray that you will hear His voice and do His will in everything.

3. Pray concerning those areas in your life that you need His help and guidance in.
4. Pray that you will continue to grow in Him each day.
5. Pray over the particular concerns that you will be involved in each day--
 - a. God will direct your path.
 - b. God will give you favour with people.
 - c. God will give you the right words to say.
 - d. God will give you patience, long-suffering, joy, peace, etc.
 - e. God will give you the right attitude and you will be a reflection of Christ in you.
 - f. No weapon formed against you will prosper and no lying tongue will condemn you.

YOUR FAMILY

Your family is your next priority in prayer during this time. If you are married, you should always pray for God's will to be done in the life of your spouse and that he or she will have the peace, righteousness and joy of God and be the Christian that God wants them to be. Pray that your marriage will be everything that God wants it to be and that Jesus Christ will be the center of it. Be specific in your prayers. You, more than anyone else, know the areas in which your spouse or your marriage need God's help. Other major areas include the following:

1. Pray for God's perfect will to be done in each of your children and their mates, if married, and their family. If your children are not married yet, pray that they will marry the right person that God wants them to marry.
2. Pray for God's wisdom in guiding and training your children to be what God wants them to be and what you speak to each child. It is very important what you say. The spoken word can be very dangerous.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."

Proverbs 18:21

3. Pray for other family members that the Lord places upon your heart, especially those that are not Christians that they will come to know the truth and receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. Allow the Holy Spirit to enlarge your circle of family members to pray God's will for. If you are unable to leave a particular person that you

are praying for, do not rush through your praying but be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. He knows that person's needs that day. Keep praying for that person until you feel that the Holy Spirit has released you. It is very important that we obey the Holy Spirit especially when we are praying for others in what is referred to as intercession. Many times you may think of someone that you may not have thought of in years. This is often the Holy Spirit speaking to you and wanting you to intercede in prayer for them right then. Do not disobey the prompting of the Holy Spirit. It could literally mean life or death for that particular person.

4. Pray for God's perfect will to be done in the lives of your friends, business acquaintances, neighbors, etc.

Remember, that all things can be done or changed in prayer no matter how hopeless or impossible it may look in the natural. There **is** power in prayer and prayer changes things. Do not give up.

"(For we walk by faith, not by sight.)" II Corinthians 5:7

YOUR CHURCH

Your third priority is your local church.

1. Pray for your pastor, leaders, elders, teachers, staff, etc. for God's anointing in them that they will preach/teach as the oracles of God and that they will be led by the Holy Spirit.
2. Pray that they will have the wisdom of God, spend time in prayer, hear the voice of God, and be obedient to God.
3. Pray that they will not grieve or hinder the Holy Spirit and that they will allow the Holy Spirit to move and have His way at all times.
4. Pray that your church and congregation will be everything that God has called it to be.
5. Pray that the congregation will always be faithful in bringing their tithes and offerings and that God will meet all their needs and those of the church.
6. Pray the blood of Jesus over your pastor and leaders and their families and over the congregation.

7. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead the people from the north, south, east and west that He wants to be a part of your church.
8. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be welcomed and be present each time you meet.
9. Pray that many people will be saved, healed, delivered, set free and added to the church by the Holy Spirit.
10. Pray that God will give your pastor, leaders and the congregation the vision He has for them and that they will be open to receive it and pray it through.

YOUR NATION AND THE WORLD

Your fourth priority is your nation and the world which also includes your city and state.

1. Pray for leaders in government (local, state, national) that God will give them wisdom and that they will be saved.
2. Pray for our nation that it will turn back to God and be what God has intended it to be.

"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." II Chronicles 7:14

3. Pray for revival in America and the rest of the world and that millions of people will be saved.
4. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and Israel and that the spiritual eyes of the Jews and Arabs around the world will be opened to see the truth of God and receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour.

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee." Psalms 122:6

5. Enable God to expand your borders and vision and pray for other nations as the Holy Spirit puts them on your heart.
6. Pray for other ministries as the Holy Spirit puts them on your heart--

- a. That God will provide all their needs.
- b. That they will have a hearing ear and do the will of God at all times.
- c. Cover them, their families, their staff, their ministry, and their property with the blood of Jesus.
- d. That they will be good stewards of the finances given to them in faith by God's people; and they will be good stewards of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

RECAP

It is very important to remember that as you pray during this part of the outline, try to be led by the Holy Spirit as much as possible as He gives you direction and insight to the subjects that He wants you to pray. Do not feel that you have to pray all of these, only these, or in this order. The outline serves to help you remember your various priorities.

It is also most important to be **very specific** during your entire prayer time with God. He wants you to communicate with Him as you talk to your spouse or best friend. He wants to be your best friend. Unless you pray specifically, how do you know that God has really answered your prayers or if it is just coincidence?

"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."

Matthew 7:7,8

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:22

"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 you." John 16:23

If at this point in developing your prayer life, you find prayer to be only a duty or obligation, it is **most important** to continue the discipline of your daily prayer life. However, during your prayer time each day ask God to give you the spirit of intercession and to transform you into a person of prayer. You will soon see your prayer time progress from desire to discipline to delight. God is faithful to perform it.

CHAPTER 10

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

It is during this part of your prayer time that you can thank God again that He is your provider, Jehovah-jireh, and you pray for all your needs; not your wants or greeds. As was pointed out in the last session, it is most important during this part of your prayer to be specific in your asking.

As you may have noticed, the first three parts of the Lord's prayer He gave us is **Godward** or **God-focused**. It concentrates on getting God's will done in everything in the earth. Remember, God does not initiate His will. He reacts everytime in response to our prayers to do exceedingly abundantly here on earth.

There are four basic requirements for successfully praying in what you need-

1. **Be in the perfect will of God--**

- a. Through fellowship with Jesus Christ in daily prayer life and Bible reading.
- b. Consistent fellowship with local church. Those persons who are able who say that they love the Lord but will not regularly attend a local church have a serious problem since the church is the Bride of Jesus. The church is not one particular denomination. It is made up of all truly born-again believers. In heaven, there will be believers from all denominations. We are all one Body in Christ.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25

- c. Develop diligent, balanced work habits as God has ordained you to work and serve Him on your job.

"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing." I Thessalonians 4:11,12

"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." II Thessalonians 3:10

- d. Be obedient in your giving to your local church as you bring the full tithes and offerings to God. The tithe is the first ten percent of your income. The tithe is the most important money you will ever spend as it serves to be the ax to the root of all evil.

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some have coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierce themselves through with many sorrows."

I Timothy 6:10

As you give to God, your attitudes toward insecurities will change. God promises that if we give to Him first, then He will pour out His blessings upon us. All God's covenants or promises with us involve us doing something first. On the other hand, if we do not give Him His tithes and our offerings, He promises curses upon us.

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 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 the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Malachi 3:8-10

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matthew 6:21

In summary, being in the will of God can be summed up in one major element: **the Lordship of Jesus Christ in every area of our lives.**

2. **Believe it is God's will to bless you--**Throughout the Word of God, there is evidence that He wants to bless His people, the born-again believers. You must believe this with all your heart. If you do not believe, really believe with all your heart, you will not receive God's blessings.

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not

that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." James 1:6,7

Do Not be double-minded. Do not pray one thing and say something else. That is negative faith and God cannot honour it.

Remember, the opposite of faith is unbelief and without faith it is impossible to please God.

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

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

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." III John 2

God wants you to have more than enough so that you will have some left over to do His works in the earth such as support foreign missions, feed the poor, etc. Obey what God tells you to do as He has a unique divine purpose in your life. As you believe His Word that He does want to bless you, it will give you boldness and confidence to come daily before the Lord with your specific requests.

3. **Be specific in your asking**--As was previously discussed, it is very important to pray specifically concerning your needs.

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."
Philippians 4:6

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." I Peter 5:17

Don't Worry about Anything but Pray about Every Thing.

When you have done all of the above, you can confidently ask for your specific needs. However, always pray according to His will and be open to the voice of God because He may adjust your thinking and your asking. This happens a lot of times especially if you are praying amiss--your

will and not God's will.

4. **Be tenacious in your asking**--Don't quit. Don't give up in your praying for something until you get the answers. Most prayers are not answered immediately. It is God's way of developing patience, character and faithfulness in you; and it acts as a filtering mechanism in you to separate your selfish desires from God's perfect will concerning that request. It is most important to not grow weary and give up and therefore miss the answer God has prepared. There can be miscarriages in prayer if we give up. That thing conceived in prayer by the Spirit of God can be lost if we don't pray it through to its birth and by refusing to wait on the Lord. Remember, God is always in charge of every thing and knows the ending from the beginning.

"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time..." Ecclesiastes 3:11

Remember, Daniel prayed 21 days before the answer came. The devil was trying to keep the answer from coming. But Daniel travailed in prayer until he prevailed. We must also do the same.

CHAPTER 11

AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS

As we approach this part of our prayer time, this is probably the most important aspect. It is the only part of the Lord's prayer that Jesus repeats or reemphasizes right after He gave us the outline:

"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." Matthew 6:14,15

Learning to forgive is most important not only in our spiritual growth but also in every area of our life. It is an important key to spiritual liberty, victory and joy. Since the blood of Jesus was shed for the forgiveness and remission of all our sins--past, present and future, we must also forgive those who sin against us. If we do not forgive others, we are, in effect, exalting ourselves to a position higher than God. If we want our prayers answered, if we want to be forgiven by God, we must forgive those who sin against us.

Another item that has to go along with forgiveness every time is to forget that sin also. **You must forgive and forget** the offense of the person who sins against you. Forgiveness without forgetting it is not forgiveness. We are only deceiving ourselves because we will have a tendency to bring that sin up every chance we get as it festers within us. Unforgiveness leads to bitterness and unanswered prayers.

ASK GOD TO FORGIVE YOU

As we begin to pray this part in asking God for forgiveness, often the Holy Spirit will reveal a sin that needs to be confessed, forgiven and forgotten. **Confession** is coming into agreement with God as to what He calls is sin. Confession is not telling God what you feel about something. He is sovereign and His Word is true. As I pray for forgiveness, I find that the biggest sin that I and probably most Christians need forgiveness for is the sin of omission. The sin of omission includes things such as failing to tell others the truth of God's Word, failing to help the poor, failing to do or say what you know that the Holy Spirit is telling you to do or say. The reason for this is that we are afraid of the opinions of others. We should pray for boldness and always aim to please God and not man.

FORGIVE OTHERS AS YOU WANT TO BE FORGIVEN

How often do we forgive a person who sins against us? Four hundred ninety times each day.

**"Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, until seventy times seven."
Matthew 18:21,22**

In this part of our prayer we are asking God to treat us as we have treated others. We should pray to God for Him to teach us to treat others as He treats us. We should have a right attitude toward everybody all the time no matter how they treat us or what they do to us. Keep forgiveness in your spirit at all times.

When we disobey God's Word and refuse to forgive someone, we are doing much more harm to ourselves than to that person. Often, that person does not even know that we are not forgiving him. When we forgive others we open ourselves to the supernatural intervention and protection of God. However, when we disobey God we open our flesh to the demonic forces such as the spirits of bitterness, resentment, hate, envy, strife, anger, etc. that can cause cancer, arthritis, etc. Our spiritual life is thus blocked and our prayers can be ineffective and unanswered. It then leads to Satan stealing our victory, joy and peace. We should never let Satan steal our joy for he knows that the joy of the Lord is our strength.

"And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses." Matthew 18:34,35

**"...for the joy of the Lord is your strength."
Nehemiah 8:10**

CHOOSE TO BE A FORGIVER ALWAYS

Make a decision each day as you pray that you will be a forgiver. **Live in the spirit of forgiveness.** This will keep you from the tormenting spirits--the memories and demon oppression. If you are tired of being tormented, release your offenders by forgiving them immediately and forgetting the offense done to you.

It is very important that each day we set our mind that we refuse to be offended. Also, do not take up another person's offense.

We should always be quick to forgive, forget, repent, and obey God.

Remember, that forgiveness is not an emotion. It is an act of your free will as you decide to forgive someone. It is then equally important to forget it. Again, forgiveness without forgetting it is not true forgiveness. Do not let its remembrance creep back into your heart, head and spirit. Jesus gives us the following command concerning our enemies:

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

Matthew 5:44

When you do this, ask the Holy Spirit to help you and you will experience the grace of God that is greater than anyone's offenses toward you.

If you have taken up someone else's offense, you cannot experience the grace of God. He will not honour it because you are disobedient by taking up someone else's offense. The bottom line is to refuse to be offended by anyone or anything that happens to you.

CHAPTER 12

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

As we begin this part of our prayer time, we are entering into the protection or power phase of the Lord's prayer. This is very important each day as we pray to be able to stand against the attacks of the enemy (satan and his demonic forces), resist temptations and live victoriously. We will discuss trials and temptations, the whole armour of God, and our hedge of protection.

TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS

God in His Word tells us that no matter who we are, we will suffer trials and tribulations and temptations. Even Jesus Christ was tempted several times while He was on earth.

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." I Peter 4:12,13

"Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." Matthew 4:1

It is most important to know that God does not tempt us or inflict tribulations on us but He allows them in our lives in order for us to grow up spiritually.

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempted he any man." James 1:13

The devil or also known as satan is the tempter as he knows each of our weak spots or areas in our lives and he tries to come against them to steal, kill or destroy us. These weak spots can range from addictions to cursing to lusts to pornography, etc. that we may not have even considered as weaknesses. They are actually strongholds or footholds that the devil can use against us.

**"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that the stones be made bread."
Matthew 4:3**

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill,

and to destroy..." John 10:10

Following are various origins of trials and temptations; and God's purposes for allowing them in our lives:

1. From within ourselves such as uncontrolled appetites, large self-ego, lust of the eyes (materialism), or lust of the flesh (physical attraction).

These reveal our nature and help us realize our inability to overcome them on only our strength. We learn to depend on God and deliverance through His Son Jesus Christ and His victory at Calvary. We should pray that we should never be tempted by what is referred to as the things of the world--lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life:

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." I John 2:16,17

By the way we live, we can unintentionally give the devil the right to run over us each day and keep us depressed, oppressed and not walking in victory. If you leave even the smallest door open, the devil will come in and shoot down other areas in your life that you have victory in.

"Neither give place to the devil." Ephesians 4:27

There should be nothing in your life that you cannot get victory over. Sin will not have dominion in your life. We walk and war from the victory that Jesus won at Calvary for us for ever.

2. From Satan--
 - a. To teach and train us to use our authority and weapons in spiritual warfare.
 - b. To develop patience in us and grow us up spiritually to prepare us for God's perfect will in our lives.
 - c. To purify us and perfect our faith. As we grow spiritually, our faith grows as we see God deliver us from one trial after another. We grow from faith to faith and glory to glory.

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that

ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2-4

- d. To enable the Lord to gain great victory over Satan through you.

**"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished."
II Peter 2:9**

It is vitally important for your survival and victory over your trials, tribulations and temptations to continue steadfastly in your daily praying. Persist in prayer and worship each day. It is **so important** to pray and praise the Lord when you are in good times, in the bad times (in the fire), and after God has delivered you out of the fire. Do not give up. If you are having a lot of difficulty praying while in the fire, you must have someone else praying with you and for you until the victory comes and you can stand again. DO NOT let the devil use selfish pride in your life to keep you from admitting that you are going through tough times and you need their prayers. The devil uses pride to destroy many people. It is one of his main weapons.

"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18

I have found that many times the victory comes much sooner after I humble myself and ask someone else, preferably my wife, to pray with me and for me concerning the particular situation or problem.

"By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life." Proverbs 22:4

In summary, Jesus knows that we can bow to temptations as a result of our own carelessness, weakness and disobedience; and, He knows of future evil forces and circumstances that can come and try to tempt us time after time. Therefore, He lovingly commands us to pray each day, "Lead us not into temptation."

THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD

In order to stand each day in the victory that Jesus won for us at Calvary, God commands us to put on the whole armour of God. As explained in Ephesians 6:10-17, putting on the whole armour of God is actually putting on or covering ourselves by faith with Jesus and the blood of Jesus. It is very important that we do this each day so that we can stand victoriously against all the attacks (verbal, physical, spiritual, emotional) of the enemy. Think of yourself as a soldier in the army of God getting up each day and putting on your uniform (armour) before you go out to

fight the battles that are ahead of you. It is important to be fully clothed in the armour of God or you will be exposed and vulnerable in that area that you did not put on.

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." Romans 13:12,14

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;" Ephesians 6:10-17

Jesus wants to be our defense and to clothe us with Himself. Following is an explanation of what the armour is, its purpose, and how to put it on as related to a soldier in the army of God:

1. **Having your loins girt about with truth--**Your loins are between the ribs and the hipbones where your digestive system, reproductive organs, and the bowels are.

"Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom." Psalms 51:6

To apply the truth to your loins, declare that your loins are girt about with the truth of God; that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life; that He abides in you and you abide in Him; that you will not be deceived and will not deceive anyone or falsify anything; and that you are walking in the integrity and character of His truth.

2. **Having on the breastplate of righteousness--**The breastplate was a piece of armour worn over your chest to cover your vital organs such as the

esophagus, windpipe, heart and lungs. To apply the breastplate of righteousness, declare that you have on the breastplate of righteousness by the blood of Jesus; He is your righteousness and it is not your righteousness; and that Jesus Christ is your Lord ruling in your heart and your life.

3. **And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace--**Your feet must be properly attired in order to stand, walk, run, sidestep, etc. In this case, your feet are shod with the preparation or readiness or promptness to face the enemy with the good news of the Gospel of peace. To apply, declare that your feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; that you are walking in His peace; not walking in fear, anxiety, worry or doubt; and that you are walking in the authority that Jesus gave you as a believer to do His Great Commission which includes witnessing to others, preaching or teaching the Word of God to others, casting out demons and laying hands on the sick. Please read Mark 16:15-18.

4. **Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked--**The shield was a large piece of the armour carried on the arm or in the hand that covered the entire body in battle. It was so large that a soldier could stand behind it and incoming arrows could not find any exposed part of his body.

"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." Proverbs 30:5

Declare that you have put on the shield of faith; that no weapons formed against you shall prosper; that Jesus is the author and finisher of your faith; that you have been given a measure of faith; and that the blood of Jesus covers you and that the blood of Jesus is against Satan and he cannot penetrate it.

5. **And take the helmet of salvation--**The helmet is very important as it was worn to protect all of the head, not just part of it. It had two eye holes to enable a person to see.

**"O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation,
thou hast covered my head in the day of battle."
Psalms 140:7**

It is very important to put the helmet on each day

as it protects our mind which is where the enemy will try to come against us over and over again by trying to put evil thoughts in our mind and get us to thinking about those things that are impure and not of God. Declare that you have put on the helmet of salvation; thanking God that by His grace you are saved through the blood of Jesus; that you are joint heirs with Christ and that God is your Abba Father; that you have the mind of Christ; that you are taking every thought into captivity to the obedience of Jesus Christ; that you are guarding your mind and what goes into it through your eyes and ears; that you are casting down all vain imaginations; that all your spoken words and actions are being led by the Spirit of God and that you are speaking life not death, blessings not cursings.

"(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

II Corinthians 10:4,5

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23

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

6. **And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God--**Up to this point, each piece of the armour has been for defensive purposes. However, the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God is used also on the offensive.

"Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand;"

Psalms 149:6

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

The two-edged sword of the Spirit is very powerful in that as it penetrates a person it convicts him of his sins and unrighteousness; but, as it comes out it converts him and leads him to repentance.

We have authority and power in the word of God every time we speak it for it is the truth. Declare that you have the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God and that the enemy must flee every time you speak the word of God and in the Name of Jesus and in the blood of Jesus and you do not love your life even unto death; and that the enemy has no authority in your life for you are a child of God and therefore you have authority over all the power of the enemy. The only power the enemy has in your life is what you let him have by either not knowing your authority or by not putting on the whole armour of God each day. So many Christians are walking around without their spiritual clothes on and therefore are getting beat up by the devil every day. They are not living the victory that Christ won at Calvary. We are to be overcomers, the head and not the tail, and live an abundant life each day through Jesus Christ.

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth." Philipians 2:9,10

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." Revelation 12:11

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7

In summary, after you have put on the whole armour of God, believe in your heart, and confess with your mouth that you are clothed with Jesus Christ and His blood. You are then ready to fight the good fight of faith each day.

Please note that you do not have to declare each of the above items under each piece of the armour as you put it on but I wanted to share the revelations and realities I have received as I have prayed this part during the past several years.

OUR HEDGE OF PROTECTION

It is during this part of the prayer time that I **re-emphasize** the protective power of the blood of Jesus as I appropriate or apply the blood of Jesus over my life, my wife's life, our health, our marriage, our finances, our family members, our pets, our home, job, church leaders and family, etc. I also thank God that He is my strength, shield, fortress and high tower and it is He that I love and trust with all my heart. I also

thank God that He is ordering my steps each day, that He is leading me down the path of righteousness and that He has my heart in His hands. I thank Him that His angels have charge over my life and family and possessions wherever we are. This is also the time that I thank Him for divine appointments--opportunities to lift up the Name of Jesus and the Word of God and witness to others. I thank Him for Holy Ghost connections--people that He will put in my life during this season of time that we will edify (build up), exhort (encourage), and comfort each other; and will spark or ignite each other to be everything God wants us to be and to do everything God wants us to do.

"I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust." Psalms 91:2

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way." Psalms 37:23

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

"He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Psalms 23:3

CHAPTER 13

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY FOREVER, AMEN

The Lord's Prayer begins and ends with praise as we have brought our petitions in boldness and confidence with thanksgiving to God's Throne of Grace. We never take God's blessings in our lives for granted, but with gratitude. As we conclude our prayer time each day we should close with praise. Praise is one of the most dynamic things we can do as we worship and glorify our

God. Following are seven levels of praise as indicated in the following Hebrew words of the Old Testament:

1. **Todah**--to extend hands in thanksgiving
2. **Yadah**--to worship with extended hands--to throw out the hands, enjoying God
3. **Hallal**--to be vigorously excited; to celebrate
4. **Zamar**--to pluck the strings of an instrument; to praise with song
5. **Barak**--to bless, to declare God the origin of power for success, prosperity and fertility; to be still
6. **Tehillah**--to sing in the Spirit, sing of Hallals
7. **Shabach**--to address in a loud tone, to shout

As we can see, there are many ways to express our love and worship to God our Father. It is a very personal thing for each individual but there should be no guilt or condemnation placed on people if they worship differently than others. God knows each of our hearts.

As was discussed in a previous session, we are to pray and praise God in times of rest and peace, in the midst of trials, and when the trials are over. We are to praise God continually and in all things.

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Hebrews 13:15

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thessalonians 5:18

As we close in prayer we notice that it refers to God's kingdom.

THE KINGDOM

Give God praise because He has invited you to be a participant in His kingdom forever. Praise Him who has delivered you from the power of darkness (Satan) and translated you into God's kingdom of love and light and truth for eternity.

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

Colossians 2:12-14

"And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" II Timothy 4:18

POWER

Give God praise because He has invited you to be a participant in His power, making His power available to you.

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

I Peter 1:5

"And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power." I Corinthians 6:14

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Luke 10:19

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." Ephesians 6:10

"For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power." I Corinthians 4:20

THE GLORY

Give God praise because He has invited you to be participants in His glory which is the manifested perfection of His character, especially His righteousness. Thank God that we are being changed from faith to faith and glory to glory in the same image of Jesus Christ with His character. Thank God that we are being led by Him and His Spirit each day to serve Him and do His will in our lives. Praise Him and give Him all glory and honour and blessings.

"Who is this king of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." Psalm 24:8

"I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." Isaiah 42:8

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."
II Corinthians 3:18

"That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory." I Thessalonians 2:11,12

"...Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." Revelation 5:13

AMEN

As we end our prayer time we should always close it declaring "**In the Name of Jesus.**" Jesus gave us the authority to use His name which is above all names, principalities, demons, problems, sicknesses, etc. It is most important to sincerely pray using the authority of His name if we want our prayers heard and answered by God. It is only through the blood of Jesus and the name of Jesus that we gain access to God the Father and His Throne of Grace. Jesus Himself said that He was the only way to God the Father.

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

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." I Timothy 2:5,6

"But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises."
Hebrews 8:6

"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." Hebrews 9:15

Also please see Hebrews 12:24

CHAPTER 14

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Prayer is not a requirement--it is a privilege, a right to pray. We should be thankful that God gave us prayer as a means of communicating with Him and bringing forth our petitions to Him. Intercessory prayer or the prayer of intercession is a new level of prayer that one does not decide one day on his own that he is going to do. It is by the Holy Spirit that calls a person to this level.

Intercession means to come between God and man in an intimate relationship as you put yourself at risk for someone or something you love. True intercession is turning your requests in your prayers outward off of yourself. An intercessor is one who stands in the gap before the Lord for someone or something interceding in the Name of Jesus. As one prays, Jesus Christ is also interceding and presenting his requests to the Father.

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Romans 8:34

It is most important that we pray. We know that God can do everything but He won't do anything until we pray. Until we pray, any thing else we do is unimportant. After we pray, we can then do something else concerning what we prayed about. Remember, God will not violate our free will or force His will on us. Prayer is powerful and can change any situation no matter how hopeless it may appear.

An intercessor is called by the Holy Spirit to cry out to God in prayer concerning someone or something and will not give up until God answers the prayer and he gets the release from God in his spirit. The person who answers the call of the Holy Spirit to be an intercessor has accepted the highest call of God. Most intercessors do not get any attention or reward from man and do not really look for it or want it; but it is through the intercessory prayers of unknown saints of God that birth revivals and open doors of opportunity around the world. An intercessor travails until he prevails.

**"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."
Psalms 126:5**

"Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in

the day of the Lord." Ezekiel 13:5

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."
Ezekiel 22:30

"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."
1 Timothy 2:1-3

CHAPTER 15

TYPES OF PRAYER

When we think of prayer we usually think of praying being the same no matter what. However, the Bible describes different types of prayer for various purposes. The four major types of prayer that we are to discuss are salvation, faith, agreement and warfare or authority.

SALVATION

This is the **most important prayer** that any person ever prays as it is the means by which a person becomes a born-again Christian. It is at this time that a person asks Jesus Christ into his heart to be his personal Saviour and Lord and forgive him of all his sins. At this moment, there is a life-changing transformation as the person's old self (interests and desires of the world) begin to die and he does not want to partake of the old sins any more. It is most important to know that a person cannot just decide on his own one day to pray this prayer and become a born-again Christian, saved by the blood of Jesus Christ at Calvary. Many people say that they will be saved on their death bed just before they die so that they will go to heaven. Some do, but what a risk to take. They are afraid that if they become a Christian, they will have to give up all the things of this world and be miserable the rest of their life. There are millions in hell wishing that they had not fallen for this lie of the devil. But it is too late for them. How tragic. Let's don't let any of our friends or relatives be deceived and believe this lie. There are two very important facts to remember concerning this argument:

1. No man knows how long he will live. There is no guarantee of our next breath; much less, tomorrow or possibly seventy or eighty years. Personally, I am glad that we don't know how long we have to live.
2. Salvation is not a decision that man can arbitrarily make any time he wants to for it is the Holy Spirit of God that tugs at a man's heart and draws him to receive Jesus Christ. With the prompting of the Holy Spirit, man then makes a free will choice to either receive or reject Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord. It is not God's will for any one to go to hell, but each person chooses whom he will serve which ultimately determines where he will spend eternity--heaven or hell.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." John 3:6,7

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

In addition, please read all of John, Chapter 3.

"That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:9,13

"...And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth." I John 5:6

Please read Romans 8 and I John 5.

In summary, it is most important for each and every person to pray and receive Jesus Christ into his heart and be born again to have eternal life. A person born only once (physical birth) will die twice (physical death and at the judgment day). However, a person born twice (physical birth and spiritually born-again) will die only once at the most (physical death, if the Lord tarries and the rapture does not happen first) and is promised eternal life.

FAITH

Most of our prayers each day are prayers of faith because Christianity is based on our faith in Jesus Christ; His virgin birth; His death, burial, resurrection and ascension for the forgiveness and remission of all our sins; our eternal life with Him; that God hears and answers our prayers, etc. There is no definite explanation in the natural, but from the time that we are born-again into God's kingdom, we know that we know that these things are true. When we pray a prayer of faith we are praying in faith believing without any doubt or uncertainty; and standing on the promises of God's Word; and knowing that His perfect will is going to be done. We focus on Jesus Christ, not the situation or circumstance; and the promises of God's Word, not the problem. We speak the Word of God over the situation or problem. We speak the positive or absolute of the Word of God

and not the negative of the natural world or what it may seem to our own eyes. Remember, we walk by faith, not by sight and we are led by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible says that when we are born-again, we are no longer of this world, but are part of God's kingdom. Therefore, we look to God and the promises of His infallible, inerrant Word for our answers; not to the world which is living in darkness being blinded by Satan. God knows the ending from the beginning concerning every thing and the answers to all questions and problems that ever will be, are in His Word. It is up to us as believers in Him, as children of God, to read His Word daily, get it into our spirit, and equip ourselves with the armour of God so that when the time comes and it will, then we will be able to stand against the enemy and pray in faith with the peace of God believing and knowing that God will answer and deliver us from the attacks of the enemy.

There are many situations in our daily life that we may pray the prayer of faith such as concerning our health, finances, relationships, occupations, salvation of loved ones, etc. The key is to find the scriptures in the Word of God that are God's promises to you and your problem that witness to your spirit as a rhema or living word for you. Then stand on these scriptures believing and knowing that God will answer. Remember always that God's Word is true and He cannot lie. Pray these scriptures aloud so that Satan and his demonic forces will hear you speak the Word of God. They will soon flee from you as they must submit to the Word of God. Soon you will see your situation improve as they flee for they are the root cause of our problems.

At this time, it is important to mention that **it is much more effective to pray aloud** for the following reasons:

1. Your mind will not have a tendency to wander when you are speaking aloud versus praying to yourself. It makes it much more difficult for the devil to put distracting or hindering thoughts into your mind while you are speaking.
2. Praying aloud enables you to hear your words and they stir you up and build up your faith.
3. Praying the Word of God aloud as much as possible disturbs the devil and his demons and causes them to flee because they cannot stand to be in the presence of the truth which is God's Word. Satan is the father of lies and deception.
4. As you feel led by the Spirit of God in your praying, praise and worship God in singing aloud. Satan and his demons will flee because they cannot stand to be in the presence of someone truly

praying and praising and worshipping God.

Following are some key scriptures relating to the prayer of faith:

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If you have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:21,22

Please read Matthew 17:20.

"...according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Romans 12:3

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

"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."
Hebrews 11:6

Please read all of Hebrews 11 which is often referred to as the hall of fame of people with faith.

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." Hebrews 12:2

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." James 1:6-8

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:15,16

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name...; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Mark 16:17,18

AGREEMENT

The prayer of agreement is symbolic of the **covenant relationship we have with God**. All of God's promises depend on us doing

something first. For example:

Salvation--if we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth, then we will be saved.

Blessings--if we bring His tithes and our offerings into His storehouse, then He will open the windows of heaven and pour out His blessings upon us.

The prayer of agreement is actually a covenant or contract between two or more people who come into agreement or one accord concerning God's promises for a situation, then stand on the Word of God, speak the Word, and not come out of the covenant until God has answered the prayer no matter how long it may take. This prayer emphasizes the strength of unity versus division; speaking God's Word versus our own feelings or opinions. Because of these reasons it is easy to see why a lot of people do not enter into a prayer of agreement. It is very difficult for many people to enter into a lasting covenant or a commitment on anything; to speak only God's Word without voicing a negative or doubting opinion; and to walk by faith until God answers. However, God is calling His people to stop bickering over minor things and to concentrate on the major things such as winning the lost people of the world to Jesus Christ. He is telling His people to speak the same thing in one accord. When God's people come into agreement about any situation, there is unbelievable power released. The devil knows the power of unity and the opposite power of division. Satan knows that if he can cause division among the people of God within a local church, within the entire Body of Christ, within families, at places of employment; then he has rendered them almost totally ineffective and powerless because there is strife and each person is doing his own thing, going in different directions and not speaking the same thing in one accord. They are then all not in one accord focusing on the same problem or issue.

Division causes strife which the Bible says causes all forms of evil to exist. It then causes a person's prayer life to often be distracted, sidetracked or hindered concerning this problem or issue because they are not concentrating one hundred percent on the problem. The saying "United we stand, Divided we fall" is so true.

"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." Matthew 18:19

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication,..." Acts 1:14

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place." Acts 2:1

"And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is;" Acts 4:24

"And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch." Acts 5:12

"Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."
Philippians 2:2

"And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Mark 3:24,25

AUTHORITY OR WARFARE

The prayer of authority or warfare is probably the most powerful of the prayers that a believer can pray but it is also perhaps the least understood and therefore the least used. However, within the last few years there have been several spiritual leaders and authors raised up by God to teach the Body of Christ in the area of spiritual warfare and how to use the authority that Jesus Christ gave us as believers. We are to take back what Satan has stolen from us, not receive what Satan is trying to give us or put on us, be the head and not the tail, be overcomers, and be victorious through Christ Jesus in us. It only makes sense that if Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, lives within us, then we should start living like it and stop living a defeated life receiving every bad thing that comes along as if it was God's will for our life. It is not God's will for sickness, poverty, etc. to be a daily part of our life; but He will not override our free will and authority that He has already given us. All of these things such as sickness, poverty, etc. come from Satan and if we don't recognize that, he will keep coming at us knowing that we think we have no choice in the matter. God has given us as born-again believers the authority over all the power of Satan. Satan only has as much power in our life as we let him have.

Due to limited space I will limit this discussion to only the major highlights at this time. There are many very good books on this subject by well respected authors such as Larry Lea, John Dawson, Dick Bernal and Francis Frangipane.

Following are some major scriptures that indicate the authority we have as believers:

"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."

Matthew 18:18

"Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick." Luke 9:1,2

"(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;)" II Corinthians 10:4

"These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." Titus 2:15

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils;...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Mark 16:17,18

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:10-12

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7

The most important aspect of spiritual warfare that we must be aware of is that all attacks against us (physical, mental, verbal) have one source--Satan. We must remember that as God works through people to accomplish His will on earth, Satan also works through people to attack God's people. Satan will cause people to attack others with words, actions, offenses, ridicule, etc. and they will not know that they are being used as a tool of Satan. In addition, Satan will attack Christians in the areas of sicknesses, finances, relationships, etc.

We need to know that Satan is still alive on the earth as the prince of the power of this world and he still has his army of demons whose ultimate purpose is to attack the believers of God in whatever area that they can find that is exposed and vulnerable. It is important to realize that demons are still on the earth; that they did not disappear when Jesus was here on earth and then ascended to heaven. All one has to do is look around at what is happening in the world as evil gets worse and worse. Satan is the source of all evil. As discussed in Ephesians 6:10-12 above, our warfare is against the various hierarchy or organizational structure of Satan's army--

principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places. In other words, Satan has his corporals, lieutenants, captains and generals stationed throughout the world. Depending on the importance and the duration of their dominion over a person or area will determine how much spiritual warfare in prayer is needed to bring down the influence of Satan and establish the righteousness of God. For example, the demon that is trying to attack you with a headache on Sunday morning to keep you from going to church does not require as intense warfare in the prayer of authority against him as it does to combat the demon or spirit of drug addiction or cancer or to combat the spirits of anti-Christ or atheism. However, we can do all things through Christ in prayer.

The bigger the battle is that you are fighting requires more people praying more intensely in one accord for a longer period of time. It is important to realize that most of these demons did not take hold of these areas overnight and they have been there a long time. Therefore, they are going to resist and be stubborn about giving up their strongholds, but we have to be serious and tenacious in our prayers. Every demon in the world **must submit** to the Name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus and the Word of God. Use these weapons of your warfare continually in your praying as they **are** the most powerful weapons of any in the world.

However, we must be sincere when we pray against Satan and his strongholds. He knows if we really mean it. Four keys to successful warring against Satan are as follows:

1. Get really **mad** at Satan. Develop a holy anger against him and his attacks on you, your family, your finances, health, city, nation, etc. It is definitely proper to be angry at Satan for the fear of the Lord is the respect or reverence of the awesome person of Jesus Christ and His responsibility to ensure righteousness and to hate evil.
2. Take your **stand** against Satan. When you finally get mad enough at his attacks against you and your family, and you have had enough, you will then take a stand against him. Do not let him intimidate you with fear which is his main weapon. He will tell you what he is going to do to you, but don't believe it because it is lies and intimidations. He cannot tell the truth no matter what. He is the father of lies. Furthermore, you are a child of God, covered by the blood of Jesus, and no weapon formed against you shall prosper.
3. Begin to **fight** the devil as he got mad at you the day you said "I Do" to Jesus Christ. You have been on his "Hit" list ever since. Get bold with the

devil and come against him not in your power but in the power of God's might. Declare to him what you are going to do by speaking the promises of the Word of God to him. The devil cannot do anything in your life until you give into him and come in agreement with him and his report. But always believe the report of the Lord which says that we are healed, set free and have the victory through Jesus Christ in us.

4. Use the **Name** of Jesus which is more powerful than any other power. We have been given the authority to use the Name of Jesus.

In conclusion, I want to discuss the principles and power of binding and loosing as discussed in Matthew 18:18 above. The term "**bind**" means to tie up or restrain; while the term "**loose**" means to set free. Since the Bible says that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against spirits, etc. we are actually binding and loosing in the spiritual realm. Everything is won through our prayers in the spiritual realm before we see the manifestation of it on earth.

However, before we attempt to bind a principality or demon, we must be sure that we are not harboring that same sin in our own life. We have no authority over a foe outside our body if we cannot conquer it within us. We must be pure and holy in order to be victorious in binding that evil spirit off of someone else. For example, a still-practicing alcoholic or drug abuser cannot successfully bind the spirit of addiction to alcohol or drugs off of someone else.

There are several keys to binding and loosing:

1. Whenever you bind a spirit, command it to never return in Jesus Name.
2. Whenever you bind a spirit, always loose the opposite spirit of God to dwell in its place.
3. If possible, always try to discern what the root spirit is that you need to bind. But, if you don't know, bind all the evil spirits that the Holy Spirit of God tells you to bind. Always be led by the Holy Spirit.

It is very important to discern the main root spirit and bind it. Then all of the related spirits that are a growth or by-product or better known as symptoms of the root spirit are bound. Think of a fruit tree--if you cut off some of the limbs you will still get fruit on the other limbs. But, when you cut it off at the root, the tree along with the leaves and the fruit are all dead. If you only bind the symptoms, other symptoms of

the root spirit will appear and you have not yet gotten victory over the problem.

Following are some examples of major root spirits to bind, their symptoms and God's spirits to loose:

| <u>ROOT SPIRIT</u> | <u>SYMPTOMS</u> | <u>GOD'S SPIRIT</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Divination | Horoscopes Hypnotist Fortuneteller Drugs Rebellion Witchcraft Magic | Holy Spirit |
| Jealousy | Murder Anger Revenge Strife Divisions Hate Cruelty Jealousy | Love of God |
| Lying Spirit | Lies Strong Deception Slander Gossip Flattery Superstitions Accusations Religious Bondage | Spirit of Truth |
| Perverse Spirit | Wounded Spirit Atheist Evil Actions Sex Perversions Child Abuse Incest Pornography Filthy Minded Chronic Worrier Abortion | Excellent Spirit |
| Spirit of Haughtiness | Pride Arrogant Self Deception Rejection of God Obstinate | Humble & Contrite Spirit |

| <u>ROOT SPIRIT</u> | <u>SYMPTOMS</u> | <u>GOD'S SPIRIT</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Spirit of Heaviness | Sorrow-grief Self-pity Excessive mourning Depression Suicidal tendencies Inner hurts Despair Hopelessness | Comforter, Garment of Praise, Oil of Joy |
| Spirit of Whoredoms | Idolatry Prostitution Love of Money Fornication Worldliness | Spirit of God |
| Spirit of Infirmary | Arthritis Cancer Asthma Oppression Weakness Lingering Disorders | Spirit of Life |
| Spirit of Bondage | Addictions Fear of Death Compulsive Sin | Liberty or Freedom |
| Spirit of Fear | Phobias Torment Nightmares Fear of Man Heart Attacks Untrusting Doubt | Love, Power & a Sound Mind |
| Spirit of Anti-Christ | Denies Diety of Christ Against Christ & His Teachings Against Christians Deceiver Humanism Denies Atonement Lawlessness | Spirit of Truth |
| Spirit of Error | Error Unteachable False Doctrines New Age Movement Argumentative Unsubmissive | Spirit of Truth |

CHAPTER 16

PRAYING FOR LOST LOVED ONES

We know that it is not God's will for anyone to perish and die and go to hell. This is so true when it comes to praying for lost loved ones and spouses who do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior or are not what they should be toward each other.

When praying for lost loved ones and spouses it is best not to preach at them but to walk the Christian walk at all times. As they see you live the Christian life they will know that there is something real to it. Too many times we let our zeal and enthusiasm override our wisdom and dictate our mouth, which causes us to become a pain or threat or intimidation to the other person. We think that in order for that person to be saved we have to do certain things in our flesh. Many times we should only walk the Christian walk and live the life and not talk the Christian walk. I don't mean to downplay the importance of personal witnessing and evangelizing but we should pray more for God's wisdom in our life and to be led by the Holy Spirit in each situation especially when it comes to someone we are especially close to and desiring with all our hearts for them to be saved. We should always remember that it is the Holy Spirit that leads people to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour.

"...Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6

Whenever we pray for lost loved ones and anything else for that matter, we cannot pray amiss if we pray the Word of God. Remember, God's Word has the answers and promises for every possible situation or problem. In every case, we should pray for God's kingdom and will to be done in that person's life. We should bind the spiritual blindness, deafness and misunderstanding off of them and loose the Spirit of God and Spirit of Truth in them in the name of Jesus and through the power of the blood of Jesus.

WIVES PRAYING FOR HUSBANDS

It is very important for wives to pray for their husbands daily. If your husband is not the husband or father or man of God that he should be, pray to God to change him. Do Not try to change him by yourself as it will only cause more problems. Do Not preach at him or try to be the Holy Spirit. Remember the order of authority as set out in Ephesians Chapter 5--God the

Father, Jesus the Son, the Church, Husband, Wife, and Children. The most effective voice you as a wife have is through your prayers each day asking God to change him. Soon you will see your prayers answered as the Holy Spirit begins changing him without him even knowing or realizing it. Do not give up praying.

Following are some key scriptures to pray over your husband each day:

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" II Corinthians 10:5

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." Ephesians 5:25

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shall condemn..." Isaiah 54:17

Declare each day that Proverbs 5:15-19 will be your marriage-that your husband will love you more and more each day.

HUSBANDS PRAYING FOR WIVES

It is very important that the husband fulfill the role of the husband, father and leader that God wants him to be. Again, it is important, as above, for the husband to pray to God for Him to make his wife everything that God wants her to be.

Following are some key scriptures to pray over your wife:

II Corinthians 10:5 and Isaiah 54:17 as above.

"Every wise woman buildeth her house..." Proverbs 14:1

Declare each day Proverbs 31:10-31 over your wife that she will bring you good and not harm, that she will speak with wisdom, and be everything that God wants her to be.

CONCLUSION

We should use the same warfare as above when praying over every area of our lives, whether it be for our healing, our finances, our children, our church, our nation, etc. The key is to find the scriptures in the Bible that give God's promises concerning the individual situation. Pray them, declare them and stand on the Word of God knowing that God cannot lie and we have the victory through the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed at Calvary. There is power in prayer and prayer changes things as

it releases God to do exceedingly abundantly on your behalf.

CHAPTER 17

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR

During these last days it is very important that we pray for our pastor and other men and women of God that God puts on our heart. As they try to do what God wants them to do, the enemy (Satan) is attacking them in more ways than he has ever done in the past. Satan knows his time is short and he is doing everything he can to try to bring God's leaders down and divide the church. He knows that anything divided (church, marriage, family, etc.) loses its power and effectiveness and cannot stand. Strength is gained through unity and everyone being in one accord.

Following are some major things that we should pray continually concerning our pastor and other leaders of our church, ministries, etc.:

1. Appropriate or cover them with the blood of Jesus which defeated satan at Calvary. Satan cannot penetrate the blood of Jesus.
2. That they will not be tempted by the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.
3. That Jesus will become more real each day to them and they will know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering.
4. That nothing will violate the anointing of the Holy Spirit in them and that the anointing will always increase in them.
5. That they will always be on fire for God and preach as an oracle of God.
6. That their personal life will be as strong as their public life.
7. That they will be delivered from unreasonable, negative and unbelieving people.
8. That they will preach boldly as they ought to speak and not as one who just stands up and beats at the wind. That they will have great boldness.
9. That God will give their church people from the North, the South, the East and the West.
10. That the supernatural wisdom of God will be released on them so that the church will prosper in every way.
11. That whatever they do and whatever they are will just massively prosper. That everything they touch will be blessed both spiritually and emotionally. That their family will be blessed.

12. That there will not be any pressure of any kind on them so that they can concentrate on preaching the Word of God.

CHAPTER 18

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

This lesson is going to discuss the third person of the Godhead--the Holy Spirit--and the extreme importance He has in our daily life as Christians. Many people do not know much about the Holy Spirit and often refer to the Holy Spirit as an "it" and part of the Godhead or Trinity--**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**--without knowing the part He has in our life. The Holy Spirit is **"He"** and not an "it".

Nothing happens between God and man that doesn't happen through the person of the Holy Spirit. It is important to realize that the Holy Spirit is the only person of the Trinity that exists here on earth. God the Father is in heaven, Jesus having ascended nearly two thousand years ago is at the Father's right hand interceding for us, and the Holy Spirit is in the earth today being sent by the Father to comfort us after Jesus ascended to heaven.

It is often confusing to believers how God is all three persons but yet one God. In a brief attempt at this time to explain this, please think of the substance of water or H₂O. It can be in three separate forms such as ice, liquid, and steam but the chemical components of each is still water or H₂O. Three different persons, if you may, but still one. God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit are like this--three functions or personalities but still one.

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;" John 14:16

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth, It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." John 16:7

It was very important that Jesus ascend to heaven and the Holy Spirit be sent to the earth because Jesus, in His flesh, could not be everywhere at all times. The Holy Spirit can fulfill this purpose as He is alive throughout the earth and in each born-again believer. He is moving all around the world at the same time and has many functions to perform. Among His major responsibilities are the following:

1. He draws or leads people to Jesus Christ for salvation.

"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you." John 16:8-11,14

2. The Holy Spirit dwells within every born-again believer.

"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?" I Corinthians 6:19

3. The Holy Spirit infills the believer.

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;" Ephesians 5:18

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:4

4. The Holy Spirit guides the believer.

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:14

5. The Holy Spirit empowers the believer which enables the believer to go forth preaching and teaching the Word of God with boldness and God's anointing with signs and wonders following him.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

As we can see from the above functions of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit has a very important role in each born-again believer. However, in order for the Holy Spirit to be everything He wants to be in our lives and make us everything God wants us to be and work through us in the earth, each of us must make a free will choice to allow Him to do this. Remember, God works through willing people and He will not force Himself upon us. God will give each of us only the amount of God and His Spirit that we want in our lives. What is it that we must do to enable the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us? The answer is called receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit which is, in

effect, the releasing of the Holy Spirit that already dwells within us. In layman's terms this can be explained by thinking of the water pipes in our homes. We know that there is water in them but we cannot receive any water until we do something. That something is our turning on the faucet to release the water. The same is true when it comes to releasing the Holy Spirit in us.

Following are the things that a person does to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit with corresponding Bible scripture references:

1. The heart must be prepared by thorough repentance. (Acts 2:38)
2. One must arrive at Biblical conclusions that it is:
 - a. Biblical (Acts 1:8)
 - b. Necessary for abundant and victorious Christian living. (Ephesians 5:17,18)
 - c. Applicable and necessary for today. (Acts 2:38,39)
 - d. An experience beyond salvation. (Acts 9:17)
 - e. Beneficial to the believer. (Romans 8:26,27)
3. One must have a sincere hunger for the fullness of the Holy Spirit in their life. (Matthew 5:6)
4. One must ask God in faith to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit believing and expecting to receive it. (Luke 11:13) It is most important to note that God wants everyone to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit so that they can be everything God wants them to be and they can live in the authority and victory that Jesus won at Calvary.

How does a person know when he has received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Other than internal signs such as changes in the desires of the heart, attitudes, etc., there is the outward manifestation or evidence of God giving each person a unique heavenly language or what is known as speaking in tongues or praying in the Spirit. As one opens his mouth believing and expecting to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, God will enable him to speak a language of syllables or words totally unfamiliar to him which come from the innermost part of his being, or his spirit-man, which bypasses his reasonings and understandings. Do not be afraid to experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit because it will completely change your life and your Christian walk.

There have been many misunderstandings over speaking in tongues since the Day of Pentecost nearly two thousand years ago, but the baptism in the Holy Spirit is real and necessary to be everything that God wants you to be and do in these last days as prophesied in Joel, Chapter 2:

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit." Joel 2:28,29

It is most important to clarify two common misunderstandings concerning the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The first is that a person's eternal salvation is completely separate from the baptism in the Holy Spirit. One must already be saved (born-again) before he can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The other issue is that whether a person has received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues does not make him better spiritually than the person who has not received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. And, vice versa. We should always remember that God is not a respecter of persons and that no one person in the kingdom of God is better than another person.

Following are the major purposes for a Christian in receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit and praying in the Spirit:

1. Speaking in tongues edifies or builds up and refreshes the believer as he speaks.

"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church." I Corinthians 14:4

2. Tongues are used to glorify God.

"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." I Corinthians 14:15

3. Tongues is your spirit praying to God.

"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful." I Corinthians 14:14

"For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God I Corinthians 14:2

4. Tongues is your praying to God without the devil understanding it.

"...for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries." I Corinthians 14:2

5. Tongues is for a sign to the unbeliever.

"Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not:..."
I Corinthians 14:22

6. Tongues are used in intercession. This is probably the most important purpose of tongues whenever we are praying for someone or something and we really don't know how to pray. Since the Holy Spirit knows everything, we let Him pray through us by our own praying in the Spirit. Often times as we pray in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit will reveal to us how to pray with the understanding. We pray in the Spirit and with the understanding as the Holy Spirit leads us during our prayer time. Again, it is most important to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Holy Spirit of God.

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is in the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

Romans 8:26,27

"Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret."

I Corinthians 14:13

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:14

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Galatians 5:25

In conclusion, let me point out that the experience of receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not limited to only a few so-called "spiritual" leaders. Millions of born-again Christians all around the world from every denomination have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit and are living and walking each day in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. All you have to do is ask God for it. **Ask and you shall receive.**

CHAPTER 19

CONCLUSION

As you begin to read this last chapter, I would like to congratulate you on completing this book on prayer. I sincerely hope that it has been a blessing to you and that you learned some key points that will enable you to better seek God each day in prayer.

I would like to conclude this book by leading you in two different prayers. The first prayer is for those readers who have not personally invited Jesus Christ to be their personal Savior, forgive them of their sins, and give them assurance of everlasting life. For those readers who would like to do so at this time, please repeat the following prayer with all sincerity and belief:

Dear God,

I know that I am a sinner and that I can no longer try to live my life the way I am living it, trying to do it on my own. I need You to help me become the person that I was supposed to be. Please forgive me of all my sins in actions, words and thoughts that are not of You. I thank you God for sending us your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who was born of the virgin Mary, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross at Calvary for the forgiveness of all my sins. I thank You that on the third day He arose from the dead so that I could live and have everlasting life. I now ask Jesus Christ to change my heart and be my Lord and Savior forever. Help me to be the Christian that you want me to be. Help me to always serve you and to be a blessing to others. Thank you God for saving me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

The second prayer is for those readers who really would like to become the Christian and person of prayer that God wants them to be. For those readers who truly have this desire, please repeat the following prayer:

Dear God,

I know that I am not living the Christian life that You have called me to. I know that I am not seeking your face each day and praying as You want me to, but I come before you now and repent of my past behavior and ask for your forgiveness. From this day forward, I ask you God to help me become the person that you have called me to be. Help me to read your Word each day and obey your Word, to watch my words

that I speak to others and to pray effectual prayers according to your will that avail much. Help me to be a committed, consistent Christian that will make a difference in the world in which I live. Help me to be your witness everywhere I go. Help me to be a person of integrity and to never compromise the gospel of Jesus Christ. Help me to grow spiritually each day and to walk each day being led by your Spirit and not by my flesh. I thank you God for hearing and answering my prayer. I praise and love You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

May God bless you abundantly as you run the race that is set before you. Remember that the life of a Christian is not a sprint, but it is a marathon race. It is not a quick work, but it is a lifelong process. We must each do our best to become the Christian that God intends for us to be. With God, nothing is impossible and through our prayers and obedience to His Word, God will continue to help us to grow spiritually each day into that man or woman of God that God meant us to be.

In closing, I would personally like to encourage you to enjoy the journey as a Christian. There will be bumps and troubles along the way, but the race will be unquestionably the most **challenging** and **exciting** one that you will ever enter.