

# **EFFECTIVE PRAYER**

Jack and Judy Hartman

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## **Dedication**

We dedicate this book on prayer to Naomi Lick who assists Judy in praying with and for people from all over the world who contact Lamplight Ministries on our website regarding prayer. Naomi is anointed from God's heart to reply to each person. She also assists Judy in other areas of ministry. We are blessed to have Naomi on our Lamplight team. We love you, Naomi. We thank God for you.

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We each began studying the Bible in the King James Version. If we could write this entire

book with the King James Version, we would. However, we want to present the reader with the best possible explanation of each verse of Scripture.

We have reviewed each verse of Scripture in this book to prayerfully select the Bible version that we believe will help you to best understand what God is saying to you. In some cases we have used *The New International Version* (NIV) when we believe the language in this particular passage of Scripture will give you more comprehension. In other cases we have used *The Amplified Bible* (AMP) when we believe the amplification will explain more to you.

The *King James Version* (KJV) of the Bible received its name from King James who was the king of England from 1603 to 1625. King James is considered to have been one of the most intellectual and learned kings in the history of Great Britain. He is primarily remembered for authorizing the production of the King James Version of the Bible. This English translation from Greek and Hebrew is the most printed book in the history of the world with more than one billion copies in print.

*The New International Version* (NIV) is the result of the study of a group of approximately one hundred Hebrew and Greek scholars representing more than twenty denominations. This team of scholars devoted ten years to complete the NIV translation. The goal of this committee was to faithfully translate the original Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic biblical text into clearly understandable English. The NIV is the most widely purchased contemporary Bible today.

*The Amplified Bible* is the result of the study of a group of Bible scholars who spent a total of more than twenty thousand hours amplifying the Bible. They believe that traditional word-by-word translation often fails to reveal the shades of meaning that are part of the original Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic biblical texts.

Any amplification of the original text uses brackets for words that clarify the meaning and parentheses for words that contain additional phrases included in the original language. Through this amplification the reader will gain a better understanding of what Hebrew and Greek listeners instinctively understood.

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## **Introduction**

God has established prayer to provide for continual communication between heaven and earth. You will learn in this book that prayers of faith are so powerful that they can open the windows of heaven and close the gates of hell.

Most historians agree that Abraham Lincoln was one of the greatest presidents of the United States. Shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg President Lincoln said, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for the day."

You must understand as President Lincoln did that God has made provision for you to come to Him in prayer when you face adversity that you cannot possibly overcome with the limitations of your human abilities. God wants to help you and anyone for whom you are burdened to pray. God is only a prayer away.

God hears billions of prayers every day. Some people receive answers. Others do not. In this book we will thoroughly examine God's Book of Instructions, the Bible, to learn exactly what your Father instructs you to do so that your prayers will be effective.

We believe that the only way to live effectively is to be in constant and open communication

with God through His Son Jesus Christ. Our desire is for you to become empowered to pray for your personal concerns and for everything else that God puts on your heart.

This book is filled with hundreds of scriptural instructions that will show you how to increase the effectiveness of your prayer life. Every one of these instructions is solidly anchored on the Word of God.

Many Christians do not know, understand and obey God's specific instructions regarding prayer. These people are not receiving answers to their prayers because they are not doing what their Father has instructed them to do in regard to prayer.

Are you highly motivated to learn exactly what the Bible instructs you to do so that your prayer life will be more effective? If you are, we believe you will find the answers that you need in this book.

We have spent hundreds of hours studying the Bible to learn every verse of Scripture that we could find in regard to effective prayer. We have spent several months writing five drafts of this book.

We believe you will find that this book is a virtual encyclopedia of what the Bible says about prayer. We believe that you will be pleased with the totality of the scriptural instructions in this book. In spite of how comprehensive this book is, you soon will see that it is written in layman's language.

We have not complicated this book with a lot of theological terminology. Our explanations of the scriptural instructions in this book are easy to understand. Reading ability level tests have shown that our books can be read and fully understood by children at the seventh grade level.

This book will teach you how to be a student in God's School of Prayer. The Bible is your textbook. God is your teacher. If you study and then obey the scriptural instructions in this book, you can be certain that your prayer life will be very effective.

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## **Chapter 1**

### **Your Father is Delighted to Hear Your Prayers**

Can you visualize being able to pick up the telephone to call the President of the United States or the governor of the state where you live with the ability to immediately get through to

that person? Can you imagine a high level government official who is waiting for your call at all times and very much wants to hear whatever you have to say?

The truth is that any person who has received Jesus Christ as his or her Savior has been given the privilege of being able to talk at any time to God Himself. If you are not certain that Jesus is your Savior, please see the Appendix at the end of this book. If you can begin to comprehend the enormity of the privilege that you have been given to pray directly to God, you will not look at prayer as a duty or an obligation. You will be in absolute awe of the opportunity that you have been given to contact God Himself at any time of the day or night.

We will give you Scripture that will clearly show you that your Father is ready, willing and able to listen to your prayers. You may think that God is too busy to listen to all of the prayers that are prayed each day. You will see that God is omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing) and omnipresent (in all places at the same time).

God has unlimited power and authority. He knows every minute detail pertaining to the life of every person in the world. God is in an infinite number of places at the same time. God in His omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence, is able to listen to the prayers of billions of people at the same time. You must not attempt to limit God. Do not try to bring God down to the limitations of your human understanding.

The concept of God being able to hear every prayer was difficult to comprehend before computers were invented. Now we can see that, just as a computer can process billions of messages at the same time, God also can hear and answer billions of prayers at once.

As you read the Scripture in this book, you will see that you have been given the privilege of going directly to God in prayer at any time. God already knows every need that you have. "...the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought..." (I Chronicles 28:9 NIV)

Please note that the word "every" is used three times in this short portion of Scripture. God knows every person on earth intimately. He knows everything that there is to know about you. The psalmist David said, "You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely." (Psalm 139:1-4 NIV)

This passage of Scripture tells you that God knows every time you sit down and stand up. He

knows every thought that is in your mind. He knows when you come and go. He knows when you lie down to go to sleep and when you get up. He knows every word that you will speak before you speak. There is nothing about you that God does not know. He wants to hear your prayers. "...the prayer of the upright is His delight!" (Proverbs 15:8 AMP)

This verse tells you that God is delighted to hear your prayers. The word "upright" in this verse means that you are righteous before God. You are able to go to God in prayer because Jesus Christ died an agonizing death by crucifixion and then rose from the dead so that you would have this precious privilege. Once again, if you do not understand about Jesus being your Savior, please see the Appendix at the end of this book.

If Jesus is your Savior, God is your loving Father. He wants to hear the prayers of every one of His beloved children. "...it is made clear who take their nature from God and are His children..." (I John 3:10 AMP)

You were created in God's image (see Genesis 1:27). You become a child of God when you receive Jesus as your Savior. "...ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26 KJV)

The word "all" in this verse includes you. Every person who has received Jesus Christ as his or her Savior immediately becomes a member of the family of God. "See what [an incredible] quality of love the Father has given (shown, bestowed on) us, that we should [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are!..." (I John 3:1 AMP)

If Jesus is your Savior, your Father's love for you is much greater than any love on the human level. God is love (see I John 4:8). No one can experience the highest level of love apart from God.

Every time that you pray, you should be fully conscious that you are praying directly to your loving Father. "...I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." (II Corinthians 6:18 AMP)

You should never think that you are bothering God with your prayers. Just the opposite is true. You saw in Proverbs 15:8 that your Father is delighted when you come to Him in prayer. Your Father in heaven cares about every facet of your life just as loving parents on earth are very interested in the lives of their children.

You can approach your Father whenever you pray with absolute certainty that He loves you more than any human being has ever loved another human being. Your Father's love for you is

far beyond the limitations of your human comprehension. "...though the mountains should depart and the hills be shaken or removed, yet My love and kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace and completeness be removed, says the Lord, Who has compassion on you." (Isaiah 54:10 AMP)

You must understand that your loving Father is fully conscious of every need that you bring to Him. Your Father yearns to hear your prayers. He very much wants you to come to Him continually with prayers for yourself and also with prayers for other people.

You are not praying to a stern and unforgiving God. You are praying to your loving and compassionate Father. You must not think of God as a distant and far-away God. Your Father is omnipresent. He is in an infinite number of places at the same time. "One God and Father of [us] all, Who is above all [Sovereign over all], pervading all and [living] in [us] all." (Ephesians 4:6 AMP)

This verse explains that God is the Father of every Christian. God sits on His throne in heaven (see Matthew 25:31, Acts 12:21 and Hebrews 8:1). God is not limited to staying on His throne. This verse says that God "pervades all." These words mean that God is spread out all over the earth. He is not only on His throne in heaven, but He also is in every place on earth at the same time.

Your Father lives in your heart. He is with you throughout every minute of every hour of every day of your life. "...Be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9 AMP)

God always emphasizes through repetition. You have just seen that your Father says that you should not be afraid because He is with you at all times. He makes a similar statement in the following verse. "Fear not [there is nothing to fear], for I am with you; do not look around you in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you; yes, I will hold you up and retain you with My [victorious] right hand of rightness and justice." (Isaiah 41:10 AMP)

Instead of being terrified about whatever adversity you are bringing to God in prayer, you should be calm, quiet and confident because you are certain that God is with you. He promises to give you His supernatural strength. He promises that He will help you.

Your Father wants you to have unwavering faith in Him when you pray and at all other times. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will

not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned or scorched, nor will the flame kindle upon you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior..." (Isaiah 43:2-3 AMP)

Once again you are told that God is with you at all times. Please note that He uses the word "through" three times in this verse of Scripture. Your Father definitely wants to bring you through all adversity that you face.

The psalmist David lived in close communion with God. David was certain that God was with him at all times. David said, "I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad and my glory [my inner self] rejoices; my body too shall rest and confidently dwell in safety" (Psalm 16:8-9 AMP)

David refused to be upset by the problems he faced because he focused on God, not on the seeming severity of these problems. David's heart was filled with joy in the face of adversity. He was calm, quiet and confident within himself because he continually focused on God.

Your loving Father tells you that He will answer your prayers for yourself or for other people. "He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him." (Psalm 91:15 AMP)

God assures you that He will answer your prayers. He assures you that He is with you when you are in trouble. He promises to deliver you if you will trust Him completely.

In this chapter you have seen that you can go to the Creator of the universe at any time of the day and night with your prayer requests. You have seen that God is your loving Father. You have learned that your Father is with you throughout every minute of every hour of every day. How can any Christian take his or her prayer life lightly if they understand these magnificent scriptural truths?

Your prayer time should be very precious to you. Prayer is not a "nice to have." Prayer is an absolute necessity. Do you place as much emphasis on the need for prayer as God does? Do you understand that you cannot spend your time more effectively than to be communicating directly with God Himself?

Prayer should not just be something that you do in a perfunctory manner for a short time each day. Prayer should be a way of life to you. Your life should revolve around the incredible opportunity that you have been given to go directly to God Himself with your prayer requests at any time of the day or night.

If you do not make time for prayer, you block your loving Father from blessing you and anyone else for whom you are praying. You must put prayer in first place and keep it there. You must not allow anything to come ahead of your daily prayer time with God.

In this first chapter we have attempted to explain the vital importance of prayer. Every principle that we have explained is verified by Scripture. We hope that you have been greatly encouraged. We pray that your daily prayer life will be anchored on these great truths.

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## **Chapter 2**

### **You Can Be Certain That God Listens to Your Prayers**

In the last chapter we looked into God's Word to learn that you are able to go in prayer directly to the Creator of the universe at any time of the day or night. You learned that, if Jesus Christ is your Savior, God is your loving Father. You learned that God is not a far-away God. He is with you throughout every minute of every hour of every day.

You must understand that your daily prayer time is a tremendous privilege, not an obligation. Instead of feeling that you are doing your duty by putting in your prayer time each day, you should pray with deep gratitude that you are able to pray to God Himself. Your daily prayer life should be vitally important to you.

Several surveys have shown that the average Christian spends approximately five to ten minutes a day in prayer. Many Christians pray dutifully for a short time each day for themselves, their family and other people who need prayer. Your Father wants you to do much more than to just go through the motions as you pray each day. Jesus, speaking of the Pharisees, said, "... These people [constantly] honor Me with their lips, but their hearts hold off and are far distant from Me." (Mark 7:6 AMP)

The Pharisees were very legalistic. On the surface, they seemed to be very religious, but Jesus said that their hearts were far from Him. Does this comment apply to your daily prayer life? Are you grinding your way through your prayer list each day, essentially repeating the same words each time? Or are you praying spontaneously from your heart with great joy several times each day?

You should always be aware that you have been given an opportunity to communicate

directly with the same God Who created you. Your Father wants you to pray often to Him from your heart instead of just repeating words by rote.

Your heart should be filled with gratitude that the God of the universe has given you the tremendous privilege of coming directly to Him at any time. If Jesus is your Savior, the same mighty God Who created you also is your loving Father. He wants you to be in absolute awe that He is your Father and that you are His beloved child. If you can even begin to comprehend the enormous privilege that you have been given of going directly to God at any time, why wouldn't you pray wholeheartedly many times each day?

You should approach your Father in prayer each day with great reverence. You should have a deep and sincere desire for a close and intimate relationship with your loving Father. "The secret [of the sweet, satisfying companionship] of the Lord have they who fear (revere and worship) Him..." (Psalm 25:14 AMP)

You will have an intimate relationship with God in your prayer life and in every other aspect of your life if you truly fear Him. The amplification in this verse explains that to fear God is to revere Him and worship Him. The word "revere" means to constantly look at God with deep respect, love and adoration. You should worship God and thank Him continually because of your great awe of Him.

Your loving Father wants to have a close and intimate relationship with you. He wants you to do what His beloved Son Jesus Christ did throughout His earthly ministry. "...He was heard because of His reverence toward God [His godly fear, His piety...]." (Hebrews 5:7 AMP)

Anyone who reads the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John will see again and again the deep reverence that Jesus had for His Father throughout His earthly ministry. This verse explains that God heard the prayers of Jesus because of His great reverence. Jesus is your example in every area of your life. Your loving Father wants you to approach Him with similar awe and reverence each time that you come to Him in prayer.

Christians who do not have an intimate relationship with God cannot pray effectively. There is a definite connection between the effectiveness of your prayers and the intimacy of your relationship with God.

Jesus died on the cross at Calvary to enable you to continually draw closer to God. "...the Son of God has [actually] come to this world and has given us understanding and insight [progressively] to perceive (recognize) and come to know better and more clearly Him Who is

true; and we are in Him Who is true..." (I John 5:20 AMP)

Jesus wants you to understand that He has given you the opportunity to continually know God better and more intimately. Your daily prayer time should be a time of intimate communion and fellowship with your loving Father. Your prayers should reflect this close and intimate relationship. Your prayers to God should be ongoing, not just for a short time each day when you present God with your list of requests.

If you set aside time each day to be alone with God and if you come into His presence often to praise Him and thank Him, you will have a close and intimate relationship with Him (see Psalms 95:2 and 100:4). Your prayer life will be much more effective. "Come close to God and He will come close to you..." (James 4:8 AMP)

You decide how close and intimate your relationship with God will be. You initiate this relationship. This verse tells you that God will come close to you. However, you first must come close to Him. You should have a deep and sincere desire for a close and intimate relationship with your Father just as Jesus had this desire throughout His earthly ministry.

If you would like to learn what the Bible teaches about a close and intimate relationship with God, we recommend our book, *A Close and Intimate Relationship with God*. This book is anchored on 498 verses of Scripture that tell you exactly what to do to continually draw closer to your Father. Each verse of Scripture is explained in simple and easy-to-understand language.

You will learn from the Scripture in *A Close and Intimate Relationship with God* the vital necessity of turning away from the things of the world each day to draw closer to God. Several verses of Scripture explain the relationship between intimacy with God, faith in God and receiving answers to your prayers. You will learn from God's Word what you should do to hear God's voice.

The following passage of Scripture explains the importance that Jesus placed on praying to His Father. "...great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed." (Luke 5:15-16 KJV)

Just before the occasion that this verse describes, Jesus had been healing many people throughout the land. Large crowds of people who heard what Jesus was doing came to hear Him preach and to receive healing.

Try to visualize how the group of people described here must have felt when they came to hear Jesus and to be healed only to find that He turned away from them and went off to pray.

Jesus knew that He needed to spend intimate time with His Father before He would receive the anointing to preach and to heal these people. Jesus turned away from these needy people to go into the desert to pray to His Father.

Prayer obviously was very important to Jesus throughout His earthly ministry. Do you have the same priority in your prayer life?

We have explained that God is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. We have explained that God is able to hear the prayers of billions of people at the same time. When you want to see an important person, you must make an appointment and wait to get on that person's busy schedule. You do not have to wait to get on God's schedule. Your loving Father is right there waiting for you to come to Him in prayer at any time.

Your loving Father listens to each prayer that you pray just as loving parents listen to what their children say to them. You should not wonder if God is listening to your prayers. You can be certain that He is listening. "The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the [consistently] righteous (the upright, in right standing with Him)." (Proverbs 15:29 AMP)

This verse explains that God is far away from unbelievers, but He is close to you if you are in right standing with Him. You are in right standing with God if Jesus Christ is your Savior. Jesus has paid the full price for all of your sins so that you will be in right standing with God.

You will be consistently righteous if your life is dedicated to living the way your Father has instructed you to live. You can be certain that God hears your prayers if you are righteous before Him because Jesus Christ is your Savior.

God does not listen to the prayers of unbelievers who reject the enormous sacrifice that His Son made for them. People who have rejected Jesus are wasting their time if they pray to God. "We know that God does not listen to sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and a worshiper of Him and does His will, He listens to him." (John 9:31 AMP)

People do not have the right to approach God in prayer if Jesus Christ is not their Savior. There is one exception to this statement. If a person comes to God to receive Jesus as his or her Savior, God does listen to this vital request – the most important request that any person will ever make.

This verse explains that God will listen to anyone who is God-fearing, who worships God and does God's will. Do you fear God? Do you revere God and hold Him in awe? Does your life revolve around God? Do you have a deep and sincere desire to learn and obey your Father's

instructions? Do you do your best to seek, find and carry out God's will for your life?

If you can say "yes" to these questions, you can be certain that your loving Father is listening to you every time that you pray. "...the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with God), and His ears are attentive to their prayer..." (I Peter 3:12 AMP)

God is watching over each of His children at all times. He wants to hear every one of your prayers. You can be certain that your Father is watching over you and that He is paying close attention to your prayers.

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## **Chapter 3**

### **Release God's Mighty Power through Fervent Prayer**

In the last two chapters you have seen that, if Jesus Christ is your Savior, you have the privilege of going directly to God Himself in prayer at any time. Your loving Father is waiting to hear your prayers. He very much wants to answer your prayers. Learn and obey His specific instructions for answered prayer. These instructions are included in this book.

In this chapter we will look into God's Word for instructions pertaining to the supernatural power of prayer. Many Christians do not understand the enormous power of prayer. If you learn how to pray effectively based on the specific instructions that God has given to you, you will release the supernatural power of God whenever you pray. "...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]." (James 5:16 AMP)

Please note that this verse says that a righteous man (or woman) can release "tremendous power" through prayer. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, you are righteous before God. You are able to release enormous spiritual power when you pray.

The word "earnest" describes the type of prayer that releases God's supernatural power. God does not want your prayers to be passive and routine. He does not want you to just go through the motions.

When you pray earnestly, you pray fervently. You pray with faith and energy. Your prayers come out of a heart that is filled with the Word of God. The power that is released by this type of

prayer is “dynamic in its working.”

The purpose of this chapter is to explain the supernatural power of prayer. The next passage of Scripture gives you an example of the power of prayer. “Elijah was a human being with a nature such as we have [with feelings, affections, and a constitution like ours]; and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months. And [then] he prayed again and the heavens supplied rain and the land produced its crops [as usual].” (James 5:17-18 AMP)

Elijah was a prophet who was used greatly by God. This verse explains that Elijah was a human being very much like you. Elijah prayed earnestly for God to stop the rain. You are told that, because of Elijah’s earnest prayers, there was no rain for three and a half years. You then are told that Elijah prayed again, but this time he prayed for rain. You are told that God also answered this prayer and that it rained and crops were produced as usual.

This passage of Scripture emphasizes that Elijah was a human being who had a close and intimate relationship with God. If you have a close and intimate relationship with God, you also can release God’s supernatural power when you pray earnestly and fervently. Your Father wants you to continually draw closer to Him so that your prayers will be very effective just as Elijah’s prayers were.

Are you determined to draw closer to Jesus? Do you have a fervent desire to know Him more intimately? Are you like the apostle Paul who said, “[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly]...” (Philippians 3:10 AMP)

Paul was absolutely determined to become more intimately acquainted with Jesus. If you want to have an effective prayer life, you must continually draw closer to Jesus.

Many Christians fail to release the supernatural power of God when they pray. Prayer to them is just a routine habit. Their prayers are superficial, passive and routine.

Your loving Father wants you to yearn for a close and intimate relationship with Him. He wants you to pray fervently from a heart that is filled with His supernatural living Word (see Psalm 37:31, Proverbs 4:20-23 and 7:1, Jeremiah 15:16 and Colossians 3:16).

If you only pray intellectually, your prayers will be based on the limitations of human logic and reasoning. When you pray from a heart that is filled with the Word of God, you will pray

prayers of faith that are anchored on the mighty power of God's Word that is in your heart.

God wants your prayers to pour out of your heart. Prayer is not a religious exercise. Your Father wants you to pray with certainty that He is listening and that He will answer.

You must understand that, whenever you pray, Almighty God is listening to you. He also is able to listen to the prayers of billions of other people at the same time. You must understand that your prayers will enable you to tap into the supernatural power of God if you pray effectively in obedience to the specific scriptural instructions that you have been given regarding prayer.

You should focus on God's mighty power when you pray instead of focusing on the seeming severity of whatever problem you are praying about. "...You reign over all. In Your hands are power and might; in Your hands it is to make great and to give strength to all." (I Chronicles 29:12 AMP)

You are told that God "gives strength to all." The word "all" includes you. If you have a close and intimate relationship with God, you will be able to receive His supernatural strength in response to your prayers. "...be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]." (Ephesians 6:10 AMP)

The amplification in this verse explains that you receive God's power "through your union with Him." There is no question that God's strength is available to you in direct proportion to the intimacy of your relationship with Him.

God is not concerned about His ability to solve whatever problem you are praying about, no matter how difficult this problem may seem from the limitations of your human understanding. "...with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment." (Luke 1:37 AMP)

The word "nothing" explains the way that God looks at problems that seem to have no solution. Your Father does have supernatural power that He can and will bring to bear against whatever problem you bring to Him in prayer.

Andrew Murray was an esteemed South African evangelist. You must understand what Andrew Murray meant when he said, "In the mystery of prayer, God has entrusted us with a force that can move the heavenly world and can bring its power down to earth."

Your Father has made His power available to you. You can learn how to release His

supernatural power when you pray by making the commitment to study, to learn and to faithfully obey the specific scriptural instructions that you have been given pertaining to prayer.

You must not underestimate the enormous spiritual power of God that can and will be released through effective prayer. If you can even begin to comprehend the enormous power of God that can be released when you pray, we believe that you will be highly motivated to learn and to obey God's instructions pertaining to prayer that we are sharing with you in this book.

If you can begin to comprehend the enormous supernatural power that your prayers can release, you will turn away from other activities to learn and obey God's instructions pertaining to prayer. The power that is released through effective prayer is much greater than nuclear power or anything else on earth that may seem to be incredibly powerful.

Sometimes people look at prayer as their last resort, not their first resort. They say something like, "All that is left to do is to pray." This statement implies that these people have exhausted every possible way of solving their problems and that they have no other recourse except to turn to God.

Just the opposite is true. You should go to God first, not last. Prayer should be your first resort, not the last. A prayer of faith that is anchored on the Word of God puts you in immediate contact with the God of the universe.

You can achieve goals through your prayer life that the most powerful and wealthy people in the world cannot hope to accomplish. Are you taking full advantage of the incredible opportunity that you have been given to release the supernatural power of God through prayer? Are you highly motivated to learn and obey the instructions your Father has given to you regarding prayer? If you are not releasing the power of God when you pray, we urge you to go back over this chapter to meditate on the Scripture pertaining to the power of prayer.

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## **Chapter 4**

### **God Wants to Answer All of Your Prayers**

In this chapter we will share several verses of Scripture that will show you that your loving Father definitely wants to answer all of your prayers. Religious tradition has taught that sometimes God's answer is "No." This statement is true. God obviously does not answer all

prayers or every Christian everywhere would have every prayer answered.

However, you will see that you are the one who determines whether or not God's answer is "No." The truth is that your loving Father wants to answer every one of your prayer requests. The Bible refers to Him as "...the giving God [Who gives] to everyone liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding..." (James 1:5 AMP)

The word "everyone" in this verse is very important. There is no question that God wants to give to everyone. God's heart is to give, not to withhold.

You must understand that your loving Father is a giving God. He yearns to give to His children. He wants to answer your prayers. He is not looking to find fault with you. He does want to answer every one of your prayer requests.

We have put together the following list of ten passages of Scripture that have one thing in common. All ten of these Scripture references clearly tell you that God does want to answer your prayers. We have emphasized this scriptural truth by using bold print in each passage of Scripture where God says that He desires to answer all of your prayers.

"Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4 NIV)

"...the desire of the righteous shall be granted." (Proverbs 10:24 KJV)

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8 NIV)

"...All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (Matthew 21:22 KJV)

"...whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24 NIV)

"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." (John 14:14 KJV)

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (John 15:7 NIV)

"...my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." (John 16:23 NIV)

"...ask and you will receive..." (John 16:24 NIV)

"...whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." (I John 3:22 KJV)

Before commenting on these ten passages of Scripture, we want to explain why we have not used The Amplified Bible in any of them. Normally we use The Amplified Bible more than other versions. However, in these ten passages of Scripture which are listed solely to make one point, we want to simplify, not expand.

Our purpose is not to give you a long explanation of these verses. Our purpose is to show you clearly and concisely that God does want to answer all of your prayers. We believe that assembling this list with as few words as possible is the best way to accomplish this goal.

We have included two passages of Scripture from the Old Testament and eight passages from the New Testament. The Bible contains many additional Scripture references that tell you that God will answer all of your prayers. However, we believe that these ten passages of Scripture are more than sufficient to show you that your loving Father definitely desires to answer every one of your prayers.

All of God's promises are conditional. Some of these passages of Scripture contain God's conditions for answered prayer. Other passages that state that God will answer your prayers are subject to His conditions for answered prayer that we will explain throughout this book.

Psalms 37:4 promises that God will give you the desires of your heart. The condition is that you delight in the Lord. When you delight in the Lord, He is at the center of your life. Your Father wants you to have this kind of intimate relationship with Him. If you do and if you meet His other conditions for answered prayer, there is no question that your loving Father will give you the desires of your heart.

Proverbs 10:21 does not include any conditions except that you be righteous. We have explained that you are righteous before God if Jesus Christ is your Savior and if you live a righteous life according to God's instructions. God wants to answer every one of the prayers of His children.

Matthew 7:7-8 is filled with words that tell you that God will answer your prayers. God does not qualify here. He repeatedly uses the word "will." There is no question that God desires to answer all of your prayers.

We have put the words **all, whatsoever and shall** in Matthew 21:22 in bold print. There is no question that God does want to answer all of your prayers. This verse contains one conditional word – "believing." We will explain in a later chapter the relationship between believing that God will answer your prayer and receiving His answer.

Mark 11:24 is similar to Matthew 21:22. This probably is the same statement that Jesus made reported in a slightly different way by Mark and Matthew. Once again, Jesus tells you that He will grant all of your requests if you believe that He will.

John 14:14 explains the importance of praying in the name of Jesus Christ. We will devote two entire chapters to this very important spiritual truth. For now we want to emphasize once again that God definitely desires to answer all of your prayers.

John 15:7 indicates that God wants to answer any request you make. The condition included in this promise is that you remain in Jesus and that His Word remains in you. We will explain this verse in detail in a later chapter.

In John 16:22 Jesus again says that God does want to answer every one of your requests that are prayed in His name. John 16:24 expands on this principle. God clearly desires to answer every prayer that you pray in the name of Jesus Christ. You need to meet His conditions, but there is no question that your Father definitely wants to answer all of your prayers.

I John 3:22 also states that God wants to answer all of your prayers. This verse is conditional in that this promise is based on your obedience to God's Word. We will explain the relationship between obedience and answered prayer later in this book.

In summary, you have seen ten passages of Scripture that clearly point out that your Father does want to answer all of your prayers. We do not want to oversimplify. We are explaining a general principle here that will be explained in detail in several subsequent chapters.

Are you a parent? Do you have a deep love for your children? Do you desire to give your children what they ask for? Does this desire depend on whether your answer to their requests will be helpful to them? Your loving Father loves you much more than any human father or mother has ever loved his or her children.

If your children are loving and obedient, you want to give them the desires of their hearts if these desires will help them and not hurt them. Your loving Father is no different.

There is no question that God wants to answer all of your requests if you meet the conditions that He has clearly explained in His Word. Jesus said, "...what man is there of you, if his son asks him for a loaf of bread, will hand him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will hand him a serpent? If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good and advantageous gifts to your children, how much more will your Father Who is in heaven [perfect as He is] give good and advantageous things to those who keep on asking Him!" (Matthew 7:9-11 AMP)

This verse shows you that your Father in heaven desires to grant your prayer requests much more than you want to give your children the desires of their hearts. You want to help your children, not hurt them. Your heavenly Father is no different.

Your Father loves you with an incredible supernatural love that is far beyond the limits of human comprehension. He definitely wants to give you “good and advantageous gifts.” You are instructed to keep on asking Him.

We will explain in a subsequent chapter what the Bible teaches about the relationship between faith, patience, perseverance and answered prayer. Your Father wants you to have deep, strong and unwavering faith in Him and in the reliability of His promises (see Numbers 23:19, Joshua 23:14, I Corinthians 1:9 and Hebrews 6:18). He does not want you to give up.

This book is filled with scriptural conditions pertaining to prayer. If you learn and obey all of your Father’s instructions pertaining to prayer, all of your prayer requests will be answered.

You must understand that you are not praying to persuade God. Your Father wants to answer your prayers. He does not need any persuading. All that He asks is that you learn and obey His specific instructions pertaining to prayer.

Once again, you decide whether or not your prayers will be answered. If you do your part, God always will do His part. We now have established that your Father wants to answer all of your prayers.

The truth is that many Christians block God from answering their prayers because they either do not know or do not obey His instructions regarding prayer. If you will study, learn and obey God's instructions pertaining to prayer, your loving Father will answer all of your prayers.

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## **Chapter 5**

### **Obey God's Instructions Pertaining to Prayer**

You have seen that your loving Father very much wants to answer every one of the prayers of each of His children. However, we know that every prayer of every Christian is not answered. Billions of prayers go up to heaven each day that are never answered. Why does God fail to answer these prayers when you have seen that He definitely wants to answer?

Your Father wants you to learn His instructions pertaining to prayer. All that He asks is that

you come to Him in prayer each time in obedience to His instructions. If you always obey these instructions from God, you will receive answers to all of your prayers.

God has done His part. His part is to give specific instructions in regard to prayer and to answer all of the prayers of His children who obey His instructions. What more could you ask of God?

You must do your part. Your part is to learn and obey these instructions. You must understand that you have a responsibility to learn these instructions and to obey them if you want your prayer life to be effective. God can do whatever He wants to do in His grace and His mercy, but you should not expect Him to go against His instructions in regard to prayer.

Your Father wants to bless you just as all loving parents want to bless their children. However, if you refuse to learn and obey God's instructions pertaining to prayer, you are taking the decision regarding answered prayer away from God. You actually are making the decision that you do not want God to answer your prayers.

We have invested an enormous amount of time studying God's scriptural instructions pertaining to prayer. You do not need to go into the Bible and dig out these instructions. We have done this for you. This book is filled with almost four hundred verses of Scripture that tell you exactly what your Father instructs you to do to receive answers to your prayers.

Are you humble and teachable? Do you want to learn and to do exactly what your Father has instructed you to do to receive answers to prayer? "...this is the man to whom I will look and have regard: he who is humble and of a broken or wounded spirit, and who trembles at My word and reveres My commands." (Isaiah 66:2 AMP)

This verse of Scripture says that God looks in a very special way at His children who have a humble spirit. Your Father says that He will bless His children who "tremble" at His Word and who "revere" His instructions.

Do you have so much awe for the supernatural Word of God that you actually tremble when you think of the enormity of the opportunity that you have been given to learn directly from God Himself? Do you revere God's instructions just as you revere Him?

If you truly are humble and teachable, you will be able to understand God's instructions regarding prayer and God's instructions pertaining to every other aspect of your life. "...knowledge is easy to him who [being teachable] understands." (Proverbs 14:6 AMP)

Please note the two words "being teachable" in the amplification of this verse. You should

humble yourself before God and His Word with a deep, strong and sincere desire to learn exactly what your Father has instructed you to do to pray effectively. “He leads the humble in what is right, and the humble He teaches His way.” (Psalm 25:7 AMP)

There is no question that your Father wants you to be humble and teachable. You should be like the psalmist who prayed to God saying, “Make Your face shine [with pleasure] upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes.” (Psalm 119:135 AMP)

God is your teacher. The Bible is His Book of Instructions. Your Father will be very pleased if you have a sincere desire to constantly study His Word to learn how He wants you to live. “Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.” (II Timothy 2:15 AMP)

This verse urges you to eagerly study God's Word. You are instructed to be “a workman.” You should be willing to pay a significant price to learn what your Father has instructed you to do in regard to prayer or in any other area.

Please note the words “correctly analyzing and accurately dividing” in this verse. We have done our best to obey this instruction for you. We believe that we have accurately divided the Word of God so that you will have in this book the specific instructions that your Father has given to you in regard to prayer. We have done our best to give you complete instructions and to explain these instructions clearly.

You must not make the mistake of praying to God based on the limitations of your human logic and understanding. Your Father has warned you against “...following human tradition (men's ideas of the material rather than the spiritual world), just crude notions following the rudimentary and elemental teachings of the universe and disregarding [the teachings of] Christ (the Messiah).” (Colossians 2:8 AMP)

You must turn away from worldly logic and understanding. You should not base your prayer life or any other aspect of your life on what seems right to you. The Bible says, “There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death.” (Proverbs 14:12 AMP)

This verse applies to many areas of your life. Things that “seem right” to you often will lead you away from God. You will be spiritually dead if you consistently do what seems to be right to you instead of paying the price to renew your mind in God's Word each day and to meditate on

God's Word day and night as your Father has instructed you to do (see II Corinthians 4:16, Ephesians 4:23, Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:1-3).

If you truly love God, you will do the one thing that He specifically instructs you to do to show your love for Him. "...the [true] love of God is this: that we do His commands [keep His ordinances and are mindful of His precepts and teaching]. And these orders of His are not irksome (burdensome, oppressive, or grievous)." (I John 5:3 AMP)

Children who love their parents obey the instructions that their parents give them. You should do the same with your heavenly Father. If you truly love God, you will do your best to consistently learn and obey His instructions.

Please note that this verse says that these orders from God are not irksome. Your Father did not give you all of these instructions pertaining to prayer to penalize you or to make your life more difficult. He gave you these instructions so that He will be able to answer your prayers. Jesus said, "...If a person [really] loves Me, he will keep My word [obey My teaching]" (John 14:23 AMP)

There is no question that you show your love for God and for Jesus through obedience. Jesus went on to say, "Anyone who does not [really] love Me does not observe and obey My teaching..." (John 14:24 AMP)

If you are unwilling to pay the price of continually studying and obeying God's Word, your actions show that you do not really love God and His Son Jesus Christ. Your Father has repeatedly told you that He wants to answer all of your prayers. Will you do your part. "...we receive from Him whatever we ask, because we [watchfully] obey His orders [observe His suggestions and injunctions, follow His plan for us] and [habitually] practice what is pleasing to Him." (I John 3:22 AMP)

The words "whatever we ask" include every request that you bring to God. Your Father promises that you will receive from Him whatever you ask if you obey His instructions. The word "habitually" in the amplification of this verse means that you should consistently obey God's instructions. If you do this, your loving Father will hear your prayers and answer them.

You must not make the mistake of failing to obey God's instructions. "He who turns away his ear from hearing the law [of God and man], even his prayer is an abomination, hateful and revolting [to God]." (Proverbs 28:9 AMP)

If you turn away from obeying God (and also the laws of the city, state and county where you

live), your disobedience makes God very unhappy. Your Father has given you complete instructions on how He wants you to live in every area of your life. If you ignore or disobey these instructions, you ultimately will bring a severe penalty upon yourself.

You must do more than just know what your Father has instructed you to do. You must do what He instructs you to do in regard to prayer or any other area. "...be doers of the Word [obey the message], and not merely listeners to it, betraying yourselves [into deception by reasoning contrary to the Truth]." (James 1:22 AMP)

Please note that you will deceive yourself if you know what God's Word says and you do not obey these instructions. You must not make the mistake of doing what worldly logic and reasoning lead you to do.

You must learn what your Father has instructed you to do and obey Him. Your Father will bless your obedience. Disobedience blocks Him from blessing you and answering your prayers and in many other areas of your life.

There is no such thing as unanswered prayer for God's children who study and faithfully obey His specific instructions that He has given us in regard to prayer. Your Father will bless you abundantly for every hour that you spend learning His instructions about prayer. He will bless you abundantly if you obey His instructions in regard to prayer.

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## **Chapter 6**

### **Hindrances to Answered Prayer**

The Bible gives several reasons why prayer is not answered. Some Christians do not have their needs met because they do not even ask God to help them. They look to worldly sources for a solution instead of going to God in prayer.

Other people pray to God, but they also do not receive what they ask for because they are praying selfish prayers for their own pleasure. "...You do not have, because you do not ask. [Or] you do ask [God for them] and yet fail to receive, because you ask with wrong purpose and evil, selfish motives. Your intention is [when you get what you desire] to spend it in sensual pleasures." (James 4:2-3 AMP)

You have learned that God wants to answer all of your prayers. You obviously can block

God from meeting your needs if you do not even go to Him in prayer. Your motivation is very important when you pray. You must understand that you will block God from answering your prayers if your prayers are selfish and greedy.

Many children ask their parents for specific requests, but their parents do not grant these requests because they know that doing this would not be good for their children. Your heavenly Father is no different. Many times He will not answer your prayers because He knows that what you are asking for will be detrimental to you. Your Father wants to give you what is best for you, not just what you want.

In addition to blocking God from answering your prayers because of selfish motivation, you must understand that sin in your life inevitably will block God from answering your prayers. “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18 AMP)

The word “iniquity” literally means wickedness. In this context, it is used to explain any sin in your life. The prophet Isaiah essentially said the same thing when he said, “...your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”(Isaiah 59:2 AMP)

If you are not receiving answers to your prayers, ask God to show you if there is any sin in your life that is blocking Him from answering. The psalmist said, “Search me [thoroughly], O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalm 139:23-24 AMP)

If you know that you are sinning or if God shows you sin that you were not aware of, you should immediately repent and ask your loving Father to forgive you. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:8-9 KJV)

Whenever you are aware that you are sinning, you should admit your sin. If you go to God and confess your sin and repent, God will cleanse you. He will treat you just as if you had never sinned at all.

God forgives all sins for every person who comes to Him to receive Jesus Christ as his or her Savior. He also will do this whenever you sin after you receive Jesus as your Savior. If you truly repent, God not only will forgive you, but He will completely forget your sins. God said, “...I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.” (Hebrews 8:12 KJV)

If your Father is willing to forgive and forget, you should be willing to forgive yourself. Do not beat yourself up about anything you have done. Admit your sin. Repent. Ask God to forgive you and get on with your life. If God forgets, you should forget too.

You must not block God from answering your prayers by your mistaken perception that you are unworthy. We see an excellent example of this principle in the following parable that Jesus told about the prodigal son.

When the prodigal son knew that he should go back to his father, he said, “I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; [just] make me like one of your hired servants.” (Luke 15:18-19 AMP)

This son who had sinned repeatedly was very hesitant to approach his father. His father felt just the opposite. “...while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity and tenderness [for him]; and he ran and embraced him and kissed him [fervently].” (Luke 15:20 AMP)

The son was amazed at the way his father responded to his appearance. The son said, “... Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son [I no longer deserve to be recognized as a son of yours]!” (Luke 15:21 AMP)

The father was not critical of his son. He welcomed him. “...the father said to his bond servants, Bring quickly the best robe (the festive robe of honor) and put it on him; and give him a ring for his hand and sandals for his feet. And bring out that [wheat-]fatted calf and kill it; and let us revel and feast and be happy and make merry, because this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found! And they began to revel and feast and make merry.” (Luke 15:22-24 AMP)

You must not think that you are unworthy of receiving answers to your prayers because you have sinned. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, all of your sins from the past have been forgiven. When you sin after you are saved, you should go to God and repent. Ask your Father to forgive you. He will forgive you. He will completely forget your sins. He will treat you just as if you had never sinned.

You also must not allow your unforgiveness toward others to block God from answering your prayers. Jesus said, “...whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may

also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your failings and shortcomings.” (Mark 11:25-26 AMP)

Jesus clearly explains the relationship between answered prayer and forgiving other people. If you have unforgiveness in your heart toward someone, you must understand that this unforgiveness will block God from forgiving you.

Forgiveness is the foundation of Christianity. Jesus Christ died an agonizing death by crucifixion so that every person in the world can be forgiven of his or her sins. “Let all bitterness and indignation and wrath (passion, rage, bad temper) and resentment (anger, animosity) and quarreling (brawling, clamor, contention) and slander (evil-speaking, abusive or blasphemous language) be banished from you, with all malice (spite, ill will, or baseness of any kind). And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:31-32 AMP)

In this chapter you have seen that you can block God from answering your prayers by your selfishness. You can block your Father from answering by your sins and by unforgiveness of yourself or others.

We would like to close this chapter by sharing with you one final hindrance that the Bible explains in regard to unanswered prayer. If there is contention between a husband and wife, this contention often blocks God from answering their prayers. “...you married men should live considerately with [your wives], with an intelligent recognition [of the marriage relation], honoring the woman as [physically] the weaker, but [realizing that you] are joint heirs of the grace (God's unmerited favor) of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered and cut off. [Otherwise you cannot pray effectively.]” (I Peter 3:7 AMP)

Receive God’s grace which is “unmerited favor” that you did not earn and do not deserve. If you are married and you are not receiving answers to your prayers, ask God to show you if problems in your marriage are blocking Him from answering.

In this chapter we have shared basic truths from the Bible about hindrances to answered prayer. If you are not receiving the answers that you would like, hopefully these passages of Scripture will help you to pray more effectively. We now are ready to look into God's Word at many additional instructions that your Father has given to enable you to pray more effectively.

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## **Chapter 7**

### **Pray Consistently for People in Positions of Authority**

The Word of God urges you to pray first of all not for yourself and members of your family, but for all people who are in positions of authority. These people should be at the top of your daily prayer list. The apostle Paul, writing under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, said, “First of all, then, I admonish and urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in positions of authority or high responsibility...” (I Timothy 2:1-2 AMP)

God would not have used the words “first of all” if this instruction was not a specific priority for you to observe in your prayers. The word “admonish” means to urge strongly. When God urges you to pray for government leaders, He is strongly emphasizing the priority that He places on these prayers. Please note that God urges you to pray for all people who are in positions of authority or responsibility.

We believe that your daily prayer list should include specific requests in this area. Are you praying daily for the president of the United States or the leader of whatever country you live in if you do not live in the United States? Are you praying daily for members of the US Senate and House of Representatives or the government leaders in your country? Are you praying for local and state government officials?

God will guide people who are in positions of authority if His children consistently pray that He will. “By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.” (Proverbs 8:15-16 KJV)

Only God has the answers that are needed for the many severe problems that exist in the world today. We believe that God’s guidance often is based on the prayers of many committed Christians for government leaders. Why would He have urged you to pray first of all for people in positions of authority?

The wisdom that these government officials need to make difficult decisions can only come to them from God. “...where shall Wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? Man knows not the price of it; neither is it found in the land of the living.” (Job 28:12-13 AMP)

The first letter of the word “Wisdom” is capitalized to indicate that this word refers to God’s wisdom. This verse goes on to say that the understanding that people need often cannot be found in the world.

Government leaders often must receive wisdom and understanding from God. “...the Lord gives skillful and godly Wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He hides away sound and godly Wisdom and stores it for the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with Him)...” (Proverbs 2:6-7 AMP)

This passage of Scripture says that God will give wisdom, knowledge and understanding to the righteous – to people who are righteous before Him because they have received Jesus Christ as their Savior. What about government officials who are not Christians? They can only receive the godly wisdom, knowledge and understanding they need if many of God’s children obey God’s instructions to pray for them. “A man’s mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps and makes them sure.” (Proverbs 16:9 AMP)

God usually does not override man’s will, but this verse says that He can. Government leaders may have many plans, but if God’s children consistently pray for them, we believe that God can and will override their decisions and direct their steps. “A person’s steps are directed by the LORD. How then can anyone understand their own way?” (Proverbs 20:24 NIV)

People in positions of authority often have to make difficult decisions that they are incapable of making with the limitations of their human wisdom and understanding. You must understand the vital importance of consistently praying for God’s direction for government leaders. “... people’s lives are not their own; it is not for them to direct their steps. ” (Jeremiah 10:23 NIV)

Pray first of all each day that God will direct the actions and decisions of all people in positions of authority. You also should pray that God will direct you and your family every day.

Ideally, all government officials should be strong and committed Christians. “When a land transgresses, it has many rulers, but when the ruler is a man of discernment, understanding, and knowledge, its stability will long continue.” (Proverbs 28:2 AMP)

We know that many government leaders are unbelievers. We explained in our comments after Proverbs 2:6-7 that government officials who are unbelievers can only receive the wisdom and understanding they need when many of God’s children are praying for them. You must understand the vital importance of interceding in prayer for leaders in government, particularly those leaders who do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Most Christian leaders agree that our generation lives in the last days before the return of Jesus Christ. The world will face very difficult times in the not too distant future. "...in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear]." (II Timothy 3:1 AMP)

There is no question that adversity already is here. This adversity will increase. The only question is when adversity will increase, not if. If there ever was a time when government officials need consistent prayer, we live in that time.

Many government officials are in a position where their decisions and actions will have far-reaching effects. Pray that God will give His supernatural wisdom to these people. Pray that God will override the limitations of their human understanding and that He will direct their steps.

We have seen a tremendous increase in the influence that Satan and his demons have on our generation. You can clearly see this influence by comparing the headlines of your daily newspaper with the headlines that you read ten, twenty or thirty years ago. A mighty move of Satan is taking place during these last days. "...the whole world [around us] is under the power of the evil one." (I John 5:19 AMP)

The Bible refers to Satan as "the god of this world" (see II Corinthians 4:4). Many people are being influenced by Satan and his demons during these last days before Jesus Christ returns. In addition to the bad news from the daily news media, you can see the increasing influence of Satan on movies, DVDs, video games, books and the internet.

Pray boldly and take authority over the influence of Satan in the lives of government officials. You must intercede for government leaders. You must fight hard for them in the spiritual realm. These government officials need your prayers.

Many government leaders are spiritually dead. They have no comprehension of the ways of God. The things that seem right to them can cause them to make very poor decisions if these decisions are based on the limitations of their human understanding. "There is a way that seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death." (Proverbs 16:25 AMP)

God wants His children to continually turn to Him for wisdom. You must understand the importance of praying for God to direct the actions and decisions of government leaders so that they will not just do what seems right to them.

Many government officials have no concept of the influence that Satan and his demons have

on them and the decisions they make. You must pray against these leaders making decisions that are influenced by Satan. "...though we walk (live) in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh and using mere human weapons. For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds" (II Corinthians 10:3-4 AMP)

This passage of Scripture explains a major difference between the natural realm and the spiritual realm. Government officials cannot prevail in the spiritual realm if they are using "weapons of flesh and blood." If they do not know how to offset the influence of Satan and his demons, you must pray consistently that these leaders will do what God wants them to do instead of doing what Satan and his demons want them to do.

Some government leaders are atheists, agnostics or members of a cult. These people badly need direction from God. You should pray consistently for all government officials, not just those leaders whose political persuasions are the same as yours.

You must not allow yourself to be discouraged by what leaders in government are doing. God will override their ungodly decisions and cause everything to work out the way that He wants if many Christians will consistently and fervently intercede for them.

Many government officials do not understand that they desperately need the prayers of many committed Christians. Instead of complaining about what people in positions of authority are doing, you should pray for them. Instead of criticizing government leaders, you should intercede for them. "By the blessing of the influence of the upright and God's favor [because of them] the city is exalted..." (Proverbs 11:11 AMP)

This verse says that a city can be exalted by "the influence of the upright." If a city can be blessed by the influence of your prayers, so can a state and a federal government. You can have a great effect on what is happening in the world by your prayers. "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will." (Proverbs 21:1 KJV)

This verse speaks of "the king's heart." These words include all government officials. The same God Who is able to change the paths of rivers also is able to direct the decisions and actions of government officials.

Persevere in your prayer for government leaders. Pray every day for them. Know that the supernatural power of God will be released if many of His children are consistently praying that He will guide and direct government officials.

Many Christians do not pray every day for leaders in government. We pray that the Scripture in this chapter will convince you to put government leaders and people in positions of authority at the top of your daily prayer list. We pray that you will not miss one day of praying for people all over the world who are in positions of authority.

You must understand that Christians have a responsibility for what takes place in government. You should understand what a huge responsibility you have to pray frequently for government officials and people in positions of authority and leadership throughout the world.

In this chapter you have seen the importance that God places on praying for people in positions of authority. In the next chapter we will study several verses of Scripture that will show you that God wants you to pray many times throughout every day of your life.

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## **Chapter 8**

### **How Often Should You Pray?**

God is specific in His instructions regarding where you should pray each day and how often you should pray. Learning and obeying these instructions will have a significant impact on the effectiveness of your prayer life.

Jesus Christ shed His precious blood at Calvary so that you can have intimate time with your Father. "...in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:13 NIV)

You should have so much faith in the magnitude of the sacrifice that Jesus made that you are certain you can approach God directly whenever you pray. "...because of our faith in Him, we dare to have the boldness (courage and confidence) of free access (an unreserved approach to God with freedom and without fear)." (Ephesians 3:12 AMP)

You should have intimate quiet time in prayer with your Father each day. Jesus said, "...when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward in full already. But when you pray, go into your [most] private room, and, closing the door, pray to your Father, Who is in secret; and your Father, Who sees in secret, will reward you in the open." (Matthew 6:5-6 AMP)

We are not saying that you should not pray with other people. However, Jesus clearly stated that you should not seek recognition from other people as a result of your prayers. Jesus instructs you to have a specific place where you go to pray each day. He instructs you to close the door when you go into this room.

Do you have a specific place in your home where you set aside time for daily prayer? Do you go to this room each day to pray? You should not allow anything to take precedence over your daily prayer time. No matter how busy you may be, you should not allow anyone or anything to come ahead of the intimacy of your daily time praying to God.

In addition to this daily prayer time, your Father has repeatedly instructed you to pray to Him on many other occasions each day. Prayer should be a way of life to you. You should be like the psalmist David who said, “Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.” (Psalm 55:17 KJV)

David prayed in the morning, at noon and at night. The Bible contains several instructions to come to God throughout the day and night. Both Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:2-3 emphasize the vital importance of meditating day and night on God's Word. Psalm 113:3 instructs you to praise the Lord from the time the sun comes up each morning until it goes down at night. Your Father wants the intimacy of your relationship with Him to be constant throughout your life.

Prayer should be much more than just a few words of routine time each morning or before you go to sleep at night. You should understand the importance of praying many times each day. You should pray so often that consistent prayer becomes natural and spontaneous to you. You should always desire to pray for people who need prayer, regardless of the time, place or circumstance.

You can use what normally would be unproductive time and cause this time to become productive when you pray. If you are in a waiting room before an appointment, having your car repaired or you are waiting for any other reason, you can use this time to pray. Instead of reading a magazine or a newspaper while you wait, you can pray.

In this book we will study many verses of Scripture that emphasize the supernatural power of prayer. You can use time that otherwise would be nonproductive to go directly to God. You can go directly to God several times each day to intercede for needy people all over the world.

I (Jack) have a daily time of prayer in the bedroom/office in our home where I do all of my writing. I also pray when I walk each morning with our dog, J.C. I normally praise and worship

the Lord for part of this time and pray during the remainder of my walking time. I use virtually all of this time when I walk each day to praise and worship the Lord and to pray to Him.

You have many additional opportunities to pray each day – when you are taking a shower, when you are getting dressed and when you are driving your car are just a few examples. As you become increasingly aware of the many opportunities that you have to go to God in prayer, you will find that the frequency of your prayer time will increase steadily.

You can pray for other people even when you are in a crowd. Normally you will pray out loud, but you also can pray silently for someone standing right next to you.

You should be committed to constantly drawing closer to God so that your relationship with Him will become increasingly intimate. If you do this consistently, your prayer life will be very effective. “...pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will [ever] see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14 AMP)

The word “consecration” means to be set apart as being holy. The word “holiness” refers to the purity of God. You should actively pursue setting aside time each day to be alone with God to partake of His holiness.

If you want to have an effective prayer life, you must turn away from the things of the world many times each day. Your Father instructs you to consistently turn away from “...vain and worthless things which cannot profit or deliver you, for they are empty and futile.” (I Samuel 12:21 AMP)

Do not make the mistake that some Christians make. You must not have just a few minutes of routine prayer time each day and then focus primarily on worldly activities.

This statement does not mean that you cannot pursue recreation or enjoy yourself. However, you should not focus consistently on the pursuit of pleasure, accumulating wealth or other worldly activities. You should never allow anyone or anything to come ahead of the intimacy of your relationship with God. You should be like the psalmist who said, “...I have no delight or desire on earth besides You.” (Psalm 73:25 AMP)

You will not be highly motivated to pray consistently if you do not have a close and intimate relationship with God. You must understand the vital importance of constantly drawing closer to God. “...set your mind and heart to seek (inquire of and require as your vital necessity) the Lord your God...” (I Chronicles 22:19 AMP)

The amplification of this verse explains that an intimate relationship with God is a “vital

necessity.” Nothing should come ahead of your commitment to consistently turn to God so that “...He alone in everything and in every respect might occupy the chief place [stand first and be preeminent].” (Colossians 1:18 AMP)

The Bible repeatedly emphasizes the importance of putting God in first place in your life and keeping Him there. “Seek the Lord [inquire for Him, inquire of Him, and require Him as the foremost necessity of your life]...” (Zephaniah 2:3 AMP)

Please note the similarity between the words “foremost necessity” in this verse and “vital necessity” in the amplification of I Chronicles 22:19. You cannot have an effective prayer life if God is not in absolute first place in your life. You should be like the psalmist David who said, “You have said, Seek My face [inquire for and require My presence as your vital need]. My heart says to You, Your face (Your presence), Lord, will I seek, inquire for, and require [of necessity and on the authority of Your Word].” (Psalm 27:8 AMP)

Once again we see the words “vital need” and “necessity” used in the amplification of this verse. There is no question that your Father wants you to understand the absolute necessity of continually drawing closer to Him.

You might be interested in our book, A Close and Intimate Relationship with God. This book is anchored on 498 verses of Scripture that tell you exactly what God instructs you to do to draw closer to Him. We have provided a simple and easy-to-understand explanation of each passage of Scripture.

The best way to learn to pray effectively is to pray often. The closer you are to God and the more you pray, the more effective your prayer life will be.

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## **Chapter 9**

### **Additional Scriptural Instructions Pertaining to Prayer**

You should not take the privilege of prayer lightly. Jesus Christ is your example in every area of your life. In Chapter 2 you learned in Luke 5:15-16 that Jesus turned away from a crowd of people who came to Him for healing so that He could go off by Himself to pray to His Father. Prayer obviously was very important to Jesus. Consistent prayer should be a top priority in your life as well.

Jesus understood the necessity of praying to God before He ministered to people. He also spent time in prayer after He had successfully ministered to people. After Jesus had miraculously fed five thousand men, their wives and children with only five loaves of bread and two fish, He went up into the hills to be alone to pray to His Father. "...when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone." (Matthew 14:23 KJV)

Jesus must have been exuberant after performing this miracle of multiplying the loaves and fishes. However, He knew that He needed time to pray to His Father. Jesus often spent several hours on a mountain praying. "...it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." (Luke 6:12 KJV)

Jesus prayed throughout the night. Is your prayer time this important to you? The gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John give many examples of the priority that Jesus placed on prayer during His earthly ministry. If prayer was this important to Jesus, you can conclude that your Father wants prayer to be equally as important to you.

We now are ready to study several scriptural instructions about praying effectively. First, we will discuss whether you should kneel when you pray. Many times in the Bible a person knelt to pray. Solomon prayed on his knees with his hands raised to heaven (see I Kings 8:54 and II Chronicles 6:13). In Psalm 95:6 you are invited to worship, bow down and kneel before the Lord. In Daniel 6:10 you see that Daniel knelt three times a day, prayed and gave thanks to God. In Luke 22:40-42 Jesus knelt and prayed to His Father.

While Stephen was being stoned, he fell on his knees and cried out to God asking Him not to hold this sin against the people (see Acts 7:59-60). When Peter was praying for Tabitha to come back to life, he knelt down and prayed (see Acts 9:40). After Paul spoke to the people and told them that they would never see him again, he knelt down and prayed (see Acts 20:36). A large group of people, including women and children, accompanied Luke and Paul out of the city after some of the disciples had spent seven days with Paul. The entire group knelt on the beach to pray.

You can see from these scriptural examples that kneeling to pray took place in very earnest situations. These people were seeking God with their whole heart. Kneeling is not a requirement for praying, but there may be times when you choose to kneel when you pray.

Abraham fell on his face before God sometimes when he was talking with God (see Genesis

17:3, 17). Manoah and his wife fell on their faces to the ground as the Angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar (see Judges 13:20). Jehoshaphat bowed with his face on the ground and all the people of Judah and those who lived in Jerusalem fell on the ground, worshipping the Lord (see II Chronicles 20:18). Job fell on the ground and worshiped God (see Job 1:20). There are times when you will spontaneously fall to the ground before God, often in gratitude, often in awe of Who God is and how much He loves you.

The Bible says that sometimes people sat down to pray. A group met to pray outside of Philippi by a river. They sat down. After Jesus fed four thousand people, He went up on a mountainside and sat down (see Matthew 15:29). Jesus asked the disciples to have the people sit down in groups of fifty. He then took five loaves of bread and two fish and gave thanks to God (see Luke 9:15-16). Sometimes you will want to sit to pray.

Dr. Billy Graham, America's foremost evangelist, once said, "It is not the body's posture, but the heart's attitude that counts when we pray." When you pray, you do not have to be on your knees or have your eyes closed or your hands folded. All of these postures for prayer are good, but you must understand the importance of praying to God with humility, reverence, awe and faith in Him.

Next we will study what the Bible teaches about making specific prayer requests. Some Christians just make general requests. Jesus was very specific when He prayed to God. "In the days of His flesh [Jesus] offered up definite, special petitions [for that which He not only wanted but needed]..." (Hebrews 5:7 AMP)

We will repeatedly emphasize that Jesus is your role model. Your Father wants you to be specific when you pray to Him. Whenever you can, you should anchor your prayers on specific verses of Scripture that apply to what you are praying for. God is very specific and precise in His promises to you. He wants you to be just as specific and precise in your requests to Him.

You should do your best to find promises from God that apply to whatever you are praying for. If you do not know specific verses of Scripture that apply to your need, we recommend our book *What Does God Say?*. This book contains 1,221 verses of Scripture on 94 different topics. You can use this Scripture to pray God's promises back to Him.

We recommend the use of a prayer journal, a prayer notebook or prayer list during your daily time of prayer. You can decide what best fits you. If possible, we recommend a small notebook with punched pages. The advantage of this prayer notebook is that you can make appropriate

changes as your prayer requests change and you receive answers to your prayers.

However you organize your prayers, we want to emphasize that your prayer requests should not be totally centered around yourself. You should have one section for your needs, but you also should have additional sections that focus on praying for other people who have needs.

I (Jack) would like to tell you about the prayer list that I use during my daily time of prayer. We have emphasized the importance of praying for government officials. Each day I begin my prayer time by praying for the president of the United States, all members of the US Senate and the House of Representatives, the governors of all fifty states and all officials at every level of government in every country throughout the world. I also pray for people throughout the world in the private sector who are in positions of authority and responsibility.

Omniscient God knows each and every one of these people. I ask God to direct the decisions and actions that all of these people make so that the cumulative effect of their actions and decisions will be exactly what God in His infinite wisdom desires (see our explanation of Proverbs 16:9 in Chapter 7).

I pray each day for the United States of America. I ask God to spare our land and to heal our country. I ask Him to pour out mighty revival throughout the United States and throughout the world.

Next I pray for the peace of Jerusalem because the Bible tells us to do this (see Psalm 122:6). I also pray for the ministry that God has called us to. I pray each day for God to anoint Judy and me in a powerful way on whatever book we are writing. I pray for God's guidance on all subsequent books that He has called us to write. I am eighty years old. I pray for excellent health throughout the remainder of my life so that I can fully complete the assignment that God has given to me.

Next I pray for members of our family. I pray for members of our family whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life. I ask God to draw each of these people in a mighty and powerful way to come to Him for eternal salvation (see John 6:44). I pray that not one member of our family will suffer throughout eternity in the lake of fire.

Next I have a section for people who need physical healing. I have a list of people who have health challenges. I pray asking God to give them the healing that already has been provided for them (see I Peter 2:24). Sometimes I use specific Scripture references that pertain to healing. "... the prayer [that is] of faith will save him who is sick, and the Lord will restore him..." (James

5:15 AMP)

For a comprehensive explanation of what the Bible teaches about healing, we recommend our book, *Receive Healing from the Lord* which contains 464 different Scripture references pertaining to healing. We also recommend our Scripture Meditation Cards and CD with the same title. God has instructed us to meditate day and night on His Word (see Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:2-3). These Scripture cards will help any person who is sick to meditate on healing Scripture. Many people have written to tell us how consistent meditation on these Scripture cards has helped them.

Next I have a list of people who face adversity. This list is updated as I learn of people who face challenges in their lives. Finally, I pray that God will bless the people who contribute to Lamplight Ministries and the people who pray for Lamplight Ministries, Judy and myself.

You can personalize your prayer journal in any way to fit your prayer requests. If you set up your prayer journal properly, you will have a system for praying for specific needs in your prayer time each day.

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide and direct you as you pray. Every time that you go through this list should be different. You may be going through the same list, but the guidance and anointing of the Holy Spirit can and should make your prayers fresh, new and spontaneous.

Whenever someone who is close to us undergoes major surgery, we pray consistently during the time of the surgery. For many years we have placed several large pads of paper on the floor in several places in our home with the name of the person who is being operated on and the approximate time of this surgery.

We cannot go from room to room without continually being reminded to pray for successful surgery for this person. We often leave these pads on the floor during the days immediately following surgery to thank God for total healing and complete success from the surgery.

We recommend that you set up your prayer journal so that you can record both your prayer requests and God's answers. A list of answered prayer requests over a period time will greatly increase your faith in God and your desire to continue to pray for the people on your prayer list. As you go back over your journal and see the times that God has answered prayer, you will be more encouraged to pray. You should have faith that God will answer your prayers now and in the future just as He has answered your prayers in the past.

You must understand the importance of praying spontaneously even though you are going

through a list each day. Jesus said, "...when you pray, do not heap up phrases (multiply words, repeating the same ones over and over) as the Gentiles do, for they think they will be heard for their much speaking." (Matthew 6:7 AMP)

Your prayers should not be cut and dried words that are like a formula that you use every day. Your prayers should come from your heart. You have seen that the supernatural power of God is released when you pray fervently from your heart (see James 5:16).

Do not make your prayer life too formal. You do not have to use King James Elizabethan English when you pray. Pray to God with awe and reverence, but use the same vocabulary that you use in everyday conversation.

In this chapter we have given you many specific recommendations in regard to your prayer life. We believe that careful observance of God's instructions pertaining to prayer will make your prayer life much more effective.

In the next chapter we will explore a vitally important subject – agreement in prayer. If you learn and apply the scriptural instructions in this area, you will find that the effectiveness of your prayer life will increase substantially.

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## **Chapter 10**

### **The Power of a Prayer of Agreement**

The supernatural power of God can be released when you enter into a prayer of agreement with one or more Christians who have deep, strong and unwavering faith in God. Jesus said, "...I tell you, if two of you on earth agree (harmonize together, make a symphony together) about whatever [anything and everything] they may ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by My Father in heaven. For wherever two or three are gathered (drawn together as My followers) in (into) My name, there I AM in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:19-20 AMP)

This passage of Scripture explains the supernatural power that is released when two or more believers agree together in prayer. When two or more Christians are in complete agreement on a prayer request, Jesus promises that they will receive whatever they ask for. The amplification says that "anything and everything" that is asked for in a prayer of agreement will come to pass.

God will answer all prayer requests that are part of a prayer of agreement that completely

conforms to His other instructions pertaining to prayer. The words “whatever” and “anything and everything” clearly tell you that your loving Father definitely has made provision to answer every prayer of agreement and that He will answer if His instructions regarding prayer are obeyed.

When you have a need, you often should seek one or more other believers who have strong faith in God. Ask each of these people to agree with you in prayer. This verse says that “two of you” should agree in prayer. The same principle also applies when more than two people are praying. You are told to agree on earth. This means that two or more believers should agree in prayer on earth and that God Who is in heaven will answer this prayer.

Why is a prayer of agreement so powerful? The answer is that Jesus Christ Himself is right there with you whenever you agree in faith with one or more believers for an answer to prayer. Jesus said that, wherever two or three people are gathered together in His name, He is right there in the midst of them.

This statement applies to church services and to any other meeting where two or more Christians meet in the name of Jesus Christ. However, this awesome promise especially applies to a prayer of agreement. Jesus is right there praying with you whenever you enter into a prayer of agreement with one or more Christians.

When God looks at this prayer request, He sees His beloved Son as part of the prayer of agreement. This explains why a prayer of agreement (that meets with God’s other instructions pertaining to prayer) is very strong and effective.

When two or more Christians agree in prayer, the most important person in this prayer of agreement is Jesus Christ. You should be extremely conscious that Jesus is with you in a prayer of agreement. He is interceding to God with you.

Jesus sent His disciples out two by two. There is something in the spiritual realm that honors the multiplicity of two or more Christians working effectively together. A prayer of agreement can be sent to heaven with another believer with deep, strong and unwavering faith that God will answer your prayer.

When you agree in prayer with one or more other believers, a synergistic effect is released. You learned in Chapter 3 that fervent heartfelt prayers are extremely powerful. When Jesus enters into fervent prayer with two or more believers, the supernatural power of God is released.

The prayer of two or three people is not just two or three times as powerful as one person’s

prayer. A prayer of agreement is a prayer of multiplication, not a prayer of addition. A prayer of agreement is not  $1+1=2$ . The synergistic power of a prayer of agreement is much greater than the component parts.

Enormous spiritual power is released when the power of a fervent prayer of two or more believers is combined with the power of Jesus agreeing with them. You often will pray by yourself. However, you must understand the vital importance of agreeing in prayer with one or more believers who have strong faith. You must be certain that Jesus Himself is right there praying with you.

Some churches have prayer groups that are extremely effective. If the members of this group have deep, strong and unwavering faith in God and they are observing God's other instructions relating to prayer, this church will experience phenomenal answers to prayer.

A prayer of agreement must be based on much more than mental assent. Deep, strong and unwavering faith in God is absolutely essential. We suggest that you carefully observe other Christians you know. Whenever you have an extreme need, search out one or more of these Christians who care about you and have strong faith in God. Ask each of these brothers and sisters in Christ to agree with you in prayer.

You are not limited to the local area where you live. You also can contact other believers by email or telephone. We have a group of believers that we often turn to when we need prayer. We know that each of these people has strong faith in God. We consistently communicate with the people who are in agreement with us.

Ideally, you should have a specific network of believers who will be available to agree in prayer. You should ask these people to join their faith with yours. You will be tremendously encouraged if you know that these other believers are consistently in agreement with you day after day, week after week and, if necessary, month after month.

We thank God daily for the people who pray for Lamplight Ministries on a regular basis. We know that their prayers make a difference. We invite you to pray for us. Please let us know if you are praying for us.

Do not give up before you receive manifestation of God's answer. Continue to communicate with the people who are praying with you. This ongoing communication is very important. You should be certain that these other believers are praying with you. You should encourage each other. Bring the members of this group up to date. Email is an effective way to keep people

updated.

We cannot emphasize too strongly how careful you should be in choosing other Christians for a prayer of agreement. The faith of the people who are agreeing with you is vitally important.

We now would like to look again at a verse of Scripture that we studied in Chapter 3. "...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]." (James 5:16 AMP)

We have discussed the tremendous power that is released when one person prays earnestly and continually with deep faith in God. This same power is multiplied many times over when you are in a prayer of agreement with other Christians who have strong faith in God.

This chapter is devoted almost entirely to the statement that Jesus made in Matthew 18:19-20. We did use a verse from the Old Testament to explain this principle. We looked again at James 5:16 to see how effective prayer will release the supernatural power of God. We cannot emphasize too strongly the vital importance of agreeing in prayer with one or more Christians who have deep, strong and unwavering faith in God.

If you will go back to Matthew 18:20, you will see that Jesus instructs you to agree in His name. Consistently praying in the name of Jesus Christ is essential for an effective prayer life. Now that we have established the foundation of a prayer of agreement that is anchored on the name of Jesus Christ, we are ready to look into God's Word for specific instructions that explain the supernatural power of the name of Jesus Christ.

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## **Chapter 11**

### **Pray in the Name of Jesus Christ**

Every person who has received Jesus Christ as his or her Savior has been given the privilege of using the name of Jesus in prayer and on many other occasions. Jesus said, "...I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that My Father will grant you whatever you ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM]. Up to this time you have not asked a [single] thing in My Name [as presenting all that I AM]; but now ask and keep on asking and you will receive, so that your joy (gladness, delight) may be full and complete." (John 16:23-24 AMP)

You saw in Chapter 4 that God has promised several times in His Word to answer all of your

prayers. John 16:23-24 is one of these promises. If you pray to God in the name of Jesus Christ and if you meet your Father's other instructions pertaining to prayer, you will receive "whatever you ask." The words "presenting all that I AM" in the amplification of this verse explain that you are coming before God presenting His Son Jesus Christ. You are not coming to God in your own name.

Jesus emphasized the importance of praying in His name when He said, "...I will do [I Myself will grant] whatever you ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM], so that the Father may be glorified and extolled in (through) the Son." (John 14:13 AMP)

The Word of God always emphasizes through repetition. Jesus repeated this great promise in the next verse when He said, "[Yes] I will grant [I Myself will do for you] whatever you shall ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM]." (John 14:14 AMP)

You are told repeatedly that God will answer all of your prayers when you pray in the name of Jesus Christ. You must understand the supernatural power of the name of Jesus Christ. When you come to God in the name of Jesus and you pray with faith, you are praying to your Father with faith in the supernatural victory that Jesus won for you when He rose from the dead.

The name of Jesus was not chosen by Mary and Joseph. God sent an angel to Joseph to tell him what to name the baby. "...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary [as] your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of (from, out of) the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus [the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua, which means Savior], for He will save His people from their sins [that is, prevent them from failing and missing the true end and scope of life, which is God]." (Matthew 1:20-21 AMP)

God gave specific instructions to Joseph through this angel. The angel assured Joseph that he should take Mary as his wife. The angel told him that Mary's baby was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel instructed Joseph to name his son Jesus, which is the Greek version of the Hebrew name Joshua which means Savior. The angel emphasized that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah Who will save His people from their sins.

The fact that God Himself chose the name of Jesus will show you the importance that He attaches to this precious name. "...God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, that in (at) the name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue [frankly and openly] confess and

acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord..." (Philippians 2:9-11 AMP)

Please note that this passage of Scripture says that the name of Jesus is above every other name. The name of Jesus is so powerful that on judgment day every knee in heaven, on earth and under the earth must bow before His name. Every person will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Jesus took His rightful place at the right hand of God after He ascended into heaven. The Bible compares this elevated position of power in heaven to the supernatural power of the name of Jesus Christ. "...He sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high, [taking a place and rank by which] He Himself became as much superior to angels as the glorious Name (title) which He has inherited is different from and more excellent than theirs." (Hebrews 1:3-4 AMP)

When Jesus left the glory of heaven to come to earth, He willingly gave up the rank, authority and privilege that He enjoyed in heaven. Jesus actually was ranked lower than angels during His earthly ministry (see Hebrews 2:9). However, when Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, He took His rightful place. He was ranked higher than angels. This passage of Scripture explains that the name of Jesus Christ also is ranked higher than angels.

The name of Jesus gives you supernatural authority in the spiritual realm. This authority can be compared with the authority of a policeman. A policeman does not have any authority in his own name. He has the authority of the city or state that he represents. When he puts on his badge, he is backed by the power of the entire city or state. You have supernatural authority when you pray with faith in the power of the name of Jesus Christ.

The name of Jesus Christ in the spiritual realm is somewhat similar to a legal power of attorney. When someone has the power of attorney, this person is able to operate with the same authority as the person who relegated the power.

The power of the name of Jesus Christ can be compared to the power of your name on your checking account. Your bank will not honor your personal check if you do not sign it. When you sign a check, you give the bank the authority to pay that check. When you use the name of Jesus, you release spiritual authority and power in the spiritual realm that cannot be released in any other way.

When Jesus ascended into heaven after He rose from the dead, He left the mighty power of His name on earth. Jesus said, "...these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages; they will pick up serpents;

and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well.” (Mark 16:17-18 AMP)

If you have faith in the supernatural power of the name of Jesus Christ, you will have the capability to drive out demons by boldly speaking His name. You will be able to speak new languages. You will be able to pick up a poisonous snake without being hurt. You have been given the authority to lay hands on sick people in the name of Jesus Christ and these people will be healed.

You can see in the Book of Acts many examples of the supernatural power of the name of Jesus Christ. His apostles, who had never performed miracles before, performed one miracle after another in the name of Jesus. They used His name with deep, strong and unwavering faith. His disciples were able to heal the sick and cast out demons because of their faith in Jesus Christ and the supernatural power of His name.

The name of Jesus has not diminished in power. His mighty name is every bit as powerful in your life today as it was in the lives of His disciples more than two thousand years ago (see Hebrews 13:8).

Every aspect of the early church revolved around their faith in the mighty power of the name of Jesus. They prayed in His name. They preached in His name. They performed miracles in His name.

A fisherman named Peter had great faith in Jesus Christ. Peter prayed for a severely crippled man in His name. Peter said, “...Silver and gold (money) I do not have; but what I do have, that I give to you: in [the use of] the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk! Then he took hold of the man's right hand with a firm grip and raised him up. And at once his feet and ankle bones became strong and steady, And leaping forth he stood and began to walk, and he went into the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.” (Acts 3:6-8 AMP)

Peter's faith was in Jesus Christ. Peter was doing what Jesus commissioned him to do. Peter prayed in the name of Jesus and the crippled man was miraculously healed. Are you consistently releasing the supernatural power of the name of Jesus Christ in your prayer life and in other areas of your life?

In this chapter we have explained the importance of praying in the name of Jesus Christ. We have given you several verses of Scripture that explain the supernatural power of His name. In the next chapter we will share additional scriptural truths that explain more about the

supernatural power of the name of Jesus.

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## **Chapter 12**

### **The Incredible Power of the Name of Jesus Christ**

Satan and his demons know from firsthand experience about the mighty power of the name of Jesus Christ. They do not want you to understand the incredible power of His name. They do not want you to pray in the name of Jesus.

Satan and his demons want you to speak the name of Jesus consistently, but they want you to speak His name negatively. They want you to use His name in vain, speaking His name in a profane manner. When people want to curse, they often curse by using the name of Jesus Christ profanely. Doing this causes the supernatural power of His name to be used against these people instead of for them.

Any person who uses the name of the Lord profanely ultimately will pay a price. “You shall not use or repeat the name of the Lord your God in vain [that is, lightly or frivolously, in false affirmations or profanely]; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.” (Exodus 20:7 AMP)

This Old Testament verse refers to using God’s name in vain. You are warned against using His name in a frivolous way or profanely. This instruction also applies to speaking the name of Jesus Christ.

Your Father has commanded you to have faith in the name of Jesus Christ. “...this is His order (His command, His injunction): that we should believe in (put our faith and trust in and adhere to and rely on) the name of His Son Jesus Christ...” (I John 3:23 AMP)

The name of Jesus can perform mighty miracles in the spiritual realm. The name of Jesus is so powerful that everything you do should be done in His name. “...whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus...” (Colossians 3:17 AMP)

You should boldly speak the name of Jesus when you pray. You should boldly speak His name with faith many other times each day. The name of Jesus Christ represents Jesus Himself. You are releasing enormous spiritual power when you consistently speak His name with deep

and unwavering faith in Jesus and the power of His name.

If you are confronted with a sudden emergency, you should have so much faith in Jesus Christ that you will immediately speak His name. Whenever you face a crisis, the words that you speak always come out of the abundance of your heart (see Matthew 12:34).

I (Jack) have saved the following testimony for more than thirty years. I saved this testimony to use at the right time. This chapter is the right time. I received this testimony from a man who attended the Bible study that I taught in New Hampshire for more than ten years.

This man said, “One night at a Tuesday night Bible study, our teacher, Jack Hartman, was talking about the power of the name of Jesus Christ. He talked about how Christians should use this powerful name every day of our lives. I especially remember Jack telling a story about a woman who was in a serious automobile accident and, just before impact, she called upon the name of Jesus for protection. This woman was completely spared.

“That night we had taken my father to the Bible study. This was his second time at the Bible study. On the way home we were in a great mood. My wife who was seating in the front seat turned toward my father in the back seat and said, ‘Well, Dad, are you born again?’ He replied, ‘Well, I have a lot of faith.’ That night we had said the Sinner’s Prayer together at the Bible study. My wife wanted him to confess that he was born again. She said, ‘Yes, Dad, I know that you have a lot of faith, but are you born again?’ Dad smiled and said, ‘Yes, I am born again.’

“At that very instant we were proceeding through a green light at a busy intersection. A car that had failed to stop for the red light came flying at us on our right side. I saw him a split second before he was about to hit us. The story that I heard at the Bible study that night about the name of Jesus came instantly to my mind. I hollered, ‘I plead the blood of Jesus. We are safe. Thank You, Jesus!’

“Even as the other car smashed into us, I was calling upon the name of Jesus and thanking Him for keeping us safe. The other car was traveling at a speed of about 40 mph when he hit us. I remember grabbing my wife and looking back at my father who was in the back seat rolling around like a rubber ball. I kept thanking Jesus through it all, even thanking Him for the people in the car that had struck us so that they too would be safe.

“All of this happened as we were colliding and spinning in the center of the intersection. Both cars were completely totaled and had to be towed away. Glass was everywhere. My dad had shattered glass all over him, even in his ears. Later on, when my wife showered, she said that

what looked like sand was actually slivers of glass all over her body having gone completely through her clothing. In spite of all of this, there was not one scratch on any of us. Praise God!

“Immediately after the accident, we agreed in prayer with some Christian friends who stopped when they saw the accident. We prayed with faith that all would be well and that we would not have any of the stiffness or side effects that often follow such an accident. We didn’t have any! We felt terrific. We could hardly wait to see the cars that had been towed away because this was confirmation of how the Lord had delivered us safely. We thanked Jesus publicly for caring for us and for the power of His name that we can call on any time, anywhere.”

Isn’t this a great story? We hope that this story plus the Scripture references in the last chapter and this chapter will encourage you to consistently speak the name of Jesus Christ boldly throughout each day and night of your life.

We have found that repeating the name of Jesus over and over again has a wonderful calming influence. If you face a severe trial, open your mouth and say “Jesus ... Jesus ... Jesus ... Jesus ... Jesus ... Jesus ... Jesus ... Jesus ... Jesus ... Jesus ... Jesus ... Jesus.”

We have just used this name ten times. Try using His name fifty or one hundred times. See for yourself how calm you become when you repeatedly speak the name of Jesus with faith.

The power of heaven is behind the name of Jesus Christ. When you consistently speak the name of Jesus with faith, you release heaven’s blessings. This name carries authority in heaven, on earth and under the earth. When you repeatedly speak the name of Jesus Christ with bold faith, you will bring the supernatural victory that Jesus won into manifestation in your life.

The incredible power of the name of Jesus Christ is brought into manifestation in your life in direct proportion to your faith in the power of His name. God knows how much faith you have in the name of Jesus. When you speak His name or pray in His name with deep faith, great spiritual power is released.

Unfortunately, some Christian pastors and teachers seldom or never teach these truths pertaining to the supernatural power of the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many Christians do not understand the mighty power of the name of Jesus. They do not consistently speak His name with bold faith. They do not pray in His name.

Using the name of Jesus Christ is a precious privilege. You should be taking full advantage of this privilege many times throughout every day. The power of His name is much greater than

many Christians even begin to comprehend.

The name of Jesus belongs to you. Jesus made a tremendous sacrifice at Calvary to give you the privilege of using His name as many times as you choose. He has given you the authority to use the power of His name every time that you pray and at many other times throughout your life.

The last two chapters contain many verses of Scripture pertaining to the supernatural power of the name of Jesus Christ. Since this book is written on the topic of prayer, we have confined most of our comments to praying in the name of Jesus. If you will study and meditate on the Scripture in these two chapters, your faith in the power of the name of Jesus will increase. When you pray in His name, you will be certain that enormous power is being released in you and through you.

We have established a scriptural foundation on the power of prayer, God's desire to answer your prayers and how God instructs you to pray. We now are ready to look into God's Word for information about praying according to the will of God, anchoring your prayers on the Word of God, praying with great faith in God and persevering in faith for as long as God requires you to persevere.

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## **Chapter 13**

### **God's Will for Your Life and Effective Prayer**

In this chapter we will study Scripture in regard to seeking, finding and carrying out God's will for your life. The Bible explains that there is a definite relationship between God's will and your prayer life. Your Father has a specific plan for the life of each of His children. He has a specific plan for your life.

If you have found what God wants you to do with your life and you are praying to Him in regard to His plan for your life, you can be certain that your Father hears your prayer. "...this is the confidence (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that if we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to and hears us." (I John 5:14 AMP)

Please note the words "anything" and "any request" in this verse and the amplification. There

is no question that God hears each and every prayer request that you make in regard to His will for your life.

God does not stop there. In addition to knowing that God is listening, you also can have unwavering faith that your loving Father will answer each and every prayer that is in agreement with His will for your life. "...if (since) we [positively] know that He listens to us in whatever we ask, we also know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted us as our present possessions] the requests made of Him." (I John 5:15 AMP)

Please notice that the word "know" is used two times in this verse. Your Father wants you to be absolutely certain that He is listening to every prayer request that you make that is in line with His will and that He will answer your prayer request.

The words "present possessions" in the amplification are very important. God promises to answer every prayer according to His will for your life immediately. That is why He uses the words "present possessions." When you pray according to God's will, your Father answers your prayers when you pray. God answers immediately in the spiritual realm.

You may not receive manifestation of God's answer immediately in the natural realm. Even if the manifestation of God's answer seems to be slow in coming, you can be certain that God already has answered this prayer in the spiritual realm. Persevere with deep, strong and unwavering faith in God. Refuse to give up before you receive manifestation of God's answer. Thank your loving Father continually for His answer to your prayer.

We now are ready to briefly study Scripture pertaining to seeking, finding and carrying out God's plan for your life. You can be certain that God has a plan for every day of your life. The psalmist David said, "Your eyes saw my unformed substance, and in Your book all the days [of my life] were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them." (Psalm 139:16 AMP)

God knew David intimately before He ever formed his body in his mother's womb. God had a plan for every day of David's life before He created him. God does not play favorites (see Acts 10:34). If God had a plan for David's life, you can be certain that He has a plan for your life as well.

God also explained this truth to the prophet Jeremiah. God said, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew [and] approved of you [as My chosen instrument], and before you were born I separated and set you apart, consecrating you..." (Jeremiah 1:5 AMP)

You can see the similarity between what God said to the psalmist David and to the prophet Jeremiah. Before God created either of these men, He had a definite plan for their lives. You can be absolutely certain that God has a plan for your life.

If you have not already found God's plan for your life, you should consistently seek His will until you discover it. You should have a deep and constant desire to find and carry out God's assignment for your life. "...we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]." (Ephesians 2:10 AMP)

If Jesus Christ is your Savior, God has called you to do what He planned for your life before He created you. "...The God of our forefathers has destined and appointed you to come progressively to know His will [to perceive, to recognize more strongly and clearly, and to become better and more intimately acquainted with His will]..." (Acts 22:14 AMP)

Please note the word "progressively" in this verse. God will reveal His will for your life in stages. God will continually unfold more and more of His plan for your life if you fervently seek to find and to complete the assignment He has given to you.

If Jesus Christ is your Savior, you have been given the ability to turn away from the self-centeredness that you inherited from Adam. You now can focus on pursuing God's will for your life. "Shun youthful lusts and flee from them, and aim at and pursue righteousness (all that is virtuous and good, right living, conformity to the will of God in thought, word, and deed)..." (II Timothy 2:22 AMP)

Please note the words "youthful lusts" in this verse. Babies come into this world as descendants of Adam with the same selfish desires that Adam had. Little children often are preoccupied with their desires. If Jesus is your Savior, you have been given the ability to turn away from the selfish desires that you had as a child. You should have a fervent desire to pursue righteousness – to live a righteous life that is in complete obedience to the instructions that God has given to you in His Word.

You should have a deep desire to live in "conformity to the will of God in thought, word and deed." These words from the amplification explain how your Father wants you to live. He wants you to consistently think about what He has called you to do with your life, to consistently talk

about His plan for your life and to be completely devoted to doing what He has called you to do.

Jesus is the example for every area of your life. He said, "...I do not seek or consult My own will [I have no desire to do what is pleasing to Myself, My own aim, My own purpose] but only the will and pleasure of the Father Who sent Me." (John 5:30 AMP)

Jesus did not pursue selfish desires. His sole purpose in coming to earth was to carry out God's will – to pay the full price for all of the sins of every person. "...He died for all, so that all those who live might live no longer to and for themselves, but to and for Him Who died and was raised again for their sake." (II Corinthians 5:15 AMP)

Jesus died to pay the full price for all of your sins. He also died so that you will follow His example and turn away from all selfish desires to continually seek, find and carry out God's assignment for your life.

Unless you renounce your selfish desires and come to God in prayer seeking His will, you have no scriptural foundation for coming to God in prayer and expecting God to answer. God can do whatever He wants to do through His mercy and His grace, but if you base your prayers on your desire to carry out God's will for you, you can be certain that you will be praying what God desires.

God has assigned to you the goal of increasingly understanding more and more about His plan for your life. As you continually learn more from God's Word, you will be able to better understand His assignment for your life. "...do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is." (Ephesians 5:17 AMP)

Your Father instructs you to be very precise. He does not want you to waste your life pursuing selfish desires. He wants you to know His will and to pray for every aspect of His will to be successfully accomplished in your life.

How can you be certain that your prayers are in alignment with God's will? You should base every prayer that you can on one or more verses of Scripture. The Word of God is God's general will for all of His children. You have seen that God has a plan for each person, but if your prayers are based on God's Word, you will know that you are praying according to God's will because God's Word and His will are the same.

You must understand the relationship between successfully carrying out God's assignment for your life and your heart being filled with His Word. You should be like the psalmist David who said, "I delight to do Your will, O my God; yes, Your law is within my heart." (Psalm 40:8)

AMP)

God had a specific plan for David's life. He has a specific plan for the life of every person. As you do your best to learn and obey God's instructions in His Book of Instructions, the Bible, you will be better able to seek, find and obey His specific assignment for your life. David joyously obeyed God's will because he knew God's Word.

You will delight in seeking God's will for your life if your heart is continually being filled with His Word. In the next chapter we will expand on the relationship between your prayers, the Word of God and successfully accomplishing God's assignment for your life.

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## **Chapter 14**

### **Pray God's Answer Instead of Emphasizing the Problem**

In the last chapter we studied Scripture pertaining to God's specific assignment for the life of every human being that He has created. We also said that the Word of God is the general will of God for every one of His children. When you pray based on promises from God's Word, you can be certain that your prayer is in agreement with God's will.

When your prayers line up with God's Word, you are praying in the will of God. You are not blocking your Father from answering your prayers by praying for something that is not in His will.

Instead of praying as some people do by saying "If it is Your will," you should do your best to pray according to God's Word. There are no "ifs" involved if your prayers are specifically based on God's instructions and God's promises.

If you use the words "If it be Your will" when you pray, you are praying in doubt, not in faith. When you pray based on specific promises from God, you are praying with faith that God will do what He has promised to do.

We repeatedly emphasize that Jesus Christ is your example in every area of your life. Jesus told you how to pray when He said, "If you live in Me [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you." (John 15:7 AMP)

Jesus explained two conditions that must be present for you to be certain that your prayers

will be answered. The words “abide vitally united to Me” in the amplification explain that a close and intimate relationship with Jesus is very important if you sincerely desire to have an effective prayer life. Being united to Jesus means that your life should revolve around your constant awareness of His indwelling presence (see II Corinthians 13:5, Galatians 2:20 and Ephesians 3:17).

In addition to praying based on this close relationship, Jesus also said that His Word should continually live in your heart. “Let the word [spoken by] Christ (the Messiah) have its home [in your hearts and minds] and dwell in you in [all its] richness...” (Colossians 3:16 AMP)

Your prayers will be very effective if you have a close and intimate relationship with Jesus and if you are basing your prayers on His Word that lives in your heart. If your prayers meet these conditions, Jesus says that you can ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you.

You must understand the supernatural power of the Word of God. “...the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]...” (Hebrews 4:12 AMP)

The Word of God is supernaturally alive. It is filled with the incredible power of God. Please note the use of the word “effective” in the amplification. If your heart is filled with God's Word, your prayer life and every other area of your life will be effective.

Your Father wants your prayers to be based on faith in Him and His Word. Your prayers should be centered on specific promises from God's Word, instead of being focused on the seeming severity of whatever problems you are bringing to God in prayer.

If you talk a lot about whatever problems you face, your words give power to Satan's demons that they cannot obtain in any other way. When you boldly speak promises from the Word of God as you pray, you drive Satan's demons away. “...be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7 AMP)

What do the words “be subject to God” mean? They mean that you should do your very best at all times to live your life in complete obedience to God's instructions for you.

In Chapter 9 we explained that your prayer requests should be specific, not general. When you pray, you should tell God what promise or promises from His Word you are bringing before Him. When you pray, you should let go of whatever problem you are praying about. “Cast your burden on the Lord [releasing the weight of it] and He will sustain you...” (Psalm 55:22 AMP)

Your Father has given you more than seven thousand promises in the Bible. He has given

you at least one promise to cover every problem you will ever face. He often has provided many promises to cover any problem that you will be bringing to Him in prayer.

You should do your best to find God's specific promises that pertain to whatever problem you are bringing to Him in prayer. Once again, if you do not know how to find these promises, we recommend our book, *What Does God Say?*. This book contains 1,221 verses of Scripture that are categorized under 94 different topics.

You can turn to the Table of Contents to see what topic applies to whatever you are praying about. You then can go to that section to find specific promises from the Word of God that relate to that topic. You can anchor your prayers on these promises from God.

Your Father wants you to pray the answer, not the problem. He wants you to pray His Word back to Him. "...you who [are His servants and by your prayers] put the Lord in remembrance [of His promises], keep not silence" (Isaiah 62:6 AMP)

The words "put the Lord in remembrance of His promises" tell you exactly what your Father wants you to do when you pray. When you pray to God, you should say something like, "Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus Christ. You have promised that You will answer all of my prayers that are made according to Your will. Your will is Your Word. Your Word says (put in specific scriptural promise). I am praying according to this specific promise. I am praying according to Your will. Thank You for answering this prayer, dear Father."

Your Father wants to hear His Word prayed to Him. He wants you to come to Him in prayer based on His promises with absolute faith that He always does exactly what He promises to do.

Your Father pays close attention to your prayers. Your part is to pray God's Word to Him. God's part is to do what He promises to do. God said, "...I am alert and active, watching over My word to perform it." (Jeremiah 1:12 AMP)

God is the epitome of integrity. There is no way that your Father can make a promise and then fail to do what He has promised. "...it is impossible for God to lie..." (Hebrews 6:18 NIV)

Your Father does not want you to pray wishing, hoping and begging. He wants you to pray believing. He wants you to do more than just hope that He will answer. Everyone who prays hopes that God will answer.

Your Father wants you to be certain that He will answer your prayers because you are basing your prayer requests on the instructions in His Word and on the integrity of His Word. When you pray, you need to believe much more in the incredible power of God and the absolute reliability

of His promises than you believe in the seeming severity of whatever problem you are bringing to Him in prayer (see Joshua 23:14, I Corinthians 1:9 AMP and II Corinthians 1:20 AMP).

In the last two chapters we have studied scriptural truths about praying according to the will of God. We have given you scriptural instructions about the relationship between the effectiveness of your prayers and your faith in God and His Word. In the next chapter you will learn more about praying to your loving Father with deep, strong and unwavering faith that He will answer your prayer request.

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## **Chapter 15**

### **Pray Believing That God Will Answer Your Prayers**

We have explained that you should anchor your prayers on specific promises from God's Word. Your Father wants you to find His specific promises that deal with whatever you are bringing to Him in prayer. We have explained that God wants you to pray the answer, not the problem.

When you go to God in prayer, you are asking your Father to do what He already has told you that He will do. Your Father wants you to know what He has promised to do. He wants you to have absolute faith that He always does what He says that He will do.

Do not just go through the motions when you pray. Release your faith in God. Expect great things from God when you pray. Pray believing instead of praying hoping and wishing.

In Chapter 4 we listed several verses where God promises to answer all of your prayers. One of these verses explains the emphasis that Jesus places on your faith when you pray. Jesus said, "...whatever you ask for in prayer, having faith and [really] believing, you will receive." (Matthew 21:22 AMP)

Please note the words "having faith and really believing" in this verse and the amplification. You ignite God's power to complete His Word when you mix your faith in Him with a promise from His Word.

God places great emphasis on the importance of your faith in Him. "...without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and

diligently seek Him [out].” (Hebrews 11:6 AMP)

Please note the word “impossible” in this verse. You cannot please your Father if you do not have faith in Him. God listens to your prayers. You decide whether or not God will answer.

Your Father is pleased when you come to Him with deep, strong and unwavering faith in Him and the absolute reliability of the promises He has given to you. Your Father has given you several thousand promises in His Word. You should obey His instructions to pay the price to renew your mind by studying His Word each day (see II Corinthians 4:16 and Ephesians 4:23 AMP). You should fill your heart with God's Word by obeying His instructions to meditate day and night on His Word. (see Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:2-3).

God hears billions of prayers each day. Many of these prayers are begging, pleading, wishing and hoping prayers. These prayers are not prayed with faith in God based on absolute certainty of the reliability of a specific promise or promises from His Word.

You should always do your best to base your prayers on specific promises from God's Word instead of vague wishes and hopes. Anxiety and worry block God from answering your prayers. Jesus said, “...Do not be faithless and incredulous, but [stop your unbelief and] believe!” (John 20:27 AMP)

Jesus spoke these words to His disciple Thomas when Thomas expressed doubt that Jesus had risen from the dead. These same words apply to you today – “stop your unbelief and believe.” “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.” (Hebrews 3:12 KJV)

The words “Take heed, brethren” are a warning from God to His children. Your Father warns you not to have an evil heart of unbelief. The word “evil” refers to the influence of Satan. You must not allow Satan's demons to influence you to turn away from unwavering faith in Almighty God and the absolute reliability of His promises.

Some of God's children block Him from answering their prayers because of their doubt and unbelief. “...it must be in faith that he asks with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind. For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the Lord” (James 1:6-7 AMP)

You have seen that you cannot please God without faith. Your Father wants you to base your prayers on His promises with absolutely no doubt that He will do what He has promised to do.

This passage of Scripture compares doubt with a wave at sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Your Father wants you to be steady and resolute. He does not want your faith to waver when you pray.

You must understand that the words that you continue to speak after you pray are very important. If your words when you pray and your words and actions after you have prayed express doubt or uncertainty, you are blocking your loving Father from answering your prayers. Unbelief is so powerful that it can block the supernatural power of God.

This statement may sound outlandish to you, but there is no question that the power of unbelief can block the power of God. We see an example of this principle when Jesus went to Nazareth with a desire to heal the people there.

Jesus had been performing miracles throughout the land, but the people of Nazareth did not believe that He could do miracles there. "...many who listened to Him were utterly astonished, saying, Where did this Man acquire all this? What is the wisdom [the broad and full intelligence which has been] given to Him? What mighty works and exhibitions of power are wrought by His hands! Is not this the Carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here among us?..." (Mark 6:2-3 AMP)

Jesus must have had a deep desire to heal the people in His home town. However, these people did not look at Jesus as the Messiah. They looked at Him as the carpenter who had lived in Nazareth for many years.

These people blocked the healing power of Jesus because of their unbelief. "Jesus said to them, A prophet is not without honor (deference, reverence) except in his [own] country and among [his] relatives and in his [own] house. And He was not able to do even one work of power there, except that He laid His hands on a few sickly people [and] cured them." (Mark 6:4-5 AMP)

This passage of Scripture says that a few people were healed, but that Jesus "was not able to do even one work of power there." Jesus was unable to perform healing miracles in His home town because the people did not have deep, strong and unwavering faith in Him. "...He marveled because of their unbelief (their lack of faith in Him)..." (Mark 6:6 AMP)

Jesus was amazed at the lack of faith that the people of Nazareth had in Him. Unbelief can be just as powerful in your life today as it was with these people in Nazareth more than two thousand years ago. Your Father does not want you to block Him from answering your prayers

because you are begging, pleading, wishing and hoping instead of praying with faith.

Turn away from whatever problems you are bringing to God in prayer to focus on God with strong faith that He will answer your prayers. "...set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth." (Colossians 3:2 AMP)

Your Father instructs you to keep your mind set on Him instead of focusing on anything in the world. "You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind [both its inclination and its character] is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You, leans on You, and hopes confidently in You. So trust in the Lord (commit yourself to Him, lean on Him, hope confidently in Him)..." (Isaiah 26:3-4 AMP)

Your loving Father promises that He will guard you and that He will keep you in perfect peace if you focus on Him and trust Him at all times because you trust Him. "The Lord is good, a Strength and Stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows (recognizes, has knowledge of, and understands) those who take refuge and trust in Him." (Nahum 1:7 AMP)

When you come to God in prayer because you are in trouble, your Father has promised to strengthen you. He knows exactly how much faith you have in Him. He will honor this faith.

Ideally, every person should be born into a family of devoted Christians. You should develop deep trust in God when you are a child. You should be like the psalmist who said, "...You are my hope; O Lord God, You are my trust from my youth and the source of my confidence. Upon You have I leaned and relied from birth; You are He Who took me from my mother's womb and You have been my benefactor from that day. My praise is continually of You." (Psalm 71:5-6 AMP)

Children who were brought up in a Christian family and were taught the scriptural principles that we are sharing in this book are more likely to have faith in God. This does not happen in every family, but we believe that people who were brought up in a Christian family on the whole have more faith in God than people who had little or no exposure to Christianity when they were children.

Many people who receive Jesus as their Savior later in life were not brought up from infancy in an atmosphere of Christian faith. If this is the case in your life, you must learn how to overcome the doubt and unbelief that you undoubtedly have developed over the years. You must learn and apply the scriptural principles pertaining to faith in God that we are explaining.

We have devoted the last two chapters to the relationship between faith in God and effective

prayer. We now are ready to look into God's Word to learn His instructions to add patience and perseverance to your faith as you pray.

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## **Chapter 16**

### **Trust God's Timing**

You do not need to see anything happening immediately after you pray. You may see an instant miracle when you pray or you may not see any change in the natural realm. If what you desire is part of the atonement of Jesus Christ on the cross, God has done all that He will do. Your part is to receive what Jesus Christ did for you. Thank God with your whole heart for His answer. "...we live by faith, not by sight." (II Corinthians 5:7 NIV)

Please note the words "not by sight" in this verse. Your Father does not want your life to be governed by what happens or does not happen in the natural realm. He wants every aspect of your life to revolve around your faith in Him and the absolute reliability of the promises in His Word.

You can be certain that God is completely reliable. He always does what He promises to do. You must not be impatient. Go to your Father in prayer with absolute confidence that you are His beloved child.

You should be calm, patient and confident if you do not receive manifestation of God's answer as soon as you think you should. "Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]." (Hebrews 4:16 AMP)

Your part is to come to God in prayer with strong faith and confidence in Him. Please note the words "appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it" in the amplification of this verse. If you have a legitimate request that is anchored on God's Word and you are obeying God's specific instructions pertaining to prayer, you can be certain that your loving Father will answer your prayer.

You should wait patiently for God to give you manifestation of His answer, just as farmers wait patiently for their crops to come in. The following passage of Scripture that applies to

waiting for the second coming of Jesus Christ also applies to waiting for God in every other area. “...See how the farmer waits expectantly for the precious harvest from the land. [See how] he keeps up his patient [vigil] over it until it receives the early and late rains. So you also must be patient...” (James 5:7-8 AMP)

When this passage of Scripture was written, farmers tried to plant seeds so that the early rain would fall shortly after the seeds were put into the ground. This early rain helped the seeds to germinate. The farmers tried to plant their crops so that the late rain would come just before the time of harvest so that this late rain would help their crops to ripen.

Farmers know that they cannot rush the harvest of the seeds they have planted. They do everything they can to plant seeds correctly. Then they wait patiently for the harvest to come. Your prayer is a seed in the spiritual realm. “...The kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed upon the ground, and then continues sleeping and rising night and day while the seed sprouts and grows and increases – he knows not how.” (Mark 4:26-27 AMP)

Most farmers do not understand everything that takes place under the soil after they plant seeds. They do know that seeds that are properly planted and cultivated will produce a harvest. Many days go by while they wait for this harvest. They get up in the morning, do their chores and go to sleep at night. While the days are passing, the seeds are sprouting, growing and increasing until they produce a harvest. This same principle applies to manifestation of God’s answer to your prayers.

There is a definite relationship between your faith in God and having patience. “...behaving as do those who through faith (by their leaning of the entire personality on God in Christ in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness) and by practice of patient endurance and waiting are [now] inheriting the promises.” (Hebrews 6:12 AMP)

We like the definition of faith in the amplification of this verse – “leaning your entire personality on God with absolute trust and confidence in Him.” Your Father tells you throughout the Bible what He will do, but He never tells you when He will do it.

Faith by itself often is insufficient. You often will be required to add patience to your faith while you wait for God to fulfill His promises. Faith and patience fit together. Doubt and impatience also fit together.

People in our generation are much more impatient than our parents and grandparents were when they were our age. Our generation is an instant generation. Technological advances often

lead to impatience.

People drive their cars at high speeds. Many times a traffic light will turn red and people will drive through the red light. Some people rush and hurry in traffic, showing their impatience as they weave in and out of lanes. We often see an example of impatience when there is a traffic delay. Sometimes people honk their horn if the automobile in front of them is just one or two seconds late after the traffic light turns green.

Our generation has fast food restaurants and microwave ovens. We can take pictures with our telephones and see them immediately instead of waiting for the photos to be developed as our parents and grandparents did. We have one-hour dry cleaning and rapid oil change. Many people today want what they want now.

Our generation enjoys many technological advances that can lead to impatience. Emails and text messaging are used to accelerate communication. Cell phones often lead to impatience. Instead of having to wait, people are used to making telephone calls instantly.

Many proud people are extremely impatient. The Bible teaches that there is a definite relationship between pride and impatience. “Better is the end of a thing than the beginning of it, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.” (Ecclesiastes 7:8 AMP)

When proud and self-centered people do not receive immediate results, they often attempt to take matters into their own hands. They try to make things happen. The Bible consistently teaches that God wants His children to be humble and trusting. Humility and patience go together. “...everyone who is impatient and hasty hastens only to want.” (Proverbs 21:5 AMP)

The word “everyone” applies to you. You always will cause problems in your life if you rush ahead of God. You should be calm, quiet and confident as you trust Him to give you His answer in His good and perfect timing. “Be still and rest in the Lord; wait for Him and patiently lean yourself upon Him...” (Psalm 37:7 AMP)

Do not become agitated and worked up if you do not receive your answer to your prayer as soon as you think you should. You are instructed to “be still” as you rest in the Lord, patiently waiting for Him to answer your prayer in the natural realm that He already has answered in the spiritual realm.

In this chapter we have explained what the Bible says about faith and patience. In the next chapter we will look into God's Word for additional instructions pertaining to perseverance. In some ways patience and perseverance are similar. In other ways they are very different.

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## Chapter 17

### Do Not Give Up after You Pray

Jesus often used parables to explain principles that He wanted to teach. He used the following parable to encourage His disciples to persevere in their prayers. “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “Then Jesus said to them, ‘Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.” (Luke 11:5-8 NIV)

This parable shows that, even though the two men were friends, the man in bed did not get out of bed just because his friend asked him. However, his friend refused to be denied. He persevered in asking for bread. Finally, the other man got up and gave bread to his friend.

Jesus then explained the meaning of this parable to His disciples. He said, “...I say to you, Ask and keep on asking and it shall be given you; seek and keep on seeking and you shall find; knock and keep on knocking and the door shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks and keeps on asking receives; and he who seeks and keeps on seeking finds; and to him who knocks and keeps on knocking, the door shall be opened.” (Luke 11:9-10 AMP)

Please note that Jesus used the words “keep on” or “keeps on” six times in this passage of Scripture. Jesus definitely does not want you to give up after you pray.

Jesus used a similar parable to emphasize the necessity of persevering in prayer. “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’” (Luke 18:1-5 NIV)

This parable explains how a widow finally wore a judge down because she absolutely refused

to give up. The words “they should always pray and not give up” in the first verse is an instruction from Jesus to you. You should follow the example of this widow. Do not give up after you pray.

The Word of God repeatedly instructs you to keep on praying, absolutely refusing to give up. “Be unceasing in prayer [praying perseveringly]” (I Thessalonians 5:17 AMP)

Your Father does not want you to stop trusting Him if your prayers are not answered as soon as you would like Him to answer. Keep on praying. Keep on believing. If you are basing your prayer on a promise from God, you must persevere in faith with absolute certainty that God always does what He promises to do.

No matter how difficult the circumstances may seem, keep on praying with deep faith that God’s promises that you are basing your prayers on are completely reliable. “Rejoice and exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering and tribulation; be constant in prayer.” (Romans 12:12 AMP)

If you are praying because you are going through “suffering and tribulation,” do not give up hope. Keep on praying. Your Father wants your faith in Him to be steady and unwavering. “...let us seize and hold fast and retain without wavering the hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgement of it, for He Who promised is reliable (sure) and faithful to His word.” (Hebrews 10:23 AMP)

The words “the hope we cherish and confess” refer to Jesus Christ and the victory that He won when He rose from the dead. This same principle applies to every promise that your Father has given to you. Open your mouth continually to say what God says. Know that your loving Father always does what His Word says He will do.

Sometimes you will be in a position where continued adversity will cause you to become weary. If you know that you are in the center of God’s will and you are praying according to promises in His Word, why would you ever give up? “...let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint.” (Galatians 6:9 AMP)

Your Father wants you to be tenacious in your prayer life. He wants you to cling to the promise or promises in His Word that you are using as the foundation for your prayers for yourself or any other person you are praying for.

Jesus died at Calvary and rose from the dead to give you victory over whatever you are

praying for that is based on a specific promise or promises from God. "...thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 15:57 KJV)

Jesus paid a tremendous price to guarantee the absolute reliability of every promise that you are using as the foundation for your prayers. "For as many as are the promises of God, they all find their Yes [answer] in Him [Christ]...." (II Corinthians 1:20 AMP)

Please note the word "all" in this verse. This word includes whatever promise you have chosen as the foundation for your prayers. "...thanks be to God, Who in Christ always leads us in triumph [as trophies of Christ's victory]..." (II Corinthians 2:14 AMP)

The word "always" in this verse includes whatever Scripture you are using as the foundation for your prayers. Jesus won a total, complete and absolute victory over whatever problem you are praying about. He said, "...In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]" (John 16:33 AMP)

Jesus told you to expect to face trials and tribulations. He told you exactly how to react to adversity. He told you to "be of good cheer." Refuse to allow whatever challenges you face to pull you down. The problems that you face are in the world. Jesus has "overcome the world." The words "at all times and for everything" definitely include whatever problem you are bringing to God.

Refuse to allow any thought to plant itself in your mind except the Scripture that you are praying to God. Keep on speaking God's Word back to Him. Get in there and fight in the spiritual realm. Thank God continually for answering your prayers.

This chapter contains verses of Scripture that explain the relationship between your prayer life and persevering with absolute faith in the reliability of God's promises. In the next chapter we will explain the importance of meditating day and night on the Scripture you have selected. If you obey God's instructions in this area, you will constantly strengthen your faith in God so that you will be able to persevere when you face adversity.

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## **Chapter 18**

### **How Do You Persevere in Faith When You Pray?**

Your Father will help you to persevere after you pray if you consistently meditate on His Word instead of focusing on whatever problem you are bringing to Him in prayer. You saw in Chapter 5 that Isaiah 66:2 says that God will bless His children who tremble at His Word because of their deep awe and reverence for the Word of God.

You should revere the Word of God just as you revere God Himself. Your Father promises to bless you if you revere His Word. "...he who [reverently] fears and respects the commandment [of God] is rewarded." (Proverbs 13:13 AMP)

Your Father wants you to look at His supernatural Word with the same awe and respect that you have for Him. He wants you to give His Word the same priority that He does. "...You have exalted above all else Your name and Your word and You have magnified Your word above all Your name!" (Psalm 138:2 AMP)

In Chapter 11 we studied several verses of Scripture about the name of the Lord. You saw that the Old Testament speaks of the name of the Lord and that the New Testament speaks of the name of Jesus Christ in terms of immense spiritual power and authority. This verse tells you that God elevates His name and His Word above everything else. God even exalts His Word above His name.

There is no question that your Father wants you to approach His Word with awe and reverence. "This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success." (Joshua 1:8 AMP)

God gave these instructions to Joshua when He chose him to succeed Moses as the leader of more than one million Israelites. Joshua was a young man who probably was apprehensive about the great responsibility that had been given to him. God told Joshua exactly what he should do to be successful. These same instructions apply to you today.

The first part of this verse explains what you must do. The last part explains what God will do. First we will look at God's promise. Then we will study what you are instructed to do.

Your Father promises that you will be prosperous, that you will make wise decisions and that you will be successful. The word "prosperous" that is used in Joshua 1:8 comes from the Hebrew word "tslach." This word means much more than financial prosperity. This word means "to push forward, break out and go over."

Do you want to persevere and be patient in your prayer life? Then you must do what God has instructed you to do to break through whatever obstacles you face. Your Father promises to give you supernatural wisdom if you meditate day and night on His Word. You will be successful in whatever you are praying about if you do what God instructs you to do.

The Bible contains more than 500,000 words. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, which contains every word in the King James version of the Bible, includes the word "success" only one time – in Joshua 1:8. If you want to be successful, patient and persevering in your prayer life, you must learn and obey the instructions that God has given you here.

You have just seen that the blessings for obeying these instructions are prosperity, wisdom and success. Now we are ready to discuss what your Father instructs you to do to receive these blessings. If you sincerely desire to be successful in your prayer life – or any area of your life – you must do exactly what God has instructed you to do.

First, your Father instructs you to meditate day and night on His Word. God says that He does not want His Word to depart from your mouth. He wants His Word to flow out of your mouth throughout each day and night of your life. How do you do this?

If you meditate day and night on the Word of God, you will be speaking God's Word consistently as you meditate on it. You will be speaking God's Word repeatedly throughout the day and night. Your ears will hear your mouth consistently speaking the Word of God which will cause your faith in God to increase because faith comes from hearing the Word of God. "...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17 KJV)

Your faith in God will increase when your ears hear the Word of God. Your faith will increase the most when your ears hear your mouth speaking God's Word day and night as you meditate on it.

If you will meditate day and night on God's Word over a period of time, you also will program yourself to live in obedience to the instructions that your Father has given you in the Bible. You will "observe and do" what your Father has instructed you to do. You will be prosperous, wise and successful in your prayer life and in every other aspect of your life if you consistently do what God instructs you to do in Joshua 1:8.

Are you doing what your Father has instructed you to do here? Are you meditating day and night on the Word of God? Are you consistently speaking God's Word? Are you consistently learning and obeying your Father's instructions? You will be successful in your prayer life if you

faithfully obey these instructions from God.

We now are ready to study another passage of Scripture that also instructs you to meditate day and night on God's Word. God said, “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” (Psalm 1:1-3 KJV)

Do not turn to ungodly people for advice. Instead, you should be so “delighted” with God's Word that you will meditate day and night on it. This passage of Scripture says that, if you meditate day and night on God's Word, you will be like a tree next to a river that always produces fruit even in a drought.

Please visualize ten rows of trees with ten trees in each row in an orchard that is next to a river. Visualize nine of these rows being brown, dry and producing no fruit whatsoever because of a prolonged drought. Then visualize the row that is next to the river as being green and filled with fruit.

Why do the trees that are next to the river produce fruit even in a severe drought? The trees next to the river will continue to produce fruit because their roots can draw water up from the river when there is no rain coming down from the sky.

If you meditate day and night on God's Word, you will be like a tree next to a river that receives water even when there is no rain. You will receive spiritual sustenance from God that will cause you to prosper in every area of your life.

Once again we want to emphasize that the Hebrew word that is translated as “prosper” means that you will “push forward, break out and go over.” If you delight in God's Word and meditate on it day and night, you will be able to tap into the supernatural power of God. Your prayer life will be much more effective if you saturate yourself in the supernatural living Word of God. You will be able to persevere because you will be filled with wisdom as a result of consistently meditating on God's Word.

We have explained what we believe are two of the most important passages of Scripture in the Bible. There is no question that your Father promises that you will be successful in breaking through and going over whatever problems you face if you meditate day and night on His Word. You should be like the psalmist who said, “I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto

thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.” (Psalm 119:15-16 KJV)

You have seen that your Father wants you to have so much reverence for His Word that you are in awe of it. If you are in awe of God's Word, you will be delighted in it. You will hunger and thirst to meditate day and night on the Word of God. The more difficult the problems you face, the more you should immerse yourself in the supernatural living Word of God.

God will honor your faithfulness when you meditate day and night on His Word. If you have based your prayers on a verse or verses of Scripture, you should meditate on this Scripture. You should flood your eyes, your ears, your mind, your heart and your mouth with whatever Scripture you have chosen. You will be patient and persevering if you consistently saturate yourself in God's Word.

We have given several examples of how to meditate on Scripture in the books we have written. We also have published ten sets of Scripture Meditation Cards. Each set of cards contains approximately eighty verses of Scripture on a specific topic. See the order form at the back of this book.

For now, we would like to give just one example of how you might meditate on a verse so that you will be patient and persevering in your prayer life. We will give you an example of how we would meditate on the following verse. “I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].” (Philippians 4:13 AMP)

“Dear Father, I will not give up. I will persevere in this prayer request because Your Word says that Jesus will give me strength for all things. These words include this specific prayer request that I am bringing to You.

“I will persevere in my faith in You and Your Word. The amplification of this verse says that the strength of Jesus will enable me to be ready for anything and equal to anything. As I meditate continually on this promise, I will persevere in faith that You will answer my prayers.

“I will not give up because Jesus Who lives in my heart will give me inner strength. Thank You, dear Jesus, for being with me throughout every minute of every hour of every day of my life. Thank You for strengthening me from the inside out. I am not looking to external sources for the strength to persevere in my prayers. You give me this strength from deep down inside of myself.

“Jesus, I receive this supernatural strength that You provided for me at the Cross. I will not give up in this prayer request. I will persevere. I will be patient. My faith is deep, strong and unwavering because of the supernatural strength that I am receiving from You. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You.”

This is an example of how we meditate on God's Word. You can personalize whatever Scripture you have chosen. Speak this Scripture out loud as you meditate. Personalize it. Apply to whatever you are praying about as you meditate on it.

In this chapter we have given you instructions in regard to the reverence that your Father wants you to have for His Word. We have explained that your Father will honor your faith, patience and perseverance if you obey the specific instructions that He has given to you in Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:1-3.

In the next chapter we will explain how your faith in God will increase if you faithfully meditate day and night on His Word. Many Christians do not know or do not obey these instructions from God. If you are one of God's children who consistently meditate on Scripture, you can be certain that your prayer life will be effective because you will be consistently meditating on the verse or verses of Scripture that are the foundation for your prayer.

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## **Chapter 19**

### **Your Heart, Your Mouth and Persevering Faith in God**

Your Father has instructed you to renew your mind each day (see II Corinthians 4:16 and Ephesians 4:23). You renew your mind by studying God's Word. If you also meditate day and night on the Word of God, His Word will drop from your mind down into your heart. Whatever you deeply believe in your heart is the key to an effective prayer life and to every other area of your life. “...as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” (Proverbs 23:7 KJV)

The following words that King Solomon spoke to his son also are God's instructions to help you be faithful, patient and persevering when you pray. “My son, attend to my words; consent and submit to my sayings. Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the center of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, healing and health to all their flesh. Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of

life.” (Proverbs 4:20-23 AMP)

Your Father instructs you to pay close attention to the instructions and promises that He has given you in His Word. You should “consent and submit to” His instructions. You are told that the Word of God should not depart from your sight. How can you keep the Word of God before your eyes continually? You can do this by obeying God's instructions to meditate day and night on His Word. The supernatural living Word of God should always be at the forefront of your consciousness.

If you meditate day and night on God's Word, your heart will overflow with the Word of God. The Word of God will come alive inside of you. This passage of Scripture explains the relationship between good health, healing and a heart that is filled with God's Word.

This passage of Scripture also explains the importance of guarding your heart. The results of your prayer life and every other aspect of your life will depend on whatever you allow to enter your heart. Scripture meditation is a vitally important key to an effective prayer life and to success in every other area of your life. “The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.” (Psalm 37:31 KJV)

This verse explains that you can place yourself in a spiritual position where none of your steps will slide – where no external circumstances will be able to overcome you. If your heart is filled with the supernatural power of the living Word of God, you will not give up when you pray and nothing seems to be happening.

When you pray, the promises from God's Word that fill your heart should pour out of your mouth. Your voice should ring with your deep inner certainty that God's Word is true and that your loving Father always is faithful to His Word.

The Word of God is much greater and much more powerful than any problem you will ever face. “...we also [especially] thank God continually for this, that when you received the message of God [which you heard] from us, you welcomed it not as the word of [mere] men, but as it truly is, the Word of God, which is effectually at work in you who believe [exercising its superhuman power in those who adhere to and trust in and rely on it].” (I Thessalonians 2:13 AMP)

When the apostle Paul wrote his first letter to the Christians in Thessalonica, he thanked God continually for the divine inspiration of His Word. Paul emphasized that the Word of God is not a book written by human beings. Every word in the Bible is inspired by God Himself (see II

Timothy 3:16). God wrote through the human authors of the Bible.

If your heart is filled with God's Word, your heart is filled with supernatural power from God. This power will be released in your prayer life and in every other area of your life if you obey your Father's instructions to trust His Word and to rely on His Word.

You will not give up on your prayers when you face circumstances that seem to be overwhelming. You will persevere with strong faith in God if you have meditated day and night on His Word so frequently that your heart is filled with His Word.

The supernatural power of the living Word of God in your heart will lift you above the limitations of the natural realm into the mighty power of God. "...we possess this precious treasure [the divine Light of the Gospel] in [frail, human] vessels of earth, that the grandeur and exceeding greatness of the power may be shown to be from God and not from ourselves." (II Corinthians 4:7 AMP)

The word "frail" in the amplification of this verse explains the limitations of your human abilities in the supernatural realm. You cannot persevere in prayer indefinitely through sheer willpower. However, you will persevere and you will receive God's answer if your heart is filled with the supernatural power of God that comes from the precious treasure of His Word.

Your Father repeatedly tells you how mighty and powerful His Word is. If you meditate day and night on scriptural promises that apply to your prayers, these promises will come alive inside of you. You will not give up.

You cannot control the words that you speak when you face severe pressure through your willpower. "...the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." (James 3:8 KJV)

When you are under severe pressure, the words that consistently flow out of your mouth ultimately will determine the effectiveness of your prayers. You must understand that you cannot control the words you speak when you are under pressure through sheer determination. You will speak whatever you truly believe in your heart. Jesus said, "...out of the fullness (the overflow, the superabundance) of the heart the mouth speaks." (Matthew 12:34 AMP)

Is your heart filled with God's supernatural living Word because you have consistently paid the price to obey God's instructions to meditate day and night on His Word? If your heart is filled with God's Word, the Word of God will pour out of your mouth. You will persevere in prayer. You will not give up.

We have explained that the Bible teaches that faith comes from hearing the Word of God (see Romans 10:17). Your faith in God can increase when you hear someone else teach the Word of God. However, we want to emphasize again that your faith in God will increase the most when your ears hear your mouth continually speaking the supernatural Word of God that fills your heart to overflowing.

You must understand the relationship between being able to persevere in faith and the words that you consistently speak. If your heart is not filled with God's Word, you will find that the problems you face will dominate your thoughts and your words. If your heart is filled with God's Word, you will find that God's promises will pour out of your mouth continually.

We cannot emphasize too much the importance of consistently meditating on God's promises that apply to your prayer request. If you consistently meditate on these promises after you pray, you will be able to persevere. Your faith in God will remain strong while you are waiting for the manifestation of His answer.

Your heart will be so filled with the Word of God that you will spontaneously react to the problems you are praying about with deep, strong and unwavering faith in God. You will not allow the problems you are praying about to cause you to be worried, anxious and fearful.

Your Father supernaturally anointed several human authors to write His promises and instructions. "...whatever was thus written in former days was written for our instruction, that by [our steadfast and patient] endurance and the encouragement [drawn] from the Scriptures we might hold fast to and cherish hope." (Romans 15:4 AMP)

God's Word was written long ago to give you valuable instructions from your Father that will help you today. Please note that this verse says you will be encouraged if you meditate on God's Word. You will have "steadfast and patient endurance" when you pray. You will not give up hope. You will focus continually on God.

Some Christians cancel their prayers by saying things that show their doubt that their prayers will be answered. "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." (James 1:26 KJV)

The words that you consistently speak when you face adversity ultimately will determine whether or not you will receive God's answer to your prayers. You must not make the mistake of allowing your words to block God from answering your prayers.

Human beings are the only species that God created with the ability to express themselves

through spoken words. You must not negate this unique privilege. When you are waiting for manifestation of God's answer, the vital key to receiving this answer is for your heart to be so full of God's Word that you will continually speak words that are in agreement with the Word of God. "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles." (Proverbs 21:23 KJV)

This verse speaks of your soul. Your soul consists of your mind, your will and your emotions. You can only control your thoughts, the decisions that you make and your emotions to the degree that your heart is filled with God's Word. You should be like the psalmist who said, "I believed (trusted in, relied on, and clung to my God), and therefore have I spoken..." (Psalm 116:10 AMP)

Are you clinging to God while you are persevering in faith, waiting for Him to answer your prayers? The words that you speak when you are under seemingly severe pressure will clearly indicate the degree of the intimacy of your relationship with God and your faith in Him.

In the last three chapters you have learned what your Father instructs you to do so that you will be patient and persevering when you pray. If you will meditate on the Scripture in these chapters when you are praying about a seemingly severe problem, the words that will fill your heart as a result will enable you to persevere with deep, strong and unwavering faith in God.

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## **Chapter 20**

### **God Will Supply All of Your Needs**

Now that we have discussed the relationship between effective prayer and meditating on the Word of God, we want to share with you some magnificent promises from God pertaining to meeting your needs. Loving parents desire to meet the needs of their children. Your heavenly Father is the original parent. You will see in this chapter that He repeatedly promises to meet every need that you have.

The most vital need that any person will ever have is eternal salvation through Jesus Christ. God sent His beloved Son to earth to die a horrible death by crucifixion to pay the full price for all of your sins. "He who did not withhold or spare [even] His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will He not also with Him freely and graciously give us all [other] things?" (Romans 8:32

AMP)

If you have trusted God to meet your need to live eternally with Him in heaven, you also can have faith that your Father will meet every other need that you have. The words “all things” in this verse definitely include whatever need you bring to God in prayer. You can be certain that the same God Who has met your greatest need of eternal salvation also will supply every need that you have on earth.

We have explained that your Father wants you to pray His Word back to Him. Let’s take the verse that we have just studied. You can pray God's Word back to Him by saying something like the following: “Dear Father, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus Christ to earth to pay the full price for all of my sins. I believe in my heart and confess with my mouth that Jesus has paid for all of my sins. Because I have faith in His supreme sacrifice, I know that I will live eternally with You in heaven.

“Your Word also says that, in addition to sending Your Son to pay for my sins, You also have graciously made provision to meet every other need that I have. Thank You, dear Father, for meeting all of my needs.”

You should not wonder if God will supply your need. You can be certain that your Father will meet all of your needs. “...they who seek (inquire of and require) the Lord [by right of their need and on the authority of His Word], none of them shall lack any beneficial thing.” (Psalm 34:10 AMP)

The amplification of this verse instructs you to come to God with your needs based “on the authority of His Word.” God always emphasizes through repetition. When He tells you the same thing again and again, He is emphasizing that He definitely will do what He repeatedly is telling you what He will do. “...my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19 AMP)

This promise says that God will “liberally supply” your every need. Go to God in prayer based on this all-inclusive promise from His Word. Pray with absolute faith that your Father already has made full provision to meet every need that you will ever have. “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” (II Peter 1:3 NIV)

Once again God has promised that all of your needs have been provided for. The words “everything we need for a godly life” in this verse include every need that you will have to live

the way that God intends you to live and to complete the assignment that He has given to you.

God has told you that you will receive manifestation of this provision through your knowledge of Him. These words explain an important key to receiving manifestation of God's numerous promises to meet all of your needs. Your Father will meet your needs if you consistently draw closer to Him with a deep and strong desire for a closer relationship with Him. If you have an intimate relationship with God, you will trust Him completely to fulfill His many promises to meet your needs.

We explained in Chapter 2 that the secret of an intimate relationship with God is to fear Him (see Psalm 25:14). Do you fear the Lord? If you fear the Lord, you revere Him. You hold Him in absolute awe. Every aspect of your life revolves around Him. He should be at the absolute center of your life at all times.

You will experience wonderful companionship with God if you fear Him. "O fear the Lord, you His saints [revere and worship Him]! For there is no want to those who truly revere and worship Him with godly fear." (Psalm 34:9 AMP)

This verse explains the relationship between fearing God and being certain that your loving Father meets all of your needs. If you revere God, you will worship Him continually as His Word instructs you to do (see Psalm 113:3 and Hebrews 13:15). You will not be caught up with the things of the world. God will be at the center of your life. Your heart will overflow with your gratitude to Him and your love for Him.

You should be like the psalmist David who said, "The Lord is my Shepherd [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack." (Psalm 23:1 AMP)

Sheep instinctively trust their shepherd to provide food, guidance and protection. God created sheep in such a way that trusting their shepherd is natural. Jesus Christ is your Shepherd (see John 10:11-16). You will not lack if you trust Jesus completely to meet your every need just as His Word promises.

Jesus wants you to draw close to Him throughout every day of your life. You can trust your loving and caring Shepherd to provide everything that you need. "...no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." (Psalm 84:11 KJV)

You are told that God will not withhold anything that you need if you "walk uprightly." A person who walks uprightly does his or her best to live in obedience to the instructions in God's Word. If you pay the price of studying and meditating on God's Word, you will learn more and

more about how your Father wants you to live. You saw in Joshua 1:8 that God will meet every need if you obey His instructions.

There is no question that your loving Father has provided everything that you will need. This chapter is filled with His promises assuring you that He has made full provision to meet every one of your needs.

You must do your part. Your Father wants you to come to Him in prayer with absolute faith that He will meet every one of your needs just as He promises. “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” (Numbers 23:19 KJV)

Human beings may lie, but God cannot lie. Your Father always does what He says He will do. All that He asks is that you find Scripture and come to Him in prayer with absolute certainty that He always does what His Word says that He will do. “God is faithful (reliable, trustworthy, and therefore ever true to His promise, and He can be depended on)...” (I Corinthians 1:9 AMP)

God is completely dependable. When your loving Father promises to meet every one of your needs, you can trust Him totally, completely and absolutely. You must not doubt this promise.

If you have needs in any area, this chapter should encourage you greatly. Your loving Father has told you again and again that He will meet every need that you have. You can be certain that your loving Father has made full provision to meet every need of every one of His beloved children.

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## **Chapter 21**

### **Thank God and Praise God Continually**

You have seen that you should pray with unwavering faith in God and in the absolute reliability of every one of His promises. “Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.” (Philippians 4:6 AMP)

Please note that your Father does not want you to be worried and anxious about anything. You are instructed to come to Him in every circumstance in prayer with specific requests instead of allowing yourself to fret and worry and be anxious.

We have repeatedly stated our belief that every possible prayer request should be anchored on a specific promise or promises from God. Your Father instructs you to pray “with thanksgiving.” If you are going to God with a prayer request based on one of His promises, you should show your faith in Him and His Word by thanking Him when you pray.

The words “about anything” and “in every circumstance” clearly indicate that your Father wants you to always come to Him in prayer whenever you, or any person you are praying for, face adversity. You should not wait until He gives you manifestation of His answer to your prayer request to thank Him. Your Father wants you to show your deep, strong and unwavering faith in Him and His Word by praying based on His promises and thanking Him when you pray.

We believe that you will experience a tremendous breakthrough in the effectiveness of your prayer life if you constantly pray with deep gratitude to God flowing out of your heart that is filled with His Word. Your Father wants your prayers to be “thank You” prayers, not just “please” prayers.

Philippians 4:6 says that you should continue to make your requests known to God. You have seen the importance of patience and perseverance in your prayer life. Keep on praying until you receive manifestation of God’s answer. Keep on thanking God and praising Him.

The next verse tells you what God will do if you faithfully obey the instructions in Philippians 4:6. “...God's peace [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7 AMP)

Your expression of faith when you pray with thanksgiving from a heart that is filled with gratitude will cause you to draw closer to God. You will receive God’s supernatural peace if you obey the instructions in Philippians 4:6. God’s peace is so great that it transcends the limitations of human understanding. You cannot even begin to comprehend how great God’s peace is until you experience it for yourself by faithfully obeying these specific instructions from God.

If you consistently pray in faith and thank God as you pray, your Father promises that His supernatural peace will “garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” God’s supernatural peace will protect your heart and your mind if you consistently pray with faith and thanksgiving.

You have seen that Philippians 4:6 says that you should not be anxious about anything. God

gives you additional instruction telling you exactly what to do when you are tempted to be worried or anxious. “Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.” (I Peter 5:7 AMP)

There is no question that God wants you to cast “all of your anxieties, all of your worries and all of your concerns on Him.” The word “cast” in this context is similar to casting a fishing line with a weighted sinker on it.

When you cast a fishing line, you actually throw the sinker out into the air. Throw all of your worry, anxiety and concerns to God because you know that He cares very much about whatever challenges you face. The amplification instructs you to bring whatever you are praying about to Him and to leave it with Him “once and for all.”

Come to God in prayer continually with strong faith that He will help you just as His Word says He will. “Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your prayer [life], being [both] alert and intent in [your praying] with thanksgiving.” (Colossians 4:2 AMP)

Your Father instructs you to pray earnestly. He wants you to be intense and fervent when you pray. He does not want you to become weary in your prayer life. You are instructed to be “steadfast” which means to be unwavering and constant.

Your Father instructs you to be “alert and intent” when you pray. He again instructs you to pray “with thanksgiving.” If you are basing your prayer requests on a specific verse or verses of Scripture, thank God repeatedly for doing what He promises to do.

You must understand the vital importance of thanking God when you pray. “At all times and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.” (Ephesians 5:20 AMP)

Thanking God should be a way of life to you. You should thank God when you pray and throughout your life “at all times and for everything.” Thank God continually in the name of Jesus Christ. You have learned that the name of Jesus Christ has supernatural power (see Acts 3:6-8 and Philippians 2:9-11). “Thank [God] in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will].” (I Thessalonians 5:18 AMP)

God’s ways are very different from the ways of the world (see Isaiah 55:8-9). When you face a severe problem, the last thing that you may feel like doing is to thank God in the face of

seemingly severe adversity. Your Father again instructs you to thank Him “in everything,” no matter what the circumstances may be. These words definitely include whatever problems you are bringing to God in prayer. “Offer to God the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High, and call on Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor and glorify Me.” (Psalm 50:14-15 AMP)

Please note the word “sacrifice” in this passage of Scripture. The word “sacrifice” in this context means to do what you may not feel like doing. Thank God even in the face of severe adversity. When you are in trouble, you are instructed to call on God, thanking Him continually because you are certain that your loving Father will deliver you and bring you safely through whatever challenge you are bringing to Him in prayer.

The sacrifice of praise holds a treasure for you. As you thank God with tears running down your cheeks and your heart breaking, joy will begin to well up in your heart. God Himself will touch you with His love. You are going to be all right. You will see a light beginning to shine in the darkness.

If you have experienced the sacrifice of praise, you can be certain that God is there in your darkest hour. You can be certain that He will respond in a most remarkable way when you praise Him in the middle of your crisis because you trust Him completely.

Praise and thanksgiving go together. You have seen that the Bible instructs you to pray without ceasing (see I Thessalonians 5:17). The Bible also instructs you to praise God continually. “From the rising of the sun to the going down of it and from east to west, the name of the Lord is to be praised!” (Psalm 113:3 AMP)

Your Father has instructed you to praise Him from the time the sun comes up in the morning until it sets at night. This does not mean that you cannot praise God before sunrise or after sunset. You should praise God continually no matter where you are – anywhere from the east to the west.

Praise and thanksgiving should be a way of life to you. Continual praise and thanksgiving will bring you into the presence of God. “Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!” (Psalm 95:2 AMP)

If you praise God and thank Him continually, you will come into the glorious place of His presence. “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and a thank offering and into His courts with praise!...” (Psalm 100:4 AMP)

When you consistently thank God, you come into the gates of His courtyard. When you consistently praise God, you come through these gates into His presence.

Your Father is delighted when He hears you praising Him and thanking Him, regardless of the circumstances you face. “He who brings an offering of praise and thanksgiving honors and glorifies Me...” (Psalm 50:23 AMP)

Give God the honor that is due Him when you praise Him and thank Him. What a privilege that you can honor and glorify God! What a joy that you can revere and exalt God yourself!

You make an “offering” to God when you praise Him and thank Him continually. “Through Him, therefore, let us constantly and at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name.” (Hebrews 13:15 AMP)

Once again you see that the word “sacrifice” is used in regard to praising God and thanking Him. You are instructed to praise God “constantly and at all times.”

You are making a sacrifice when you praise God in the face of seemingly severe adversity. You are making a sacrifice when you praise God and thank Him by bringing the problems you face to Him when you pray instead of waiting until you receive manifestation of His answer before you praise Him and thank Him.

Praising God is easy when everything is going well. God's Word instructs you to praise God continually and to thank Him continually, regardless of the circumstances you face. Your heart should be so filled with gratitude toward God and faith in Him that you will praise Him and thank Him at all times.

We all need to grow in our relationship with God. Throughout eternity we will be thanking, praising and worshiping God. Learn to live in praise and worship to God now. You should be aware of God's presence throughout every day of your life as you magnify and glorify Him.

In this chapter we have studied several verses of Scripture that instruct you to thank God continually and to praise Him continually. You should thank God and praise Him before you pray, when you pray and after you pray. Praise and thanksgiving should be a vital part of your daily prayer life and a vital part of every other aspect of your life.

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## **Chapter 22**

## **Pray for the Needs of Others**

In the next two chapters we will look into God's Word to learn that God instructs you to put Him first, other people second and yourself last. This principle applies in every area of life, especially your prayer life.

Jesus Christ explained the importance of showing your love for God and your love for other people when He said, "...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (intellect). This is the great (most important, principal) and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself. These two commandments sum up and upon them depend all the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40 AMP)

You should be so grateful to God that your heart will overflow with love for Him, for Who He is and for everything He does for you. The Bible teaches that nothing should come ahead of your love for God. Jesus then instructed you to love other people as much as you love yourself. All of the Ten Commandments will be activated in your life if you consistently obey the two instructions in this passage of Scripture.

If you are a mature Christian and your faith in God is deep, strong and unwavering, you should consistently reach out to other people who need help. One of the most effective ways to help needy people is to pray for them. "We who are strong [in our convictions and of robust faith] ought to bear with the failings and the frailties and the tender scruples of the weak; [we ought to help carry the doubts and qualms of others] and not to please ourselves." (Romans 15:1 AMP)

The amplification in this verse instructs you to help other people to carry their doubts and qualms. Instead of focusing primarily on your own needs, wants and desires, you should be highly motivated to pray for needy people and to help these people in any other way that you can. "Bear (endure, carry) one another's burdens and troublesome moral faults, and in this way fulfill and observe perfectly the law of Christ (the Messiah) and complete what is lacking [in your obedience to it]." (Galatians 6:2 AMP)

Whenever you see someone who has a burden, including those people who bring problems on themselves by their actions, you should do everything you can to help them carry their burdens. One way to help these people is to intercede for them in prayer. Consistent prayer for needy people should be a vitally important part of your prayer life.

There is nothing wrong with praying for your own needs. We have discussed this in previous chapters. However, your prayer life should go far beyond praying for your own needs.

Christians who consistently pray for others are compassionate and empathetic. They care about other people. They have a sincere desire to help needy people in every way they can.

Intercessory prayer can be very powerful. The Bible gives an excellent example of the power of intercessory prayer in the following verses of Scripture.

King Herod hated Christians. He persecuted them in every possible way. "...Herod the king stretched forth his hands to afflict and oppress and torment some who belonged to the church (assembly)." (Acts 12:1 AMP)

Herod killed the apostle James. He then put the apostle Peter in prison. "...he killed James the brother of John with a sword; and when he saw that it was pleasing to the Jews, he proceeded further and arrested Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread [the Passover week]. And when he had seized [Peter], he put him in prison and delivered him to four squads of soldiers of four each to guard him, purposing after the Passover to bring him forth to the people." (Acts 12:2-4 AMP)

King Herod placed Peter under a guard of sixteen soldiers to hold him until after the Passover celebration when he was to be executed. Many Christians prayed for Peter. "...Peter was kept in prison, but fervent prayer for him was persistently made to God by the church (assembly)." (Acts 12:5 AMP)

Please note the word "fervent" that describes how these people prayed for Peter. When you do something fervently, you are deeply committed to what you are doing.

These Christians did not just pray for Peter occasionally. They prayed for him persistently. Their prayers produced supernatural results. "The very night before Herod was about to bring him forth, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared [standing beside him], and a light shone in the place where he was. And the angel gently smote Peter on the side and awakened him, saying, Get up quickly! And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, Tighten your belt and bind on your sandals. And he did so. And he said to him, Wrap your outer garment around you and follow me." (Acts 12:6-8 AMP)

God responded to the fervent and persistent prayer of these Christians. On the night before Peter was to be executed, an angel suddenly appeared in a bright light. This angel supernaturally

set Peter free from the chains that held him in place. The angel then led Peter out of the prison. “When they had passed through the first guard and the second, they came to the iron gate which leads into the city. Of its own accord [the gate] swung open, and they went out and passed on through one street; and at once the angel left him.” (Acts 12:10 AMP)

The angel supernaturally took Peter past the two soldiers who were guarding him at that time. The angel supernaturally caused the prison gate to swing open. Once Peter was outside of the prison, he went to the place where people were interceding for him. “...he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark, where a large number were assembled together and were praying.” (Acts 12:12 AMP)

When Peter knocked on the door of Mary’s house, the people who were praying for him could not believe that he was there. “...when he knocked at the gate of the porch, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. And recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she failed to open the gate, but ran in and told the people that Peter was standing before the porch gate. They said to her, You are crazy! But she persistently and strongly and confidently affirmed that it was the truth. They said, It is his angel! But meanwhile Peter continued knocking, and when they opened the gate and saw him, they were amazed.” (Acts 12:13-16 AMP)

These people did not comprehend the supernatural power of God that was released in response to their fervent and persistent prayers. God does not play favorites (see Acts 10:34 AMP). You must understand that you also can release the supernatural power of God if you pray fervently and persistently for needy people. “Whoever stops his ears at the cry of the poor will cry out himself and not be heard.” (Proverbs 21:13 AMP)

This verse speaks of turning away from the poor, but this principle applies to your actions toward all people who are in need. You sin against God if you see people who are in need and fail to intercede on their behalf. “...far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you...” (I Samuel 12:23 AMP)

Samuel was a judge and a prophet in Israel. Part of his responsibility was to pray for Israel. Samuel took this responsibility very seriously. He knew that he would sin against the Lord if he ceased to pray for Israel. You should feel the same way about your commitment to pray for people who are in need.

You show your love for God by obeying His instructions (see John 14:24 and I John 2:5 and 5:3). God often will bless you abundantly because you pray for others. The Book of Job explains

that Job experienced severe adversity. Nevertheless, instead of focusing on the challenges he faced, Job often prayed for others. "...the Lord turned the captivity of Job and restored his fortunes, when he prayed for his friends; also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before." (Job 42:10 AMP)

This verse of Scripture tells you that God set Job free from adversity and restored the fortune that he had lost, giving him "twice as much as he had before." One of the reasons that God blessed Job in this way was because Job prayed for his friends even though he faced severe adversity himself.

You should pray for other people many times each day. We now will give you several examples of how you can intercede for others.

If you read your local newspaper each day, you will usually read several stories about people who are facing adversity. You can lay your hand on these articles to pray for these needy people. Your daily newspaper is a wonderful opportunity for prayer.

Whenever you hear from any other source about a hurting person, you often should pray immediately. You should be ready to intercede at any time. You might be driving your car and see someone in an accident. Pray immediately for that person. Praying for others should be a way of life to you. You will have an opportunity to pray for other people many times each day.

You have an opportunity to pray whenever you hear a siren. A siren usually is an indication that someone is in trouble. God knows who is in trouble. He knows exactly what each person needs. Pray to God asking Him to minister to the person or persons who are responsible for the siren.

Many elderly people live in Florida. We hear a lot of sirens. We often pray two or three times a day when we hear a siren. If you pray this frequently, you will be praying more than one thousand times each year for needy people.

Jesus showed tremendous compassion for others throughout His earthly ministry. He is your example in every area of life. If you have genuine compassion as Jesus did, you will pray often for other people who are in need.

This chapter contains many scriptural instructions pertaining to intercessory prayer. We will continue to study what the Bible says about intercessory prayer in the next chapter, particularly the vital importance of consistently interceding for the eternal salvation of unbelievers.

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## **Chapter 23**

### **Pray Often for Unbelievers to Live Eternally in Heaven**

In this chapter we will study God's Word for instructions on the most important intercessory prayers that you will ever pray. You will learn from the holy Scriptures the importance of interceding for unbelievers who will suffer in hell throughout eternity unless they are saved.

If you are consistently interceding for people who are lost spiritually, you can be certain that these prayers are very important to God. This statement is true because the Bible says that God is "...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9 KJV)

God wants every person to live eternally with Him in the glory of heaven. Jesus said, "No one is able to come to Me unless the Father Who sent Me attracts and draws him and gives him the desire to come to Me..." (John 6:44 AMP)

This statement is amazing. Jesus said that no one can come to Him for eternal salvation unless God Himself attracts and draws this person to come to Jesus. Is Jesus Christ your Savior? If He is, you can be certain that God Himself drew you at one time for eternal salvation. John 6:44 says that you cannot live eternally in heaven unless God Himself draws you for eternal salvation.

When you are praying for unbelievers who do not know Jesus as their Savior, you should pray continually to God in the name of Jesus Christ asking Him to draw each of these people to Him in a mighty and powerful way. Refuse to give up if nothing seems to be happening. Keep on praying.

You can see the importance of persistently interceding for unbelievers in the following information about one of the greatest prayer warriors who ever lived, George Muller. Many books have been written about the success of his prayers. He has been referred to as "The Prince of Prayer."

In his book, *George Muller: Man of Faith and Miracles*, Basil Miller recorded Muller as saying, "In November, 1844, I began to pray for the conversion of five individuals. I prayed every day whether sick or in health, on the land or on the sea, in whatever the pressure of my engagements might be. Eighteen months elapsed before the first of the five was converted. I thanked God and prayed on for the others. Five years elapsed and the second was converted. I thanked God for the second and prayed on for the other three. Day after day, I continued to pray

for them and six years passed before the third was converted. I thanked God for the three and went on praying for the other two. These two remained unconverted.”

Other books on the life of George Muller have reported that one of these men became a Christian shortly before George’s death in 1898 at the age of ninety-three. The other man received Jesus Christ as his Savior a few years later.

We pray that you will comprehend the vital importance of praying continually for unbelievers day after day, week after week, month after month and year after year. Ask God to draw specific people to Him in such a mighty and powerful way that each of these people will receive Jesus Christ as his or her Savior and live throughout eternity in the glory of heaven.

How can you spend your time more effectively than to intercede often for your friends, family and loved ones who do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior? Pray constantly for each of these people to turn away from the limitations of their worldly perspective so that they will understand their need for eternal salvation. Get in there and fight for the eternal destiny for each of these people by praying consistently with unwavering faith that God Himself will draw each of them to Himself for eternal salvation.

Every person has a sphere of influence. You undoubtedly know many people who do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Pray often for these people. Ask God to send people into their lives who will be effective in leading them to Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “...The harvest indeed is abundant [there is much ripe grain], but the farmhands are few. Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (Luke 10:2 AMP)

Pray that the Lord will send laborers into the paths of each person you are praying for, so that each of these people will live eternally in heaven instead of suffering horribly in hell throughout eternity. For complete information on eternal salvation through Jesus Christ, please read the Appendix at the end of this book.

Jesus left His exalted position in heaven to come to earth to die an agonizing death by crucifixion. Jesus paid this enormous price to take the sins of the entire world upon Himself. Jesus made this sacrifice for all unbelievers. If Jesus was willing to make this enormous sacrifice, shouldn’t you be willing to sacrifice by consistently interceding for unbelievers who desperately need eternal salvation?

You must understand the vital importance of these prayers. You engage in a spiritual battle with your prayers of faith for the eternal salvation of these people. Their eternal destiny is at

stake. Do not give up.

You must be relentless and persevering in your prayers for God to draw each of these unbelievers to live with Him in the glory of heaven throughout eternity. Your prayers can make the difference in the lives of many people who otherwise would suffer horribly throughout eternity in hell.

In addition to interceding for people to live eternally in heaven, the Bible also instructs you to consistently intercede for your Christian brothers and sisters who have needs. You should carefully observe other Christians and intercede specifically for your fellow believers whenever you know that they have a problem. "...keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people)." (Ephesians 6:18 AMP)

This verse of Scripture instructs you to pay close attention to the needs of your Christian brothers and sisters. You are instructed to persevere in these prayers. Your prayers can make a vital difference in the lives of many of your Christian brothers and sisters.

In addition to interceding for the eternal salvation of unbelievers and for the needs of other Christians, the Bible also instructs you to pray for people who treat you badly. Jesus said, "...I tell you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44 AMP)

How can you love someone and pray for them if they have hurt you badly? When your human love is insufficient to pray for people who mistreat you, you can draw upon the supernatural love of God that has been given to every believer. "...God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us." (Romans 5:5 AMP)

If Jesus Christ is your Savior, you can be certain that God has led the Holy Spirit to place His love in your heart. When you need to love people who are virtually impossible to love with the limitations of your human love, you can love these people and pray for them. You can love these people with the supernatural love of God that has been placed in your heart.

You must understand the vital importance of intercessory prayer. God has called each of His children to intercede continually for other people who have needs.

Are you a senior citizen who is retired? If you are, you probably have more discretionary time than you did before you retired. Are you utilizing this time wisely during your final years on earth to do something that God definitely wants you to do? You can be certain that God wants you to intercede continually for the eternal salvation of unbelievers and for Him to help needy

people.

Do not allow the final years of your life to dwindle away in a constant pursuit of pleasure. There is nothing wrong with enjoying well-earned recreation during your retirement years, but should the pursuit of pleasure be your only goal? You have seen that your Father instructs you to pray often for needy people.

If you consistently reach out in love by praying for others, you can be certain that you are doing what your Father has called you to do. “Little children, let us not love [merely] in theory or in speech but in deed and in truth (in practice and in sincerity).” (I John 3:18 AMP)

You should not just say that you love others. You should show by your consistent actions and prayers that you really do love others.

Intercede for the eternal salvation of unbelievers. Intercede consistently for people who are facing difficult circumstances. Persevere in your prayers. Have absolute faith that your Father will honor your fervent prayers.

If you are interceding for unbelievers, these people often will have hearts that are hardened toward God. Pray asking God to soften the hearts of each of these people.

Do not allow the hard hearts of some of the people you are praying for to discourage you. God can and will draw hard-hearted unbelievers to Himself for eternal salvation if you will do your part by consistently praying for Him to draw each of these people to Him. Jesus said, “... With men this is impossible, but all things are possible with God.” (Matthew 19:26 AMP)

There is a direct ratio between your maturity as a Christian and the amount of time, energy and effort that you devote to interceding for others. God knows if you are committed to praying for needy people. If you are, you can be certain that your Father will bring people across your path who need your prayers.

You often will find that praying for others is frustrating. Many times your prayers will seem to be completely ineffective. Often the person you are praying for will seem to be unchanged or even worse.

Do not allow yourself to be concerned by what these people say and do. Focus instead on the Scripture that applies to their salvation. Instead of focusing on what any person is or is not doing, focus on what God says.

We often say that Jesus Christ is your example in every area of your life. Jesus is the greatest Intercessor in the entire universe. “...He is always living to make petition to God and intercede

with Him and intervene for them.” (Hebrews 7:25 AMP)

Do you think that God pays attention when His Son comes to Him in prayer? You can be certain that Jesus Christ is always praying for you. Just as Jesus is interceding continually for you, you should intercede continually for others.

This chapter contains many verses of Scripture that instruct you to pray for others. We pray that you will study and meditate on this Scripture and that you will intercede effectively for many people.

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## Chapter 24

### The Prince of Prayer

In the last chapter we explained how a man named George Muller persevered in prayer for many years for the eternal salvation of a group of five people. We said that George Muller’s friends called him the Prince of Prayer. In this chapter we will share with you many additional stories about the amazing answers that George Muller received from his prayers.

We have told you that God desires to answer all of your prayers (see Matthew 21:22, Mark 11:24, John 14:14, John 15:7 and I John 3:22). If you think that this statement is theoretical, we believe that you will be greatly encouraged when you read about the incredible results that George Muller received from his prayers.

When I (Jack) was a new Christian, I did not understand that God desires to answer every prayer. Then I read two amazing books – *George Muller, Man of Faith and Miracles* and *George Muller, Delighted in God*. These books contained numerous stories about George Muller and his extremely effective prayer life.

I was so interested after reading these two books that I asked my secretary to do an internet search for other books about George Muller. I now have read the following books about George Muller:

- *George Muller, Man of Faith and Miracles* by Basil Miller
- *George Mueller* by Faith Bailey
- *George Muller: Delighted in God!* by Roger Steer
- *The Autobiography of George Muller* by George Muller

- *George Mueller: Man of Faith* by A. Sims
- *George Mueller, Answers to Prayer* by George Mueller
- *George Muller of Bristol* by Arthur Pierson
- *Release the Power of Prayer* by George Mueller

You will see that some of the books spell George's last name as Mueller. Other books spell his name Muller. The name Mueller is the German translation of the English name Muller.

George Muller was born in Prussia on September 27, 1805. He died in England on March 10, 1898 at the age of ninety-two. George was an incorrigible child. His parents caught him stealing on many occasions.

George was fourteen years old when his mother was dying. He was drunk at the time. George loved liquor. He often was intoxicated as a teenager. George was sent to jail for twenty-four days when he was sixteen because of fraudulent deceit. He borrowed money continually. He pawned his watch and his clothes. He stole money from his family and his friends.

George was twenty years old when God miraculously touched him. He was converted and received Jesus Christ as his Savior. At that time George developed an insatiable hunger for the Word of God. He often told people that Jesus Christ was his Savior even though he was ridiculed by many of his friends.

George began to give sermons in small churches and chapels at the age of twenty-two. He then became an evangelist. George and his wife started taking orphans into their home. Soon the number of orphans under George's care grew to the point where, at the age of thirty-two, he had ninety-six orphans living in three houses. The number of orphans under his care grew until he was responsible for more than two thousand orphans.

On many occasions George found himself in a position where he had to feed two thousand children with absolutely no money on hand. George prayed continually and trusted the Lord completely to meet every need. You soon will see that his faith was always honored.

In his lifetime George cared for a total of almost ten thousand orphans. He was the director of five large orphanages in Bristol, England.

Many of the books that I have mentioned contain excerpts from George's daily diaries that he kept for many years. These excerpts from his diaries are a magnificent testimony of God's answers to George Muller's continued prayers of faith.

George kept a notebook listing every one of his prayers and when those prayers were

answered. He said that more than fifty thousand of his prayers were answered during his lifetime.

George once said, “If I say that during the fifty-four years and nine months that I have been a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, I have had thirty thousand answers to prayer, either in the same hour or the same day that the requests were made, I should not go a particle too far.”

In his book, *George Muller: Delighted in God*, Roger Steer told the following incredible story of answered prayer. Mr. Steer wrote, “Early one morning Muller took Abigail Townsend by the hand saying, ‘Come, see what our Father will do.’ He led her into a long dining room. The empty plates and cups were on the table but there was no food in the larder and no money to supply the need. The children were standing waiting for breakfast.

“‘Children, you know, you must be on time for school,’ said Muller. Then lifting his hand he prayed, ‘Dear Father, we thank Thee for what Thou are going to give us to eat.’

“A knock was then heard at the door. A baker stood there. He said, ‘Mr. Muller, I couldn’t sleep last night. Somehow I felt that you didn’t have bread for breakfast and the Lord wanted me to send you some. So I got up at two o’clock and baked some bread and have brought it.’

“Muller thanked the baker and praised God for His care. ‘Children,’ he said, ‘we not only have bread but the rare treat of fresh bread.’

“Almost immediately there came a second knock on the door. This time it was the milkman who announced that his milk cart had broken down outside the orphanage and that he would like to give the children his cans of fresh milk so that he could empty his wagon and repair it.”

We believe that this true story of God’s faithfulness is one of the best testimonies ever written about the effectiveness of praying with strong and unwavering faith in God. Several of the books pertaining to George Muller state that George often was down to his last dollar. He had no funds to feed a large number of orphans. God always brought the money in on time, although He often required George to wait until the last day or the last hour for these needs to be met.

George once said, “The orphans have never lacked anything. Had I had thousands of pounds in hand they would have fared no better than they have; for they have always had good nourishing food, the necessary articles of clothing, etc.”

In his book *George Muller: Man of Faith and Miracles*, Basil Miller quoted from George Muller’s diary of April 21, 1868, saying “As the days come, we make known our requests to Him, for outgoings have now been for several years at the rate of more than one hundred pounds a day; for though the expenses have been so great, He has never failed us.”

In the book *George Mueller: Man of Faith*, the author, A. Sims, said, “Solely in answer to believing prayer more than a million and a half sterling (\$7,500,000) was sent to him for the building and maintenance of God’s orphanage, for his missionary enterprises and for the circulation of the Scriptures.”

When this book speaks of George Muller’s missionary enterprises, it refers to his worldwide travels as a missionary. From the ages of seventy to eighty-eight, George preached to more than three million people in forty-two countries.

George once was asked if he had always found the Lord to be faithful to His promises. George replied, “Always. He has never failed me. For nearly seventy years every need and connection with the work has been supplied. The orphans from the first until now have numbered ninety-five hundred, but they never lacked a meal. Never! Hundreds of times we have begun the day without a penny in hand, but our Father has sent supplies by the moment they were actually required.

“There never was a time when we had no wholesome meal. During all these years I have been enabled to trust in the living God and in Him alone. One million four hundred thousand pounds have been sent to me in answer to prayer. We have needed as much as fifty thousand pounds in one year and it has all come by the time it has really been needed.”

Basil Miller wrote, “Mr. Muller’s faith was grandly rewarded for God furnished in response to his prayers approximately seven and a half million dollars. From a most insignificant beginning the work grew until it became a leading supporter of missions and distributor of Bibles and religious literature.”

George Muller said, “For about fifty years I have now walked by His grace in a path of complete reliance upon Him Who is the Faithful One for everything I have needed. I am increasingly convinced that it is by His help alone I am enabled to continue on this course. If left to myself, I should yet be tempted to abandon this path of entire dependence on Him. To His praise, however, I am able to state that for more than half a century I have never had the least desire to do so.”

Basil Miller wrote, “Mr. Muller made it a habit to keep a notebook with two page entries. On one page he gave the petition and the date, and on the opposite page he put the date of the answer. In this manner he was able to keep record of definite petitions and their specific answers. He recommended this form to believers who desired specific answers to their prayers. Thus there

is no guesswork as to when God answers prayers.”

In a sermon in 1880 George Muller said, “Someone may say, ‘Is it necessary that I should bring a matter to God two, three, five or even twenty times? Is it not enough that I tell Him once?’ We might as well say that there is no need to tell Him once for He knows beforehand what our need is. He wants us to prove that we have confidence in Him, then we take our place as creatures toward the Creator.

“The great point is never to give up until the answer comes. The great fault of many children of God is that they do not continue in prayer; they do not go on praying; they do not persevere. If they desire anything for God’s glory, they should pray until they get it. Oh, how good, kind, gracious and generous is the One with Whom we have to do!”

George said, “I pray for hours every day. I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk, when I lie down and when I arise and the answers are always coming. Tens of thousands of times my prayers have been answered. When once I am persuaded a thing is right, I go on praying for it until the end comes. I never give up.”

Are you doing your very best to seek, find and carry out God’s assignment for your life? If you are, you should believe that God will do the same thing in your life that He did for Mr. Muller. “...God shows no partiality and is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34 AMP)

Perhaps you would like to read the books on George Muller yourself. If so, you can do an internet search for books about George Muller. If you do read these books, we want to tell you that the writing in some of these books is difficult to understand. Most of these books were written many years ago. The quotes that came from George Muller’s diary were written in language that is much different than the way we speak today.

Nevertheless, if you truly desire to increase your faith in God’s answer to prayer, these books will show you again and again that God definitely did respond to George Muller’s prayers of faith. We hope that the information we have included in this chapter will encourage you that God will answer your prayers of faith.

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## **Chapter 25**

### **The Supernatural Power of Prayer and Fasting**

This book contains several scriptural examples that explain the power of prayer. In this chapter we will look into God's Word for an explanation of an extremely powerful method of praying.

Jesus explained the power of prayer and fasting to His disciples. They had prayed over a young boy who was demon-possessed. When the disciples did not obtain results from their prayers, the boy's father brought the boy to Jesus. "...Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour." (Matthew 17:18 KJV)

The disciples asked Jesus why they were unable to cast the demon out of the boy. Jesus replied, "...this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." (Matthew 17:21 AMP)

The combination of prayer and fasting often is very effective when other prayers are not. If you, a member of your family or someone who is close to you has a great need, prayer and fasting sometimes will produce tremendous results when nothing else seems to work.

When you face a seemingly hopeless situation, the combination of prayer and fasting often is required to release the supernatural power of God. This chapter will give you a scriptural explanation of how to combine prayer and fasting to receive an answer from God.

The disciples did not fast during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ because they depended completely on Him whenever they faced adversity. Jesus once was asked by John's disciples why His disciples did not fast. Jesus said, "...Can the wedding guests mourn while the bridegroom is still with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast." (Matthew 9:15 AMP)

Jesus knew that His disciples depended on Him. He also knew that He no longer would be with them after He died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus emphasized that the disciples would have to learn how to fast and pray when He was gone.

This same principle applies to your life today. If you need to release the supernatural power of Jesus in your life or for anyone you are praying for, you may find that prayer and fasting are required to accomplish this goal.

When you fast, you turn away from fleshy desires. You often will be more responsive to the Holy Spirit as a result of doing this. "...I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God)." (Galatians 5:16 AMP)

The amplification in this verse instructs you to live "habitually" in the Holy Spirit. Ideally,

you should yield control of your life to the Holy Spirit continually. If you walk habitually in the Holy Spirit, you will not have a strong desire to gratify the craving of your flesh. The amplification describes these fleshly cravings as “human nature without God.”

If you are preoccupied with fleshly desires, you often will block the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit from working in you and through you. “...the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do.” (Galatians 5:17 AMP)

Many people in North America do not even think about prayer and fasting, let alone actually pray and fast. Visitors from Third World countries and other areas of the world often are amazed about the focus on food that they see in America. Television commercials continually emphasize food.

When you need to press in to God because of a dire need, fasting often is required to give your spirit ascendancy over your flesh. When you fast, you temporarily refrain from eating and focus on prayer.

Andrew Murray was an evangelist and a pastor in South Africa at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. He once said, “Prayer is reaching out to the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen and confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves, to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.”

Andrew Murray gave a good explanation of why fasting often makes prayer more effective. Your sensitivity to the Holy Spirit increases when you fast and pray. Fasting often will help you to draw closer to God and to be much more sensitive to Him.

The Bible gives an example of the power of fasting in the life of Moses. Moses fasted for forty days on Mount Sinai. Moses was in close communion with God when he fasted. God gave Moses revelation for the Ten Commandments at that time. “Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he ate no bread and drank no water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.” (Exodus 34:28 AMP)

The Bible gives another example of the spiritual power of fasting during the beginning of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. Jesus spent the first forty days after being baptized in the Jordan

River fasting unto God. “Then Jesus, full of and controlled by the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led in [by] the [Holy] Spirit for (during) forty days in the wilderness (desert), where He was tempted (tried, tested exceedingly) by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they were completed, He was hungry.” (Luke 4:1-2 AMP)

Jesus came to earth as the Son of man. He willingly gave up many of His privileges as the Son of God to be a human being with fleshly desires just like you have.

Jesus was hungry after this time of fasting. He turned away from fleshly desires so that He would be “full of and controlled by the Holy Spirit.” Jesus knew what He would be called upon to do during His earthly ministry. He was led by the Holy Spirit into this fast in the desert to prepare Him for the events that ultimately would make it possible for the life of every person who ever lived to be transformed throughout eternity.

The following passage of Scripture explains the relationship between prayer, fasting and receiving guidance from the Holy Spirit. “While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Separate now for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. Then after fasting and praying, they put their hands on them and sent them away. So then, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from [that port] they sailed away to Cyprus.” (Acts 13:2-4 AMP)

The apostles Barnabas and Saul were very active in ministry during the early years after Jesus ascended into heaven. The Bible emphasizes the importance for them to pray and fast so that they could do what God called them to do when He sent them to the island of Cyprus. Hands were laid on Barnabas and Saul after prayer and fasting. They then were sent out to minister under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus gave specific instructions to His disciples in regard to fasting. Jesus said, “...whenever you are fasting, do not look gloomy and sour and dreary like the hypocrites, for they put on a dismal countenance, that their fasting may be apparent to and seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full already. But when you fast, perfume your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may not be noticed by men but by your Father, Who sees in secret; and your Father, Who sees in secret, will reward you in the open.” (Matthew 6:16-18 AMP)

When you fast, you usually will fast privately before God unless you are part of a fast that is proclaimed for your entire church. You should not fast to receive recognition from other people. You should fast unto God so that you can press in to Him.

Spiritual fasting is an individual matter between you and God. Fasting quietly before God without recognition from other people often causes results in the spiritual realm that could not be experienced in any other way. Do you have a vital prayer need? If so, consider prayer and fasting.

You have read two scriptural descriptions of forty day fasts. If you feel led of the Lord to enter into a time of prayer and fasting, you probably should begin gradually. Many secular and Christian books have been written about fasting. Most experts instruct you to start gradually. Do not make the mistake of trying to do too much too quickly. Work your way into fasting by degrees.

You might begin by fasting one meal at a time. You can skip breakfast and devote yourself to prayer until lunchtime. You then might want to move on to two meals – then to a full day. You can go from there as you feel led to proceed.

You might be well-advised to fast the first few times over a weekend. You may find that fasting during your workweek is difficult at first. If you begin by fasting for a shorter period of time over a weekend, you can build up to fasting during the week.

Drinking water is vitally important when you fast. If fasting with water only is too difficult for you, you might want to consider starting with a juice fast. When you do this, you often receive similar physical benefits to the benefits that you would receive from a complete fast. You also will receive vitamins and minerals that you need.

In addition to the spiritual benefits of fasting, you probably will find that fasting or juice fasting will cause your health to improve. Fasting often causes the body to be cleansed from toxins.

Some Christian books on fasting emphasize fasting from hobbies, television and other recreational pursuits in addition to fasting food. Doing this could help you, but we want to explain that the biblical emphasis on fasting always refers to refraining from food. The Hebrew word “tsom” that is translated as “fasting” in the Old Testament means to go without eating. The Greek word “nesteia” in the New Testament means to go without food.

Nevertheless, you may find that the effectiveness of your prayer life will increase if you fast in other areas. Anything that will cause you to draw closer to God by turning away from the world can be helpful.

You will find that your prayer life is more effective whenever you give up something to

spend time and energy in prayer. If you go without television or other activities that you enjoy, you often will find that the effectiveness of your prayer life will improve. Once again, we want to emphasize that fasting from anything except food is not the same as biblical fasting.

You should consider prayer and fasting whenever you need to make an important decision or when you or someone you are praying for face a seemingly unsolvable problem. If you really need to hear from God, you should consider going to Him through prayer and fasting with absolute faith that your Father will hear your prayer and respond.

Whenever you fast, you turn away from the natural realm and turn to the supernatural realm. There is no question that effective prayer and fasting can release supernatural power from God that cannot be released through prayer alone. We now are ready to devote the remainder of this book to studying an incredibly effective method of praying.

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## **Chapter 26**

### **A Very Powerful and Effective Way to Pray**

So far in this book we have studied several verses of Scripture that explain how to release the mighty power of God through prayer. In Chapter 3 we studied the following verse pertaining to releasing the power of God when you pray. "...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]." (James 5:16 AMP)

This verse explains that the dynamic power of God is made available when a Christian prays wholeheartedly and continually. In Chapter 10 we studied Matthew 18:19-20 which explains the synergistic effect of a prayer of agreement between two or more Christians. Supernatural power is released in a prayer of agreement because Jesus Christ Himself is part of a prayer of agreement when two or more Christians pray together in His name.

In Chapter 11 we studied several verses of Scripture that explain the power of the name of Jesus Christ. We explained that supernatural power can and will be released when you pray with faith in the power of His name. In the last chapter we studied how the power of God can be released through prayer and fasting.

Throughout the remainder of this book we will study what God's Word says about what we each believe is the most powerful and effective way to pray – praying in tongues. We want to

make it very clear as we begin these chapters that both of us believe wholeheartedly in praying in tongues. We each received the gift of praying in tongues more than thirty-five years ago and we have prayed in tongues thousands of times.

We will explain exactly what the Bible teaches about this subject that is misunderstood and therefore omitted by some Christians. We pray that you will approach these chapters with an open mind. Require us to prove to you from the Bible about the enormous spiritual power that will be released when you allow the Holy Spirit, with His incredible power and wisdom, to pray through you.

We normally are very careful about Scripture duplication. However, in the following chapters we will look again at several verses of Scripture that we studied previously. When we studied these verses in previous chapters, we were studying them from the context of praying with your human understanding. In the following chapters we will look again at these verses from the perspective of praying in tongues.

We believe that Christians can be divided into three categories in regard to the controversial topic of praying in tongues. First, there are Christians who know little or nothing about this subject and have no opinion. At the other extreme are Christians who vehemently oppose praying in tongues. Their minds are made up. They are not interested in hearing anything on the subject. The third group consists of Christians who either pray in tongues already or are favorably disposed to learning what the Bible teaches about praying in tongues.

We would like to speak now to any reader of this book who is strongly opposed to praying in tongues. When the baptism of the Holy Spirit is mentioned, some believers tune out immediately. Our desire is to bring the body of Christ together in the love of God. The Bible says that love is the greatest gift. May we proceed in love to see what God says about being baptized in the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues?

We have worked diligently to prepare these chapters. The Book of Acts is filled with stories of many miracles of healing, deliverance and salvation that took place after the apostles were baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues that were different from their native language.

We are well aware that some people believe that the miracles detailed in the Book of Acts do not apply to our lives today. We will study Scripture in a subsequent chapter to show you why we emphatically believe that the power of the Holy Spirit that was described in the Book of Acts is available to you today.

The second chapter of Acts explains the mighty power of the baptism of the Holy Spirit that the apostles received when they were gathered together on the day of Pentecost. “When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all assembled together in one place, when suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were separated and distributed and which settled on each one of them. And they were all filled (diffused throughout their souls) with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other (different, foreign) languages (tongues), as the Spirit kept giving them clear and loud expression [in each tongue in appropriate words].” (Acts 2:1-4 AMP)

The blessing of the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues that was given to these apostles more than two thousand years ago resulted in the numerous miracles that are described in the Book of Acts. We believe you will find that this supernatural power is available to you today.

Jesus Christ explained the signs that will take place in your life when you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “...these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages” (Mark 16:17 AMP)

Jesus Christ is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit. We will explain in subsequent chapters exactly what you should do so that Jesus will baptize you in the Holy Spirit. “...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” (Luke 3:16 AMP)

The same Jesus Christ Who baptized His apostles with power on the Day of Pentecost wants to baptize you with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is waiting for you to take a step of faith to receive this baptism.

Paul differentiated between baptism for repentance of sin and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. “...he asked them, Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed [on Jesus as the Christ]? And they said, No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. And he asked, Into what [baptism] then were you baptized? They said, Into John's baptism. And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, continually telling the people that they should believe in the One Who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus [having a conviction full of joyful trust that He is Christ, the Messiah, and being obedient to Him]. On hearing this they were baptized [again, this time] in the name of the Lord Jesus. And as Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke in [foreign, unknown] tongues (languages) and prophesied.” (Acts 19:2-

6 AMP)

The apostles who heard these words from Paul understood that being baptized in water and being baptized in the Holy Spirit are two different things. Every Christian receives the Holy Spirit when he or she receives Jesus Christ as Savior (see Romans 8:9b AMP). The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate event. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not the same as being baptized in water.

In this chapter we have explained basic fundamental scriptural truths about being baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. We will expand on this fundamental scriptural teaching in more detail in subsequent chapters.

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## **Chapter 27**

### **Your Father Wants You to be Humble and Teachable**

You have seen many scriptural truths about the baptism of the Holy Spirit that took place in the lives of the apostles after Jesus ascended into heaven. We have stated our certainty from Scripture and from our personal experience that this same mighty power is available to you today. If you will study and apply the scriptural instructions in the remainder of this book pertaining to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues, you will never be the same.

The ability to pray in tongues is an awesome privilege that God has made available to each of His children. Many Christians know little or nothing about what the Bible says about praying in tongues. We will not merely give you our opinion. We will not tell you anything that is not anchored on the Word of God. We have spent many hours searching the Scriptures to give you this vitally important information.

We pray that you will not close your mind to what we are teaching about praying in tongues because you do not know anything about this controversial subject or because someone has told you that speaking in tongues is not of God. See for yourself what God's Word has to say about this vitally important area in your life.

If you will approach this Scripture with an open mind and a humble and teachable spirit, we believe that you will be blessed abundantly. Allow the Word of God to be the determining factor in your decision about praying in tongues. We pray that you will make the quality decision to

learn and to do exactly what the Bible instructs you to do in regard to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues.

You should be in absolute awe of the Word of God. You should be determined to learn exactly what your loving Father has instructed you to do in His Word. You should be like the psalmist who said, “Princes pursue and persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your words [dreading violation of them far more than the force of prince or potentate].” (Psalm 119:161 AMP)

Even though powerful government officials were pursuing the psalmist, he put the Word of God ahead of this persecution. The psalmist was in awe of God's Word. He dreaded violating God's instructions much more than he was concerned about the trouble that these officials were giving him. Does the Word of God have this same priority in your life?

You can learn great truths from the holy Scriptures about the mighty and powerful Holy Spirit Who lives in the heart of every person who has received Jesus Christ as his or her Savior (see Romans 8:9). You must understand the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit Who lives in your heart. “...if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.” (Romans 8:11 NIV)

The power of the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead after He was crucified. If Jesus is your Savior, this same mighty power lives in your heart. “God's Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you [to be at home in you, collectively as a church and also individually]” (I Corinthians 3:16 AMP)

The Holy Spirit will never leave you – you are told that He makes His “permanent dwelling” in you. You can be certain that the mighty power of the Holy Spirit is with you throughout every minute of every hour of every day of your life. “...we have not received the spirit [that belongs to] the world, but the [Holy] Spirit Who is from God, [given to us] that we might realize and comprehend and appreciate the gifts [of divine favor and blessing so freely and lavishly] bestowed on us by God.” (I Corinthians 2:12 AMP)

God has poured out gifts and blessings on every one of His children. A gift must be opened. We invite you to continue to read this book as if you were opening a precious gift that your Father has given to you. This gift is fully available to you to the degree that you will pay the price of studying and meditating on what God's Word says about this gift and then doing what

your Father has instructed you to do.

The apostle Paul and the other authors of the Bible were anointed by God. Paul said that the words in his letter to the Corinthians were not words that came from human wisdom. Paul knew that these words were written through him, not by him. "...we are setting these truths forth in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the [Holy] Spirit, combining and interpreting spiritual truths with spiritual language [to those who possess the Holy Spirit]." (I Corinthians 2:13 AMP)

Paul is writing to "those who possess the Holy Spirit." If Jesus Christ is your Savior, Paul is writing to you. Your Father wants you to learn great spiritual truths from His Word pertaining to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues.

Unbelievers and carnal Christians are not interested in these magnificent spiritual truths. "...the natural, nonspiritual man does not accept or welcome or admit into his heart the gifts and teachings and revelations of the Spirit of God, for they are folly (meaningless nonsense) to him; and he is incapable of knowing them [of progressively recognizing, understanding, and becoming better acquainted with them] because they are spiritually discerned and estimated and appreciated." (I Corinthians 2:14 AMP)

People who live primarily in the natural realm are not open to the teaching and revelation from the Holy Spirit. The great truths that we are studying here are "meaningless nonsense" to these people. Unbelievers cannot understand these truths because they come from the supernatural realm, not the natural realm.

The Bible instructs you to approach the vitally important topic of praying in tongues with an open mind. "...the spiritual man tries all things [he examines, investigates, inquires into, questions, and discerns all things]..." (I Corinthians 2:15 AMP)

As a spiritual person, you are instructed to "examine and inquire into all things." The two words "all things" definitely include the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues. You should be like the psalmist who said, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law." (Psalm 119:18 AMP)

You should approach the topics of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues with an open mind. We will show you "wondrous things" from the Word of God about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues.

Make up your mind to approach what the Word of God says about the baptism of the Holy

Spirit and praying in tongues with an open mind. Make up your mind that you will do exactly what your Father instructs you to do in this area.

This chapter explains the importance of approaching the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues with a humble and teachable spirit. We now are ready to show you many wonderful scriptural truths in these areas.

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## **Chapter 28**

### **The Supernatural Power of Praying in Tongues**

We have said that every principle that we explain about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues will be anchored on the Word of God. Before we discuss the supernatural power of praying in tongues, we will look first at what the Bible says about the power of the words that you speak each day in your normal language. “If we set bits in the horses' mouths to make them obey us, we can turn their whole bodies about. Likewise, look at the ships: though they are so great and are driven by rough winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the impulse of the helmsman determines. Even so the tongue is a little member, and it can boast of great things. See how much wood or how great a forest a tiny spark can set ablaze!” (James 3:3-5 AMP)

God gave humans the ability to express their thoughts with words. He did not give this ability to any other creatures that He created. You must understand how powerful spoken words are in the spiritual realm (see Proverbs 6:2, 13:3 and 21:23, Matthew 12:36-37 and Mark 11:22-23).

The power of your words is compared in this passage of Scripture to a bit in a horse's mouth that is able to control a large horse. The words that you speak are compared to a rudder that is able to steer a large ship even in a storm. Your words can be like a tiny spark that is able to set an entire forest on fire.

There is no question that the words you speak every day are extremely powerful. There is no question that your words are powerful when you determine what you will say. Try to comprehend how powerful your words will be when the Holy Spirit determines what you say.

We will wait for several chapters to explain how to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We first want to show you from the Word of God why praying in tongues is so important.

When you pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit releases supernatural spiritual power through your mouth. Praying in tongues, compared to praying in your known language, can be compared to the vast difference in speed between riding a bicycle and riding a jet plane.

The Holy Spirit is able to pray with maximum effectiveness when you pray in tongues. Some Christians make the mistake of mouthing the same words over and over when they pray in their human language (see Matthew 6:7). When you pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit prays through you with power and freedom that is not blocked in any way by the limitations of intellectual understanding.

When you pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit prays for exactly what He chooses to pray for – the perfect will of God. Your prayers will be specific, definite and very effective when the Holy Spirit determines what you will pray.

When you pray in tongues, you are releasing the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit through your voice to go exactly and specifically where the Holy Spirit wants His power to be released. If you allow the power of the Holy Spirit to flow through you as He prays in an unknown tongue, great power will be released in the spiritual realm. This mighty power can be released through your mouth several times each day.

There is no question that God wants His children to pray in tongues. Jesus Himself has endorsed speaking in tongues. You have previously seen that Jesus gave five signs that will accompany those who believe in Him. He named praying in tongues as one of these signs. He said, "...these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name ... they will speak in new languages" (Mark 16:17 AMP)

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? If you do, you can clearly see that Jesus has said that you "will speak in new languages." Do not miss out on this precious privilege that has been given to you.

Jesus emphasized the importance of the baptism of the Holy Spirit when He commanded His disciples not to go out to minister until they first received power from the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "...Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 1:4-5 NIV)

Most students of the Bible have great respect for the apostle Paul. Paul emphasized how important speaking in tongues was to him when he said, "I thank God that I speak in [strange]

tongues (languages) more than any of you or all of you put together” (I Corinthians 14:18 AMP)

Paul spoke in tongues frequently. Paul said that he spoke in tongues more than anyone else. We believe that the Word of God instructs you to follow the example of Paul by praying in tongues several times every day.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a magnificent gift that your Father has given to you because He loves you. You did nothing to earn or receive this blessing from God. The full price for the gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was paid by Jesus Christ at Calvary. Do not turn down this phenomenal gift through ignorance of or unbelief regarding what the Bible says about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues.

The Holy Spirit is ready, willing and able to ignite your daily prayer life. The Holy Spirit can and will strengthen you supernaturally deep down within yourself to the degree that you surrender to Him and trust in Him. You will “...be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the [Holy] Spirit [Himself indwelling your innermost being and personality].” (Ephesians 3:16 AMP)

Are you receiving manifestation of the mighty power of the Holy Spirit Who lives in your heart? Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as “The Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. But you know and recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you.” (John 14:17 AMP)

Unbelievers cannot live in the power of the Holy Spirit. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, you can be absolutely certain that the Holy Spirit lives in your heart and that He is with you at all times.

The Book of Acts recounts several miracles that the disciples performed after they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus explained the supernatural power that all Christians will receive after being baptized in the Holy Spirit when He said, “...you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...” (Acts 1:8 AMP)

We believe that the significance of these words can be seen by the fact that this is the last verse of Scripture that records any words that Jesus spoke during His earthly ministry. Jesus ascended into heaven shortly after He spoke these words to His disciples. “And when He had said this, even as they were looking [at Him], He was caught up, and a cloud received and carried Him away out of their sight.” (Acts 1:9 AMP)

You must understand that the same power of the baptism of the Holy Spirit that is evidenced in the Book of Acts is available to you today. God does not change (see Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8). God does not play favorites (see Acts 10:34).

You will experience a tremendous anointing in your life if you willingly give up control of your life to the Holy Spirit. "...you are not living the life of the flesh, you are living the life of the Spirit, if the [Holy] Spirit of God [really] dwells within you [directs and controls you]..." (Romans 8:9 AMP)

God has given each person the ability to control his or her life. He instructs you to willingly give up this privilege by yielding control to the Holy Spirit each day. The amplification of this verse says that the Holy Spirit "directs and controls you." The Holy Spirit can and will guide you and help you to the degree that you yield to Him and trust in Him.

This book is written on the topic of prayer, so we will focus primarily here on the Holy Spirit praying through you as you yield your tongue to Him, trusting completely in Him. "...‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty." (Zechariah 4:6 NIV)

There is a place to pray with your own understanding. However, there also is a place where your human understanding is not powerful enough to release the words that must be released when you pray. Only the Holy Spirit can release these supernatural words. He can and will release His power in you and through you to the degree that you yield to Him and allow Him to pray through you.

In this chapter we have established additional Scripture pertaining to praying in tongues. When you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, the supernatural power of the Third Person of the Trinity comes into manifestation in your life. In the next chapter we will look into the Word of God to see what it says about the relationship between God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and how this relationship will affect your prayer life.

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## **Chapter 29**

### **The Holy Spirit Prays What God Wants Him to Pray**

When you are praying, you must understand that God placed everything that you will ever need inside of you when Jesus Christ became your Savior. Jesus explained this great spiritual

truth when He said, "...the kingdom of God is within you [in your hearts]..." (Luke 17:21 AMP)

If Jesus is your Savior, the entire kingdom of God is within you. God the Father lives in your heart, Jesus lives in your heart. The Holy Spirit lives in your heart. "...in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and reach full spiritual stature] ..." (Colossians 2:9-10 AMP)

The words "the Godhead" in the amplification of this passage of Scripture refer to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, the Holy Spirit Who lives in your heart is praying through you to God Who also lives in your heart.

The Bible teaches that God sits on His throne in heaven and that Jesus sits at His right hand. The Bible also teaches that God and Jesus are omnipresent. Even though God and Jesus are on Their thrones in heaven, They also live in the hearts of every one of billions of people on earth who have received Jesus as their Savior (see Zephaniah 3:17, I Corinthians 3:16, II Corinthians 13:5, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 3:17 and 4:6 and I John 3:24). If Jesus Christ is your Savior, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit live in your heart.

The Holy Spirit will release enormous spiritual power whenever He prays through you as He prays directly to God Who is in heaven and also lives in your heart. You do not understand what the Holy Spirit is praying when He prays through you. However, the Holy Spirit knows exactly what He is praying for as He prays to God.

The Holy Spirit is not concerned in the least if He is praying to God about a problem that may seem to you to have no possible solution. The Holy Spirit knows that God can solve every problem. "Alas, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! There is nothing too hard or too wonderful for You" (Jeremiah 32:17 AMP)

Never despair about any problem that you are bringing to God in prayer. Simply state the problem and ask the Holy Spirit to pray through you in this area as you yield your voice to Him. Trust Him completely.

You can be certain that the Holy Spirit is praying directly to God. "...one who speaks in an [unknown] tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands or catches his meaning, because in the [Holy] Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things [not obvious to the

understanding].” (I Corinthians 14:2 AMP)

Are you beginning to understand the enormity of the opportunity that you have been given? When you pray in tongues, you are praying exactly what the Holy Spirit in His infinite wisdom wants to pray as He prays directly to God. If you can even begin to comprehend the magnificence of this enormous privilege, why would you not pray to God in this way?

If Jesus is your Savior, you have the right to pray directly to God at all times in the name of Jesus Christ. However, many times you will not know what to pray for or how to pray. When you pray in tongues, you still are praying directly to God but the Holy Spirit is bypassing the limitations of your human understanding to pray to the Father for exactly what needs to be prayed.

The Bible teaches that you should pray both with your understanding and in tongues. The apostle Paul said, “Then what am I to do? I will pray with my spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me], but I will also pray [intelligently] with my mind and understanding...” (I Corinthians 14:15 AMP)

You should not pray in tongues at all times. You also should not pray with your normal language and human understanding. If you know what needs to be prayed for, go ahead and pray in your language. However, if you do not know how to pray for a specific need, you can yield your prayers to the Holy Spirit Who knows exactly what to pray.

We now would like to look again at a passage of Scripture that we studied in Chapter 13. “... this is the confidence (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that if we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to and hears us. And if (since) we [positively] know that He listens to us in whatever we ask, we also know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted us as our present possessions] the requests made of Him.” (I John 5:14-15 AMP)

We previously studied this passage of Scripture from the perspective of praying with your human understanding. When you pray in tongues, you can be certain that the Holy Spirit is praying in the will of God whenever He prays through you. You can be certain that God hears every prayer that the Holy Spirit prays.

Verse 15 says that we also know that God answers every prayer that is prayed according to His will. You must not give up when you do not know what to pray for or how to pray. Go to God and allow the Holy Spirit to pray through you. Know that God will answer the prayers that

the Holy Spirit prays through you.

When you pray in tongues, you can be certain that your prayers are in alignment with God's will. The Holy Spirit would never pray anything through you that is not in line with God's will.

We have previously explained that the Word of God is God's general will for all of His children. We now would like to speak about praying to God for the assignment that God has given you for your life. In Chapter 13 we studied several verses that show that God has a definite plan for the life of every person He has ever created.

If you know what God's assignment for your life is and you face a perplexing problem, yield your voice to the Holy Spirit. Allow Him to pray through you for God to do what must be done for you to successfully carry out His assignment for you.

Refuse to give up when you face a seemingly impossible situation. You can be certain that God wants you to successfully complete the assignment He has given to you. He has promised to guide you every step of the way (see Psalm 48:14, Ezekiel 36:27, Isaiah 58:11 and John 16:13). Trust the Holy Spirit completely as you allow Him to pray through you when you face an obstacle that you do not know how to overcome.

The most intricate and powerful computer that has ever been produced cannot even begin to approach the immensity of God's supernatural knowledge. The Holy Spirit fully understands this great truth. He knows God intimately. When you yield your tongue to the Holy Spirit and He prays through you, He is able to pray for people all over the world with absolute knowledge of every problem that every person in the world faces.

When you yield your tongue to the Holy Spirit to pray through you, you are allowing yourself to be used as a human conduit between the Holy Spirit and God. Your prayers are not hampered by the limitations of human intellectual logic and understanding. You can be certain that the Holy Spirit will pray mighty, powerful and far-reaching words through you as you yield your voice to Him because you trust Him completely.

When you pray in tongues, you are praying entirely in the spiritual realm. You are turning away from the worldly realm that is limited by human understanding to pray in the supernatural realm where there are no limitations to your prayers.

When you pray in tongues, you often will be praying for people you do not know. You will be able to reach around the world to pray for people in many countries who will be helped greatly by your prayer.

How can we make such a statement? We can make this statement because you saw in Psalm 139:1-4 in Chapter 1 that God knows every minute detail about the life of every one of the billions of people on earth. We will study I Corinthians 2:10-11 in detail in a subsequent chapter. For now we want to point out that I Corinthians 2:11 says that the Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of God.

If God knows everything about every one of the billions of people in the world and if the Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of God, the Holy Spirit obviously knows what to pray for any person anywhere in the world. You should give Him control of your tongue to pray whatever He wants to pray for any person anywhere.

When you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, you are given the spiritual ability to reach around the world in prayer for the needs of people you do not know. You alone decide if you will use this supernatural ability to reach out and pray for people thousands of miles away or for someone who lives in the same area that you live.

You must understand that you, with all of your human limitations and shortcomings, have been given the supernatural ability to reach out to help people in many places throughout the world. Distance makes no difference when the Holy Spirit prays through you.

He can and will reach across the world to help people if you will allow Him to pray through you. When you pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit taps into the resources of heaven as He prays through you. Allow God to use you to release His supernatural power to help people who could not otherwise be helped.

The principles that we are explaining here are mind-boggling. Once you begin to grasp the immensity of these great scriptural truths, you will pray in tongues several times each day with absolute certainty that the Holy Spirit is praying through you. You must not limit the Holy Spirit in any way. He will always do His part, but you must do your part.

When you pray in tongues, you do the speaking and the Holy Spirit gives you the words. You must have the faith to open your mouth to speak an unknown language. You must have deep, strong and unwavering faith that the Holy Spirit will use your tongue to give you supernatural words that will address the needs of people all over the world.

Some Christians are perfunctory in their prayer life. To them, prayer is a duty. They grind out their prayer time for a few minutes each day so that they will feel that they have done what they are supposed to do.

If you can begin to comprehend the importance of praying in tongues, your prayer life will be anything but perfunctory. Instead of looking at prayer as a duty, you will yearn to allow the Holy Spirit to use you several times each day to help many people.

The truth is that praying in tongues may be the most important thing you will ever do on earth. What could possibly be more important than going to God Himself several times each day to pray for the specific individual needs of needy people around the world? The Holy Spirit will do this through you if you will turn away from the limitations of your human logic and understanding to allow Him to pray through you.

Good habits are just as difficult to break as bad habits. If you will establish the habit of pausing many times each day to pray in tongues, you will become hungry to be used more and more by the Holy Spirit. Instead of limiting your prayer life to a few minutes each day, you will greatly expand the time that you spend in prayer.

The Holy Spirit will become so real to you that His indwelling presence will pervade your life. Your life will be focused on Him and the tremendous opportunity that He gives you to allow you to reach around the world as you yield to Him with deep, strong and unwavering faith in what He is doing through you.

If your heart is stirred by the incredible scriptural truths that we are explaining in this chapter, you will gladly yield your voice to the Holy Spirit in prayer many times each day. Over a period of weeks, months and years, your life will be transformed.

If large numbers of Christians can comprehend the concept of what we are talking about here, their obedience will change the course of the world. If many Christians pray in tongues several times each day, a mighty move of the Holy Spirit will be released.

In this chapter we have shared exciting concepts about your prayer life that may be new to you. In the next three chapters we will explain many additional scriptural truths about the supernatural effectiveness of praying in tongues. Once we have completely stated why we should pray in tongues many times each day, we then will devote the following chapters to show you how to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit so that you will be able to pray in tongues many times each day as the Holy Spirit prays through you.

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## **Chapter 30**

## **You Must Not Block the Holy Spirit**

In the last four chapters we have shared exciting scriptural truths with you about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues. Every principle that we have explained in these two areas has been anchored on the Word of God.

We now would like to look at an important passage of Scripture that you must understand so that you will make the commitment to pray in tongues each day of your life. "...My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9 AMP)

Your Father's thoughts and His ways are far above and very different from the thoughts and the ways of people in the world. God's ways are so vastly different that many people will tune out what we are saying about praying in tongues.

Many Christians have little or no interest in praying in tongues. They are busy doing what they want to do with their lives. To them, praying in tongues seems to be "way out." Praying in tongues is so far from what they do in their normal daily routine that they cannot conceive of praying in tongues several times each day.

These people do not fully comprehend that God's ways are very different from the ways of human beings. If they would just open their minds to study and meditate on exactly what God's Word says about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues, they would not go a single day without praying several times in tongues.

You must be willing to get out of your comfort zone. If the Bible contains vitally important truths about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues, you should be open to learning what God's Word says about these topics. Do not close your mind because the concept of praying in tongues makes you uncomfortable. "There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death." (Proverbs 14:12 AMP)

You must not live your life based on what seems right to you. If you only do what seems right to the limitations of your human logic and understanding, you will be spiritually dead. You will never understand the ways of God.

You can only come alive in the spiritual realm to the degree that you yearn to learn and to do what God's Book of Instructions instructs you to do. The Bible says that "...the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death [death that comprises all the miseries

arising from sin, both here and hereafter]...” (Romans 8:6 AMP)

Human logic and reasoning are “sense and reason without the Holy Spirit.” People who do not submit to the Holy Spirit are spiritually dead. You must not tune out what the Word of God says about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues because doing this does not make sense to you. “Do not quench (suppress or subdue) the [Holy] Spirit” (I Thessalonians 5:19 AMP)

We have devoted a large amount of space in these chapters to explain how your prayer life will be supernaturally effective if you often yield your voice to the Holy Spirit so that He can pray through you. The Holy Spirit can and will pray effectively through you on a consistent basis if you will just allow Him to do so.

God has given every person freedom of choice (see I Corinthians 6:12 and 8:9). You should be determined to allow the Holy Spirit to release His supernatural power and wisdom in your prayer life. Trust the Holy Spirit and yield your voice to Him.

You must not allow doubt and unbelief to block you from receiving the tremendous gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit that your loving Father has made available to every one of His children. You must not allow unbelief to block the mighty and powerful prayers that the Holy Spirit can and will pray through you. “...brethren, take care, lest there be in any one of you a wicked, unbelieving heart [which refuses to cleave to, trust in, and rely on Him], leading you to turn away and desert or stand aloof from the living God.” (Hebrews 3:12 AMP)

God wants you to constantly turn toward Him. Unbelief will cause you to turn away from God. Religion is man reaching up to God. Christianity is God reaching down to man.

You must not allow religious tradition to block you from receiving the supernatural power that your Father has made available to you through the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues. Jesus said, “...for the sake of your tradition (the rules handed down by your forefathers), you have set aside the Word of God [depriving it of force and authority and making it of no effect].” (Matthew 15:6 AMP)

Do not allow traditional teaching that has been handed down from generation to generation to block the supernatural power of the living Word of God. If we can back up everything that we say about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues, you should have an open mind to do what God's Word instructs you to do. “You must know (recognize) that you were redeemed (ransomed) from the useless (fruitless) way of living inherited by tradition from [your]

forefathers...” (I Peter 1:18 AMP)

Traditional thinking blocks the power of God. You have been set free from the “useless (fruitless) way of living inherited by tradition from [your] forefathers.” You must not allow traditional religious thinking to block you from receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit and consistently praying in tongues.

You will make a big mistake if you consistently depend on the limitations of your human understanding. “...The Lord knows the thoughts and reasonings of the [humanly] wise and recognizes how futile they are.” (I Corinthians 3:20 AMP)

Human logic and wisdom are “futile” in regard to understanding the ways of God. “Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes...” (Proverbs 3:5-7 AMP)

Trust God completely. Acknowledge Him continually throughout every day of your life. He will guide you if you do not try to figure things out with the limitations of human logic and understanding apart from the Spirit of God.

All Christians are given the mind of Jesus Christ when they receive Jesus as their Savior. “... we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.” (I Corinthians 2:16 AMP)

We can assure you that you will experience a tremendous breakthrough in your prayer life if you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and consistently pray in tongues. You should be determined to do what God instructs you to do.

Just because praying in tongues is vastly different from anything you have ever known or experienced does not mean that doing this is wrong. You can only understand praying in tongues to the degree that you get out of the natural realm and into the supernatural realm where God is. “Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].” (Romans 12:2 AMP)

Do not conform your life to the external and superficial ways of the world. Your life will be

transformed if you consistently renew your mind by studying God's Word.

Every principle that we have explained and will explain about the baptism of the Holy Spirit is anchored on the Word of God. “Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion; and be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude], and put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:22-24 AMP)

You are instructed to “strip yourself” of the way that you used to think. You are instructed to constantly renew your mind in God's Word. If you do, you will have a “fresh mental and spiritual attitude.”

You will be able to fully comprehend what God's Word teaches about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues because you will be looking at these truths from God's perspective, not from the limitations of human logic and understanding. “...knowledge is easy to him who [being teachable] understands.” (Proverbs 14:6 AMP)

Do not allow pride to block you from receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues. Your Father is your teacher. The Bible is the Book of Instructions that He has provided for you. “He leads the humble in what is right, and the humble He teaches His way.” (Psalm 25:9 AMP)

Your Father wants to teach you about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues. Will you humble yourself before Him? Will you approach what His Word says with a humble and teachable attitude? “...God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it).” (James 4:6 AMP)

If you are humble and teachable, God will give you His supernatural grace. He will teach you magnificent spiritual truths. However, if you insist on disregarding His teachings to do what you think is right, you are forcing God to set Himself against you.

Why would any thinking person ever want God to set Himself against him or her? However, this is exactly what you will force your loving Father to do if you are not humble and teachable.

If we were just sharing our opinion on the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues, you would have every right to reject what we are saying. However, you will make a big mistake if you turn away from what God's Word clearly says about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and

praying in tongues.

Your Father is looking for childlike trust from you. He wants you to venture out of your comfort zone to do what His Word instructs you to do. Jesus said, "...whoever does not receive and accept and welcome the kingdom of God like a little child [does] positively shall not enter it at all ..." (Mark 10:15 AMP)

We have explained that the kingdom of God is within you. We have explained that the Holy Spirit lives in you. We have explained that God Himself lives in you. You must receive this vitally important information from the Word of God with simple childlike trust.

This chapter is filled with instructions from the Bible that you must not block God from giving you the gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit that He so very much wants to give you. This chapter is filled with Scripture that tells you not to reject praying in tongues just because doing this does not make sense to the limitations of your human logic and understanding.

We pray that the Scripture we have shared with you will convince you to approach the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues with an open mind. We now are ready to share several testimonies with you that will clearly indicate the authenticity of speaking in tongues.

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## **Chapter 31**

### **Testimonies to the Authenticity of Speaking in Tongues**

The topic of the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is very controversial. Some Christians strongly disagree with speaking in tongues. Both of us believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues. We each have been baptized in the Spirit for more than thirty-five years. We have consistently prayed in tongues during that time.

In the next two chapters we will give you a great deal of factual information that will show you why we emphatically believe that praying in tongues is God's desire for His children. This chapter consists of several testimonies that clearly indicate the authenticity of speaking in tongues. In the next chapter we will address the common objections to praying in tongues and give scriptural answers to these objections.

We present the information in these two chapters with the love of God in our hearts. Many people who will disagree with what we are teaching are our brothers and sisters in Christ. We

believe that the facts speak for themselves. You, the reader, must decide for yourself whether praying in tongues is from God. You must decide whether praying in tongues should be a vitally important part of your life.

***Pat Boone gives a testimony of the authenticity of speaking in tongues.***

Pat Boone is a well-known singer, actor and author. Pat and his wife, Shirley, have been married for fifty-five years. They have lived in the same home for forty years. Pat and Shirley Boone are the epitome of Christian stability and maturity. Pat gave the following testimony of the authenticity of speaking in tongues in his book titled *A New Song*.

While he was in bed one night, Pat heard his wife whispering to herself. He said, “I listened closely because naturally I was intrigued. I wasn’t expecting to understand what she was saying, but suddenly I was transfixed. My wife was praising the Lord in Latin. I knew she had never had a day of Latin, but I had studied it for four years. Yet now she was saying very distinctly, ‘Ave Deum! Ave Deum! Ave Deum!’ or ‘Praise God’ in a language she had never learned.

“In awe and gratitude I knelt beside her and thanked God for confirming to both of us in a way that only He could have devised that this language was truly a gift of His Spirit. Would or could Satan have caused Shirley to praise God in words she had never learned and didn’t even understand except in her spirit? Inconceivable!”

***A Mexican woman who knew nothing of the English language spoke in perfect English.***

Rev. Kenneth Hagin gave the following testimony in his book titled *Steps to Answered Prayer*. He said, “A minister once told me of an experience he had while preaching at a mission station in Mexico.

“This minister said, ‘I preached for about five nights with a local missionary interpreting my sermons into Spanish. One night a Mexican woman came forward to receive the Holy Spirit after I had preached. The power of God fell on her and she began to speak in the most perfect English I had ever heard. I could understand everything she said. She had never been to school a day in her life and her native tongue was Spanish.

‘Hearing her speak in my language – English – a language she had never learned was one of the most beautiful experiences I have ever had. It really did something to me. I never have been the same since.’

***God spoke to a missionary in a dialect from India.***

In his book titled *Steps to Answered Prayer*, Rev Hagin also gave the following testimony. He said, “Another instance in which tongues was understood by a listener, but not by the speaker, involved a woman missionary to India. While home on furlough, she attended a service at a Bible institute. One of the students gave a message in tongues but no interpretation came.

“While everyone waited and wondered why there was no interpretation, the missionary stood and said, ‘That student was speaking in one of the dialects of India. I understood every word that was said. The message was for me and that is the reason no interpretation was given. Through this message God spoke to me telling me He wanted me to go back to India and telling me what He wanted me to do there.’”

***God spoke directly to a woman telling her that her missionary daughter had been healed.***

The following testimony was contained in a book titled *Endued with Power* by Rev. Norvel Hayes. Rev. Hayes said, “I was holding a meeting some years ago in Toronto, Canada. I had one of my college mission teams up there. There were seven young people in a motor home. We raised up teams in that particular church to knock on doors. Then I was going to take them and go with them to do some mission work in Canada. We were driving during the day and working in the churches at night.

“That night at the service there were probably from 25 to 35 people. When I had finished speaking, the Spirit of God said to me, ‘Walk and pray in the Spirit.’

“I started walking behind the pulpit, praying in tongues. I just shut myself off from the service and continued walking, praying in tongues.

“After I had prayed for a long time, God’s power was suddenly upon me. Then a woman began to cry, and sob, and weep. I don’t know why.

“The woman said, ‘Brother Norvel, you don’t know anything about this, but my husband and I have a daughter who is in her twenties. She is a missionary overseas, working with a tribe of people and she has picked up a rare disease. We have just received word that she is not going to live and we have no way to get her back home.’

“The lady had learned the language of the people from her daughter because the daughter had been a missionary over there for such a long time. The lady went on:

“While you were speaking in tongues and walking behind the pulpit, you began to speak out the wonderful works of God and the healing power of God for my daughter in the same language

of the tribe that she works with. When the note of victory came, God's healing power swept over there where she is, shot down through her body, and healed her. Glory be to God! Thank You, Jesus!"

***God spoke directly to a pastor in his native Spanish language.***

The following testimony is from a book titled *Bible Prayer Study Course* by Rev. Kenneth Hagin. Rev. Hagin said, "I was in a prayer meeting with two Spirit-filled denominational pastors one time that was the greatest prayer meeting I have ever been in. We were praying in tongues for a long time. As we were praying, I noticed suddenly one of the pastors looked at me several times. I continued to pray in tongues. Afterward, I asked him why he was looking at me. He asked, 'Did you know what you were speaking?' I said, 'No, I was praying.' He said, 'You were speaking Spanish and I understood what you were saying. Actually, not only did you pray, but you quit praying and began talking to me. I understood what you said.'"

***A man from Hungary said that God spoke clearly to him in Hungarian.***

Rev. Bob Mumford gave the following testimony concerning a prayer group that he attended in Princeton, New Jersey. He said, "Following a teaching session, a handsome and well-dressed man in his mid-twenties approached me in the doorway between the dining and living room. Visibly moved by the teaching, the praise and the presence of the Holy Spirit, he asked if I would pray for him. His accent was heavy, guttural and not easily understood.

"Before I could respond, he knelt in front of me. This was somewhat disconcerting and unexpected. Still, I laid my hands upon his head and began to pray in the Spirit.

"He wept openly and literally shook as I prayed. My suggestive thought at that time was that my tongue was different, more guttural and German-sounding than the one usually expressed through me. Secondly, I recall thinking, 'The Lord surely loves this young man and is working on his behalf.'

"When I finished the short and powerful prayer, he looked up and said, 'How kind of you to pray for me in Hungarian, my mother tongue.'

"Then the awesomeness of what happened suddenly broke in on both of us by some unspoken communication. He knew I wouldn't know Hungarian if I heard it and I knew that I didn't know what I had prayed (I Corinthians 14:14).

"Further discussion revealed that I had prayed in a clear Hungarian language. The essence of

what was said was that God had seen his fear and his faith, that God had not brought him through the multitudes of dangers in his own country and in this one only to forsake him at this time. Confidence in God's time and God's ability would reveal direction and placement which he knew was from the Lord. It is not difficult to imagine the overflowing joy of both of us as we realized the miracle in which we both had been partakers." (This testimony was taken from a book titled *The Miracle of Tongues* by Rev. Don Basham.)

***God spoke to a young Japanese woman in her native language.***

Rev. Dennis Bennett gave the following testimony in a newsletter. He said: "A pastor in Oregon tells me of a young Japanese woman married to a young American in his congregation. The Japanese girl had never accepted Christ, but came to the altar of the church with her husband; he to worship, she to pray to Buddha.

"Just recently, my friend tells me, as the couple knelt at the altar at church, a woman next to them began to speak in tongues. The Japanese girl clutched her husband's arm: 'Listen,' she said. The woman next to them was speaking Japanese and through her God said: 'You have tried Buddha and he has not helped you. Why don't you try Jesus Christ?'

"God addressed this Japanese girl by her full name, known to no one in the country and certainly not to the woman speaking who had no idea how she was being used. Not only that, but the Japanese girl told my pastor friend: 'She was speaking high Japanese, the very formal language which we only use in our temples and places like that.'" (This testimony was included in a book titled *A Handbook of Holy Spirit Baptism* by Rev. Don Basham.)

***A man received Jesus Christ as his Savior because of a message in tongues six weeks before he died.***

Rev. Don Basham included the following testimony from a woman in Pennsylvania in his book *The Miracle of Tongues*. This woman said, "My husband and I went to visit a former friend. I went armed with the Bible, intending to witness to his wife who had been a Christian but had married a Muslim. When we arrived, her husband exclaimed about my carrying the Bible. It turned out that he had been exposed to Christians over the last five years being in and out of hospitals and had read the Bible five times.

"We talked for an hour or so when I felt the anointing and just had to speak what was forming in my throat. After speaking for several minutes, I looked at Fred. He was crying and

said to me, ‘When did you learn to speak Syrian?’ ‘I cannot speak Syrian, only English and Hungarian.’ He said I spoke in beautiful clear Syrian, holding him up to God to be healed. He had cancer of the bladder. I immediately asked him if he wanted to accept Jesus Christ as his Savior. He said, ‘Oh, yes, yes!’ He prayed the sinner’s prayer and we had a wonderful time that afternoon reading Scripture and talking about the Holy Spirit. He knew he had had a visitation from God. He died six weeks later and we know he is in heaven now because I obeyed the Holy Spirit.”

How can any thinking person say that praying in tongues is not authentic after reading these testimonies? Each of these people had no idea what language they were speaking, but subsequent events proved in each case that they were speaking a specific language for a specific reason.

In the next chapter we will explain in more detail why we are so certain that praying in tongues is from God. We will review the arguments that opponents to speaking in tongues use. We will give a scriptural response to each of these statements.

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## **Chapter 32**

### **Our Response to Opponents of Praying in Tongues**

We are well aware that praying in tongues is a controversial topic. Christians may be more divided on this topic than any other. In this chapter we will look at the Scripture references that opponents of speaking in tongues often use. We pray that you will see for yourself what God's Word says on this subject.

Some people are against speaking in tongues because this sounds so strange and different. Speaking in tongues does not make any sense to the limitations of their human understanding. In Chapter 30 we gave you several verses of Scripture that explain why you should not attempt to understand the ways of God with the limitations of your human understanding. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, you can understand the ways of God because you have the mind of Christ (see I Corinthians 2:16).

Some pastors are so prejudiced against speaking in tongues that they will not even consider any teaching in favor of speaking in tongues. Their minds are completely closed. They do not want to listen to anything to the contrary. They have been indoctrinated in this philosophy for so

long that their thinking on this topic is rigid and unyielding.

Anyone who says that speaking in tongues is not of God and tells other people that they should not speak in tongues should consider the following verse of Scripture. "...do not forbid or hinder speaking in [unknown] tongues." (I Corinthians 14:39 AMP)

There is no question that the Bible instructs all Christians not to forbid others from speaking in tongues. However, even though some people know this verse, they say that this instruction only applies to the generation of people who lived immediately after Jesus Christ ascended into heaven.

We do not believe that the Bible has instructions that apply only to one generation of people. We believe that the only exception to this statement is scriptural instruction for the generation that lives in the last days before the second coming of Jesus Christ (see Deuteronomy 4:30-31, Matthew 24:6-7, Luke 21:16, 25-26, Acts 2:17 and II Timothy 3:1-5). We believe that anyone who teaches against speaking in tongues is disobeying specific instruction from God.

Some people use the following verse of Scripture to explain why Christians should not speak in tongues. "Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth]." (I Corinthians 13:8 AMP)

Love will never come to an end. The Bible teaches that God is love (see I John 4:8). God and love are the same. The Bible teaches that love will permeate heaven. There is no question that love will never come to an end.

This verse also says that prophecy, tongues and knowledge will pass away. Some people say that tongues should have ceased after the generation of people who lived after Jesus ascended into heaven. How do these people explain that prophecy is not for today? How do they explain that knowledge is not for today? Many Christians are prophesying today. Many Christians continually seek knowledge and wisdom from God.

The next passage of Scripture says, "For our knowledge is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect), and our prophecy (our teaching) is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect). But when the complete and perfect (total) comes, the incomplete and imperfect will vanish away (become antiquated, void, and superseded)." (I Corinthians 13:9-10 AMP)

Has knowledge passed away? Has prophecy passed away? This passage of Scripture teaches

that prophecy and knowledge will pass away “when the complete and perfect comes.” We believe that these words mean that prophecy and knowledge will cease when we are in heaven.

There will be no need for prophecy, tongues and knowledge when we are in heaven. However, there is a definite need for prophecy, for tongues and for knowledge now. We have explained many verses of Scripture in the last several chapters that explain why there is a definite need for praying in tongues right up until the time you go to be with God in heaven.

The words “that which is perfect” refer to what you will be when you are with God and no longer need the prophecy, tongues and knowledge that He provided for you on earth. You will not need these gifts in heaven because you will be with God throughout eternity. God provides everything that everyone in heaven needs.

We do not believe that speaking in tongues was reserved only for the generation that is described in the Book of Acts. We believe that praying in tongues should not cease during our lives on earth.

The next passage of Scripture provides additional insight in this area. “When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; now that I have become a man, I am done with childish ways and have put them aside. For now we are looking in a mirror that gives only a dim (blurred) reflection [of reality as in a riddle or enigma], but then [when perfection comes] we shall see in reality and face to face! Now I know in part (imperfectly), but then I shall know and understand fully and clearly, even in the same manner as I have been fully and clearly known and understood [by God].” (I Corinthians 13:11-12 AMP)

We believe that this passage of Scripture refers to when we see Jesus face to face in heaven. When you are in heaven, you will know and understand everything. You will not need to speak in tongues or to prophesy. Once again, we want to emphasize that we do not believe that speaking in tongues was just for the generation of people who were alive after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. “...I am the Lord, I do not change...” (Malachi 3:6 AMP)

There is no question that the time period changed from the age of law to the age of grace when Jesus rose from the dead. People after that time lived under God’s grace, not under the law. However, we do not believe that God changes in any way except the change from the law to grace which is fulfillment of the law. Jesus does not change. “Jesus Christ (the Messiah) is [always] the same, yesterday, today, [yes] and forever (to the ages).” (Hebrews 13:8 AMP)

Jesus is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit. The same Jesus Christ Who baptized people in the

Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts baptizes people in the Holy Spirit today. Jesus has not changed. We have explained that Jesus said that anyone who believes in Him will speak in tongues (see Mark 16:17).

Next we want to discuss the difference between speaking in tongues and praying in tongues. The Bible gives several instructions pertaining to speaking in tongues during church services and public meetings. This book is written on the topic of prayer. We are teaching what God's Word says about praying in tongues. We will not discuss in detail God's instructions about speaking in tongues in church services or other public gatherings.

Next we want to consider another passage of Scripture that often is quoted as saying that we should not pray in tongues. "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way." (I Corinthians 12:27-31 NIV)

This passage of Scripture refers to the gift of tongues which is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Prophets, teachers, people with the gift of healing and other gifts do what they do because the Holy Spirit has gifted them in a specific area.

The apostle Paul refers to these gifts of the Spirit in I Corinthians 12:8-10. This passage of Scripture refers to the gift of tongues that is not given to everyone. All Christians do not have the supernatural gifts of working miracles, or healing, or prophesying or teaching or speaking in tongues. This passage of Scripture refers to specific people who receive specific gifts.

This passage of Scripture refers to speaking in tongues at a public meeting and interpreting what was said. We now are ready to look at another verse of Scripture that some people use to explain why you should not speak in tongues. "...He who prophesies [who is inspired to preach and teach] is greater (more useful and more important) than he who speaks in [unknown] tongues, unless he should interpret [what he says], so that the church may be edified and receive good [from it]." (I Corinthians 14:5 AMP)

This verse does not compare praying in tongues with prophecy. It compares prophecy with publicly speaking in unknown tongues without interpretation so that people who hear a message in tongues are not blessed by this message because they do not understand what was said.

Once again we want to emphasize that praying in tongues as the Holy Spirit prays through you is very different from speaking in tongues at a church service. This verse does not apply to praying in tongues as the Holy Spirit gives you your prayer language.

Shortly after this statement in I Corinthians 14:5, Paul said, “Nevertheless, in public worship, I would rather say five words with my understanding and intelligently in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a [strange] tongue (language).” (I Corinthians 14:19 AMP)

Some people choose to stay away from where the gifts of the Spirit are operating in a worship service because sometimes a well-meaning person speaks in tongues and there is no interpretation. God instructs a person to keep quiet if there is no one to interpret. If any gift is exercised without the love of God, that person is out of order. “If I [can] speak in the tongues of men and [even] of angels, but have not love (that reasoning, intentional, spiritual devotion such as is inspired by God's love for and in us), I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.” (I Corinthians 13:1 AMP)

We would like to look again at a passage of Scripture that we studied in Chapter 22, this time from the perspective of praying in tongues. Speaking in tongues must be expressed in love.

The Bible strongly emphasizes the importance of loving God and loving others. Jesus said, “...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (intellect). This is the great (most important, principal) and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself. These two commandments sum up and upon them depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40 AMP)

Nothing is more important than loving God wholeheartedly and loving others. These two instructions sum up the entire Ten Commandments. Speaking in tongues is important and must be done in the love of God.

Some churches teach that speaking in tongues is of the devil. Some Christians have been brought up in churches where this doctrine is taught. These Christians often experience difficulty opening their minds to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues.

Is praying in tongues from God or from the devil? We have devoted several chapters to show you why we are certain that praying in tongues is from God. Satan wants you to believe that praying in tongues comes from him. He wants you to reject praying in tongues because you think it comes from him.

When you pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit is praying through you. Satan and his demons

have no recourse against the strength, power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

Satan's demons in the atmosphere around you will tremble if they hear you praying in tongues several times each day. They understand that enormous spiritual power is being released through you when you consistently pray in tongues.

The last thing that Satan and his demons want to see during these last days before Jesus Christ returns is a widespread movement of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues. Satan and his demons will try to influence as many people as possible against praying in tongues.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit gives you the spiritual authority to walk in the victory that Jesus won over Satan and his demons. Jesus said, “Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.” (Luke 10:19 AMP)

The words “serpents and scorpions” in this verse refer to Satan and his demons. Jesus has given you the power to walk all over Satan and his demons. They are under your feet in the spiritual realm. The victory that Jesus has given to you is total, complete and absolute. You must not allow Satan and his demons to influence you against praying in tongues (see James 4:7).

We have done our best in this chapter to respond to the verses of Scripture that often are used to say that Christians should not pray in tongues. We now are ready to study several additional verses of Scripture that will help you to pray with maximum effectiveness when you pray each day.

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## **Chapter 33**

### **The Holy Spirit Knows the Thoughts of God**

In Chapter 29 we said that, when you pray in tongues, you are able to reach around the world to help people in many countries who face severe challenges. This statement may seem difficult for some people to believe.

We now are ready to give you proof from God's Word that, if you are willing to allow the Holy Spirit to pray through you, you can reach around the world instantly to pray for people who

face severe challenges. These people could live in Russia, China, Argentina, Ethiopia, Holland or any other country.

There is no question that God in His omniscience understands every minute detail about the lives of every one of the billions of people on earth. We will look again at a passage of Scripture that we studied in Chapter 1.

The psalmist David explained this great truth when he said, “O Lord, you have searched me [thoroughly] and have known me. You know my downsitting and my uprising; You understand my thought afar off. You sift and search out my path and my lying down, and You are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue [still unuttered], but, behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.” (Psalm 139:1-4 AMP)

God knows exactly what every one of the billions of people on earth is thinking and doing at any given moment. He knows what you will say before you say it. There is nothing about you or any other person on earth that God does not know. The most intricate and comprehensive computer cannot even begin to approach the immensity of God’s omniscience.

We now will prove from God's Word that the Holy Spirit Who will pray through you if you yield your voice to Him also knows every minute detail about every person in the world. “...the [Holy] Spirit searches diligently, exploring and examining everything, even sounding the profound and bottomless things of God [the divine counsels and things hidden and beyond man's scrutiny].” (I Corinthians 2:10 AMP)

Please note the word “everything” in this verse. There is nothing happening in the world that God does not know. There is nothing happening in the world that the Holy Spirit does not know. You are told that the Holy Spirit knows “the profound and bottomless things of God.” “For what person perceives (knows and understands) what passes through a man's thoughts except the man's own spirit within him? Just so no one discerns (comes to know and comprehend) the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.” (I Corinthians 2:11 AMP)

The Holy Spirit knows every one of your thoughts. He also knows what God is thinking at all times. You must understand that, if Jesus Christ is your Savior, you have within yourself the Holy Spirit Who knows everything that God knows.

The Holy Spirit is ready, willing and able to pray supernaturally effective prayers through you several times each day that can and will change the lives of people all over the world. The Holy Spirit will pray through you if you will yield your voice to Him and trust Him to reach out

through you hundreds of times each year to help many needy people all over the world with whatever challenges they face.

When you yield your voice to the Holy Spirit so that He can pray through you, you can be certain that the Holy Spirit is praying to God for exactly what is needed in any given situation. When you face a difficult problem in any area of your life, you can be certain that the Holy Spirit knows exactly what to pray for as you ask Him to pray through you to address this situation.

So far in this chapter you have seen that God knows everything that is taking place in the world and that the Holy Spirit knows everything that God knows. Not only does the Holy Spirit know everything that is taking place in the world, but He also knows everything that will happen in the future. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit "...will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future]." (John 16:13 AMP)

Not only does the Holy Spirit know everything that will happen in the future, but He will tell you what will happen in the future. The Holy Spirit will pray through you for needy people all over the world. He will pray through you for whatever you need in your own life. He will guide you so that you will have advance knowledge of what will happen in the future.

Once you have received your prayer language, we can assure you from more than thirty-five years of personal experience that you will be confident about the authenticity of the words that flow out of your mouth as you release your voice to the Holy Spirit. We have observed many times how the sound of the tongues that we are speaking changes significantly when we ask the Holy Spirit to pray through us for different people in different situations.

You could not possibly make these innumerable changes with the limitations of your human knowledge. The prayers of the Holy Spirit are tailor-made for the needs of whatever person or situation He is praying for as you yield your voice to Him. As you pray in tongues over a period of weeks, months and years, you will be amazed at the subtlety of the changes in your prayer language as you ask the Holy Spirit to pray through you for a specific person or a specific situation.

Christians who have not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the ability to pray in tongues often are hindered when they pray for difficult circumstances in their lives or when they pray for difficult problems in the lives of other people. You will never pray for anything that is impossible to solve if you allow the Holy Spirit in His omniscience and supernatural power to pray through you.

One example of the mighty power of the Holy Spirit praying through you can be given when you are praying for the eternal salvation of a person who does not know Jesus Christ as his or her Savior. In Chapter 23 we studied the following verse of Scripture where Jesus said that every person who comes to Him for eternal salvation can only come to Him if God Himself draws that person to make this decision. Jesus said, "...No one is able to come to Me unless the Father Who sent Me attracts and draws him and gives him the desire to come to Me..." (John 6:44 AMP)

We explained in Chapter 17 the vital need for perseverance when you pray. George Muller also emphasized this need when we quoted him in Chapter 24 which is devoted entirely to the effectiveness of his prayers. If you are praying for an unbeliever, we recommend that you repeatedly ask God to draw this person for eternal salvation. Then allow the Holy Spirit to pray through you for what He in His omniscience knows is required to draw this person for eternal salvation.

Sometimes you will have to fight in your prayer life for the salvation of these people for many months and years. Do not give up. Know that the Holy Spirit is praying through you for exactly what needs to be prayed for to draw that person to Christ.

When you read in a newspaper about someone who has a need, we recommend that you lay your hand on the article in that newspaper and pray in tongues for that person. You may be driving your car and see someone who has been in an accident or has another obvious need for prayer. Pray in tongues for this person. Trust that the Holy Spirit knows exactly what needs to be prayed for in every situation.

Whenever you do not know what to pray in a given situation, you can be certain the Holy Spirit Who lives in your heart knows exactly what to pray. Trust the Holy Spirit to pray through you exactly what needs to be prayed whenever you yield your voice to Him. Trust Him completely. "...we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance." (Romans 8:26 AMP)

The Holy Spirit knows exactly what to pray when you do not know what to pray. He will pray through you for your needs. He also can and will pray specifically for the needs of innumerable people all over the world. "...He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit [what His intent is], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads [before God] in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will." (Romans 8:27 AMP)

God and the Holy Spirit will work together with incredible efficiency if you will consistently yield control of your voice to the Holy Spirit. You must have absolute faith that the Holy Spirit can and will pray exactly what needs to be prayed for just as God's Word says that He will.

When you yield your voice to the Holy Spirit, He will pray in complete harmony with the will of God. You saw in Chapter 13 that God always answers prayers of faith that are prayed according to His will (see I John 5:14-15). The Holy Spirit always prays in the will of God.

Distance makes no difference to the Holy Spirit. The degree of difficulty in the natural realm makes no difference to the Holy Spirit. He can and will consistently reach across the world to help people if you will allow Him to pray through you.

When you pray in tongues, you do the speaking and the Holy Spirit gives you the words. The title of this book is Effective Prayer. How much more effective can your prayer life be than when you are releasing the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit as you allow Him to pray through you several times each day?

You must not limit the Holy Spirit. In the next chapter we will share many additional scriptural truths about allowing the Holy Spirit to consistently pray through you with supernatural power.

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## **Chapter 34**

### **Pray in Tongues Many Times Each Day**

Now that you have seen the incredible effectiveness of praying in tongues, we are ready to look into the Word of God to see why you should pray in tongues often. Some Christians do not comprehend the vital importance of praying in tongues several times each day.

Some Christians are baptized in the Spirit and days, weeks and sometimes months go by when they do not pray in tongues. If you can even begin to comprehend the supernatural power that is released when you pray in tongues, you will be highly motivated to pray in tongues often. The more you pray in tongues, the more you will be motivated to pray in tongues.

Praying in tongues should be a vitally important part of every day of your life. Many Christians will not do anything in their lives that is more important from God's perspective than to pray in tongues many times each day. "Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season)

in the Spirit...” (Ephesians 6:18 AMP)

When this verse of Scripture speaks of praying in the Spirit, it refers to praying in tongues. Please note the words “at all times” and “on every occasion” in this verse and the amplification. Do you have a deep and sincere desire to obey your Father’s instructions in His Book of Instructions, the Bible? If you do, you will pray in tongues many times throughout every day of your life.

There is no question that your loving Father wants you to pray in the Spirit continually. You saw in Chapter 17 that God has instructed you to pray continually. “...be constant in prayer.” (Romans 12:12 AMP)

Your Father instructs you to pray constantly when you pray with your human understanding. This same instruction applies to praying in tongues. You should be like the psalmist David who said, “Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.” (Psalm 55:17 KJV)

When David speaks of evening, morning and noon, he emphasizes the importance of praying frequently. There is no question that God wants you to pray frequently with your human understanding and also when you pray in tongues.

If you have a daily “to do” list, we recommend having a reminder to pray often in tongues on that list. We believe that you will be surprised how many more times you will pray in tongues as this reminder is brought to your attention as you turn to your list at different times each day. Keep this reminder in front of you. Seeing this reminder many times each day will motivate you to yield your voice to the Holy Spirit several times each day so that He can pray through you often.

Whenever you have discretionary time, you should be motivated to pray in tongues. One of the best times to develop the habit of praying in tongues is when you are doing routine tasks that do not require conscious thought and focus. When you are changing your clothes, taking a bath or shower, driving a car or doing any other routine task, you have an excellent opportunity to pray in tongues.

Your employment may be such that you never can pray in tongues out loud. You can always pray in tongues silently.

You can pray in tongues while you are waiting for an appointment. Judy prays in tongues when she waits at a stoplight. Take full advantage of every bit of discretionary time to release the

supernatural power of the Holy Spirit as He prays through you.

I (Jack) can tell you that the amount of time I spend praying in tongues has increased greatly since I began writing this book. I have been praying in tongues for many years, but I now average praying in tongues a minimum of twenty times each day and often quite a bit more. If you pray in tongues only three times a day, you will be praying in the Spirit more than one thousand times each year.

Can you even begin to comprehend being able to release the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit several thousand times each year? If you come anywhere near reaching this goal, we believe that you will have made a huge impact for the kingdom of God.

Another good time to pray in tongues is when you are exercising. In Chapter 8 I mentioned that I pray when I walk with our dog, J.C. Some of this prayer time is in the English language in my own understanding. I also spend quite a bit of my daily exercise time praying in tongues.

My exercise time is extremely productive because I am keeping my body in good physical condition and allowing the Holy Spirit to pray through me at the same time. "...physical training is of some value (useful for a little), but godliness (spiritual training) is useful and of value in everything and in every way, for it holds promise for the present life and also for the life which is to come." (I Timothy 4:8 AMP)

When you exercise physically, you strengthen your body so that your life on earth will be healthier and more effective. When you pray in tongues, you are exercising spiritually. The results of this spiritual exercise often will produce significant eternal results in your life and in the lives of the people that the Holy Spirit is praying for through you.

We mentioned in a previous chapter the importance of praying whenever you hear a siren. We did not mention at that time praying in tongues when you hear a siren, but now you can see that praying in tongues is exactly what you should do when you hear a siren.

All that you know is that someone is in distress. The Holy Spirit knows every person who is affected in any way by the reason for that siren. He knows exactly what to pray. Your prayers whenever you hear a siren will be much more effective if you allow the Holy Spirit to direct these prayers.

Once you develop the habit of praying in tongues frequently, we believe you will find that the Holy Spirit will speak to you often to remind you to pray in tongues even more. You will do this if you fully understand that the Holy Spirit is helping many people around the world as you

consistently pause in your daily routine to pray in tongues.

Praying in tongues twenty or more times each day is not difficult if you have a deep and sincere desire to pray effectively, to serve God and to help others. As you develop the habit of praying in tongues throughout the day, this prayer time will become a vital part of your daily lifestyle. After weeks and months of developing this habit, you will feel that something is missing in your life if you do not pray in tongues several times every day.

We all know that bad habits are difficult to break. This same principle applies to good habits. If you develop the habit of praying in tongues several times each day, this good habit will stick with you.

You must not limit the power of the Holy Spirit. He wants to pray through you many times each day if you will just yield your voice to Him. However, you should trust Him completely to use you to pray exactly what needs to be prayed for some needy person in the world or for whatever specific need that concerns you.

You should examine your priorities if you think you are too busy to pray in tongues. What else in your life could possibly be more important than to have the supernatural power and omniscience of the Holy Spirit consistently being released through you to help needy people all over the world?

The Holy Spirit makes His home in your heart. He is with you throughout every minute of every hour of every day of your life. Every aspect of your life should revolve around your continual consciousness of His indwelling presence. You should be totally committed to allow Him to release His supernatural power through you many times each day.

We believe that praying in tongues is the most effective way to pray. When you pray in tongues, you are praying exactly what the Holy Spirit wants to pray. You are allowing Him to give you the words to use as He prays through you, using the words that He in His wisdom desires to use.

You cannot possibly pray as effectively as the Holy Spirit prays when He prays through you. Most Christians cannot even begin to use their time more productively than to pray in tongues several times each day. There is no such thing as praying in tongues too much.

Each time that you allow the Holy Spirit to pray through you, you are moving into the spiritual realm to fight spiritual battles (see II Corinthians 10:3-4). You are fighting with the maximum possible efficiency each time that you pray in tongues because the Holy Spirit is in

charge of each prayer.

Are you a senior citizen? Many retirees have much more discretionary time than they had during their working years. There is nothing wrong with enjoying retirement. However, do you think that the pursuit of pleasure should be your primary goal during these years? Isn't there plenty of time to enjoy life and also to pray in tongues many times each day?

You may not do anything that is more important during your retirement years than to consistently pray in tongues. Focus on walking in the victory of Jesus Christ throughout the final years of your life. Commit yourself to be a prayer warrior who is used in a mighty and powerful way by the Holy Spirit throughout each day.

The Bible does not say anything about retirement. Retirement is a worldly concept. You can retire from your worldly vocation to work instead for God. Allow the Holy Spirit to be your employer throughout your final years by yielding your voice to Him many times each day. Make the quality decision to allow the Holy Spirit to pray through you several times each day until you go to be with God in heaven.

We will devote the rest of this chapter to the topic of praying perseveringly. We used all of the Scripture in the remainder of this chapter in Chapter 17 where we discussed persevering in prayer. However, we now want to repeat these instructions with emphasis on being persevering when you are praying in tongues. "Be unceasing in prayer [praying perseveringly]" (I Thessalonians 5:17 AMP)

When you apply the instructions in this verse to praying in tongues, you can see that your Father instructs you to be persevering when you continually pray in tongues. Do not become weary of praying in tongues. Pray in tongues many times each day with complete awareness of the spiritual power that is being released through you every time that you yield your voice to the Holy Spirit.

We have already discussed the following verse of Scripture in detail. We now want to look at this instruction from the perspective of praying in tongues. Jesus said, "Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking [reverently] and [the door] will be opened to you. For everyone who keeps on asking receives; and he who keeps on seeking finds; and to him who keeps on knocking, [the door] will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8 AMP)

As we have previously explained, the words "keep on" or "keeps on" are used six times in

this passage of Scripture. When you look at this instruction from the perspective of praying in tongues, can there be any doubt that Jesus wants you to keep on praying in tongues several times during each day of your life?

Each time that the words “keep on” or “keeps on” are used is followed by a promise of success in your prayer life. If you think that you can be successful when you are praying from your own understanding (and you can), just think how successful the Holy Spirit will be in the supernatural prayers that He is praying through you several times each day. “Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your prayer [life], being [both] alert and intent in [your praying] with thanksgiving.” (Colossians 4:2 AMP)

This verse says that you should not allow yourself to become weary in your prayer life. Praying in tongues several times each day requires a significant expenditure of energy. Thank God for the precious privilege that He has given you of allowing the Holy Spirit to pray through you. Thank God for the tremendous results that occur when the Holy Spirit prays through you.

A report in a publication of the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and the Penn Medicine Publication on October 30, 2006, reveals that the language center of the brain is not operating when a person prays in tongues. People were tested as they prayed in English and when they prayed in tongues. When they prayed in tongues, the frontal lobe was quiet. The frontal lobe is an area of the brain associated with a person being in control of one's self.

Dr. Andrew Newburg conducted this study. He also studied Buddhist monks and Franciscan nuns praying. Their frontal lobe increased in activity when they prayed. Even more revealing was the testing of people who prayed in tongues not under machines but in a more natural setting with wires hooked to their brains. The test showed that these people were not in control of normal language centers while they praying in tongues.

This fact is consistent with the test subjects' explanation that they are not intentionally in control when they speak in tongues. You are completely in control of your actions; you just yield your speaking mechanism to the Holy Spirit. You can start or stop at any time.

We include this information to help you see that, although you speak the sounds, you are not actually creating the words. You have to experience this phenomenon in order to understand what happens.

You have to speak, but you are not thinking about what you are speaking. You are focused

totally on Jesus Christ. You provide the vocal cords, but the Holy Spirit provides the words that you speak. This test proves that you are not in control of the thought process. The test does not prove that God is speaking through you. You have to receive this truth by faith and by the fruit of your praying.

We have devoted the last nine chapters to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues. We have not yet shared with you exactly what you should do to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and to pray in tongues. We did this on purpose. We wanted you to clearly see for yourself the enormous benefits of consistently praying in tongues.

Now that we have studied these verses of Scripture, we believe that you will be highly motivated to pray in tongues if you are not doing this already. The next chapter will explain exactly what we recommend for you to do to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and to pray in tongues.

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## **Chapter 35**

### **How to Pray in Tongues**

We have stated previously that both of us have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and have prayed in tongues for more than thirty-five years. Since we started writing this book, we are praying in tongues more frequently than we have prayed during these years.

First of all, Judy will give her testimony on how she was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Judy says, "I grew up loving God. I was very active in church, youth activities, choir, prayer meetings and Bible studies. Somehow I missed knowing Jesus Christ personally. At the age of twenty-seven at Forest Home Christian Conference Center in California, I saw joy on people's faces that I knew was a joy I had never seen. I learned that the blood of Jesus Christ was shed for me, something I had said so many times in the Apostle's Creed but never actually processed into my life.

"For three months I talked with God about this decision but did not have the reality of it in my heart. One day I woke up and I knew that Jesus Christ was my Savior. From that day to today I have never wondered. He has been present in my life. I was told about witnessing but I had no idea how to do it. It seemed awkward although I loved God and loved Jesus Christ and was so

thankful for my salvation.

“One day when I was thirty, I was invited to attend a meeting for people who wanted more of God. The invitation was given to sit in a chair and have people pray for you. I was the first one in the chair. I did not know about this experience at all. They called it the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

“I did not speak in tongues that day, but from that day until today I was empowered to speak of Jesus to anyone I meet (ask anyone who knows me). This natural desire and readiness to speak of Jesus came with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was not in my life at all before this event took place. I was told to speak in tongues every day and the language would increase. I did and it did. The Holy Spirit always lifts up Jesus Christ (see John 15:26). I remember being told to focus on Jesus, not on speaking in tongues. Just worship Jesus Christ and allow the Spirit to pray through you. The focus is always on Jesus Christ.”

I (Jack) had a very different experience when I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You will see that each person's experience can be very different.

The pastor of our church in New Hampshire told me to go off into a room by myself and to open my mouth with absolute faith in God, fully expecting words to come out that would be in a language other than my own. Even though many years have passed, I can clearly remember going into a bedroom when no one else was at home. I was determined to speak in a language other than the normal English language that I spoke. I had faith that this would happen and it did.

I opened my mouth and starting speaking words that sounded quite guttural. I had faith that Jesus Christ was baptizing me in the Holy Spirit just as the Bible said He would. Satan's demons tried to tell me that I was making this up and that I was just speaking gibberish. I refused to be denied. I continued to speak in tongues for several minutes.

The next day I went into the same room and continued speaking in my prayer language. I then could see that the words I was speaking were genuine and that I was not making them up. Even though I did not have an exact remembrance of the dialect that I spoke the day before, the consistency of my prayer language on the second day was amazing.

There was no way that I could have made this up. I realized that I had picked up where I left off the day before. I knew that I was speaking in the same language which I could not have done with the limitation of my human understanding.

I continued to go into this room every day for several days. Each day I became more and

more confident in my new prayer language. As the days went by, I became very fluent in praying in tongues. I have continued with this same prayer language for more than thirty-five years.

I did not complicate receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I had absolute faith that the Holy Spirit would speak through me just as the Word of God says that He will. I hope that each person reading this book will approach the baptism of the Holy Spirit with similar faith.

I was able to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit without anyone laying hands on me. I am not trying to demean the laying on of hands. The Bible teaches that the baptism of the Holy Spirit can be received in this way. “Then [the apostles] laid their hands on them one by one, and they received the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:17 AMP)

At a later time the Bible explains how Paul laid his hands on twelve people and they spoke in tongues. “...as Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke in [foreign, unknown] tongues (languages) and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all.” (Acts 19:6-7 AMP)

If you belong to a Pentecostal church where people lay hands on you for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you should take full advantage of this assistance. Allow the faith of these mature Christians to flow into you as they lay their hands on you. Receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit just as people did during the Book of Acts.

However, do not give up if you do not know of any mature Christians who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit who will lay hands on you. Have faith that you will receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit through your own faith all by yourself.

You must understand that the same spiritual principles apply to receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit that apply to receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior. “...if you acknowledge and confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart believe (adhere to, trust in, and rely on the truth) that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person believes (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Christ) and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms [his] salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10 AMP)

This passage of Scripture explains that you must believe in your heart that Jesus Christ paid the full price for your sins when He died on the cross at Calvary. You must speak with your mouth of the certainty that you have in your heart that Jesus died for your sins and that God raised Him for the dead. When you believe this great truth in your heart and confess it with your

mouth, you are saved. Your name is written in heaven (see Luke 10:20).

Outside of the brief mention that we have described from the Bible about the laying on of hands, we do not know of any specific scriptural instructions for receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is based on faith in God. When mature believers lay hands on you, they are imparting the power of God to you.

However, you have the advantage of many verses of Scripture that we have shared with you in the past nine chapters pertaining to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. You must believe in your heart and speak with your mouth to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit just as you must believe in your heart and confess with your mouth to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior.

Do not allow doubt and unbelief to block you from receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "...Do not be faithless and incredulous, but [stop your unbelief and] believe!" (John 20:27 AMP)

Jesus made this statement to His disciple Thomas who doubted reports that Jesus had been raised from the dead. These words also can apply to any doubt that you might have about receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Do not allow fear, apprehension, doubt or unbelief to stop you from receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "...Be not afraid, only believe." (Mark 5:36 KJV)

Jesus spoke these words to Jairus, a man who had just been told that his daughter had died. Jesus later raised this girl from the dead (see John 5:39-42). Believe that Jesus will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

You can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the privacy of your own home. If you approach the baptism of the Holy Spirit in this way, you will not be self-conscious about what other people might think. Get away by yourself. Meditate on the Scripture we have given about receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues. Fully expect the Holy Spirit to fill your mouth with words that are in the language He has for you.

We have studied the following verse of Scripture previously. There is no question that the Bible teaches that believers should speak in tongues. Jesus said, "...these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: ... they will speak in new languages" (Mark 16:17 AMP)

Personalize this promise. The baptism of the Holy Spirit and the speaking of tongues that the apostles received in the Book of Acts applies to you. We have explained previously that God

does not play favorites. "...God shows no partiality and is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34 AMP)

If you decide to step out in faith to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, pray and ask God for this magnificent gift. Say something like, "Dear Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus Christ. I ask You to give me the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. Touch me with Your fire. I open my mouth now and ask You to fill it with heavenly language. Thank You, dear Father, for answering this prayer."

God will do His part. Will you do your part? God's part is to give you a heavenly prayer language. Your part is to open your mouth with simple childlike faith that the Holy Spirit will fill it with heavenly language. Add action to your faith. "...be doers of the Word [obey the message], and not merely listeners to it, betraying yourselves [into deception by reasoning contrary to the Truth]." (James 1:22 AMP)

Do what God's Word says. Turn away from the limitations of human logic and reasoning. Turn away from doubt and unbelief. Believe that God will give you your heavenly prayer language just as His Word says that He will.

If Jesus Christ is your Savior, these words are inside of you. God has put this heavenly language there. Get out of the way. Allow this heavenly language to come out. Do not allow doubt, unbelief or the limitations of human understanding to block this language from coming forth. Open your mouth and begin to speak in a new language.

You may find this new language to be a little awkward at first. You may only speak a few words. Satan's demons may tell you that you are making this up. Do not stop. Keep on speaking words in your new language.

Repeat this process again the next day. Do the same thing the following day, and the following day and for several consecutive days.

The words that you speak probably will sound like gibberish or nonsense. When you hear someone else speaking in a language that you do not know, the language sounds very strange to you. You may first receive just a syllable or two. Keep praying these syllables while you are focusing on Jesus Christ. You are talking to God. God tells you that rivers of living water will flow through you (see John 7:37-39).

We have to say that you will experience a high or a feeling of elevation that no drug or substance of any kind could even imitate. You are connected to God. You are living in the

supernatural. It is not a feeling, but a fact. You will feel wonderful. You might cry. You might laugh. Just feel free. God will become more important to you than anyone or anything in the world. You will yearn to live for Him. You will desire to be His instrument to draw people to Himself before the end comes (see Matthew 24:14).

Speaking in tongues is not the issue. Yielding to God is the issue. The tongues will flow, but focus on yielding yourself to God. You will not be concerned about whether or not the flow of tongues has happened. It will happen, but growing closer to God is the whole goal.

Different people receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit in different ways. If you persevere in faith and keep on opening your mouth trusting God to fill it, you will receive your prayer language. You may receive a tremendous flow instantly. Your prayer language may be halting and come out a little at a time. Do not try to limit God in any way.

You soon will find yourself repeating certain inflections and phrases that you could not possibly make up. Over a period of several days, you will clearly see the consistency in your prayer language. You will be certain that you are not making up these words. You probably will find that your prayer language steadily becomes more fluent.

Do not stop. Set aside time each day to pray in tongues. Continuity is important to receiving your prayer language effectively. This is not a one-time occurrence. God has given you this supernatural prayer language for the rest of your life.

The Bible instructs you to yield control of your life to the Holy Spirit (see Romans 8:4-5 and 9 and Galatians 5:16, 25). Does it make any sense that God would instruct you to yield to the Holy Spirit in other areas of your life without yielding your tongue to Him?

One area that differentiates human beings from every other species of creatures that God created is the ability to verbalize. If there is any area of your life that you should yield to the Holy Spirit, we believe that your tongue should be the first.

Allow the Holy Spirit to pray through you in a heavenly language day after day, week after week and month after month for the remainder of your life. Yield your tongue to Him continually with faith that He will speak supernatural words through you.

The Holy Spirit is your constant companion. He is with you throughout every minute of every hour of every day of your life. He wants to guide you. He wants to help you. He wants to give you a supernatural prayer language.

Praying in tongues requires the epitome of cooperation. The Holy Spirit will always do His

part. He will give you the prayer language. However, you must do your part. The Holy Spirit will only do what you allow Him to do.

The Holy Spirit wants to consistently release enormous spiritual power through your mouth that will change the lives of many people around the world. Praying in tongues is teamwork. The Holy Spirit is the captain of the team. You are a member of the team.

This principle applies to receiving your initial prayer language. It also applies to praying in tongues throughout the remainder of your life. When you pray in tongues, you willingly allow the Holy Spirit in His omniscience and omnipotence to speak through you.

Do this with simple childlike faith on the first day that you receive your prayer language. Continue doing this several times during each day for the remainder of your life. When you are in heaven, you will clearly see that the lives of many people have been changed tremendously by the many prayers you have allowed the Holy Spirit to pray through you.

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## **Chapter 36**

### **Mature Spiritually As You Consistently Pray in Tongues**

Now that you have learned how to pray in tongues, we are ready to look into God's Word to see the blessings that your Father will provide for you if you consistently pray in tongues. “He who speaks in a [strange] tongue edifies and improves himself...” (I Corinthians 14:4 AMP)

The word “edify” means to build. You will build yourself up spiritually if you consistently pray in tongues. You will grow and mature and improve yourself. “...you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit.” (Jude 20 AMP)

This verse also says that you will build yourself up spiritually if you consistently pray in the Spirit. Your faith in God will increase steadily because of the consistently increasing intimacy of your relationship with the Holy Spirit as you allow Him to pray through you several times each day.

Hurricanes, tornadoes and other severe storms often rip up trees that have shallow roots. Trees with deep roots are able to withstand severe storms. This same principle applies to your faith in God. Shallow faith will not withstand adversity. You need deeply rooted faith to come

safely through the difficult storms of life.

Your faith in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit living within you should increase continually. “As you have therefore received Christ, [even] Jesus the Lord, [so] walk (regulate your lives and conduct yourselves) in union with and conformity to Him. Have the roots [of your being] firmly and deeply planted [in Him, fixed and founded in Him], being continually built up in Him, becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith...” (Colossians 2:6-7 AMP)

If Jesus is your Savior, every aspect of your life should be deeply rooted in your faith in Him. Please note the words “continually built up” in this passage of Scripture. These words are almost identical to what you have just read in Jude 20. There is no question that your faith in God will increase steadily and become more and more deeply rooted if you consistently pray in tongues.

Christians who spend the majority of their time focusing on worldly activities usually will not have deeply rooted faith in God. However, if you stop ten to twenty or more times each day to pray in tongues, you will consistently draw closer to the Holy Spirit Who lives in your heart. Your faith in God will increase steadily.

Every aspect of your life should revolve around your continual consciousness of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. “...in Him we live and move and have our being...” (Acts 17:28 AMP)

This verse speaks of the indwelling presence of God. These words also include the presence of the Holy Spirit. You saw in Chapter 29 where Colossians 2:9-10 says that you are filled with the Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Do these words describe your life? Is every aspect of your life centered around your continual consciousness of the indwelling presence of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit?

If you pray in the Spirit several times each day, your life will revolve around your certainty of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and your trust in Him. The more you pray in tongues, the more sensitive you will be to the Holy Spirit in other areas of your life. You will hear His voice clearly as He guides you and directs you (see John 16:13). New spiritual horizons will open up to you. “...be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides].” (Ephesians 6:10 AMP)

We studied this verse of Scripture in Chapter 3 in regard to praying with your human understanding. We now will look at this verse from the perspective of praying in tongues. A

close and intimate relationship with God will empower you. The presence of God will become more and more active in your life if you faithfully pray in tongues several times each day.

You will experience what the apostle Paul experienced when he said, "...I commend you to the Word of His grace [to the commands and counsels and promises of His unmerited favor]. It is able to build you up and to give you [your rightful] inheritance among all God's set-apart ones (those consecrated, purified, and transformed of soul)." (Acts 20:32 AMP)

Please note the consistency of the words "built up" in the Scripture we are studying in this chapter. You will be built up spiritually if you consistently pray in tongues. The Holy Spirit will give you a desire to build yourself up spiritually by continually renewing your mind in the Word of God (see Romans 12:2, II Corinthians 4:16 and Ephesians 4:23) and by meditating day and night on the holy Scriptures (see Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:2-3).

Please note the words "the Word of His grace" in Acts 20:32. You did not earn the Word of God. You do not deserve the Word of God. Your Father has given you His supernatural living Word because of His grace.

If you consistently study and meditate on God's Word, God will give you "your rightful inheritance." You will walk more and more in manifestation of the supernatural victory that Jesus won for you as you are consistently built up spiritually.

You will see life more from God's perspective if you consistently yield your voice to the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to pray through you. You will learn magnificent spiritual truths that you did not know before. "...Let us go on and get past the elementary stage in the teachings and doctrine of Christ (the Messiah), advancing steadily toward the completeness and perfection that belong to spiritual maturity..." (Hebrews 6:1 AMP)

Some Christians never get past spiritual kindergarten. You will not be standing still in the spiritual realm if you pray in tongues several times each day. You will grow and mature steadily to become what your Father wants you to become.

You are either moving forward in the spiritual realm or moving backward. No Christian ever stands still in the spiritual realm. Jesus said, "...whoever has [spiritual knowledge], to him will more be given and he will be furnished richly so that he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away." (Matthew 13:12 AMP)

As you yield control of your life to the Holy Spirit each day, He will produce spiritual fruit in you and through you. "...the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within

accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence)..." (Galatians 5:22-23 AMP)

You will become more and more what God wants you to become if you allow the Holy Spirit to control your life. You will experience the supernatural love of God. Your life will be filled with joy regardless of the circumstances you face. You will experience God's supernatural peace. You will become more patient, kind and good. If you consistently pray in the Spirit, your life will revolve around God and other people, instead of revolving around yourself. You will be quiet and calm. You will be humble.

The supernatural love of God will come alive in your life if you consistently yield your tongue and other aspects of your life to the Holy Spirit. "...God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us." (Romans 5:5 AMP)

We explained in Chapter 23 that the supernatural love of God is placed in the heart of every person who has received Jesus Christ as his or her Savior. If your life is yielded to the Holy Spirit, you will be able to love people who are very difficult to love. Jesus said, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." (Luke 6:27-28 NIV)

How do you love people who hate you? You often cannot love these people with your imperfect human love, but you can love anyone – no matter how despicable that person may seem – with the supernatural love of God that is placed in your heart because Jesus Christ is your Savior.

This supernatural love will be activated and increased if you consistently yield control of your tongue and other aspects of your life to the Holy Spirit. When you do, you will consistently live the way that God instructs you to live. You will put God in first place, other people in second place and yourself in last place.

Placing God first in your life will insure that you are living the most satisfying, fulfilled life that you can possibly live. When you live for God and serve others, you are not deprived in any way. On the contrary, God has experiences and relationships in store for you that are above and beyond anything that you ever imagine (see Ephesians 3:20).

You will live this way to the extent that your life is yielded to the Holy Spirit. "If we live by the [Holy] Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. [If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let

us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit.]” (Galatians 5:25 AMP)

How do you live by the Spirit? The amplification of this verse says that you do this when your “conduct is controlled by the Spirit.” You will live the way that God wants you to live to the degree that you consistently give up your God-given right to control your life and yield control of your life to the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of this book is to teach you to pray more effectively. Effective prayer requires you to be God-centered and others-centered, not self-centered. In Chapter 22 we studied several passages of Scripture regarding the importance of praying for the needs of other people. As your life becomes more and more centered around serving God and helping others, you will grow and mature steadily in the spiritual realm.

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## **Conclusion**

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray (see Luke 11:1). We hope that this book has taught you how to pray. We have given you 387 verses of Scripture to show you exactly what God instructs you to do so that your prayer life will be more effective. If you learn and obey the scriptural instructions that are contained in this book, there is no question that your prayer life will be very effective.

You learn to pray by praying. The more you learn and apply what the Word of God says about praying, the more effective your prayer life will be. As you receive more and more answers to your prayers, you will be motivated to pray even more.

We invite you to study and meditate on the Scripture references in this book. The Study Guide after the Appendix at the end of this book will help you to pray more effectively.

## Appendix

This book is filled with instructions and promises from God. However, if you have not received Jesus Christ as your Savior, you cannot understand the scriptural truths that are contained in this book. "...the mind of the flesh [with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's Law; indeed it cannot." (Romans 8:7 AMP)

Please highlight or underline the word "cannot" in this verse of Scripture. If Jesus Christ is not your Savior, you cannot understand and obey God's instructions.

People who have not received Jesus Christ as their Savior are not open to the specific instructions that God has given to us in the Bible. "...the natural, nonspiritual man does not accept or welcome or admit into his heart the gifts and teachings and revelations of the Spirit of God, for they are folly (meaningless nonsense) to him; and he is incapable of knowing them [of progressively recognizing, understanding, and becoming better acquainted with them] because they are spiritually discerned and estimated and appreciated." (I Corinthians 2:14 AMP)

The words "does not accept or welcome or admit into his heart the gifts and teachings and revelations of the Spirit of God" in this verse of Scripture are very important. Some people are strongly opposed to the Bible and what it teaches. They look at Scripture references from the Bible as "meaningless nonsense." These people are incapable of learning great spiritual truths

from God until and unless they receive Jesus Christ as their Savior.

At the close of this Appendix we will explain exactly what you should do to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. If and when you make this decision, the glorious supernatural truths of the Bible will open up to you. Jesus said, "...To you it has been given to know the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given." (Matthew 13:11 AMP)

Jesus was speaking to you when He said that you can "know the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven." You must not miss out on the glorious privilege that is available to every believer to know and understand the ways of God.

A spiritual veil blocks all unbelievers from understanding the things of God. "...even if our Gospel (the glad tidings) also be hidden (obscured and covered up with a veil that hinders the knowledge of God), it is hidden [only] to those who are perishing and obscured [only] to those who are spiritually dying and veiled [only] to those who are lost." (II Corinthians 4:3 AMP)

When and if you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, this spiritual veil will be pulled aside. "...whenever a person turns [in repentance] to the Lord, the veil is stripped off and taken away." (II Corinthians 3:16 AMP)

If you obey the scriptural instructions at the end of this Appendix, Jesus Christ will become your Savior. Everything in your life will become fresh and new. "...if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!" (II Corinthians 5:17 AMP)

Instead of being opposed to the teachings of the holy Bible, you will be completely open to these teachings. You will have a hunger and thirst to continually learn more supernatural truths from the Word of God. "...I endorse and delight in the Law of God in my inmost self [with my new nature]." (Romans 7:22 AMP)

Every person who has not received Jesus Christ as his or her Savior is a sinner who is doomed to live throughout eternity in the horror of hell. God has made it possible for you to escape this terrible eternal penalty. "...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 KJV)

God knew that everyone who lived on earth after Adam and Eve would be a sinner because of the sins of Adam and Eve (see Romans 3:10-12). He sent His only Son to take upon Himself

the sins of the world as He died a horrible death by crucifixion. If you believe that Jesus Christ paid the full price for your sins and if you trust Him completely for your eternal salvation, you will live with Him eternally in the glory of heaven.

There is only one way for you to live eternally in heaven after you die – that is to receive eternal salvation through Jesus Christ. “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 KJV)

If you trust in anyone or anything except Jesus Christ for your eternal salvation, you will not live eternally in heaven. If you are reading these truths about living eternally in heaven because of the price that Jesus Christ has paid for you, you must understand that the same God Who created you actually is drawing you to come to Jesus Christ for eternal salvation. Jesus said, “No one is able to come to Me unless the Father Who sent Me attracts and draws him and gives him the desire to come to Me...” (John 6:44 AMP)

Are you interested in these facts about where you will live throughout eternity? If you are, you can be certain that the same awesome God Who created you is drawing you to Jesus Christ at this very minute.

Heaven is a glorious place. Everyone in heaven is perfectly healthy and very happy. “...God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (Revelation 21:4 KJV)

All of the problems of earth will disappear when you arrive in heaven. No one in heaven dies. No one in heaven is sad. No one in heaven cries. No one in heaven suffers from pain.

You will live eternally in one place or another when you die. If you do not receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, you will live eternally in hell. People in hell will experience continual torment throughout eternity. “...the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night...” (Revelation 14:11 KJV)

Everyone in heaven is filled with joy. Everyone in hell is miserable. Jesus described what hell would be like when He said, “...there will be weeping and wailing and grinding of teeth. (Matthew 13:42 AMP)

Throughout eternity the inhabitants of hell will weep and wail. They will grind their teeth in anguish. Can you imagine living this way for the endless trillions of years of eternity? This is exactly what will happen to you if you reject Jesus Christ as your Savior.

How do you receive eternal salvation through Jesus Christ? "...if you acknowledge and confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart believe (adhere to, trust in, and rely on the truth) that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person believes (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Christ) and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms [his] salvation." (Romans 10:9-10 AMP)

You must believe in your heart (not just think in your mind) that Jesus paid the full price for all of your sins when He was crucified. You must believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. You must open your mouth and speak this truth that you believe in your heart. If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ died and rose again from the dead and that the price for your sins has been paid for and you tell others that you believe this great spiritual truth, you have been saved. You will live eternally in heaven.

If Jesus Christ was not your Savior when you began to read this book, we pray that He is your Savior now. Your life will change immensely. You will never be the same again. Every aspect of your life will be gloriously new.

## **Study Guide**

### **What Did You Learn From This Book?**

The questions in this Study Guide are carefully arranged to show you how much you have learned about improving the effectiveness of your prayer life. This Study Guide is not intended to be an academic test. The sole purpose of the following questions is to help you increase your practical knowledge pertaining to effective prayer.

1. Can you be certain that the Lord knows every minute detail pertaining to the life of every one of the billions of people on earth? (I Chronicles 28:9 and Psalm 139:1-4).
2. What one word does the Bible use to describe your Father's attitude toward your prayers? (Proverbs 15:8)
3. When you pray, you must understand that you are praying to your loving Father and that you truly are His beloved child. How can you be certain that you truly a child of God? What determines whether or not any person is a child of God? (I John 3:10, Galatians 3:26, I John 3:1 and II Corinthians 6:18)
4. When you pray to God, you must understand that you are praying to your loving Father Who is absolutely delighted to hear your prayers. What does the Bible say about the depth of your Father's love for you? (Isaiah 54:10)
5. When you pray, you are not praying to a distant and far-away God. How can you be certain that your Father is with you at all times? Where is God located? (Ephesians 4:6, Joshua 1:9, Isaiah 41:10 and Isaiah 43:2-3)
6. Why was the psalmist David calm, quiet and confident when he faced adversity? (Psalm 16:8-9).
7. Can you be absolutely certain that God is right there with you when you face adversity? How can you be certain that He desires to answer your prayers? (Psalm 91:15)
8. When you pray to God, you must not be like the Pharisees. How did Jesus Christ describe the Pharisees? (Mark 7:6)
9. Your Father wants you to have a close and intimate relationship with Him when you pray and at all other times. What does the Bible say is the secret of companionship with God? (Psalm 25:14)
10. Why did God hear every prayer of Jesus Christ throughout His earthly ministry? How does this scriptural principle apply to your prayers to God? What is the fear of God? (Hebrews 5:7)
11. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, can you be certain that God wants to know you intimately? (I John 5:20)
12. God wants to have a close and intimate relationship with you. Who decides how close your relationship with God will be? (James 4:8)
13. What does the Bible say about the significant importance that Jesus placed on His prayers? How does this principle apply to the effectiveness of your prayer life? (Luke 5:15-16)

14. When you pray, can you be certain that God is listening to your prayer? What determines whether God hears your prayers? (Proverbs 15:29, John 9:31 and I Peter 3:12)

15. What words does the Bible use to explain how you should pray so that the supernatural power of God will be released as a result of your prayer? (James 5:16)

16. What does the Bible say about the prophet Elijah and the effectiveness of his prayers? What should you do to have an effective prayer life like Elijah had? (James 5:17-18)

17. Some Christians treat prayer as a routine habit. Their prayers are superficial. What was the apostle Paul's attitude toward his relationship with God? Why should you have a similar relationship so that your prayers will be effective and not merely a religious exercise? (Philippians 3:10)

18. The Bible teaches that the supernatural strength of God is available to you. What determines whether you will receive manifestation of God's strength in response to your prayers? (I Chronicles 29:12 and Ephesians 6:10)

19. How does God look at problems you face that seem to have no possible solution? Why should you understand God's attitude toward whatever seemingly severe problems you are bringing to Him in prayer? (Luke 1:37)

20. Can you be certain that your Father wants to answer your prayer and that He is not looking at your faults and shortcomings when you come to Him in prayer? (James 1:5)

21. We have listed ten passages of Scripture that all have one magnificent scriptural truth in common. What great spiritual truth do all of the following Scripture references teach? (Psalm 37:4, Proverbs 10:24, Matthew 7:7-8, Matthew 21:22, Mark 11:24, John 14:14, John 15:7, John 16:23, John 16:24 and I John 3:22)

22. Loving parents on earth want to give their children the desires of their hearts. Can you be certain that your heavenly Father also wants to give you the desires of your heart? (Matthew 7:9-11)

23. What specific instruction does your Father give you in regard to your attitude whenever you approach His Word for Bible study, Scripture meditation or any other reason? (Isaiah 66:2)

24. What attitude is God looking for from you so that you will learn what He is instructing you to do? (Proverbs 14:6, Psalm 25:7 and Psalm 119:35)

25. What specific instructions does God give you that explain exactly how He wants you to study His Word? (II Timothy 2:15)

26. What specific instructions does God give you against following human tradition or doing what seems right to you as opposed to learning what His Word instructs you to do and faithfully obeying His instructions? (Colossians 2:8 and Proverbs 14:12)

27. Most Christians will say that they love God. What specifically has your Father instructed you to do to show that you truly do love Him? (I John 5:3, John 14:23-24 and I John 3:22)

28. The Bible says that some prayers actually are revolting to God. What causes this to happen? (Proverbs 28:9)

29. What do some people do in regard to obeying God's instructions that makes them vulnerable to deception by Satan? (James 1:22)

30. What specifically do some people do that causes them to pray to God and fail to receive His answer to their prayers? (James 4:2-3)

31. Why does sin in your life sometimes cause God to not listen to your prayers? (Psalm 66:18 and Isaiah 59:2)

32. If you know that you have sinned and you go to God with a humble and repentant heart, what will your Father do? (Psalm 139:23-24, I John 1:8-9 and Hebrews 8:12)

33. Your Father wants to answer your prayers even if you have sinned. All that He asks is for you to be repentant and ask forgiveness for your sins. How did Jesus explain this principle in the parable of the Prodigal Son? (Luke 15:18-24)

34. What is the relationship between your unforgiveness of other people and the effectiveness of your prayer life? (Mark 11:25-26 and Ephesians 4:31-32)

35. What does the Bible say about the relationship between a husband and wife and the effectiveness of prayer? (I Peter 3:7)

36. What does the Word of God instruct you to do in regard to praying for people in positions of leadership? (I Timothy 2:1-2)

37. Will God give supernatural wisdom to people in positions of authority if His children consistently pray for Him to do this? (Proverbs 8:15-16, Job 28:12-13 and Proverbs 2:6-7)

38. Will God guide the decisions and actions of government leaders if His children consistently pray for Him to do this? (Proverbs 16:9 and 20:24 and Jeremiah 10:23)

39. Why is it important for you to pray for government officials who are unbelievers? (Proverbs 28:2)

40. Most Christian leaders agree that our generation lives in the last days before the return of

Jesus Christ. What does the Bible say will be taking place during these last days before Jesus returns? (II Timothy 3:1 and I John 5:19)

41. What does the Bible say will happen to government officials who make their decisions based on what seems right to the limitations of their human understanding? (Proverbs 16:25)

42. What influence do Satan and his demons often have on the actions and decisions of government officials? Why is it vitally important for you to come against this demonic influence in your daily prayer life? (II Corinthians 10:3-4)

43. What specifically does the Bible say about the influence that God has upon the actions and decisions of government officials and your prayers for these government leaders? (Proverbs 11:11 and 21:1)

44. Why are you able to approach God directly whenever you pray? (Ephesians 2:13 and 3:12)

45. What specific directions has God given you in regard to your daily prayer time? (Matthew 6:5-6)

46. How frequently did the psalmist David pray? (Psalm 55:17)

47. What specifically does the Word of God instruct you to pursue so that you will have a close and intimate relationship with the Lord? (Hebrews 12:14)

48. Why does preoccupation with the things of the world affect your prayer life? What does the Bible say about keeping God first in your life at all times? (I Samuel 12:21, Psalm 73:25, I Chronicles 22:19, Colossians 1:18 and Zephaniah 2:3)

49. What words does God use to explain the importance of continually drawing closer to Him? (Psalm 27:8)

50. Jesus Christ is your example in every area of life. What scriptural references can you give to indicate the emphasis that Jesus placed on prayer? (Matthew 14:23 and Luke 6:12)

51. Once again we want to state that Jesus Christ is your example in every area of life. What does the Bible say about how specific His prayer requests were? (Hebrews 5:7)

52. What does the Bible say about the prayer of faith and healing? (James 5:15)

53. What did Jesus say about consistently repeating the same words when you pray instead of praying spontaneously from your heart? (Matthew 6:7)

54. What is a prayer of agreement? Why is a prayer of agreement often much more effective than your individual prayers? (Matthew 18:19-20)

55. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, you have been given the privilege of using His name in your prayer life and on many other occasions. What does Jesus promise to do if you consistently pray in His name with absolute faith in Him and the power of His name? (John 16:23-24 and John 14:13-14)

56. How did Mary and Joseph decide to name their baby Jesus? (Matthew 1:20-21)

57. What does the Bible say about the supernatural power of the name of Jesus Christ? (Philippians 2:9-11 and Hebrews 1:3-4)

58. When Jesus ascended into heaven after He rose from the dead, He left the mighty power of His name. What signs did Jesus say would accompany Christians who have absolute faith in the supernatural power of His name? (Mark 16:17-18)

59. What happened when the apostle Peter prayed with strong faith in the name of Jesus Christ when he prayed for a severely crippled man? (Acts 3:6-8)

60. What happens to people who use the name of the Lord lightly, frivolously or profanely? (Exodus 20:7)

61. What one word did God use in regard to the necessity of you having absolute faith in and reliance on the name of Jesus Christ? (I John 3:23)

62. What exactly does God instruct you to do in the name of Jesus Christ? (Colossians 3:17)

63. When your prayers are according to God's will, can you be certain that your Father is listening and that He will grant your requests? (I John 5:14-15)

64. Did God have a specific plan for every day of your life before He created you? (Psalm 139:16, Jeremiah 1:5, Ephesians 2:10 and Acts 22:14)

65. What does the Bible mean when you are instructed to "shun youthful lusts?" Instead of pursuing selfish goals, what does the Bible instruct you to do? (II Timothy 2:22)

66. Throughout His earthly ministry, what goal did Jesus Christ pursue above all else? (John 5:30 and II Corinthians 5:15)

67. What does the Bible say about being very specific in pursuing God's will for your life? (Ephesians 5:17)

68. What is the relationship between your heart being filled with the Word of God and your ability to carry out God's will for your life? (Psalm 40:8)

69. What two conditions did Jesus instruct you to meet so that every one of your prayer requests will be answered? (John 15:7)

70. What did Jesus say about your heart being filled with the supernatural power of the Word of God? (Colossians 3:16 and Hebrews 4:12)

71. What are you instructed to do to effectively resist the devil? (James 4:7)

72. What does God instruct you to do with any burden that you have? What does God promise to do if you obey His specific instruction? (Psalm 55:22)

73. What does God say about praying His Word to Him when you pray? What is His reaction when you do this? (Isaiah 62:6 and Jeremiah 1:12)

74. Can you be certain that God stands completely behind every promise in the Bible? (Hebrews 6:8)

75. What did Jesus say about the result that you will receive if you pray with deep, strong and unwavering faith in God? (Matthew 21:22)

76. What one quality must be present in your life for you to please God and to receive answers to your prayers? (Hebrews 11:6)

77. What words did Jesus speak to His disciple Thomas that apply to your prayer life today? Why should you be absolutely certain that unbelief is not dominant in your life? (John 20:27, Hebrews 3:12 and James 1:6-7)

78. What did the people of Nazareth do to block Jesus Christ from performing miracles in their lives? (Mark 6:2-6)

79. Where does God instruct you to focus your thoughts? (Colossians 3:2)

80. God promises to guard you and to keep you in perfect peace? What does He instruct you to do to receive these magnificent blessings from Him? (Isaiah 26:3-4)

81. Your Father knows how much faith you have in Him. What does He promise to do if you take refuge in Him and trust Him completely? (Nahum 1:7)

82. If you have not been brought up from childhood as a Christian, why is it vitally important to consistently strengthen your faith in God? (Psalm 71:5-6)

83. Instead of focusing on whatever problem you face, where should you focus? (II Corinthians 5:7)

84. What does God instruct you to do to receive His grace exactly when you need it? (Hebrews 4:16)

85. How does the Bible compare the patience that you will need with the patience that farmers must have? (James 5:7-8 and Mark 4:26-27)

86. What does the Bible say about the relationship between you having faith and patience and inheriting God's promises? (Hebrews 6:12)

87. Is there a relationship between pride and impatience? (Ecclesiastes 7:8)

88. What does God's Word say will happen to every person who is impatient? (Proverbs 21:5)

89. What are you instructed to do instead of being impatient for God to meet your needs? (Psalm 37:7)

90. What is Jesus teaching you in the parable that He told about a man going to a friend after his friend was in bed and asking for bread? How does what happened in this parable apply to your prayer life? What specific words did Jesus use six times in this one passage of Scripture that apply to your prayer life? (Luke 11:5-10)

91. Jesus told a similar parable about a widow who persevered with a judge who had no fear of God. How do the principles in this parable apply to your prayer life? (Luke 18:1-5)

92. What does the Bible say about how frequently you should pray? (I Thessalonians 5:17 and Romans 12:12)

93. Why should you continue to persevere and confess your faith in God? (Hebrews 10:23)

94. Instead of growing weary and giving up, what does God instruct you to do? What will He do if you obey these instructions? (Galatians 6:9)

95. Why should you consistently thank God for the victory that Jesus Christ won for you? (I Corinthians 15:57, II Corinthians 1:20 and 2:14 and John 16:33)

96. What does God promise to do if you fear Him and have reverent awe for His Word? (Proverbs 13:13)

97. God exalts His name and His Word above all else. What relationship does He give to His name and His Word? (Psalm 138:2)

98. What three things are you instructed to do to be prosperous, wise and successful? (Joshua 1:8)

99. Where does the Bible say that faith comes from? How does this principle apply to meditating day and night on the Word of God? (Romans 10:17)

100. What does God instruct you to do so to be like a tree planted next to a river that never has withered leaves and always produces a harvest? (Psalm 1:1-3)

101. How committed was the psalmist to meditate on God's Word? (Psalm 119:15-16)

102. How would you meditate if you were meditating on a specific verse of Scripture? (Philippians 4:13)

103. When you meditate day and night on God's Word, His Word drops from your mind down into your heart. What does the Bible say about the vital importance of your heart being filled with the Word of God? (Proverbs 23:7, Proverbs 4:20-23 and Psalm 37:31)

104. The Bible was written through human beings, not by human beings. It is the Word of God. What will the Word of God do in your life if you adhere to it, trust in it and rely on it? (I Thessalonians 2:13 and II Corinthians 4:7)

105. If you cannot control the words that you speak through willpower, how can you control these words? (James 3:8 and Matthew 12:34)

106. What has God provided to you to enthusiastically persevere when you face seemingly severe adversity? (Romans 15:4)

107. What can cause your religion to be "vain (ineffective)?" How can you keep adversity from getting into your soul? What did the psalmist do so that his spoken words would be effective? (James 1:26 and Proverbs 21:3 and Psalm 116:10)

108. God met your most important need which is eternal salvation because of the price that Jesus Christ paid at Calvary. Can you be certain that your Father also has made complete provision to meet every other need that you have? (Romans 8:32, Psalm 34:10, Philippians 4:19 and II Peter 1:3)

109. What does it mean to fear the Lord? What does God promise to all of His children who truly fear Him? (Psalm 34:9)

110. Sheep instinctively trust their shepherd to provide everything they need. How does this principle apply to you if Jesus Christ is your Savior? (Psalm 23:1)

111. What does the Bible mean when you are told that you should walk uprightly? What does God promise to each of His children who walk uprightly? (Psalm 84:11)

112. Whenever possible, you should base your prayers on a specific verse or verses of Scripture. Can you be certain that God always will do exactly what the Bible says He will do? (Numbers 23:19 and I Corinthians 1:9)

113. Instead of being worried or anxious about anything, what does God instruct you to do? What will God do if you obey this specific instruction? (Philippians 4:6-7)

114. What does the Word of God instruct you to do with all of your anxieties, worries

and concerns? What does the word “cast” in this context mean? (I Peter 5:7)

115. Why should you thank God when you pray instead of waiting until you actually receive His answer to thank Him? (Colossians 4:2, Ephesians 5:20, I Thessalonians 5:18 and Psalm 50:14-15)

116. How frequently should you praise the Lord? (Psalm 113:3)

117. Coming into God’s presence is vitally important when you pray and at all other times. What does the Bible instruct you to do to come into God’s presence? (Psalm 95:2 and Psalm 100:4)

118. What does the Bible mean when you are instructed to make a sacrifice by praising God? What do you actually do when you praise God? (Psalm 50:23 and Hebrews 13:15)

119. What two things are you instructed to do that will fulfill all of the Ten Commandments if you consistently obey these specific instructions? (Matthew 22:37-40)

120. If you have strong faith in God, you are instructed to reach out to others who are doubting and uncertain. How are you instructed to deal with people who have moral faults? (Romans 15:1 and Galatians 6:2)

121. Intercessory prayer is extremely powerful. What does the Bible say about the supernatural power of intercessory prayer when it tells what happened when the apostle Peter was in prison and many people were praying fervently for Him? (Acts 12:1-16)

122. What happens to you in the spiritual realm when you see other people who have needs and you do not pray for them? (Proverbs 21:13 and I Samuel 12:23)

123. What happened to Job when he prayed for his friends instead of focusing on the significant problems that he faced? (Job 42:10)

124. Can you be absolutely certain that God wants every person on earth to live with Him in heaven throughout eternity? (II Peter 3:9)

125. What did Jesus say was absolutely necessary for God to do before a person can be saved? (John 6:44)

126. What specifically are you instructed to do when you pray for the eternal salvation of unbelievers? (Luke 10:2)

127. In addition to praying for the salvation of unbelievers, the Bible also instructs you to intercede for your brothers and sisters in Christ. What are you instructed to do in regard to the needs that other Christians have? (Ephesians 6:18)

128. Jesus told you to love your enemies and to pray for people who persecute you. How can you love people who are extremely difficult to love? (Matthew 5:44 and Romans 5:5)
129. You should not just say that you love other people. What does the Bible instruct you to do to show that you love others? (I John 3:18)
130. When you are praying for a situation that seems to have no solution, what did Jesus say that will encourage you? (Matthew 19:26)
131. How frequently does Jesus intercede in prayer for Christians in the world? (Hebrews 7:25)
132. When His disciples were unable to cast a demon out of a young child, why was Jesus able to cast out this demon? What did Jesus say when the disciples asked Him why they could not cast out the demon? (Matthew 17:18 and 21)
133. Why didn't the disciples fast and pray during Jesus' earthly ministry? What did Jesus say about this need after He ascended into heaven? How does this instruction apply to your prayer life? (Matthew 9:15)
134. You should turn away from fleshly desires when you pray. How does the Bible instruct you to do this? (Galatians 5:16-17)
135. What did Moses do he received divine inspiration to write the Ten Commandments? (Exodus 14:28)
136. What did Jesus do during the first forty days after He was baptized in the Jordan River? (Luke 4:1-2)
137. Before Barnabas and Saul were sent out to minister as apostles, what did they do? How does this apply to your prayer life today? (Acts 13:2-4)
138. What specific instructions did Jesus give in regard to fasting? (Matthew 6:16-18)
139. What happened to the disciples on the day of Pentecost? (Acts 2:1-4)
140. What specifically did Jesus say about believers speaking in tongues? (Mark 16:17)
141. Who baptizes you with the Holy Spirit? (Luke 3:16)
142. What is the difference being baptized for repentance of sin and receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit? (Acts 19:2-6)
143. What did the psalmist do when powerful government officials persecuted him? How do his actions apply to your life today? (Psalm 119:161)

144. Where does the Holy Spirit make His permanent home? (Romans 8:11 and I Corinthians 3:16)
145. What was the source of the words that the apostle Paul wrote that are in your Bible today? How are you instructed to approach your daily Bible study and Scripture meditation? (I Corinthians 2:12-15 and Psalm 119:18)
146. Why does the Word of God explain the power of the words that you speak by comparing this to a bit in the mouth of a horse or the rudder of a ship? (James 3:3-5)
147. What did Jesus instruct His disciples to do before they left Jerusalem to minister to needy people? (Acts 1:4-5)
148. Most students of the Bible have great respect for the apostle Paul. What did Paul say about how frequently he spoke in tongues? (I Corinthians 14:18)
149. When you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, supernatural power is placed within you. How do you receive manifestation of this supernatural power in your life? (Ephesians 3:16, John 14:17 and Acts 1:8-9)
150. How do you live the life of the Spirit? (Romans 8:9)
151. What does the Bible instruct you to do instead of attempting to solve seemingly severe problems with the limitations of your human understanding and human ability? (Zechariah 4:6)
152. Where is the kingdom of God located? (Luke 17:21)
153. When The Amplified Bible refers to the Godhead, what does this word mean? When you are praying in tongues, where does the Holy Spirit live? Who is He praying to and where does God live? (Colossians 2:9-10)
154. Why does the Holy Spirit always pray through you with absolute confidence that God will answer every prayer? (Jeremiah 32:17)
155. When you are praying in tongues, how can you be certain that the Holy Spirit is praying exactly what needs to be prayed? (I Corinthians 14:2)
156. Are there times when you should pray in tongues and other times when you should pray with human understanding? (I Corinthians 14:15)
157. Why do many people have closed minds in regard to what the Bible specifically teaches about praying in tongues? What should these people do? (Isaiah 55:8-9, Proverbs 14:12, Romans 8:6 and I Thessalonians 5:19)

158. Why does unbelief stop many people from praying in the Spirit as the Word of God clearly instructs us to do? (Hebrews 3:12)
159. Religious tradition blocks many Christians from praying in tongues. What does the Bible say about the effect of religious tradition? (Matthew 15:6 and I Peter 1:18)
160. What one word does the Bible use to explain the limitations of human logic and wisdom? (I Corinthians 3:20)
161. What does the Bible instruct you to do instead of relying on the limitations of your human understanding? (Proverbs 3:5-7)
162. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, can you be certain that you have the mind of Christ? (I Corinthians 2:16)
163. What does the Bible say will happen to you if you refuse to conform your life to the external and superficial ways of the world and instead consistently renew your mind in the Word of God? (Romans 12:2)
164. What two words does the Bible use to tell you what you should do with the way that you used to think and believe before you paid the price of consistently renewing your mind in God's Word? (Ephesians 4:22-24)
165. Why must you be humble and teachable to understand what the Bible teaches about the baptism of the Holy Spirit? (Proverbs 14:6, Psalm 25:9 and James 4:6)
166. What quality does the Bible say is required for you to enter into the kingdom of God to learn God's great truths about praying in tongues and other great truths that are not apparent to the limitations of human understanding? (Mark 10:15)
167. What does the Bible say to anyone who tells other people that they should not speak in tongues? (I Corinthians 14:39)
168. What is the answer to the verse of Scripture that says that tongues will be destroyed and cease? (I Corinthians 13:8-10, Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8)
169. What is the answer to people who say that the Bible says, "Do all speak in tongues?"? (I Corinthians 12:27-31)
170. In this book we have emphasized praying in tongues, not speaking in tongues at a worship service. Nevertheless, why should interpretation be given when anyone speaks in tongues at a public meeting? (I Corinthians 14:5 and 19)
171. Why should all speaking in tongues be done in love? (I Corinthians 13:1 and

Matthew 22:37-40)

172. Satan and his demons attempt to influence people against praying in tongues. What does the Word of God say about the authority that every Christian has been given over Satan? (Luke 10:19)

173. Why is the Holy Spirit uniquely equipped to pray specifically for the specific needs of individuals all over the world? (I Corinthians 2:10-11 and John 16:13)

174. What does the Bible say about the Holy Spirit knowing exactly what to pray when you do not know whom or what to pray for? (Romans 8:26-27)

175. How often should you pray in tongues? (Ephesians 6:18, Romans 12:12 and Psalm 55:17)

176. What does the Bible say about the relative importance of physical training and spiritual training? How can you excel in both areas by praying in tongues? (I Timothy 4:8)

177. What does the Bible say about the laying on of hands and receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Although the laying on of hands is preferable, must a mature Christian lay his or her hands on you for you to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? (Acts 12:17 and 19:6-7)

178. What specifically does the Bible instruct you to do to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior? How does this same principle apply to receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit? (Romans 10:9-10)

179. Why should you not allow fear, doubt or unbelief to block you from receiving the tremendous gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit? (John 20:27 and Mark 5:36)

180. God is ready, willing and able to provide you with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and your heavenly prayer language. You must do your part to receive this incredible gift. What does the Bible say about this? (James 1:22)

181. What does the Bible say about the relationship between building yourself up spiritually and praying in tongues? (I Corinthians 14:4, Jude 20 and Colossians 2:6-7)

182. Does every aspect of your life revolve around your continual consciousness of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit? (Acts 17:28)

183. What does the Bible say about the relationship between consistently studying and meditating on the Word of God and building yourself up spiritually? (Acts 20:32)

184. What does the Bible say about the importance of continually growing and maturing spiritually? (Hebrews 6:1 and Matthew 13:12)

185. What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit? How is this fruit produced in your life?  
(Galatians 5:22-23)
186. How do you love people who mistreat you? (Romans 5:5 and Luke 6:27-28)
187. When you consistently speak in tongues, you are yielding control of your voice to the Holy Spirit. What does the Bible say about surrendering control of all other aspects of your life to the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to control your life? (Galatians 5:25)