

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

How To Get Your Prayers
Answered 100% of The Time

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	v
CHAPTER 1: The Need for Prayers That Move Heaven.....	1
CHAPTER 2: Where is The God of Elijah?.....	7
CHAPTER 3: Prayer Power: Past And Present	11
CHAPTER 4: Foundations of Effective Prayers	29
CHAPTER 5: How to Get Your Prayers Answered 100% of the Time.....	43
CHAPTER 6: Prayers That God Delight To Answer (Every Time!)	59
CHAPTER 7: Stop Praying Timid Prayers!	71
CHAPTER 8: How to Actually Move Heaven with Your Prayers	77
CHAPTER 9: When All Else Fails and You Need A Breakthrough.....	91

CHAPTER 10: Now It's Your Turn to Move	
Heaven on Bended Knees!	113
<i>Action Assignments</i>	121
<i>Bonus Resources</i>	123
<i>Quotes on Prayer</i>	127
<i>Prayers for You</i>	129
<i>About the Author</i>	133
<i>Notes</i>	135

INTRODUCTION

Why another book on prayer? Good question. Before answering it, let me also pose a few questions to you. Why have new text books each year for university courses? Why continue teaching the same subjects to employees and soldiers? Could you be mistaking common knowledge for common practice? Is it not what you know but what you do with what you know that counts? When was the last time you actually moved heaven with your prayers? When was the last time that you experienced a significant breakthrough in a difficult area of life that you can trace back solely to your bold prayers? Why not then have another book on prayer?

Here are seven reasons why I wrote this particular book on the subject of prayer:

1. Much of what is termed *prayer* and what this author hears several times a week is not actually true prayer. Many people say they pray, but still they can't seem to move heaven. Many also say they love but when the litmus test is put against their so-called love, it comes way short of the ideal and may even prove their love to be counterfeit. This book teaches you what real prayer looks like, sounds like, and does.
2. You are frustrated with praying because many (if not most) of your prayers seem to go unheard. With

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

all the information on prayer out there, why is this a problem for many people? You don't have to keep feeling frustrated because your prayers seem to just bounce off the ceiling. There is no need to give up and doubt God's ability to intervene in your life. This book is your life line.

3. You are disappointed that the majority of your prayers are unanswered instead of answered. You don't have to keep feeling disappointed because you think you get too few answers to your prayers. Take comfort. No other book (as far as I see in their titles and subtitles) makes the bold claim that your prayers can be answered 100% of the time. You read that correctly! Your prayers can be answered 100% of the time. This book shows you why and how.
4. Your prayers are not as powerful as you would like them to be — they produce little results. This also adds to the overall frustrations with prayer. This book is the ultimate guide to teach you the science of effective prayers — the kinds that produce results because they actually move heaven.
5. You are concerned that most families and churches are dying all around you. This too is a grave concern I have. When you uncover these pages you will begin to see that this can be turned around if families and churches will get to praying. Many homes and places of worship are weak simply because prayer is not a priority in their circles. Don't fall for this trap. Read on.

Introduction

6. You are concerned about the moral and spiritual degeneracy of the nation and society at large. This too can be traced to number 5. Morals and spirituality are bound to decline when the same condition exists within homes and religious institutions. Where do these people come from who contribute to a nation's moral and spiritual bankruptcy? They come from families. When families get their morals right, the morals of the nation will also be high (though there will always be evil to contend with as long as we're on this earth). Furthermore, when families and institutions learn to pray, and I mean *really* pray, then you will see improvement within both.
7. Prayer is not seen as the secret weapon and power that it really is. We don't realize it is our greatest need and greatest weapon to bring about success, revival, blessings, and change. This book helps you to reclaim the keys to prayers that move heaven!

End your frustrations now. It's time you learn how to seriously pray for big, bold, blessings and for miracles in your life, family, business, or ministry. It's time to unleash another world-wide revival on your knees. It's time to intentionally seek God for the outpouring of His Holy Spirit. It's time for God's faithful sentinels to activate their authority and enter their secret closets to tap into God's Unlimited Power. Now you can stop praying timid prayers! Discover The Master Secrets to Moving Heaven on Bended Knees! This book is destined to spark personal and corporate revival! Waste no time. Start reading now.

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

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We ask that you respect the rights and confidentiality of other people's prayer requests. Any unwelcome behaviors or comments will get you prayed-out of (booted from) the group and your comments deleted.

If you spot any errors in this book (it happens even after the due diligence of meticulous editing), please let us know by emailing info@prayersthatmoveheaven.com. *We may even reward you for the extra pair of eyes.*

Please be kind enough to leave a short (or long) review on Amazon after reading this book. It helps us improve and spreads the word about this important topic. You will also be living out the Golden Rule, and it's sure to return to you in some way. Thank you in advance.

CHAPTER 1

The Need For Prayers That Move Heaven

“Four things let us ever keep in mind: God hears prayer, God heeds prayer, God answers prayer, and God delivers by prayer.”

— E. M. Bounds

Prayer is the one of the most powerful secret weapons anyone can muster to access heaven’s throne room and overcome in the daily spiritual struggle we are all engaged in — whether knowingly or not. (See Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5) Yet prayer is perhaps the most under-utilized spiritual discipline, the most neglected, the least-appreciated, and the least-practiced. This is easily evidenced in just about any social circle. Even with people of faith, for whom prayer should be a priority, it often takes a backseat in daily life. The least-attended service at the majority of churches is the prayer meeting. In comparison to the weekend attendance, maybe 10% of adherents will show up to a prayer service. What a tragedy that is when:

1. Prayer is a heaven-ordained means of success ... Prayer moves heaven.¹
2. Prayer moves the arm of Omnipotence.²
3. Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth will accomplish.³

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

4. Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence.⁴
5. The prayer of faith is the weapon by which we may successfully resist every assault of the enemy.⁵

If prayer accomplishes all this, then its mind blowing why we pray so little or not at all! It seems like people would try to do everything but pray. They waste so much time, energy, and money on gimmicks to solve problems when the fastest way to solve any problem to hit the floor with your knees. You may take your problems to someone trustworthy, perhaps someone at Church and share, "You know _____, this is what I'm going through." And they will most likely give you the proverbial, "I'll pray for you." Or, "Just have faith. Hold on. God is going to show up and show out in this matter." If they were like Elijah (James 5:16b), then you could take that at face value. But too often, all that fluff is just empty calories.

Churches these days are very weak because they are not people of prayer. Many have a semblance of life and don't even realize they are dying or nearly dead because they are too lazy and comfortable to set aside time for earnest prayer and intentional fasting. They lack power because they have turned God's House of Prayer (Isaiah 56:1-8; Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46) into a house of mere preaching, sporadic visitation, and weekly entertainment. Many well-meaning people of faith truly don't have an effective fervent prayer life. They lack

The Need For Prayers That Move Heaven

spiritual power. Then they masquerade their weakness with a host of activities and fabricated programs to mimic the moving of God's Holy Spirit. They talk a lot about revival but won't do what is required to be revived.

It is the absence of the Spirit that makes the gospel ministry so powerless. Learning, talents, eloquence, every natural or acquired endowment, may be possessed; but without the presence of the Spirit of God, no heart will be touched, no sinner be won to Christ.⁶ Yet how few Churches and families gather in prayer to ask solely for the promised outpouring of God's Holy Spirit in latter rain power? (Joel 2:28, 29; Zechariah 10:1) They seem content with rehashing gimmicks from the latest Church growth seminars, when the obvious is in plain sight.

A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. It is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. **A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.**⁷

Western culture is in part responsible for this pitiful existence among God's people. We have messed up the pure Gospel in such a way that we export a bad watered-down brand.

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

In America for example, everything is now. Everything is quick. Everything is easy. For the most part, there is no cross to bear in the Christianity of the West. People in the West don't like to do the things are required to get close to God. They want short cuts and gadgets. They think that their weekly visits to Church, paying a little tithe and *maybe* offering, not committing the *big sins*, and saying their drive-by microwave prayers, is enough. The drive-by microwave type of prayers go something like this:

Wake up in the morning, and say "Thank you God for waking me up today. You know Lord, bless me and so forth. In Jesus name, amen."

At the breakfast table, say another little prayer, "Dear Lord, bless the food we're about to eat this morning. In Jesus name, amen."

Then rush to the car. Just before driving off, whisper, "Father God, I pray that I will not get into any accident today. In Jesus name, amen."

At the end of the day, when all of life's energies have been drained from mind and body, breathe, "Oh Lord, forgive me for all my sins and give me a good night's rest. In Jesus name, amen."

That was it for the entire day. If you calculate all the time that was spent in prayer, it might not even be equal to ten minutes! And that is how we expect to move heaven with

The Need For Prayers That Move Heaven

our prayers? This is simply not enough. That's nominal praying. Nominal faith. Nominal religion. Nominal Christianity. That's what they call "a member in good standing." Don't settle for being "a member in good standing." You'll remain feeble if you do.

To experience a radical transformation in your spiritual, social, and even financial life, you must become a person of prayer. Anyone can become a dynamic person of prayer and move heaven on their knees. But sometimes, you have to go the extra mile. Don't be like most people who know about the sacred ancient Scriptures, but don't really apply the biblical principles for breakthroughs and answered prayers. These come to talk to Almighty God with lame prayers. This is not for you. Even if it means going the extra mile, go the distance. You won't be disappointed.

If the spiritual temperature of our lives and that of institutions can be measured by how much people pray, then we would have to label ourselves and most organizations as dead or dying. That's why we are facing those issues identified in the introduction to this book. Many divorces could be averted if couples were consistent in prayers. Many prisons would close if neighborhoods and churches were committed to prayers. Many businesses would prosper if their employees were concerned enough for the enterprise to pray for its success. Many of your trials and tribulations would be solved if you cared enough to pray more instead of whining and murmuring.

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

If what we term prayer is prayer indeed, then we are of all people most miserable. There is a need for *real* praying around the world today. There is great need for not just any kind of prayer, but for prayers that move heaven. There's a need for faithful sentinels who know experientially how to get their prayers answered, not some of the times, not most of the times, but 100% of the times. We need men and women, boys, and girls, who know what it means to effectively pray in such a way that heaven responds with magnificent answers to prayers. We need a generation who understand the power and principles of bold prayers that move God and angels to act on their behalf. I need you to become that person. Will you accept the challenge to master the secrets found in this book and begin to pray like you've never prayed before?

CHAPTER 2

Where Is The God Of Elijah?

*“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work;
prayer is the greater work.”*

— Oswald Chambers

When you don't get your prayer request answered, you may not realize it, but in your heart of hearts, you ask the question, *“Where is the God of Elijah?”* When you have been working very hard and suddenly get laid off from your job, you ask, *“Where is the God of Elijah?”* When you have been trying your best to buy that house, but the loan does not seem to come through, you ask, *“Where is the God of Elijah?”* That's the same question I have asked many times.

I love the word of God. And that's the reason I wrote the book, *The Certainty of God's Promises*. I wrote it because I had a problem when I read the Bible. When I decided to get serious about my faith while serving in the U.S. Navy, I started reading the Scriptures seriously and loving them very much. However, after a while of being around the “righteous saints,” I noticed they seem to make it appear that there is scarcity in heaven. If you ask for too much from God or for things they considered “too great,” then heaven somehow will go broke.

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

Yet when I read the Bible about all these wonderful powerful things that people did and the marvelous blessings they received, I asked myself the question, “Where is the God of Elijah?” Where is this same God that worked in the sacred Scriptures? Is He not the same God? I used to think that most Christians have their own brand of God. Some treat their God like a small god who can only do small things. They’re afraid to ask him for those big and great and mighty things.

To begin answering the question, Where is the God of Elijah?, reread the story of the famed prophet. Don’t allow familiarity with the story to blind you to the important messages and principles it is meant to convey. Have you ever tried to call fire down from heaven? Elijah was the mighty prophet who called fire down from heaven. This man boldly asked God for this miraculous feat several times and heaven honored his prayer (1 Kings 18:1-40; 2 Kings 1). This is the same Elijah who earnestly prayed for no rain to fall for a period of three and a half years. Then he prayed again for rain and the heavens gushed out abundant rains on the land again (James 5:17-18; 1 Kings 17:1; 18:41-46). That’s the Elijah we are talking about.

Having faithfully served God, Elijah was about to be taken up to heaven, and another prophet was ready to take his place. Elijah’s connection with heaven was so exceptional, though he was just like you and me (James 5:17a), that God said, “I will take my servant to heaven with me.” In preparation for this, Elijah had to pass the mantle to his

Where Is The God Of Elijah?

protégé Elisha and bid farewell to his students studying for the prophetic office. Elijah tells Elisha now to follow him from place to place, but this protégé was not the ordinary type to be deterred easily. He made up his mind that wherever the prophet was going, he would follow him.

That's important. You always want to be and to go where the power and majesty of God is. Elisha wasn't trying to let Elijah go that easily. When Elijah said, "I must go on now to Jericho. Stay here while I go," Elisha replied, "No. I'm going with you." Later Elijah gave another prohibition, "Now I must go over Jordan. You stay here." Elisha asserts, "I'm going with you." When they crossed over, we know that the Chariot of Fire came and took Elijah up to heaven. But earlier, when Elijah noted Elisha's persistence, he asked the young man, "What do you want me to do for you before I'm taken from you?"¹

That's the same question God is asking you today. What is it that you want God to do for you? What is it that you've been asking God to do for you? What *exactly* is it? Elisha did not hesitate. He immediately said, "I not only want the same Spirit that is upon you, I want a double portion!" He wasn't shy about it. He didn't sheepishly ask for a single portion, a little bit, or just enough to get by. He didn't make the timid request like we normally make, "Lord if you just help me get by this month, I'll be happy." No, Elisha was saying, "I want a double portion! Since you are in the blessing mood, Lord I want you to bless me, not just a little, but abundantly." I like Elijah's response, "You have

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

asked for a hard thing. *Nevertheless*, if you see me *when I am* taken from you, you shall have what you asked for; but if not, it you won't get it."² That's what you need to ask also. Request a double-portion, not just enough. Request the whole bread, not just the crumbs. Request the full outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, not just mere trickles. Ask for *hard things*.

CHAPTER 3

Prayer Power: *Past and Present*

“The condition for a miracle is difficulty, however the condition for a great miracle is not difficulty, but impossibility.”¹

Go ahead. Cry out if you must, Where is the God of Elijah? God, why have you forsaken me? It may be that He will bring you deliverance as He did for the Hebrew slaves who were in bondage for a few hundred years in Egypt. Scripture said their cry came up to God, and he sent Moses to deliver them. Heaven moved on their behalf. Pick up their story in Exodus Chapter 14 where they have been freed but now approached the Red Sea with their enemies chasing after them. Nowhere to turn. All seemed hopeless for the Israelites. It was an impossible situation. But they served a God who knows no impossibility (Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:17, 27). They were about to witness one of the greatest miracles ever recorded by sacred Writ.

Moses stood up and boldly declared, “Fear not. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you shall see them again no more forever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace” (Exodus 14:13, 14). In verse 21 and onwards, they went through on dry

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

land. Their God parted the Red Sea. What an amazing miracle! That's the same God who wants to answer your prayers 100% of the time.

SURVEY OF OLD TESTAMENT PRAYERS

One of my more favorite Old Testament stories, one that baffles me most, the one that boosts my faith like none other, is the prayer that moved heaven in Joshua Chapter 10. The king of Jerusalem wanted to go fight against this mighty city of Gibeon. He called for four other kings to destroy the city because Gibeon made peace with and lived among them. Can you picture the scene? Five nations were going up against one. What hope does Gibeon have? Not much really. But they had seen and heard about the God of Israel and how he was now using Joshua to win the battles just like He had used Moses. They sent this message to Joshua, "Don't abandon us! Come quickly, and save us. Help us because all the Amorite kings who live in the mountains have united against us."²

If you don't believe in a Great God in heaven who delights to answer bold prayer requests, then you need to read Joshua 10 very slowly. Verses 12 to 14 records the General's audacious prayer. Here is a human being, commanding the sun and the moon to hold its place, so that his army can slay their enemies. Guess what? The moon and the sun actually obeyed him! "And there was no day like that,

Prayer Power: Past and Present

before it or after it, that the LORD listened to the voice of a man, because the LORD fought for Israel” (Joshua 10:14). Perhaps because no one has ever ventured to pray such a bold prayer like Joshua before or after this.

This is powerful. God delivered all those five nations into the hands of His praying General, Joshua. He moved heaven to answer Joshua’s prayer. Would you be so bold to speak to the sun? This is in line with what Jesus said, “If you will say to this mountain, move from here to over there, without doubting in your heart, it will be done. Nothing will be impossible for you” (Matthew 17:20; 21:21). What mountainous problem exists in your life right now that refuses to move out of your way? What situation frightens you so much that you’re afraid to ask because you’re wondering, Where is the God of Elijah?

If that weren’t enough, then maybe you will find inspiration from 2 Kings 20. It’s the faith-building story of King Hezekiah. He was someone who did well for the Lord and his country, but he became terminally ill. Isaiah the prophet came to him to deliver this message, “Get your house in order for you will surely die. You will not live.”³ That’s like getting news from your doctor that you only a few weeks or months to live. But Hezekiah knew the power of prayer and the keys to effectively moving heaven.

Instead of going into depression and simply accepting the prophet’s message at face value (*sometimes that may be actually be blessing. See Revelation 14:13*), Hezekiah turned

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

his face to the wall and began to pray. He wept bitterly and called out to God, “Remember all the wonderful things that I’ve done for you and our nation. I’ve done what is right in your sight. Lord, I’m not ready to go yet. I’m still in my prime. My babies haven’t graduated from College yet. I still need to pay off their student loans. I’m just not ready. Have mercy on me.”⁴

Remember that Isaiah came into the king’s presence to warn him to prepare to die. The prophet did not even leave the middle courtyard yet before God responded to Hezekiah’s prayer! On his way out, God sent him back with a new message:

Go back and tell Hezekiah, the captain of my people, ‘This is what the Lord says, the God of your ancestor David: I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears: behold, I will heal you: on the third day you will go up unto the house of the LORD. I will add fifteen more years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for My servant David’s sake.’⁵

Do you see how many blessings Hezekiah received in response to his fervent prayer? But he was a bit skeptical when Isaiah delivered the news. Don’t we all get like this sometimes? We are surprised that some prayers are answered so soon and that we receive more than we prayed for. Instead of rejoicing and thanking God for answering his prayers, Hezekiah doubted and wanted proof — a

Prayer Power: Past and Present

sign that God would indeed carry out the blessings He promised. Isaiah gave him two options: “Do you want the shadow to go forward ten degrees, or go backwards ten degrees?” (Verse 9)

Notice again, like Elisha, Hezekiah felt like it was a simple thing, an easy thing for the shadow to go forward ten degrees. He instead asked for it go backwards ten degrees. Isaiah then cried out to God and moved heaven to grant this other request from the King. God heard Isaiah’s prayer and brought the shadow backwards ten degrees (verse 11). What an awesome God Who hears and answers prayers!

A word of caution here. Though God granted the king’s petition, his response also showed presumption and disbelief on Hezekiah’s part. Boldness may not always be faith but the complete opposite. God already promised that He was going to heal the king and certified it through His prophet. But the king wanted a *sign*. It’s like we all do at one point or another. “Lord, I know You promised that You are going to take care of all my needs if I put your kingdom first. BUT, please give me a little token that you will actually do it.” Beware of asking for signs when God has already revealed His clear will in a given matter.

We have to learn to take God by faith, but nonetheless the Lord works with us even in these faithless situations. He understands that sometimes we may I need reassurance that our requests will be granted and *sometimes* overlooks the “Gideon fleece.” Hezekiah wanted to go beyond what

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

he knew was possible. He understood His God to be able to do the impossible. Too many of our prayers are all about what we *know* can happen. Seldom do we ever pray for that which is *impossible*. If we look through the eyes of faith, we will re-label many of our so-called impossibilities. God does not see them as such. God says for you (just as it is for Himself), “Nothing shall be impossible for you.” (Matthew 17:20b) Why then put limitations on God? Why then be afraid to ask God for big blessings?

SURVEY OF NEW TESTAMENT PRAYERS

The God of Elijah makes Himself accountable to Himself by giving His word as a divine guarantee. Not only is it impossible for Him to lie (Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18), but He also cannot change His nature or character (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8). Jesus totally believed these words and acted upon them. Speaking of His relationship with the Father in John 5: 20, 21, He stated that the Father shows Him all things He does and will show Him even greater works that the people may marvel. As the Father raises dead and revives people, even so will Jesus be able to revive any one He wills. What was His secret to divine access? Behold Him fighting His battles in prayer. Throughout His earthly ministry, from His baptism to His death, Jesus bathed all His miraculous works in prayer. He

Prayer Power: Past and Present

rose early in the morning, before daybreak, to His private quiet place and there He prayed (Mark 1:35).

Because of His consistent prayers and uncompromising trust in God's Word, Jesus healed all manner of sicknesses and diseases yet He didn't have an MD degree. Jesus changed substance from one state to another, yet He did not have a chemistry degree. Jesus preached some of the most powerful and radical sermons yet He did not even have a theology degree. Jesus suspended natural laws, walked on water, transfigured Himself, and commanded the waves of the sea to stand still and be calm. Jesus even disappeared and reappeared! This same Jesus said, "Greater works than these shall you do, because I go to the Father." (John 14:12-15) Do you really believe that? Do you honestly believe that? What is it that thorn in your side that you just can't seem to overcome? What's plaguing you at the moment?

This is the kind of way God can do for you. But have you forgotten that He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above, all that you can think or imagine? God desires to give you His Holy Spirit to guide you and to empower you to live a godly life. Jesus promised to empower those who put their faith and trust in Him when He said, "All power in heaven and on earth is given unto Me... I'm going to be with you always even to the end of the world. You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you" (Matthew 28:18, 20; Acts 1:8). Are you experiencing this power in your life? Are you having power today? Do you

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

want power to make your relationships great? It's clearly available. It's not as hard as you think.

How were Jesus' disciples able to experience and receive this promised blessing? They got to praying. It happened on Pentecost one:

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication ...When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.⁶

It happened on Pentecost two right after they were jailed, and it threatened the foundation of their faith. Though they were being persecuted, they didn't pray for deliverance from that. Instead they:

Lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, 'Lord, You are God, Who made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that is in them ... And now, Lord, behold their threatening: and grant to Your servants, that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.' And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.⁷

Prayer Power: Past and Present

It happened on Pentecost three to the most unlikely people (according to Jesus' own key disciples at the time) showing that God is no respecter of persons. Cornelius, though a *gentile*, is referred to as a devout man and one who feared God with all his household. He gave generously to the people and *prayed* always to God. He was also visited by an angel of God with a special message that his prayers had moved heaven. The angel said, "Your prayers have come up for a memorial unto God." He and his household received the promised blessing of the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit and were baptized.⁸

How about raising folks from the dead? Was that confined to Elijah in the Old Testament or to Jesus alone? Peter also, being filled with God's Spirit, prayed to bring back Tabitha or Dorcas back from the dead. She, like Cornelius was always doing good works and acts of Charity.

In those days she became sick and died. After washing her, they placed her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples heard that Peter was there and sent two men to him who begged him, "Don't delay in coming with us." So Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they led him to the room upstairs. And all the widows approached him, weeping and showing him the robes and clothes that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Then Peter sent them all out of the room. He knelt down, prayed, and turning toward the body said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

stand up. Then he called the saints and widows and presented her alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.⁹

The famed Apostle Paul also performed a similar feat by bringing the young man Eutychus back to life. Maybe Paul was to be blamed for this lad's death because he preached so long into the night that the young man fell into a deep sleep and fell from a window sill down from the third floor and died. Paul followed a similar strategy like Elijah (2 Kings 4:32-37) to bring Eutychus back to life. Amazing!¹⁰

SURVEY OF POSTMODERN PRAYERS

You may be thinking that was all good for the Bible days but what about today? Abraham, Eleazar, Hannah, Samuel, David, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Solomon, and other prophets, priests, and kings are undeniable proof that God did all those things as recorded in Holy Writ, but are there modern day examples of *average* people moving heavens with prayers? Fair enough. We could talk about the reformers in the Protestant Reformation or the forerunners of the Great Religious Awakenings. How about their contemporaries such as George Müller, E.M. Bounds, A.W. Tozer, Corrie Ten Boom, Watchman Nee, Oswald Chambers, R.A. Torrey, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Andrew Murray, Angus Buchan, and Ellen G. White? There are many works that already do justice to these luminaries of prayer which are recommended and may do you much good if you read their materials also. However, I want to share with you a few personal and not-so-well-known examples so you know I'm not just sharing theories here.

The humanitarian group I spent seven years with went on a summer mission a trip to Mozambique and Malawi, Africa, in 2009. Before we left the U.S. our team set a goal (or what we call a 'soul-goal') of asking God to bless us to see 1,000 people baptized. We had done many mission trips before this but never that kind of results in a single

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

campaign. I was the team leader for the student missionaries going to Mozambique while the ministry president led the Malawi team. On our overnight stay in South Africa, we had a team meeting with the Mozambique group to review our goals and objectives. That team was to further divide into five groups to cover several remote areas in Mozambique where most missionaries do not go. We figured that if each sub-group would pray and work to see at least 150 people baptized then that would be at least 700 people, and the Malawi group could experience the remaining 300 blessing.

I personally chose to go to the hardest site of the five in Mozambique because after working just a few years with this ministry, I realized that the harder the mission or the more difficult it seemed for a group to achieve its objectives, the more powerfully God seemed to work with them. The more challenging it was, the more we had to pray and exercise faith. Like the famed Apostle Paul, I claim the promise, “My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in weaknesses, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” Furthermore, if things were too easy, there was always be a tendency to slack off or become prideful if great things happened. I always wanted to be in a position that if and when great things happened, no one on the team nor myself would be able to say it was because of

Prayer Power: Past and Present

what we did. We claimed such bold promises that had not God intervened, there was no way we could achieve them on our own. I recommend you adopt a similar promise, “Let the weak say, I am strong.” (Joel 3:10b).

My team went a place in Northern Mozambique called Posto Campo. Once we got situated in our remote village, I felt like God was asking me to pray for something much bolder than what I thought possible. The thought rang in my mind, “Why don’t you ask Me for something that you know that you cannot absolutely do?” While fundraising for this mission trip in December 2008, our group saw God provide more money than we had ever fundraised in an entire year of fundraising during school breaks. My faith and trust in God took on new levels as a result. I will write about that miraculous mission in another book I’m writing on the subject of faith. But suffice it to say, whenever you experience God in a powerful way, it’s hard to settle for mediocrity after that.

Before doing outreach among the villagers, I shared an early morning devotional thought with my team and challenged them to step out in greater faith and ask for more than what we agreed upon in South Africa. I said something like, “Guys, I know we said that we want to ask the lord for 150 souls, but we are not going to ask 150 souls, we are going to ask God for the entire village! We are going to ask God for 500 souls. Not from our five groups, but from our one village here.” I saw almost everyone’s head drop. But I reassured them with Bible

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

promises. We sent one of our translators to go sketch the entire entire village and to label every single house so that we had a good idea of how many people and how many houses are actually in the community. We did things a bit differently from past mission trips. We would normally do the usual humanitarian work during the day, but at night we would set up a big screen and preach using a projector, which tended to draw many people out of their huts. This time, instead of having the people come to us during the evening presentations, we went to them. We sent some here and some there to preach. Whoever would listen to us, we should share the Bible with them.

By the end of that mission trip, people were coming to us from several places to be baptized. Some people we didn't even have to go to! Some we never even preached to! One youth, for example, got baptized on a Saturday afternoon and the following Saturday, he had 30 people for baptism. The little guy had gone to teach these people from a little booklet we had shared with him. The first baptism ceremony saw over a hundred people baptized. We continued to meet people's physical needs and share with them how to remedy their spiritual needs as well. We trained them how to share with others also, and they went to teach still others. We left Posto Campo with our group alone witnessing 407 baptized. What if we had settled for the 150? With the other four Mozambique teams, a total of 740 were baptized. Goal achieved! Combined with the Malawi group, there were 1,418 total baptisms. And we only asked God for 1,000 before leaving the U.S.! We

Prayer Power: Past and Present

made a song based on Psalm 115:1 to commemorate the blessings of answered prayer on this mission trip: “Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto Your name give glory, for Your mercy, and for Your truth’s sake.”

If that’s not up your alley, know that this is what you can expect from God when you come boldly to His throne in prayer (Hebrews 4:16). How about your finances? I know finance is a big thing for everyone. A pastor friend of mine sent me text with a random number and asked me if I could figure out what it meant. I tried but that was crazy. How could I know what it was? I thought it was some kind of riddle. He sent another text stating that it was how much he and his wife owed on student loans. I offered the proverbial “nothing is impossible for the Lord to do.” What else could I say about a six-figure debt? But if I knew if God wanted to bless you to be rid of that debt, He can use someone to help.

I got a call from him later about their student loan that resembled a mortgage loan. He had a professor who liked him, and that professor made a few phone calls. The professor went on his behalf and got another person to intervene. My pastor friend said, “Somebody, whom I don’t know is going to take care of the situation. They’re going to pay the debt.” I said, “Praise the Lord Brother!” This is how God works in behalf of those who put their faith in Him and pray like they believe it. You’re thinking that you have to work out your problem solo. You’re thinking that you’ve got to do it on your own. You’re looking for

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

the ram in the thicket, but God already has a way to work it out. He has more than a thousand ways to provide for any given situation.

It's not rocket science. "Do not put your in trust in man, or princes, or rulers" (Psalm 118:8, 9).

You need not go to the ends of the earth for wisdom, for God is near. It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. We need to have far less confidence in what man can do and far more confidence in what God can do for every believing soul. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters.¹¹

Don't trust in the nation's economy, trust in God's economy. When the economy looked messed up, jacked up, and all the other things in between, God is saying, "Don't look to the economy. I Am the One who can make a way out of no way. I'm the One who can make wine out of water, and something from nothing." You might be losing your home, but God is saying, "I can give you a new home." Isn't that what He did for the Israelites? "I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant" (Joshua 24:13).

Prayer Power: Past and Present

An elder from one of our churches was laid off from a major US company. He was top notch at what he did, but when companies feel the brunt of any economic crisis, they can cut off even the best of the best. Well this elder is one of those resilient types. Instead of whining and complaining like most of do when we face a job loss, he got creative. He took what he already knew and was an expert in and joined forces with another like-minded entrepreneur, who was also laid off. Together, they started their own company.

About two years into their start-up, at a weekend Church service during the prayer time of the service, this elder stood to share his prayer requests and flat out ask (or more like told) God that he was tired of being broke! He didn't want to live like the general populace — pay-check-to-paycheck or always having to worry about money. “God, I'm tired of being broke!” What a prayer! Straight from the heart too! He wasn't trying to be cute and politically correct like most people who ask for prayers in a public setting. How did heaven respond to such a prayer?

Two weeks after this audacious petition, a large company bought their start-up and both men became instant millionaires! How is that for a simple, specific prayer? Is there anything too hard for God? (Genesis 18:14a) To read more answers to prayers from regular people today, or to share your story of answered prayer, or to request prayers, join the Prayer Room community at: www.prayersthatmoveheaven.com/join-prayer-room/.

CHAPTER 4

Foundations of Effective Prayers

“Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence?”¹

There’s a plethora of information written on the subject of prayer no doubt, and I don’t intend to add to the bulk but rather suggest ways of sorting through the heap. Throughout the years many have offered models, acronyms, short cuts and other gimmicks to help simplify the subject of prayer, yet the average person still doesn’t have an active or meaningful prayer life. This section may seem a bit technical and basic at the same time. But it is essential for your study and mastery of the topic. As stated before, what is common knowledge is not always common practice. Prayer is an absolute for successful living. You can’t reach any worthwhile pinnacle without it. The Apostle Paul gave the injunction, “Be watchful to this end with all perseverance” (Ephesians 6:18). Let us now discover the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of prayer.

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

What Is Prayer?

Webster's Dictionary describes the word *pray* (prayed, praying) as:

1. To offer devout petition, praise, thanks, etc., to God
2. To make earnest petition to a person [God]
3. To make entreaty to a person [God] for a thing [request, petition]

Webster also describes *prayer* as:

4. A devout petition to or spiritual communion with God
5. The act of praying
6. A formula of words used in praying
7. Something prayed for
8. A petition; entreaty ²

Prayer can also be described as, “The opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him.”³ Approaching God as a friend makes prayer simple and easy. Is it because we do not love Him enough or have a close connection with Him that most people seem to experience grave frustration in this area of life? We don't have to twist our friends' arms, try to manipulate them to do what we want, or be fake with them. Doing these things to God then may be proof that we don't see Him as a friend, Father or King.

Biblical Definition of Prayer

Because this study is a biblical exposition of the principles of successful praying, let the Bible explain itself concerning the subject. Human definition will not suffice because it can miss the mark. In Strong's Concordance, the number for the Greek word for pray, prayer is 4336 and is the Greek word: προσεύχομαι, which is translated, **Proseuchomai** (*pronounced: pros-yoo'-khom-ah-ee*). It comes from <G4314> (pros) and <G2172> (euchomai); to *pray to God*, i.e. *supplicate, worship*: - pray (earnestly, for), make prayer.

Prayer, from the Bible's perspective is:

1. Making requests to God (Philippians 4:6).
2. Communion with or talking to God – as seen in the lives of Hannah and David (1 Samuel 1:10-13, 17).
3. Meditating upon God and His words (Genesis 24:63; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1b-2; 63:6; 77:12; 119:15, 23, 48, 78, 148; 143:5).
4. *“Prayer is converse with God; the intercourse of the soul with God, not in contemplation or meditation, but in direct address to him. It may be oral, mental, occasional, constant, ejaculatory or formal.”* ⁴
5. Beseeking the Lord (Exodus 32:11).
6. Pouring out the soul before the Lord (1 Samuel 1:15).
7. Crying to heaven (2 Chronicles 32:20).
8. Seeking unto God and making supplication (Job 8:5).

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

9. Drawing near to God (Psalm 73:28).
10. Bowing the knees (Ephesians 3:14).

Why Should You Pray?

This is one of the most obvious questions on this subject besides, What is prayer? Using the Bible again as the sole authority, it's easy to deduce that there are myriad reasons for praying. With all the encouraging evidences and promises God has given us, there is no reason for any person to be defeated, dejected, or despondent. Here are seven basic reasons you should pray (*more scattered throughout this book*):

1. **God commanded it for your benefit.** (Luke 18:1; 21:36; Matthew 6:9)
2. **It's necessary in spiritual warfare.** (Ephesians 6:18)
3. **It's a cure for worry.** (Philippians 4:6)
4. **You need it just like you need air – all the time.** (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 25; 2 Thessalonians 1:11)
5. **It's a condition to answers from heaven.** (Matthew 7:7-12; James 4:2b)
6. **Because God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all.** (Ephesians 3:20)
7. **Because you need the blessings and answers mentioned later in this book.**

To Whom Should You Pray?

There are varying controversies on this particular question, both inside and outside religious circles. For the secular and agnostic mind, that question may be irrelevant because to them, people may pray to whomever and to whatever they wish. For those who believe and practice the Bible's teachings however, the question is of utmost importance. Why go to a homeless person to ask for a million dollars? Why ask a dog to heal you? Why ask a child for wisdom to manage a business? Knowing who to pray to and who not to pray to is crucial since the one to whom you pray should be all-powerful, all-knowing, and able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that you can think or imagine (Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:17, 27; Ephesians 3:20; 1 Corinthians 2:9).

Answering that question can also be unnerving even for people of faith. Before answering it directly, you should also know to whom *not* to pray. As important as it is to know to whom one should pray, it's equally important to know to what or to whom you should not pray.

To Whom (to what) Should You Not Pray?

1. To no other god but the God in Heaven. (Exodus 20:1-5; 34:14; Matthew 4:4-10; 1 Corinthians 8:4b, 6; Ephesians 4:6)
2. Not to any human being (including yourself), angels, stars (the cosmos), the dead, beast, idols,

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

nor statues. To pray to either would be considered idolatry. (Daniel 3:29; Deuteronomy 4:16-19, 24-28; 1 Samuel 28:7-14; Revelation 19:10; 22:8, 9)

3. Do not put trust [confidence] in these things because trust and confidence are elements of prayer. (Psalm 20:7; 118:8, 9; Proverbs 25:19; Micah 7:6; Philippians 3:3)
4. Prayer is an act of worship and only God deserves our worship for He is our Creator. (Matthew 4:10; Luke 4:8; Mark 12:32; Revelation 4:11)

The prophet Isaiah rebuked Israel for placing confidence in Egypt and not in Jehovah — the true God of Israel. “Woe to the rebellious children, says the LORD, that take counsel, but *not of me*; and that cover with a covering, but *not of my spirit*, that they may *add sin to sin*: That walk to go down into Egypt, and have *not asked at my mouth*; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and *to trust in the shadow of Egypt!* Therefore will the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt *your confusion*” (Isaiah 30:1-3).

The story of Elijah and the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal shows too that no other god answers prayer but Jehovah God of heaven (1 Kings 18:17-46). In the case of King Ahaziah’s sickness, God showed His displeasure in those who seek counsel from false gods — be they humans [witches, as in the case of King Saul in 1 Samuel

Foundations of Effective Prayers

28:7-14, wizards, psychics, psychologists, psychotherapists, hypnotists, gurus], or inanimate [trees, houses, cars, animals, money]. Ahaziah did not recover from his illness because he sought the counsel of Baalzebub. Here is the record:

Then Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab. And *Ahaziah fell down through a lattice* in his upper chamber that *was* in Samaria, *and was sick*: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, *‘Go, enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease.’* But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, *‘Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that you go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? Now therefore this is what the LORD says, you will not come down from that bed on which you are gone up, but you will surely die. And Elijah departed ... So he died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken.’*⁵

To Whom Then Should You Pray?

Now that it’s clear whom you shouldn’t pray to and what you shouldn’t pray to, do you then pray to God the Father, to Jesus, or to the Holy Spirit? Do you pray to one or all three or a combination of them? Does it really matter whom you address in your prayers so long as you aren’t praying to the entities mentioned above?

Again, because this study uses the Bible as its epistemological foundation, its findings are taken directly

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

from the Holy Scriptures. Throughout the Old Testament, prayers have always been directed to God. Even during the earthly sanctuary system (now obsolete), prayers still went to God and not to the priests, “For *there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time*” (1 Timothy 2:5-7).

Jesus gave the unambiguous answer to this question. “When you pray, say, ‘*Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*’” (Matthew 6:9, 10; Luke 11:1, 2). In teaching His disciples to pray to the Father in heaven, Jesus is telling His children everywhere to pray after the same manner. By Jesus’ own example of personal and public prayer, we learn that all prayers are to be addressed to God, the Father. For example, Jesus prayed to God, the Father: after His baptism, when He raised Lazarus from the dead, when He promised the Holy Spirit, and when He prayed the famous prayer for his disciples in John 17, and in the garden of Gethsemane.⁶

Now that it’s unequivocally stated that all prayers are to be directed to God, Jesus gave yet another step in approaching the Father in prayer. “If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1). While you should direct all prayers to the Father, you must do so “in the name of Jesus.”

Foundations of Effective Prayers

And whatsoever you *ask in My name*, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you *ask any thing in My name*, I will do it. ... Whatsoever you ask the Father *in My name*, He will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. *Ask, and you will receive*, that your joy may be full.⁷

What Does It Means to Pray in Jesus' Name?

1. To pray in Christ's name means much. It means that we are to accept His character, manifest His spirit, and work His works. The Savior's promise is given on condition. "If you love Me," He says, "keep My commandments." He saves men, not in sin, but from sin; and those who love Him will show their love by obedience.⁸
2. To pray in the name of Jesus is something more than a mere mention of that name at the beginning and the ending of a prayer. It is to pray in the mind and spirit of Jesus, while we believe His promises, rely upon His grace, and work His works.⁹
3. We come to God in the name of Jesus by special invitation, and He welcomes us to His audience chamber. He imparts to the humble, contrite soul that faith in Christ by which he is justified. Jesus blots out as a thick cloud his transgression, and the comforted heart exclaims, "O Lord, I will praise Thee: though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comforted me." (Isaiah 12:1).¹⁰

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

4. When a man breathes an intensely earnest prayer to God (Jesus Christ is the only name given under heaven whereby we can be saved), there is in that intensity and earnestness a pledge from God that He is about to answer that prayer exceeding abundantly, above all that we can ask or think. We must not only pray in the name of Jesus, but by the inspiration and kindling of the Holy Spirit. This explains what is meant when it is said, “the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” The petitions must be offered in earnest faith. Then they will reach the mercy-seat. Unwearyingly persist in prayer. God does not say, pray once, and I will answer you. His word is pray, be instant in prayer, believing ye have the things ye ask, and ye shall receive them; I will answer you.¹¹

When Should You Pray?

God doesn't want us to pray inconsistently, here and there as we please, but gives us liberty to speak to Him at any time of day or night. You should always be in communion with God. This does not mean you cannot have particular or special times of prayer. In fact, that is encouraged. While there is really no *set* time when you pray, the Bible gives ample instructions concerning the times when men and women communed with God — understanding that the most important thing is that His

Foundations of Effective Prayers

children pray, not necessarily when they pray. Here are some times mentioned:

1. **Pray anytime, all the time – without ceasing.** Strive to always be in an attitude of prayer for all things (Colossians 1:9a; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Romans 12:12).
2. **Evening, morning, and at noon** (Psalm 55:17). The psalmist David followed this daily routine.
3. **Three times a day.** Similar to David, the prophet Daniel petitioned the throne of heaven three times a day. His example of consistency and discipline in thus seeking God in prayer is one that you can adopt. Even in the face of death, Daniel did not forsake prayer. “When Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he *kneeled upon his knees three times a day*, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he had done before. Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God... *three times a day*” (Daniel 6:10-11, 13).
4. **At 3:00 p.m.** “Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *at three* in the afternoon (the ninth *hour*)” (Acts 3:1). Jewish people at this time also prayed at 9:00 a.m. (the third hour) and at sunset. You can set up your own Hour of Prayer.
5. **In the *early morning*.** The best example of this habit was Jesus, “In the *morning*, rising up a great

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed” (Mark 1:35).

6. **In the evening.** Jesus also, “went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the *evening* was come, he was there alone” (Matthew 14:23).
7. **At midnight.** “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises to God: and the prisoners were listening to them” (Acts 16:25).
8. **During an emergency** as did Peter when he was walking on water but began to sink (Matthew 14:30).
9. **At various times, especially before important events.** Jesus constantly prayed throughout His ministry and at different times. Not only did He pray in the early morning and evening, He also prayed before a miracle, after a miracle [casting out demons, raising the dead, feeding thousands, etc.], and before a meal.

The choice is yours. It is not necessary to adhere to appointed times of prayer as with various religions. If indeed you decide to follow these protocols, then it should be voluntary and not under compulsion. Pray to God whenever you need to and as His Spirit leads you to. The main thing is that you pray and do so regularly to maintain open communication with your Heavenly Father. So whether it’s in the morning, at noon, in the evening, at midnight, all throughout the day or night, “*always pray, and don’t lose heart*” (Luke 18:1).

Where Should You Pray?

As with the principles suggested on when to pray [times], you can pray anywhere – the main thing is that you pray. Your loving heavenly Father wants to hear from you wherever you are and whenever you call. Scripture does suggest certain places where prayers took place so you may pray in these locations as well. However, it does not mean that if you don't or cannot pray in these places, that you are somehow shut out from praying all together. Neither does it mean you are inferior to other so-called spiritual giants. Just pick the best location and try to meet there consistently. You will get a chance to design your secret prayer place at the end of this book.

Locations in the Bible where people prayed:

1. **In a secret, solitary, or deserted place** (Matthew 6:6; 14:13 Luke 5:16; 9:18; Mark 1:35).
2. **In a group or with others** (Matthew 18:20; Luke 11:1; Acts 1:14).
3. **At churches or synagogues** (Isaiah 56:7; Matthew 18:19, 20; Acts 12:12; 21:5).
4. **At public convocations** (Leviticus 23; Ezra; Nehemiah).
5. **On a mountain** (Matthew 14:23).
6. **In a garden** (Matthew 26:36–45; Mark 14:32–42; Luke 22:39–46).
7. **At the place of death** – as Jesus prayed before resurrecting Lazarus and from the cross before He died (John 11:38–44; Luke 23:34).

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

8. **In an upstairs room** (Acts 1:13, 14).
9. **In homes** (Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46; Acts 12:5, 12).
10. **By a river** (Acts 16:13).
11. **In prison** (Acts 16:25).
12. **On a beach** [sea shore] (Acts 21:5).

God invites us to pray always. Where to pray is not the most important thing to be worried about. What is important is that you actually pray. You can pray at home, work, school, church, in secret, alone, in public, in hospitals, and even in your car. Pray any and everywhere but *never neglect prayer* because of your location. The main thing is that you actually pray.

CHAPTER 5

How to Get Your Prayers Answered 100% of the Time

“There is no such thing in the history of God’s kingdom as an unanswered prayer. Every true desire from a child’s heart finds some true answer in the heart of God.”

— Norman Macleod

This chapter may well be the most important one to you in this entire book. It is what distinguishes it from all the others on the subject of prayer. Here I make the bold declaration (not assumption) that you can get your prayers answered 100% of the time. It is the subtitle of this book. Is your faith still firm in believing in an all-powerful God who can answer all your prayers? Or do you still question if God hears all prayers? And if He does, does He answer all prayers? Does He answer all prayers 100% of the time? It seems a bit farfetched, even somewhat controversial, but it is my ardent belief that when you learn the keys to effective prayers in this book, you will indeed realize that you can get your prayers 100% of the time.

When deciding on the title and subtitle for this book, I polled two Facebook groups to choose between three possible titles and subtitles for this book. One group had

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

only friends and the other had only professional authors. The overwhelming majority chose both the title and subtitle you see on this book. To see if the subtitle could be tweaked a bit, a catchy *99.9% of The Time* was proposed to which one office manager commented, “99.99% is what man has to say because they aren’t God. I don’t serve a 99.99% God! He is 100%! Who wouldn’t want that?” A nurse also chimed in, “100% would be the most appealing. I can understand the idea behind 99.99% but if I see a book that says it can show me how to get 100% of my prayers answered, I’m going with that.” And with that I went.

I hope this inspires you to pray more and to believe God greatly desires to answer our sincere prayers. Some have lost their faith over this and have become decided atheists simply because they felt God did not come through for them when they needed Him most. He did not answer their prayers, *they think*. A stay at home mom who gave feedback on the title and subtitle commented:

“I agree with you. God answers prayers 100% of the time. The key to knowing He answered it only depends on the willingness of the person’s heart to accept the answer He gives whether it is what they expected or not. I have a cousin who no longer serves the Lord because she prayed and asked God for something and because He didn’t answer it (in her eyes), she became angry and bitter. She no longer serves the Lord because of that.”

How to Get Your Prayers Answered 100% of the Time

I will hope that this cousin gets a hold of this book and reads it to rekindle hope in God and His multitudinous promises that He hears and answers prayers. In addition to the other principles presented in this book (which increase the certainty of your prayers being honored in heaven *when applied*), study well the information provided in the next three chapters to master the science of effective prayers.

7 Ways to Get Your Prayers Answered 100% of The Time:

1. **Change your perspectives on how God answers prayers.**
2. **Totally comply with the conditions necessary for answered prayers.**
3. **Defeat the enemies that hinder effective prayers.**
4. **Avoid the landmine of presumption.**
5. **Pray according to God's will.**
6. **Pray most for the things that God bids you pray for.**
7. **Stop praying timid prayers.**

What Is Answered Prayer?

In the simplest form, answered prayer is a response to prayer. It could be in the form of an action or motion, a spoken, or written reply or any combination of ways. In God's case, He can chose to reply or respond to our prayers in many more ways than we can anticipate. This is where we can

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

run into a problem and claim God doesn't answer 100% of prayers. But He does. God answers all prayers. We need to adjust our perspectives on how God answers prayers. In our minds, we associate answered prayers to mean only a positive YES from God, meaning that God granted us the thing for which we asked. Any other response is generally termed unanswered prayers. But this view is very short sighted.

I recently did a workshop where I asked the question if God answers 100% of prayers and most were reluctant. When I confidently asserted that He does answer 100% of prayers, I saw heads dropped and eyes shifting. I then asked one of the youth to ask me a simple question. He asked the typical question that required one of two answers (responses). I told him, "NO!" Was that an answer to his question? Yes, it was. But it wasn't the answer (response) he wanted. He was expecting a yes but my answer was no. The same thing happens when people ask us a question, make a request of us, or ask for a favor. Sometimes we have a lot of possible responses and at other times, the responses are few, two or three at the most. However we reply, that's our answer, whether the person likes it or not or even think it's the right response. I'm not trying to be harsh but that's the reality.

The controversy over answered and unanswered prayer could be resolved by changing one's perspective. God does answer 100% of prayers. People just don't always like or agree on what His answers are. They have been

How to Get Your Prayers Answered 100% of the Time

programmed to associate answered prayer to mean only “Yes”, “Yes”, and “Yes”. “No” also is an answer. “Not now” is an answer. “Wait” is an answer. Even ignoring a question is an answer (response). Silence is an answer. But none of these are what people accept as being answers to their prayers. The spiritually mature will rise to a place where a negative repose to their prayers will also be accepted as an answer to their prayers. Especially when they know that, “all things work together for the good of those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

The three main ways God answers prayers are: Yes, No, and Wait. The first one we love but despise the latter two. Some “No” and “Wait” answers from God are also blessings in disguise. I can’t begin to tell you many times I praised God for not answering certain prayers the way I asked them, at the time I wanted them answered, and how I wanted them answered. I’m growing in my faith to learn to whole-heartedly trust God’s sovereign wisdom and knowledge in all things. I’m learning to accept more and more readily His decisions in any given situation.

Our response to God’s answers are also important. Many people throw up their hands like spoiled children who don’t always get their way with their parents. They whine and complain and may even give up on God altogether. Who is God and who is human? We sometimes act as though God owes us a favor and that He should bow to our whimsical whims. We are only cool with him when

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

He grants us our requests and get upset if and when He doesn't. This is juvenile behavior. The average parent doesn't even give their children every single thing they ask for, especially when it may be dangerous to do so or the child is unprepared for that gift — why then should God, who knows even better than parents?

God may be testing you by saying a No answer or by sending apparent delay. Your attitude should be like that of Job and King David when prayers seem to go unheard. Change your perspective on what constitutes answered prayers. When you do not receive the very things that you asked for at the time that you ask, you are to still believe that the Lord hears and answers your prayers. When your prayers seem not to be answered, you are to cling to God's promise for the time of answering will surely come, and you shall receive the blessing when you need it most. God is too wise to err, and too good to withhold any good thing from them that walk uprightly.¹

Conditions Necessary for Answered Prayer

“To every promise of God there are conditions. If we are willing to do His will, all His strength is ours. Whatever gift He promises, is in the promise itself. ‘The seed is the word.’ Luke 8:11. As surely as the oak is in the acorn, so surely is the gift of God in His promise. If we can receive the promise, we have the gift.”²²

In mastering the science of effective prayers, you must know how to be strategic in your praying, to see more answers to your prayers and especially in the positive, and then to meet the conditions on which the promises are based. Some prayers are not answered in the affirmative because what was required for that particular response was not done. You have to do your part of the promise to realize the blessing it offers. This section provides pertinent principles to follow which guarantee answered prayers. Take your prayer life to the next level by meeting these conditions:

1. **Come to God with a clean and pure heart** (Psalm 24:4; 66:18, 19).
2. **Submit to God’s revealed will** (1 John 5:14).
3. **Don’t use vain and repetitious words or try to impress God** (Matthew 6:7).

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

4. **Pray in faith that is Bible-based** (Hebrews 11:1, 6; Romans 14:23).
5. **Pray with confident expectations** – not in yourself but in God’s integrity to fulfill His promises – believing that you will receive (Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24).
6. **Obey His commands and please Him** (1 John 3:22; John 14:15; 15:14; 13:34-35).
7. **Forgive everyone who wronged you** (Matthew 6:14; 2 Corinthians 2:10; James 5:16a).
8. **Be humble and repentant of your sin** (Luke 18:10-14; James 4:8-10).
9. **Be united with others** (Matthew 18:19, 20; Acts 1:14).
10. **Love one another** (John 13:34, 35; Romans 13:8-10; Proverbs 10:12; 17:9)

Before you pray, do a check to ensure you are living up to these conditions. If not, ask God for forgiveness and make things right. Don’t forfeit the blessings for which you see because you fail to meet these simple conditions. But when you have met them, you can rest assured you will have your petitions answered by God.

Having complied with the word of God, do not depend upon your feelings for evidence of acceptance with God. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” If you have complied with the conditions, believe God, whether or not you feel any different.³

The Enemies of Effective Prayers

Having covered above principles of effective prayer, there is yet an extra section that needs to be mentioned. Although God has given many promises that He hears and answers the prayers of His children (Job 22:27; Psalm 65:2; 145:18-19; Isaiah 65:24), there are several things that often prevent affirmative answered prayers. There is a necessity for protocols in everyday life because they govern order and efficiency. If certain procedures are not followed in the manufacturing industry, serious injuries could take place. Therefore, it is imperative to also avoid certain pitfalls in the arsenal of prayer. If you don't defeat these enemies of effective prayers, the answers you seek will be hindered — that's no fault on God's part. But if you overcome them or give them up, disappointment and frustration can be prevented. Here are the main hindrances to answered prayers:

1. **Selfishness** (James 4:2-3).
2. **Doubts** (Romans 14:13; James 1:5-8).
3. **Fearfulness** (1 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18;
4. **Breaking or disregarding the Law of God** (Proverbs 28:9; 1 John 3:4; Exodus 20:1-17).
5. **Pride** (Proverbs 16:18; Ezekiel 30:6; Hosea 5:5; Luke 18:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:6).
6. **Pretense or insincerity** (Matthew 6:1, 2; Mark 12:38-40).
7. **Inhumanity and oppression of the poor** (Proverbs 21:13; 15:29a; Ecclesiastes 5:8; Isaiah 58:9, 10).

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

8. **Unconfessed sins in the life** (Psalm 66:18; Psalm 19:12-14).
9. **Wickedness, lies, hypocrisy, greed, and envy** (Isaiah 59:1-8; 1:15; 29:13, 15; Micah 3:4; Jeremiah 11:10, 11).
10. **Marital disharmony and infidelity** (1 Peter 3:7; Malachi 2:11-16; Ephesians 4:26, 29-31).
11. **Unforgiving spirit** (Matthew 6:14, 15; 18:21-35; James 5:16a).
12. **Lack of love** (Matthew 24:12; 7:12; 22:36-40; 1 John 4:11-17)

Since “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked,” you must surrender to God to perform surgery on this evil heart. You can’t hide; “I the LORD search the heart, *I* try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings” (Jeremiah 17:9-10). The remedy is to let God cleanse our defective nature. Say like David, “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).

If you submit to this heart work, God will show you what He desires to be done. “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly your God?” (Micah 6:8). This is part of repentance – a transformed life. Lord beckons, “If my people, which are called by my

How to Get Your Prayers Answered 100% of the Time

name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

If you want to be successful and receive answers to their prayers, every time guaranteed, then God is saying, “Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land” (Isaiah 1:16-19).

How To Avoid The Landmine of Presumption

At the basic level, presumption is asking God to bless you while knowingly disobeying His clear commands. It is willfully sinning and akin to hypocrisy. Such prayers are actually abominations to God and will not be heard. “Whoever turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination.” (Proverbs 28:9) Why would you want your prayers to be detestable in God’s sight? Then beware of presumption!

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

King David, God's man, understood this and prayed, "Keep Your servant also from presumptuous *sins*; let them not have dominion over me: then I will be upright, and I will be innocent from the great transgression (blatant rebellion)." (Psalm 19:13) That is why most of the blessings of God are conditional. They require obedience – complying with God's will, which demonstrates true love and faith on our part. (See 1 John 2:3; 3:22; 5:2, 3) Love is demonstrated by obedience and trust. Faith is taking God at His word – believing and expecting God to do what He promises by His word.

Seven Ways to Avoid Being Presumptuous

1. **Stay Humble.** "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." (James 4:7-10)
2. **Don't tell God *When* and *How* to answer your prayers.** Submit your will to His perfect timing and good knowledge. He knows best and judges all things in their true light. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge

How to Get Your Prayers Answered 100% of the Time

Him, and He will guide you on the right paths.”
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

- 3. Don't seek for signs and wonders or the spectacular and fabulous display of God's might in answering your prayers.** While God does from time-to-time answer prayers in such manner, He is not your genie in a bottle nor in show business. Be very careful with that mindset because Satan also work deceitful signs and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9). If you hang your hat on always seeing or having some miraculous manifestation, you will open your life to deception and working of evil spirits. Plain obedience to God's word trumps miracle-chasing anytime. It's safe to trust in God's word than to rely even on miracles. Just waking up every day is a miracle. The birth of a child is miracle. People get sensational with chasing miracles because they always want the next “spiritual high.” Even Jesus waned against seeking after signs and wonders (Matthew 12:39; 16:4). He also said many who performed great miraculous feats will not be in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21-28). He was here teaching that it's better to hear and apply His teachings rather than hearing only and not obeying.
- 4. Don't make empty promises to God in exchange for answering prayers.** Sometimes we do this but don't think deeply about what kind of vow (promise) we are really making. God does not

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

delight in such actions (Ecclesiastes 5:1–6; Matthew 5:37; James 5:12). Beware of asking Him to bless you only as a temporary relief from discomfort or pain knowing full well you have to intentions of changing your life.

5. **Don't ask God to bypass or compromise His own Word and Laws so you can have your way.** Our heart is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9) so not every desire of the human heart is a pure one. We all battle with selfishness. That is why we need humble ourselves to God's way of answering our prayers. He will not be trifled with when we have unholy motives (James 4:3).
6. **Beware of being self-righteous when God answers your prayers.** It can lead to pride which can result in your biggest downfall (Proverbs 16:18). When you read books of Kings and Chronicles in the Bible, it won't take you long to realize that many of Israel's Kings fell on the heel of success, prosperity, and God's blessings. When they were weak they seem to be faithful. But when they became powerful and wealthy through God's favor, they committed some of the gravest atrocities mentioned in the Scriptures.
7. **Don't attribute all positive answers to prayers to your praying.** God sometimes answers prayers on behalf of others or to fulfill a prior promise or a general promise that is not dependent upon you.

How to Get Your Prayers Answered 100% of the Time

Another side of self-righteousness is to think that because God is moving in your life, business, or ministry that you can do no wrong. The tendency here is to think that God is blessing you because you are super-holy and righteous. This attitude also leads to many downfalls. Hence the biblical admonition, “Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” (1 Corinthians 10:12) When things are going well, people tend to slack off doing what pleases God. They pray less, read the Bible less, and rationalize sin in their life. They reason that since things are going so well and my prayers seem to be answered positively, then they’re on good terms with the Lord. This is not always true. Don’t fall for this. The ancient Israelites thought this too, but Moses quickly rebuked them, saying, “Not for your righteousness or because your hearts are upright are you going in to take their land; but because of the evil-doing of these nations the Lord your God is driving them out from before you, and to give effect to his oath to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Be certain then that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land as a reward for your righteousness; for you are a stiff-necked people.” (Deuteronomy 9:5-6) God also blessed and answered prayers for the Israelites for the sake of His faithful servant David, not necessarily because of the petitioner or the nation deserved it. That’s grace! (See 1 Kings 11:32; 15:4; 2 Kings 19:34; 20:6; Isaiah 37:35)

CHAPTER 6

Prayers That God Delights to Answer (Every Time!)

Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together. In the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that everyone who would make his lifework a success must understand.¹

The last chapter covered much of what you need to know and do to gain an audience in God's throne room. If you follow those principles, great results are bound to happen for you. Post your experiences at the Prayer Room community page at: www.prayersthatmoveheaven.com/join-prayer-room/. If you keep mastering those you'll definitely be a force to be reckoned with. Keep praying and take note of how God is working in each area of your life. If you keep applying those principles – they'll revolutionize your faith in God. They will make all the difference.

This chapter focuses on God and what He desires in prayer. It reveals His delight to answer the prayers that are close to His heart and will. You will discover two distinct advanced strategies to mastering the science of effective prayers. When these two are applied together, they give greater impetus to the previous prayer strategies. These two, more

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

than any others, can end your frustrations with praying, almost immediately. They pack such power punch because they are prayers that God delight to answer, every time! They are the untapped secrets of all faith groups. When you realize these two principles, you will wonder why you haven't always prayed like this in the past. But don't beat yourself up. You can begin praying in a whole new way starting today.

One of the challenges we have is that we don't always know how to pray and what exactly to pray for. God has nonetheless made provision for this weakness through His Holy Spirit, who, "also joins to help in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be expressed in words." (Romans 8:26)

Is it easier to try to figure out what God wants you to pray about or to pray about what He already says to pray about? Would you not rather pray for/about those things that God clearly has identified as prayers He takes pleasure in answering? If you want guaranteed answers to your prayers, 100% of the time, then follow these two guidelines.

#1. Pray According to God's Will.

This is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He hears us: And if we know that he hear us, whatever we ask for, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.²

It sounds like a no-brainer but common knowledge is not always common practice. Many people's prayer nightmare will also be vanquished. It is much easier to pray about God's will than to be doubtful and worrisome. You should have the most confidence to pray when you know for sure that you are in God's will. Prayers after this manner bring divine intervention. Christ says, "Whatever things you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Mark 11:24. He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions having been met, the promise is unequivocal.³

Many people wrestle with trying to figure out what God's will is, but they end up only frustrated because they guess and hope it is what they *think* they discovered. As a child of the King, you ought to have had the mind of Christ already (1 Corinthians 2:16). Having the mind of Christ helps you to know God's will. You ought not to be in the dark on this subject. To make it simple for mankind, God

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

went so far as to ensure He revealed will in written the Bible — and it has been standing for thousands of years. He does not want you to guess what His will is. You don't have to travel far now to discover His will. Just turn the pages of Sacred Scripture, and you will find God's will clearly revealed in various places.

WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?

1. **For His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.** (Matthew 6:9-10; 26:39-45; Luke 11:2b; 22:42)
2. **Give us this day our daily bread.** (Matthew 6:11, 33; Philippians 4:19)
3. **To send forth laborers into His harvest.** (Matthew 9:36-38)
4. **The advancement of the gospel.** (2 Thessalonians 3:1; Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)
5. **To Pray and intercede for others.** (1 Timothy 2:1-2; Philippians 4:6)
6. **For all people to be saved and not perished.** (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16-17)
7. **For all people come to the knowledge of truth.** (1 Timothy 2:4b; 2 Peter 3:18)
8. **To abstain from fornication and immorality.** (1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:22; 1 Corinthians 6:13, 18)
9. **For His Spirit to intercede for us.** (Romans 8:27-28)
10. **To deliver us from evil.** (Galatians 1:4; Matthew 6:13)

Prayers That God Delights to Answer (Every Time!)

11. **That in everything, you give Him thanks.** (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 4:6)
12. **That you do His will.** (Mark 3:35; Matthew 7:21, 24; 12:49-50; Romans 12:1-2)
13. **To always do good, even if you suffer unjustly as a result. But don't practice evil.** (1 Peter 2:15; 3:17; 2 Peter 4:12-19)

#2 Pray For What God Says to Pray For

For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christ-like temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received.⁴

This section is part of the chapter on *Foundations of Effective Prayers* but is here included because you need it close to *Prayers That God Delights to Answer (Every Time)* as they are the crux of the book and easier to bookmark so you can come back to them time and time again. These are the keys to all the success, blessings, peace, and whatever else you may need — all in one place.

What a beautiful thing when the God of the universe tells us to pray about this and that. He gives both an invitation and a guarantee to pray. It is easier to claim His promise this way and remind Him of His word (He cannot lie). For example, the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker says, “Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons, and concerning the work of My hands command you Me.” He also said, “Ask of me, and I will give you the heathen *for* your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* your possession.” (Isaiah 45:11; Psalm 2:8). Will you take God up on His offer?

Prayers That God Delights to Answer (Every Time!)

Whether it's to offer praises and thanksgiving for His blessings and gifts, asking for victory, special favors and blessings, or to grow in His grace, character and image, God always likes to hear from His children. You already have the examples of patriarchs, prophets, kings, peasants, apostles, Jesus, and many others throughout Scripture to prove that there is no limit to what you can pray for. Here's a promise to whet your appetite:

I know the thoughts I think toward you, says the LORD, *thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.* Then you will *call on Me, and you will go and pray to Me,* and I will listen to you. You will *seek Me, and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.* And I will *be found of you,* says the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place from where I caused you to be carried away captive.⁵

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

Here are some of the wonderful things for which you can boldly pray:

1. **Wisdom and guidance in every area of life.** This is evident by the kings of Israel when they sought God's counsel whether or not to go into battle or how to defeat their enemies. (Jeremiah 33:3; James 1:5)
 - a. Genesis 24:12-15 – Abraham's servant prays for guidance.
 - b. Daniel 2:17-23 – Daniel gets wisdom to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
 - c. First Kings 3; 2 Chronicles 1 – King Solomon prays for wisdom.
 - d. Psalm 25; 32:8; 90:12 – God instructs/teaches/guides His servants.
 - e. Proverbs 2:5-7; Ecclesiastes 2:26 – Wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and happiness come from God.
 - f. Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 1:9b – Desire to be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.
2. **Loved Ones – your family and those in your faith community.** Follow Jesus' example in John 17 and the Apostle Paul's who prayed consistently for all his churches and protégés.
 - a. First Thessalonians 5:25; James 5:16 – Brothers pray for us.

Prayers That God Delights to Answer (Every Time!)

- b. Colossians 1:9a; Ephesians 1:16 – Do not cease to pray and give thanks for one another.
3. **Deliverance from troubles, temptations, and evil.** (Psalm 34:17, 50:15; 91:15; Matthew 6:13a; Luke 11:4b; 22:40, 46; Mark 14:38;
 - a. James 1:12–15 – Endure and understand the source of temptations. You will be rewarded.
 - b. First Corinthians 10:13 – There’s always a way to escape *every* temptation – take it.
4. **To be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.** This is the most urgent of all our needs in these last days. You and I cannot be effective witnesses without this latter-rain infilling. Ask for it every day. Plead for it. Talk about it. Don’t rest content without it. Trouble God until you are sure you have it. (Joel 2:28, 29; Zechariah 10:1; Luke 11:13; John 14:16–18; Acts 1:8).
5. **Health, healing, and longevity.** (Exodus 15:26; Psalm 103:3; Jeremiah 30:17)
 - a. Isaiah 38 – Hezekiah prays for healing. He is given longer life.
 - b. James 5:13–15 – the model for healing in the church.
 - c. Third John 2 – John’s desire for Gaius’ prosperity and health.
6. **Success and prosperity.** (Psalm 75:6, 7; 112:1–3)
 - a. Deuteronomy 8:18a – God gives power to get/create wealth.

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

- b. Joshua 1:8; Job 36:11; Psalm 1:1-3 – Obey/apply God's word to be successful.
 - c. Psalm 21:7; 118:23-25; 122:6, 7; 50:10-12; 24:1 Jeremiah 33:9 – Real, lasting prosperity comes from God.
7. **Stronger faith and trust in God.** (Hebrews 11:6; Mark 9:24; Romans 12:3b; Psalm 37, 62; Proverbs 3:5-7)
- a. Matthew 21:22 – All things, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (have faith) and you will receive.
8. **Forgiveness of all sins.** Forgiveness is guaranteed, your part is to confess and repent. (1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13)
- a. Numbers 14 – Moses seeks forgiveness for rebellious Israel.
 - b. First Samuel 7:3-12; Ezra 9; Nehemiah 1:5-11; 9; Job 42:6 – Individual and corporate confession and repentance.
 - c. Psalm 51; 130 – Example given of David's deep repentance.
 - d. Luke 23:34 – Pray for ignorance of others and ourselves.
9. **Leaders and those in authority.** (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Hebrews 13:7, 17, 18)
- a. First Samuel 12:23 – It's a sin not to pray for them.
 - b. Romans 13:1-8 – Give respect and render to all their dues.

Prayers That God Delights to Answer (Every Time!)

10. **Enemies, persecutors, and all who do not know**

God. (Matthew 5:43, 44; Luke 6:27-36)

- a. Romans 13:14, 17-21 – Also do good to all, even when willfully wronged, abused or persecuted.
- b. Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:21 – We were all once enemies of God until He reconciled us.
- c. Psalm 37:1-2, 8-15, 20, 38-40; Revelation 11:12 – God will avenge the righteous. He will one day (if not now) reward the evil/wicked for their ways.

11. **Help in times of trouble or great difficulties.**

(Isaiah 65:24; Psalm 34:17; 50:15; Psalm 58:9; 145:18,19; Zechariah 13:9)

12. **God's provision.** (Matthew 6:30-33; Acts 2:42-45; Philippians 4:12, 19)

13. **God's protection and peace.** (Psalm 91; 119:65; Isaiah 26:3; John 14:27)

CHAPTER 7

Stop Praying Timid Prayers!

God didn't give you a cowardly spirit of fear and timidity. He gave you a spirit of power, love, and sound judgment.¹

Bold prayers honor God and God honors bold prayers. Bold prayers get bold answers and bold answers are reserved for bold prayers. Just as Elisha and Hezekiah asked “a hard thing,” your prayer life can change overnight if you begin to ask God as they did. Ask Him today. Not tomorrow, or next week. Today! Recommit to asking God for the *hard thing*. The big thing. It's one of the oft overlooked secrets to getting prayers answered 100% of the time. To be clear though. I'm not against praying for little things. I believe we should take everything to God in prayer. But at the same time, aren't you tired of mostly asking for little things? Do not limit God by your little prayers.

Do away with the, “Lord just help me to make it through just today.” I don't want you to just make it through one day. I want you to make it through many days. I don't want God to only bless you to barely make it. No way! I want God to bless you so much that you can be a blessing to someone else. I don't want God to simply bless you to pay your own rent or mortgage this month. I want Him

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

to bless you to the point where you can even pay some else's rent or mortgage as needed. Those are the kinds of blessings I want you to ask God for.

What have you given up asking God for? Perhaps you've been asking God to do something great in your life but haven't yet seen it come to pass. In frustration you may feel like giving up as though God cannot do it. But if He did it for Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Elisha, Hezekiah, Jesus, George Müller, E.M. Bounds, A.W. Tozer, Corrie Ten Boom, Watchman Nee, Oswald Chambers, R.A. Torrey, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Andrew Murray, Angus Buchan, Ellen G. White, and the countless other heroes of prayer, surely He can and wants to do it for you. He is waiting for you to fall on bended knees and pray like you've never prayed before.

Don't settle for less than God's best in any area of your life, business, or ministry. God is more than able. Ephesians 3:20 assures that not only is God able, but He is also able to do exceedingly. And if that weren't enough, He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all — not some or most, but above all that you can think or imagine. That's the God of Elijah you should be praying to. He's still ready, willing, and able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above, all that you can think or imagine if you will but by faith, accept this in your life.

Stop Praying Timid Prayers!

What is that difficult thing with which you are struggling in your spiritual life? Do you want to quit a bad habit like pornography, smoking, binge eating, gossiping, etc.? God can deliver you from these things. That might be your big mountain. That might be your sun or moon situation like Joshua. God wants to deliver you today. Stop praying timid prayers! Don't pray to get by in your marriage for another day or week. Pray to be happy and fulfilled in the relationship for many years - as long as you both shall live. Don't nag your spouse to behave better. Get on your knees and put them in the Lord's hand. Ask God to do the changing in their heart.

I decided a few years ago to stop worrying about my family's spiritual wellbeing. Now I tell others to stop worrying about their family members too because God has already given us promises in the Scriptures to help our families. Instead of worrying, get on bended knees, and begin interceding on their behalf, claiming such promises as 2 Peter 3:8, 9; John 3:16, 17; and 1 Timothy 2:1-4. Before you know it, changes you once thought impossible will begin to emerge in their lives. Try this for the next forty days and prove it for yourself. This also applies to people who get on your nerves at work or wherever. I also stop letting people disturb my peace. It's not always easy though. When people are misbehaving I just take them to the throne, because if God can't fix them I sure can't fix them. You will also do yourself and huge favor if you choose to do the same.

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

Even amidst a job loss, God is still at work. Take heart. My dad lost his job a while back, and it took about three to really bounce back. However, I praise God for blessing my father with the wonderful gift of stewardship. He didn't lose his house. He never went without food nor lacked any essentials during those lean years. In fact, he will soon retire the mortgage on the home. God still provides. He can and will provide for you. Press your petitions to His throne.

Here's a tip. If you are uncomfortable asking for bold miracles and blessings, encourage your children to do so. I have found that these young ones can ask God for bigger things than most adults. In fact, I love to hear children pray more than I love to hear adults pray, because children pray just what is on their heart. They don't use fancy flowery words like grownups. They don't try to sound eloquent. They are normally more specific and get right to the point. Lesson learned? If you need a job, ask God to bless you with a job. Don't say, "Lord you know, if you would kindly, just. Give me a little work I'd appreciate it. You know I've been working so hard, I just ..." Get to the point already! If you need a job, ask the Lord for a job. If you need \$5,000 don't ask for \$4,000. That's a denial of faith! Don't say, "Lord, just give me anything," because if He gave you \$10 you will complain. Why complain when you asked for anything?

Today what is it that you are seeking the Lord for? Think deeply about those things. Remember the kind of prayer

Stop Praying Timid Prayers!

I'm asking you to pray is not the regular tame small for the small stuff. We are long in trying times, and we need faithful sentinels who will cry out to almighty God for those big audacious hairy prayers. We need people today who can spark revival all over the world starting with their little corner of the globe. It's been a few hundred years since the world has seen a worldwide revival. Where are the praying grandmothers and grandfathers of yesteryear? Where are the praying churches? Where are the praying families? Are there no faithful watchmen on the walls who will stand in the gap for the nation? (Ezekiel 22:30)

No matter how many prayers you have prayed in the past that seem to have gone unanswered, God doesn't want you to give up on your prayers, unless you are 100% certain that He has answered "No," because according to 2 Corinthians 1:20, "All the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God by us." God will do what He says He's going to do. Once you are in the will of God and have complied with His conditional promises, be confident of a 100% "Yes" answer to your requests. (1 John 5:14, 15). Generally speaking, most prayers are supposed to be answered *yes*. If and when they are "No", say, "Praise the Lord. God has something better for me."

If you are certain today that you have not yet received a "No," about any prayer request but it's just that you've given up on that particular prayer, I want you to bring your petitions to the throne of God again. I want you to come again and try the Lord one more time. I want you

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

praying again for those *hard* and *difficult* things. If it's your relationship, bring that. If it's your finances, bring that. If it's for your school, just bring it. Stop praying these little prayers though. Bring the big stuff to the Lord. You have this precious promise to stand on:

If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.²

CHAPTER 8

How To Actually Move Heaven With Your Prayers

“As [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, when he finished, one of his disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.’”¹

Prayer by itself is not really what makes it powerful. It’s what goes along or in front of prayer that gives it luster. God is the One who answers prayers. Our faith is in Him, not in prayer itself. However, when prayer is actuated by elements such as faith, persistence, obedience, tears, compassion, earnestness, and fervency, it takes on a whole new meaning. It becomes more powerful. That’s another reason many people don’t see their prayers answered in the way they hoped. Because they’re just *praying* but not really praying. They may be uttering words, but those words may also be meaningless because the heart is not stirred by these elements. Furthermore, many prayers are lazy and not really serious. These aforementioned elements are matters of the heart, and that’s why when we pray, our hearts must be in the right place. There’s no faking it with God when it comes to this.

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

This can be deduced from studying many passages. Since we have focused much on the prayer life of Elijah in this book, let's examine James 5:13-18:

Is any among you afflicted (*suffering*)? **Let him pray.** ... Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and **let them pray over him**, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And **the prayer of faith will save the sick**, and **the Lord will raise him up**; and if he had committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Confess your faults (*trespasses*) one to another, and **pray one for another**, that ye may be healed. **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.** Elijah was a man subject to like passions (*nature*) as we are, and **he prayed earnestly that it might not rain** (*specific*): and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And **he prayed again**, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

Note the priority James gives to prayer. He didn't tell them if someone is suffering to call a committee, phone a best friend, try this, try that, then, when you have exhausted all your options, pray. Of course not. His recommendation to dealing with affliction is with the remedy of prayer. When disaster strikes, prayer is the weapon to face the storm — including sickness. If someone from their faith community at that time was facing a health crisis, that person's duty was to call the Church elders to pray over and anoint them. Note the sequence here:

How To Actually Move Heaven With Your Prayers

1. **Prayer must be offered for the sick person.** Prayer was crucial for the recovery of health and restoration. But something else must go along with or in front of the praying.
2. **Anoint them with oil but it's not the oil that saves or restores the sick.** The oil must also be put on in the name of the Lord. Hence, the oil cannot stand alone, it can only be effective if done in the name of the Lord.
3. **Another element must be mixed with, added to, or goes along with the prayer to give it effect — faith.** So now the praying takes on new meaning. It's no longer just prayer. But it's a prayer of faith: a prayer that takes God at His word; a prayer that believes in the One to whom it is addressed; a prayer that heaven delights to hear; a prayer that will save the sick. The Lord responds to this kind of prayer in two ways:
4. **The prayer itself did not cure the sick.** God healed the sick in response (answer) to the prayer of faith because faith is placed *in* Him while praying. God also is the One to forgive the sick person's sins. Prayers cannot forgive sins. Only God can do that. Sins are confessed while praying, but it is by believing (through faith) that God can, has, and will forgive the sins which the sick person accepts as such and then thanks God for having forgiven them.

To Move Heaven Like Elijah, Pray Like Elijah

Elijah did not move heaven with prayers. He moved heaven with a certain kind of praying — the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man, which avails much (verse 16b). This normal man like you and I was able to move heaven on several occasions and wrought many mighty blessings. He was filled to the brim with the power of the Holy Spirit and understood the keys to moving heaven on bended knees. When He asked God to hold the rains, heaven closed its pipes for three and a half years. When the man of God prayed again for rains, heaven opened its pipes and the rains poured out heavily. How can you also receive such favor from God to your requests?

In just a few short words, God instructs you how to pray for marvelous results. He does it in less than a full verse yet numerous books have and will be written about it. From this we learn:

1. **Add something to your prayers.** Elijah added three important ingredients.
2. **Your prayers must be effectual.** So it is more than just prayer. It becomes effective prayer which has adequate power or force to produce the effect (result or things desired or intended; prayed for).
3. **Your prayers must also be fervent.** Now they become even more than just effective prayers. They

How To Actually Move Heaven With Your Prayers

are now effective (plus) fervent prayers. Fervent prayers are prayers that are passionate, very warm; earnest; dynamic, and glowing. Effectual fervent prayers are prayers that are powerful and dynamic in their impact.

- 4. You, like Elijah, should be a righteous person.** Since this is part of the equation we can infer that had Elijah not been a righteous man then his prayers would not have produced the kind of results that it did, nor could it be said that it was effective and fervent. Though God blesses both the just and unjust with the sun and rain (Matthew 5:45), His eyes *are* over the righteous, and His ears *are open* to their prayers. But the face of the Lord *is* against those who do evil. The LORD *is* far from the wicked: but He hears the prayer of the righteous. (1 Peter 3:12: Proverbs 15:29) Don't complicate what it means to be righteous though. Whoever does what is right is righteous (1 John 3:7). This is why confession is always linked with prayer and should precede asking for request. Unconfessed sins hinder prayer. Ask forgiveness from God regularly (1 John 1:9).
- 5. When those elements are present your prayers will avail much.** Only after the preceding elements are activated could it be said that Elijah's prayer had strength, force or efficacy sufficient to accomplish the object for which he prayed. With that combination in prayer, you too can bring about

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

successful results from praying. They'll produce what you request because it's heaven's way of honoring the effective fervent prayers of the righteous.

Now that you know what is needed to pray earnestly with fixed attention, eagerness, zeal, real intense desire, or importunity, how will you actually do it?

How Should You Pray?

Protocol is a part of life. Every organization (especially the military) has its *modus operandi*, and the kingdom of God is no different. Heaven has certain procedures in carrying out the service of God. However, while etiquette is important, the form is not as important as the condition and motive of the heart. What God wants is that men and women remain constant in prayer and seek Him consistently. Yes. Follow the procedures, but don't let the procedures become a stumbling block. If you truly love God, you'll want to worship Him in the manner He prescribes because His yoke is easy and His burden light (Matthew 11:30).

Approaching God is a serious matter and should not be trifled with. Everyone should approach God with reverence because He is holy. In the communication of prayer, follow His guidelines when coming into His presence, and it will further give efficacy to your petitions. For example, don't bring anger into His presence since we

How To Actually Move Heaven With Your Prayers

are cautioned, “Let every man *be swift to hear, slow to speak*, slow to get angry. For man’s anger does not accomplish God’s righteousness.” (James 1:19, 20).

Take care with how you speak and what you speak in God’s presence. Too often, we’re busy speaking but not hearing from God, uttering many words that have no substance. The best counsel on this is found in Ecclesiastes Chapter 5 where Solomon advised:

Guard your steps when you go to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash [unwise] with your mouth, and let not your heart be quick to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven, and you upon earth. Therefore, let thy words be few.²

When examining the mechanics of prayer, using extensive biblical texts as well as several *suggested models*³ will help to enrich your conversations with God. This is not meant to present set prayer forms and rituals that can become lifeless and vain. On the contrary, knowing how to pray is both liberating and life-transforming. It anchors the human soul to the heart and mind of our Sovereign God. Implement these when you pray:

1. **Pray in solitude** [in privacy, seclusion, and isolation, (secret) as modeled in the example and teachings of Jesus (Matthew 6:5-6).

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

2. **Don't pray with vain repetitious words** [and they need not be long] (Matthew 6: 5-8).
3. **Short personal heart-felt prayers are often sufficient** as in Peter's prayer on the water. "Lord, help me!" was enough (Matthew 14:30). This is not to say there is no place for long prayers but quantity is not the goal. God is not impressed with long prayers and big words. Both quantity and quality heart-felt prayers can move heaven.
4. **Simplicity is pleasing to God**, as with the humble tax collector who would not even look up to heaven (Luke 18:9-14).
5. **Kneeling is the best posture in prayer**. While posture is important, there are various postures used in prayer. Being on one's knees perhaps best communicates reverence, awe, need, and humility. However, it is not always necessary to pray kneeling since we are to pray without ceasing and everywhere. Certain places and circumstances don't permit kneeling. You certainly don't want to be driving your car and kneeling at the same time.
6. **Bowing is a wonderful posture for prayer** as it is synonymous to kneeling and obeisance. The great deliverer and prophet Moses gave us an example where he "immediately bowed his head toward the ground (face down) and worshipped" (Exodus 34:8).

How To Actually Move Heaven With Your Prayers

7. **It is fitting to lift hands in prayer.** Solomon knelt in prayer and spread his hands towards heaven (1 Kings 8:54, 54; 2 Chronicles 6:12, 13). “I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without anger and doubting.” (1 Timothy 2:8)
8. **It may also be appropriate to sit in prayer.** David sat in prayer (1 Chronicles 17:16-27).

MODELS OF DYNAMIC PRAYING

Four suggested models⁴ of prayer are here presented to help you triumph in earnest prayer. They are: ASK, ABC, ACTS and PRAY. These are not models in the sense that if they are not followed, then your prayers cannot be answered. Jesus gave us freedom to pray, but these models are biblically sound and help to simplify the process of dynamic praying.

MODEL #1: ASK

ASK – Simply and humbly ask the Lord for whatever we desire or whatever He desires. Ask boldly. Ask in faith. Ask continuously. Ask persistently. Ask confidently. (1 John 5:14, 15; Matthew 7:7-12; Luke 11:8-13).

SEEK – God rewards those who not only seek Him, but those who seek Him diligently (with persistence). Don't seek not after your own heart, your own eyes, and your own finite wisdom. Pursue God instead. (Hebrews 11:6; Numbers 15:39; Psalm 1:1, 2; Proverbs 3:5, 6) Keep these in mind also:

- Beware of what or on whose behalf you seek the Lord; it may be in vain. (Deuteronomy 23:1-8)
- Don't seek after wizards, witches, or anyone who conjures up the dead or evil spirits (medium) – this is an abomination to God. (Leviticus 19:31; 1 Samuel 28:7)

How To Actually Move Heaven With Your Prayers

- What you seek you will find so pursue the right things. (Luke 11:8-13; Matthew 7:7-12)
- Seek the Lord with ALL your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13; 45:5a)
- Seek heavenly (spiritual) things above temporal (material) things. (Colossians 3:1)
- When your heart and soul seek God and His strength continually, He will be found of you. (Deuteronomy 4:29; 1 Chronicles 16: 10,11; 22:19; 28:9)

KNOCK – Prayer is no substitute for work and work is no substitute for prayer. Mingle action with prayer and faith and you will be unstoppable. Once you bathe anything in prayer, step out in faith and act in accordance with what you were praying about. Knock on heaven’s door first, then knock on the earthly doors He opens. (Matthew 7:7-12; Luke 11:5-12; Revelation 3:30).

MODEL #2: ABC

ASK – See above description on asking. (Matthew 7:7-12; 1 John 5:14, 15)

BELIEVE – Activate your faith when you ask. Don’t be double-minded. Believe in God. Put full trust and hope in Him, and He will bring it to pass in His time and in His way. (Matthew 21:22; Mark 9:23, 24; 11:24; Acts 10:43; 16:31; James 1:6-8)

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

CLAIM – After you have prayed and believed, you should receive that which you asked for. It may take time, but keep that doesn't mean you have not received now. Give thanks in advance for the blessing you have claimed (received) by faith. (Matthew 9:28; Mark 9:23; 11:23, 24)

MODEL #3: ACTS

ADORATION – Come to God always with praises on your lips and acknowledgment of His goodness, mercy, grace, and greatness. (Daniel 4:34, 35; Matthew 11:25-27)

CONFESSION – Even before making the specific requests, repent of all known and unknown sins — both of commission and omission. (Psalm 19:12-14; 51; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9)

THANKSGIVING – This is often the least practiced part of prayer. We ask and ask but seldom give thanks. Express to God your gratitude for that you already have. Do not focus so much on what you don't have that you miss the blessings you currently have. Thank Him for past, present, and future blessings. (John 11:41-42; Philippians 4:6)

SUPPLICATION – Make all types of requests, entreaties, and petitions to God. Remember to pray for others too as Jesus prayed for His disciples. (1 Timothy 1:14; 2:1- 3; James 5:14, 15; Acts 1:14; Ephesians 6:17, 18; Philippians 4:6, 7, 19; John 17:1-26)

MODEL # 4: PRAY

PRAISE – Express praises to God in different ways. Thank Him for His goodness. (Psalm 100; 145:21)

REPENT – Confess and turnaround from any and all evil practices. Ask God to forgive you, and believe in His promise to forgive and restore. (James 5:16-20)

ASK – Pray for specific needs, wants, and blessings. (Matthew 7:7-12; John 14:13, 14; 15:7)

YIELD – Surrender your ways to God and humble yourself. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Among the valuable principles of answered prayer, like patience, tenacity, zeal, and intensity, is perseverance. Jesus used two powerful illustrations in the book of Luke to convey this lesson on persevering prayer — an answer to spiritual breakthrough.

And he said unto them, ‘Which of you shall have a *friend*, and shall go unto him *at midnight*, and say unto him, ‘Friend, *lend me three loaves*; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and *I have nothing* to set before him?’ And he from within shall answer and say, ‘Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.’ I say unto you, ‘Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, *yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needs.*’⁵

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

According to the King James Dictionary, the word *Importunity* means, *Persistent asking*.⁶ This is the attitude we must have. Take the attitude that “I will not be denied.” Having met the necessary conditions of God’s promises, we can approach God boldly to make our requests known unto Him (Luke 18:1; 2 Corinthians 4:1, 16; Galatians 6:9; Ephesians 3:13; Hebrews 4:16). To make the teaching even simpler Jesus taught a parable stating:

Men ought always to pray, and not to faint; ... There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, ‘Avenge me of mine adversary.’ And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I fear not God, nor regard man; yet because this widow troubles me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’ And the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?’ I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?⁷

Both the importunate friend and widow understood from the stories a secret to successful living: that one must be persistent in prayer to experience spiritual breakthroughs. When all other factors are in place, this type of prayer moves heaven. This type of pressing prayer will lead to continual trust, delight, commitment, rest, and waiting on the Lord, and so your desires will be granted. (Psalm 37:3-7)

CHAPTER 9

When All Else Fails and You Need A Breakthrough

*“Work as if you were to live a hundred
years, pray as if you were to die tomorrow.”*

— Benjamin Franklin

Have you ever had a situation where you are doing all that you can to fix a problem or situation in your life, but absolutely nothing seems to be working out? I mean, you have prayed about it. You might have even asked church members, your family, everybody you know to pray for you, and yet nothing just seems to change for the better. There are those times in our lives when we face such difficult situations. It could be the death of a loved one. It could be the loss of finances. It could be a separation or divorce between a couple or whatever the case maybe. There are just some challenges, and the older you get, they are going to become serious drama.

Life is filled with drama. Each and every one of our lives could be a movie. If you could watch your life, you could write a script for it and turn it into a Hollywood blockbuster. Drama follows us wherever we go. If you are not in a drama, you will get into one soon. If you're not getting out of the drama, trust me, you're probably headed

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

into one right now. We are all faced with strongholds in our lives, things that hold us down, and they could be absolutely anything. But, there're also sin and struggle that holds us down.

Have you ever had one of those “sins” that you just can't seem to shake off? Early in my faith-walk experience, I had some major problems in my life. I mean, there was one particular issue that I just couldn't seem to get over. I doubted whether or not God was really answering my prayer, or whether He was even listening to me. While I knew intellectually that God was sincere in every way and true to His promises, was He really forgiving me?

Here's how my situation would play out. Today I would commit a sin. This particular sin is what you may call my Achilles heel. I would then ask God to forgive me. But later that day or maybe even just a few short hours after that, I'll commit the same sin again. Then I'll ask God to forgive me again. But tomorrow, I ended up doing that same thing again! It reminds me of that struggle Paul mentions in Romans 7:14-25.

After a while, I got so frustrated and I said, “God, are you for real? Can you really forgive me? Because I asked you yesterday to forgive me of thing. Today am asking you again! And who knows, maybe tomorrow I'll be asking for forgiveness for the same thing too!” I couldn't believe that God was going to forgive me, over and over again, for the same thing.

When All Else Fails and You Need A Breakthrough

Am I the only one who had that problem? Interestingly, we all got an issue like that. It could be many different things. But it doesn't matter. You may feel that you're gaining two steps forward and three backwards, or even four backwards, and that you just never seem to advance spiritually!

For some people, it is that they can't seem to control their tongue. They can curse anyone out in the heartbeat. Or they even dress up swearing with those "Christianese" curse words. You know what I'm talking about. Christians have their curse words too. They say these little words and phrases that are not necessarily bad, but they are things that at least make you say, "Um."

Still for others it may be an unforgiving spirit or mean attitude, one that reasons, "Lord, I just can't seem to forgive. I mean, I love them, but _____, I can't stand so and so." Those type of things, we all have one. It's kind of like addiction. It is addiction. Addiction just doesn't take place with alcoholics. We all have our particular addictions, and we need to break free from them. We need to get a breakthrough, because that particular addiction could be the thing that is holding you back from experiencing God's best in your life.

You may be in need of a breakthrough right now. So what do you do when you need a breakthrough? Do you need a supernatural intervention in your life at this very present moment? Are you longing for God to do something major

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

in your family, business, or ministry? If there is a particular issue or something big in your life that you need to see something happen about, it's not going to take the regular cookie cutter stuff.

How long have you been praying about a particular situation? How long have you been praying for someone else's salvation? Sometimes we pray just two, three prayers and quit. But nothing happens because we gave up too easily. My friend, you cannot experience supernatural breakthroughs from God like that. The problem of God's people today is not a lack of resources. Why then "should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence?" (*Steps to Christ*, pp. 94, 95).

Do you really need a breakthrough? Here's the punch line: **Sometimes praying alone cannot solve your problems.** Even with the best of so-called prayer warriors, sometimes, prayer alone does not solve the problem. Yes. Prayer is good. Don't get me wrong, I don't want you to misinterpret what I'm saying. You may be truly seeking God in prayer. You may be searching for Him with all your might. You may be doing all that you can do (as far as you know), and still nothing seems to be happening. There is a missing ingredient.

Jesus told a story about this predicament in Matthew Chapter 17. There was a time when nine of His disciples

When All Else Fails and You Need A Breakthrough

had a situation in front of them where they couldn't do anything. Jesus had gone up a mountain with Peter, James, and John. Those favored three experienced a miraculous transfiguration of Jesus. They were having a high time on the mountain top, but in the valley below, the other disciples were frantically trying to cast out a demon and they couldn't do it. Although they had a connection with Jesus and had done this stuff before, something was missing.

They had seen many miracles of this sort before. They had experienced God in powerful ways. They had asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. So it wasn't because they didn't know how to pray that they couldn't cast out this demon. There was still a missing ingredient in their prayer life. But this ingredient is readily available to anyone.

Today, if you really desire a breakthrough, learn and apply this master secret. I'm about to share various stories from the Holy Bible. You might sense where we are going. You may readily discover this master secret. However, it begs to show that, though we may often see the obvious, yet we wonder, "Why have I not taken this clear road to my breakthrough?" As the saying goes, "What's common knowledge isn't always common practice." And therein lies one of our great problems in life.

Whenever difficulties arise in life, we often try everything we can think of first. Then, when all else fails, we go to God for help. Praise God that He is so patient and

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

understanding with us. In His eternal love for humanity, He will wait until everything else fails, and welcome us into His throne room of mercy and grace, to give us the very help we stand in need of. What an awesome God we serve!

Do you see how carnal we are and how we sabotage our own breakthroughs? I mean, we will call up everybody. We will go and read every book. We will try almost anything but God. Then when all options run out, it is only then we turn to God in prayer. Obviously, we knew all along what was the right way, but sometimes, it seems too simple for us.

You need to affirm the Scriptures. This is what we need more than anything else, but it is too simple. People make prayer and faith too difficult. It seems like you need to have a PhD just to understand the basics of what the Bible is asking us to do. We want success, so we'll go chase it in all different places when the Scriptures have all the secret strategies that we need to succeed. We need a breakthrough, so we'll go try everything possible. We'll buy all the guru materials hoping for breakthroughs, and yet we neglect the power of prayers that move heaven. No more of that wild-goose chase.

SURVEY OF BREAKTHROUGH PRAYERS

Let me present to you some situations in the Bible where people needed a breakthrough and God blessed them in marvelous ways. The first story is found in Second Chronicles Chapter 20. Here, we find the story of King Jehoshaphat's reign. It's one of my favorites. In the first two verses we read:

It came to pass after this also, *that* the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them *other* beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There comes a great multitude against you from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they are in Hazazontamar, which *is* Engedi.

You may be able to identify with this situation. Somewhere along the line, if you haven't had it happen to you recently, somebody is going to bring bad news. Somebody is going to say, "Your _____ has died." When you have done everything you know to be true and right, when you have faithfully served God, yet He allows you to go through the heat of financial flames. You have prayed for a long time for that dream house or business, but bank after bank rejects your loan application. Or like Job in the Bible, your health fails. What happens when you go to the doctor's office for a routine checkup and the doctor tells you that, even though you've been eating well, perhaps become a

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

vegetarian or vegan, still you hear these dreaded words, “I’m afraid to tell you this, but, you have cancer.” What do we do then? All your religion and faith is now put to the test. You need a breakthrough!

Jehoshaphat received bad news. Remember, this is the king. This is a man who had an army that was no stranger to war at this particular point. However, unlike most of us who would rely on our own strength and try to flex our muscles, here is what the king did (verses 3-4):

And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask *help* of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

Wow! Jehoshaphat did not say, “Let’s rally the troops. Let’s get the plan. Call in all the mighty strategists and let’s strategize right now. Do it now!” Instead he said, “Listen. This is a major problem. Our army may have won battles in the past. But all the military might that we have is not going to cut it now. The only solution for us at this point is to seek our God. Gather your wives and children. Let’s pray and fast.” During the prayer session, Scripture records that the Spirit of the Lord came upon one them in the congregation and he prophesied, “Listen carefully, all Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat. This is what the LORD says: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army, for the

When All Else Fails and You Need A Breakthrough

battle is not yours, but God's.” (Verse 15) Hallelujah! This is the power of the Great God we serve!

This may not be our normal response during a crisis, but it ought to be. If it were, we too would have the divine guarantee, “You shall not *need* to fight in this *battle*: set yourselves, stand *still*, and see the salvation of the LORD with you. ...Fear not, nor be dismayed... For the LORD *will be* with you.” (Verse 17)

Let's now look at the story of Nehemiah. I'm showing you that the reason why we sometimes do not experience the kind of victory that we need over sin, over situations, over whatever is going on in our lives, or the kind of miracles and blessings that we desire, is because we are neglecting this basic principle that we are uncovering at this present moment. Examine the first four verses in Chapter one for a glimpse of this master secret:

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace. That Hanani, one of my brothers, came, he and *certain* men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said unto me, ‘The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province *are* in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also *is* broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.’ And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

wept, and mourned *certain* days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.

Normally, when we read the story of Nehemiah, we like to focus on the fact that he built the wall in such a quick time and that he brought about all these great reforms. But what we do not understand is that prior to this victory which Nehemiah experienced, he actually sought God in prayer, fasting, and weeping (verses 5-11). Even confessing his sins, the sins of his father's household, and the sins of the nation.

However, the Bible does not point out some particular sin of Nehemiah. But he was such a devout man of God that he acknowledged his own sins and those of his ancestors. Notice too that though Nehemiah himself was not in the dilemma that he heard concerning his people (after all, he was living the good life in the palace of Shushan), yet he was moved with compassion because of their sufferings. He didn't have to own their problem, but this is a lesson we can learn about the nature of intercessory prayer.

That's why when you get that call from someone who is in the furnace of affliction, you need to beseech God on their behalf. Your prayers and relationship with God can move heaven. God can use you to help bring deliverance into that person's life. The trials may not be happening to you, but because you belong to Christ, because you have the power of God within you, God can use you to be the conduit or the tool that He will use to bring

When All Else Fails and You Need A Breakthrough

victory to someone else. Will you chose to be the answer to someone's breakthrough?

The third story is one that I'm sure you're also familiar with but haven't revisited for a while. Directly after the book of Nehemiah we find the romantic and adventurous story of Queen Esther. In the fourth Chapter, we learn that there's a death decree that has gone out to slay the Jewish people. The sinister Haman wants them dead to satisfy his own selfish ambitions. This is the condition now upon which God's people find themselves where impending danger is right around the corner. The difficult situation is not just affecting body or health, nor was it a famine (all of which are reasons to seek God like never before). Unless deliverance comes, they are going to die!

Esther's uncle, Mordecai, sent this urgent message to her in verse fourteen, "If you keep silent at this time, *then* liberation and deliverance will come to the Jews from another place; but you and your father's house shall be destroyed. Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?" This quotation gets thrown around a lot. But suffice it to say, you should consider it a good sign whenever there are problems, that people come to you because they know that God is with you, especially if it's your family and co-workers. That's a powerful testimony.

Esther sent this reply to Mordecai, "Go, assemble all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast for me. Neither

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

eat nor drink three days, night or day. I and my maidens will also fast in the same way. After that, I will go to the king even if it's against the law. And if I perish, I perish" (verse 16). We know how the story ended and why she didn't perish. But Esther didn't know exactly how things would turn out. But she had enough faith to pray boldly and to fast.

Don't overlook this point. Mordecai was the man who knew about the laws of God. If anyone knew what needed to be done during a crisis, it should have been Mordecai. But guess what? Esther was the one who gave this instruction instead of Mordecai. Yes. Mordecai put ashes on his head and he did the Jewish thing (verses 1-2). Yes. He may not have had the power and influence like the Queen. But it was Esther who said, "Go and assemble all the Jews who can be found in Shushan and fast for me. Don't eat or drink for three days, day or night. I and my female servants will also fast in the same way. After that, I will go to the king even if it is against the law. If I perish, I perish." She was like his own daughter. He was her elder. Yet her simple decision to pray and fast won a great deliverance for her people.

Age is not limitation for God. I want people who know God personally to pray with and for me. I don't care if it's a five year old child. If God consistently answers their prayers, then that is sufficient for me. How about you? That's the kind of dedication and boldness it takes to move

When All Else Fails and You Need A Breakthrough

the arms that move the world. That's what we need in the world today.

Take this other lesson from a fourth story – the running prophet called Jonah. God gave this reluctant, partly converted prophet, an urgent message of warning to deliver to a group of very cruel people. Instead of embracing this divine errand of mercy, Jonah runs from far God. As if he could really hide from God. He says to himself, “I’m not going there. I’m going the opposite way. I want to do it my own way.” You know what I’m saying? It goes to show that even God’s people can become unbelieving at certain times. Thank God that He does not always treat us as we deserve.

However, He does permit problems to come our way as a result of our blunders and rebellious hearts. So don't blame the devil for everything that happens to you. Sometime we blame old Lucifer. I know Lucifer is the enemy and he tempts us daily. But sometimes we're just plain blamers. You know what I'm saying? That's what happened in Eden. Adam blamed Eve for his sin. Eve blamed the serpent for her sin. But that cunning serpent had nobody to blame, so he just had to take it himself. But I'm sure if Satan had somebody to blame, he would have blamed them too. You see what I'm saying? Stop passing the buck along for your own spiritual lethargy. Do not blame the devil for every problem in your life. Some of your problems are self-inflicted wounds.

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

Back to the Jonah saga. In Chapter three, we read, “The word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, ‘Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the message I tell you.’” The God of second chances is not just a cute Veggie Tales song. He truly bears long with us and doesn’t give up on us like we give up on others. But Jonah was no fool. He took advantage of this second opportunity. He had a lot of time to think about his fishy ways and came to his senses. He went boldly to preach to Nineveh. He even cried out to them with great urgency. As Jonah began to enter into the city, he proclaimed, “In forty days, Nineveh will be destroyed” (verse 4).

Interestingly, the people of Nineveh responded to the prophet’s warning. Remember, Nineveh was one of the most evil, one of the brutal places at the time. That’s why God sent Jonah to them in the first place. So what happened when Jonah preached his doomsday message?

The men of Nineveh believed in God. They proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth—from the greatest of them to the least. When word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, put on sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he issued a decree in Nineveh: By order of the king and his nobles: No man or beast, herd or flock, is to taste anything at all. They must not eat or drink water. Furthermore, both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth, and everyone must call out earnestly to God. Each must turn from his evil ways and from the violence he is doing. Who

When All Else Fails and You Need A Breakthrough

knows? God may turn and relent; He may turn from His burning anger so that we will not perish.¹

What was the result of this season of intentional fasting? “God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said that He would do unto them. And He did *it* not” (Jonah 3:10). Hallelujah! That’s a loving God. These were the ungodly. The wicked. The evil. The ones that we would have denounced saying they cannot be saved. Yet those same ones moved heaven with genuine prayers and fasting. Even their animals fasted!

These are the same kind people God wants us to reach. God wants us to preach to them, not judge them or condemn them. He sent his Son not to condemn the world, but to save it. God is not in a condemnation business right now. God is in salvation business. Condemnation automatically happens. We don’t need to condemn anyone. Condemnation is automatic. What we need to do is proclaim liberty. Proclaim hope in Christ, the Savior. Proclaim God’s message as He gave it. Let the message do the work for itself.

When people repent, this is what God does. He saw their contrite humble hearts manifested by their repentant works. He saw that they turned from their evil ways and God responded kindly by averting the judgment originally pronounced upon them if they did not change their ways. That’s what God will do for you too.

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

Don't hold back your own breakthrough. God is asking you something to do simple. Follow His blueprint. If Jesus, while on this earth could find the time to wake up early and go to his secret place to pray, how about you and me? He made time for prayer. And notice too that after the recorded prayer sessions of Jesus, something miraculous always took place. He reminded his own disciples of the priority prayer must have in their lives when He said, "Men are always to pray and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).

If you want to get fired up and real with God, then you need to be serious about everything that God has given in His blueprint for answered prayers. There is power available to the church. There is power available to you and your family. Stop playing around with this stuff. Start getting deep with God. Stop wasting time on the phone, on Facebook, and watching mindless television. All those precious minutes and hours can be spent in praying big bold miraculous prayers for your family, business, or ministry.

Go wherever people are praying. There is power there. Unite with such people and plead for wisdom to manage your particular situation. "Now and onward till the close of time the people of God should be more earnest, more wide-awake, not trusting in their own wisdom, but in the wisdom of their Leader. They should set aside days for fasting and prayer." (*Last Day Events*, p.82) If you begin practicing the things that the Scriptures admonish us to

When All Else Fails and You Need A Breakthrough

do, you will at once begin to experience more power from God.

Let's examine our final story. The prophet Daniel was a mighty man of prayer. In Chapters 9 and 10 of the Book by his name (both of which you must read entirely), we gain significant insights into how and why Daniel was able to move heaven on bended knees. He was an avid student of Scripture and understood from reading the prophet Jeremiah, that Jerusalem would be desolate for seventy years. This reality moved Daniel to seek God's face in prayer, petitions, fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. You must read the rest of the chapter, particularly verses four through nineteen. It is one of the most touching, genuine, and heart-felt prayer recorded in the Bible.

First, he sought the Lord with prayer and fasting as a response to what he was reading and studying in the Holy Scriptures. This tells us that Scripture must be a priority in connection with prayer and fasting. Prayer takes on a different meaning when it is prompted from having discovered something in the sacred texts. It is the foundation of effective fasting.

When you read the whole chapter, you'll discover that Daniel, like Nehemiah, began by confessing his own sins. Yet nowhere in the book of Daniel (or the Bible for that matter) will you read about Daniel's sin. The Bible didn't record it. The same thing with Job. The Bible didn't record Job's particular sin, but at the end of the book, Job said,

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

“I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6).
That’s true humility.

When you humble yourself and ask God to forgive you, even if you think you’re righteous enough, that’s a picture of genuine submission. Every one of us has some sin that we have committed and for which we need forgiveness. Even now, if you have grudge in your heart, that’s a sin. If there’s somebody right now that you cannot forgive, that’s a sin. Confess it as such. Don’t sugar-coat it.

Daniel also took his confession further. He also confessed the sins of the people and includes himself as guilty. Wow! He didn’t play the blame game. He didn’t beat around the bush. He didn’t try to lessen his guilt or make the nation look better than it really was. He was bold enough to call sin by its rightful name. That’s the way we need to come to God. Lay it all out as it is. It makes no sense trying to impress God or make yourself look better than you really are. Such is the kind of man and woman we need today.

The greatest want of the world is the want of men – men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.²

When All Else Fails and You Need A Breakthrough

Another secret to Daniel's ability to move heaven with prayers was his intimate relationship with God. Scripture refers to him as "a man greatly beloved" (Daniel 10:11, 19). Having humbled himself in full three weeks of prayer, fasting, and mourning, Chapter 10 opens with Daniel receiving a visitor from heaven. He had moved heaven! When he received that vision by the riverside, he was with some with other people. Yet they did not see the vision because they were so terrified, they ran away and hid themselves.³

These people didn't have the deep relationship with God that Daniel had. Maybe they didn't even have a connection with heaven at all. Who knows? Daniel was the only one who was able to see this great vision. The others missed out because they did not have that relationship which could have given them divine access. To get results like Daniel, you have to be willing to do what Daniel did. Heaven responded swiftly to this humble man's prayer. So much so that, from the very first day he set his heart to seek God in prayer and fasting, to humble himself in confession, his prayer was heard immediately. The command went forth in the heavenly court to go answer his prayers (Daniel 9:20-23; 10:12).

We can be sure of the fact that all these aforementioned stories contain the ultimate breakthrough secret to moving heaven. What is your excuse for not moving heaven and having your prayers answered 100% of the time?

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

Let's now go back where we left Jesus' disciples trying to cast out a demon. No doubt these simple unlettered men thought to themselves, "We know Christ. We've been serving him all this time. We have seen him do this time and time again. Why then can't we cast this demon out?" They decided to take their perplexing question to their Master Teacher. They asked Him privately, "Jesus, we know that you know everything. Tell us, 'Why couldn't we cast him out?'" (Matthew 17:19)

Your frustrating questions may be similar. You may wonder: Why can't I get victory over this sin? Why can't I get a breakthrough? Why is this thing such a problem in my home? Why? Why? Why? If your money is acting funny, if your husband or wife is acting funny, if your health is acting funny, if any part of your life is not the way you want it to be, then you've got to do more than pray. If you want to make it to the next level in your life, if you want to see that thing broken in your life, do what Jesus told His disciples.

Jesus gave them the master secret to really moving heaven and that secret is now yours. He said, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed... Nothing will be impossible unto you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." (Matthew 17:20, 21) So simple. In clear view. Yet how many people actually do it? There are some issues that are too great just for regular praying alone. The Messiah said you need take it up a notch with prayer coupled with fasting. Could this be the ultimate

When All Else Fails and You Need A Breakthrough

master secret to the breakthrough you've been waiting for? Then you need to schedule a fast right now. Fasting might be that breakthrough that you've been search in for. The ball is in your court.

But beware! Many of us Westerners don't really like to fast (at least in the true spiritual sense of the word). I want to be real with you. You be real with you. Seriously! When was the last time you fasted? I'm not talking about fasting for two hours. That's called skipping a meal. That's not fasting. You just skipped a meal or snack. You will survive. People in third world countries skip several meals, so that's not a real fast. That's more like dieting.

Fasting is not just only about abstaining from food. Fasting is not something that is legislative. If you notice, in the Scriptures, people fast because they were facing a particular problem. It's not just jumping on the latest prayer and fasting bandwagon either. We won't tell you in this lesson to do the "Daniel fast." This is not about fasting for the sake of fasting. We're not talking about fasting for dietary reasons. We're talking about adding that extra ingredient to our prayers that will move heaven and result in breakthroughs.

The reason you should fast is because fasting does something important. It puts your mind in union with God. You become more laser-focused on the breakthrough you need. It can become more earnest for you. In regular prayer, we're generally too busy. Hence you're not really

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

connecting with God. We normally blindly say a lot of words just to say that we actually prayed. But our heart is not in it. That's not what fasting is supposed to accomplish. Fasting draws your heart out. It draws your soul out and upward to God because you're so focused and greatly desiring to see His hand move on your behalf.

If you haven't fasted in a while, maybe that's one of the reasons you haven't experienced more positive answers to your prayers. However, keep in mind that fasting is not something meant to become a religious pharisaical gimmick. As you can see clearly, God's people understood that they needed to fast. If you have not fasted in a while, where is your spirituality on a scale of 1-10? Why aren't you practicing this necessary spiritual discipline? This may also be another reason why we seldom witness the same kind of victories and Spirit-filled experiences that other folks are experiencing in other parts of the world.⁴

CHAPTER 10

Now It's Your Turn to Move Heaven on Bended Knees!

*“To get nations back on their feet, we must
first get down on our knees.”*

— Billy Graham

When prayer becomes natural to you as breathing in and out, you have just begun to master the principles taught throughout this book. Whenever you find yourself seeking God *first* instead of as an afterthought, you have begun to mature in your spiritual journey. The difference between King Saul and King David was their thirst for God and the priority He had in their prayer life. Saul learned to do without God and sought Him only when he wanted to. David yearned for God as a deer longs for the streams of water (Psalm 42:1) and constantly desired to be in God's presence. David consistently sought first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33) while Saul had to constantly be reminded to do so by the prophet Samuel.

It was customary for Israel to seek God's counsel before going into battle (Judges 20:18-28, 35), but they understood from previous leaders like Moses and Joshua that God would not tolerate sin in the in camp even if they seek His counsel. Saul presumed upon God's custom

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

to provide military strategy to the nation when they asked Him, but he wasn't obedient to carry out God's instruction as He gave them. After a while, God no longer spoke with Saul because he was not a man after God's heart to carry out His will (1 Samuel 14:35-37). In comparison, no matter how many battles David won, he did not allow success to go to his head. He still made it a priority to seek God first before venturing out on further conquests.

David enquired of the LORD, asking, 'Should I go and smite these Philistines?' The LORD said to David, 'Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.'

Then said David, 'O LORD God of Israel... Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech You, tell your servant.' And the LORD said, 'He will come down.'

It came to pass after this that David enquired of the LORD, asking, 'Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?' And the LORD said to him, 'Go up.' And David said, 'Where should I go?' God said, 'to Hebron.' David enquired of the LORD, asking, 'Should I go up to the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?' And the LORD said to David, 'Go up: for I will certainly deliver the Philistines into your hand.'¹

As we close out this journey together, I appeal to you to make prayer the first and top priority of your life. You have here perhaps the most thorough study on the subject in one place. This chapter is all about application of these principles. Your task is now to master these for the rest

Now It's Your Turn to Move Heaven on Bended Knees!

of your life. But first things first. Pray first thing in the morning. Pray first thing when problems arise. Thank God first for all the blessings you already have and enjoy. Pray first thing before you sleep at night.

Start by applying the lesson in the previous chapter. When fasting is combined with prayer, explosive things can happen that may not customarily happen. That chapter presented all the evidences you need of that fact. This chapter outlines some basic details about fasting which can be incorporated with the previous chapter.

What Is Fasting?

In its simplest definition, fasting is abstaining from food (eating and drinking – or combination of both) for *spiritual* purposes for a certain period of time (Exodus 34:28; 2 Samuel 12:17, 20b, 21; Esther 4:16; Johan 3:5-8; Matthew 4:2-4; Luke 5:33; Acts 9:9).

When and Where Should You Fast?

There is no legislated time or place for fasting. Fasting took place at different times and in various places in the Bible. You can therefore fast at any time and in any place. The key is to fast and do it as often as needed as the situation necessitates. Here are some places where fasting took place in Scripture:

- By a river (Ezra 8:21).
- In a palace (Daniel 6:18).
- In the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-2).
- On a mountain side (Exodus 34:28).
- In homes (Acts 9:9-19).
- In provinces (Esther 4:3).
- On the floor/ ground (2 Samuel 12:16, 20).

Fasting also take place on these occasions and times:

- Any time of the day or night (Daniel 6:18; Esther 4:16; Matthew 4:2-11; Luke 2:36, 37).
- Before receiving the Decalogue on Sinai (Exodus 34:28; Deuteronomy 9:9).
- On the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:29, 31).
- Upon the death of a friend or family (1 Samuel 31:11-13).
- During times of sickness, afflictions, and difficulties (2 Samuel 12:15-23; 2 Corinthians 6:4, 5; 2 Corinthians 11:27).
- During times of grief, anxiety, and deep emotions (1 Samuel 1:7; 2 Samuel 2:16; Daniel 6:18-20).

Now It's Your Turn to Move Heaven on Bended Knees!

- During times of impending danger and fear (2 Chronicles 20:2-13; Esther 4:16).
- After receiving sad/bad news (Nehemiah 1:4).
- For ordination into the gospel ministry (Acts 13:2, 3; 14:23).
- During times of national repentance (1 Samuel 7:5, 6; Jonah 3:5-10).
- During periods of sustained intercession (Daniel 9:34; Acts 9:9, 11, 19).

For How Long Should You Fast?

There is no set length of time for fasting. The Bible also gives various lengths of fasting. How long to fast should be based on the need at the given moment and the degree of conflict you are experiencing. Fast as long or as short as you need. Answers come at different times. Here are some recommended lengths mentioned in Scripture:

- All night (Daniel 6:18; 2 Samuel 12:16).
- Three days (Esther 4:16).
- A number of days (Nehemiah 1:4).
- Two times per week (Luke 18:12).
- Seven days (1 Samuel 31:13; 2 Samuel 12: 16-18).
- Forty days (Exodus 34:28; Matthew 4: 1-2).

What Is Involved in Fasting?

- Neither eating nor drinking (Exodus 34:28; 2 Samuel 12:17, 20b, 21; Esther 4:16; Johan 3:5-8; Matthew 4:2-4; Luke 5:33; Acts 9:9).
- Much prayer (Luke 2:37; Ezra 8:23; Daniel 9:3).
- Intimate and contrite confession of all sins (Ezra 9:3-15; Nehemiah 1; 9:1-3; Daniel 9:3-19).
- Mourning [deep sorrow of heart] (Joel 2:12; Esther 4:3).
- Humiliation [deep soul searching] (Ezra 8:21; 9:3-6; Deuteronomy 9:9, 18, Psalm 35:13).
- Weeping over sins and defeat, neglected duties, and conditions among God's people (Nehemiah 1:4; Ezra 9:3-15; 2 Samuel 12:16-23; James 4:8, 9; Psalm 69:10; Judges 20:26).
- Focused on God and doing what is right (Zechariah 7:5-14; Matthew 6:18; Isaiah 58:1-7).
- Cleansing the soul temple (Psalm 69:10, 11a; 1 Samuel 7:6).
- Correcting motives and considering true meaning of fast (Isaiah 58: 3-14).
- Avoidance of display and vanity (Matthew 6:16-18).

What Will Fasting Accomplish?

- Divine Guidance (Judges 20:26-28).
- Answers to petitions (Judges 20:26-48; Esther 5-7, Nehemiah 2, Daniel 6:18-24; 9:20-27).
- Victory over temptations (Matthew 4: 1-11).

Now It's Your Turn to Move Heaven on Bended Knees!

- Promised blessings [present and future] (Joel 2:18-32).
- Pardon [forgiveness and mercy] (Jonah 3:9, 10).

NEXT STEPS:

The call of God is for prayer. Where are the praying men, women, boys, and girls of this generation? Stand up and take God at His Words. God is asking, "What do you want me to do for you?" Once you have complied with the conditions of His promises and principles as outlined in this book, you can be confident when you fall on your knees to cry out to Almighty God. Don't beat around the bush. Be specific. Don't live other people's definition of what God can't do and experience for yourself the unlimited power of God that is available to you through prayer.

When you desperately need a breakthrough, add fasting to your praying to unlock the storehouses of heaven. Choose you this day how you will pray. But as for me and my house, we will pray bold audacious prayers. Don't neglect this essential spiritual discipline. Keep praying. Keep trusting. Go forward on your knees. Go now and pray some bold prayers that move heaven, and watch for 100% answers to your prayers and so master these principles. God bless.

In service to humanity,

Randrick, Rhonitta, and Joel

ACTION ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Prepare Your Prayer Closet** (*secret prayer place*)
 - Decide on a specific place
 - Chose a specific time
 - Get some key tools: Bible, pen, journal, paper
 - Write down specific prayers you have (from all areas of your life)
2. **Prepare Your Environment** (*once you've decided on the location*)
 - Remove all distractions: Internet, phones, gadgets, anything not needed for praying.
 - Add motivation: Post encouraging verses, quotes, pictures, sounds, etc.
 - Ask: *“Is this a place where I can meet with God uninterrupted? Is it place where angels will like to visit?”* Tweak it until you can answer *yes* to both questions.
3. **Prepare Your Bold Prayer List** (*think of the ‘hard’ things*)
 - What do you need God to do for you spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, professionally, and financially?
 - What problems are you currently facing that you need God’s intervention?
 - What problems are your family and friends facing that they need God’s intervention?

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

- What one thing more than all others you will like God to help you with?
 - How will you like God to use you to be a blessing to others?
 - List the prayers that people may have asked you to pray for in the last month.
4. **Prepare to Fast** (*get ready to move heaven*)
- Set a date and time for exactly when you will fast and put it on your calendar. Post it in your Prayer Closet and a one other prominent place to remind you.
5. **Get On Your Knees Now!** (*start praying*)
- The only way to learn how to pray is to actually pray.
 - Don't let these principles become a burden. God wants to hear from you. Keep that the main thing. Don't become ritualistic with this.
 - “*Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*” (John 13:17)

BONUS RESOURCES

To get a \$250 bonus prize for getting this book and to continue the conversation, go to:

www.strategicsecrets.com/blog/prayers-that-move-heaven/.

To download your complimentary bonus supporting materials for this book, go to:

www.prayersthatmoveheaven.com/ptmh-bonuses/.

To leave prayer requests for others to intercede with/ for you, or to pray for other people's requests, go to:

www.prayersthatmoveheaven.com/join-prayer-room/.

We ask that you respect the rights and confidentiality of other people's prayer requests. Any unwelcomed behaviors or comments will get you prayed-out of (booted from) the Prayer Room community and your comments deleted.

If you spot any errors in this book (it happens even after the due diligence of meticulous editing), please let us know by emailing info@prayersthatmoveheaven.com. *We may even reward you for the extra pair of eyes.*

Please be kind enough to leave a short (or long) review on Amazon after reading this book. It helps us improve and spread the word about this important topic. You will also be living out the Golden Rule and it's sure to return to you in some way. Thank you very much.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Check out my Author Page on Amazon for other books I've written. Thanks for your support.
<http://www.amazon.com/-/e/B00PJ3HBAU>.
- Visit our blog www.StrategicSecrets.com, and subscribe to our newsletter to receive lots of training and success tips.
- Faith Like Potatoes: The Story of a Farmer Who Risked Everything for God.
- Facing the Giants – Alex Kendrick.
- The Battle Plan for Prayer – Stephen Kendrick.
- War Room DVD & War Room Bible Study.
- Books on Amazon by George Müller, E.M. Bounds, Ellen White, A.W. Tozer, Oswald Chambers, R.A. Torrey, Andrew Murray, and Corrie Ten Boom.

MORE QUOTES ON PRAYERS

“There is power in prayer. When men work, they work. But when men pray, God works.”

— Angus Buchan

“God will do nothing but in answer to prayer.”

— John Wesley

“God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world, the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil. . . . God conditions the very life and prosperity of His cause on prayer.”

— E.M. Bounds

“Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees.”

— Corrie Ten Boom

“You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.”

— S.D. Gordon

“Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness.”

— Martin Luther

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

“I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach.”

— Charles Spurgeon

“To desire revival . . . and at the same time to neglect (personal) prayer and devotion is to wish one way and walk another.”

— A.W. Tozer

“Prayer is man’s greatest power!”

— W. Clement Stone

“The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.”

— Søren Kierkegaard

“Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.”

— Mother Teresa

PRAYERS FOR YOU DEAR READER:

“Heavenly Father, I thank You and praise You for the opportunity of sharing these principles with this reader. I ask that You cleanse them and purify them in every way. May the reader of this book, be they man, woman, or child, earnestly search their heart and make the necessary adjustments to become more fervent in prayer. Help them to persevere in prayer like Jacob, Elijah, Corrie Ten Boom, Angus Buchan, and George Müller.

“Lord, I ask You to put boldness in every man, woman, and child’s heart, that they may come boldly to press their petitions to Your throne. Shake them free from the routine of lame prayers. Grant them the humility to truly repent of evils. Give them victory over any besetting sins. Forgive them for not allowing you to dig deep into their life – deep into their situation. Please take them beyond the surface of prayer. May your Holy Spirit continue to abide with them, lead them, and guide them. All this I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

“Heavenly father I thank You for encouraging every reader of this book and for reminding them that You are indeed the same God who performed all those wonderful miracles in the days of Israel, the Old and the New Testament. God, this reader today is bringing their petitions to You,

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

and first of all, I ask that You will forgive them for any sin or doubt that may be in their life. In the name of Jesus, I petition the throne of heaven, that according to Your mercy, Your grace, and Your loving kindness, You will restore their broken relationships. Heal their sick bodies and minds. Comfort the broken hearted. Provide financial peace and the will to change bad habits.

“Father, I also ask for the Holy Spirit to manifest into their life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Give them boldness to face their problems and courage to change those things that need changing. Bless them tremendously. Give them vision. Give them wisdom to manage their personal, business, and ministerial responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner.

“Give them a desire to want You even more than the gifts You offer. Pour out Your Spirit of grace and supplication in latter rain power in this generation. Father, we can’t wait for some future time. In our lifetime, if we can make ourselves ready, then please pour out Your Spirit in abundance upon us.

“Those who need victory over some particular struggle, I ask You to give them the power to do so. You said, “This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4, 5). Give them the faith to overcome those besetting sins. Give them also favor in their community. Favor with those in authority and favor in their work

Prayers For You Dear Reader:

places. Since all things are possible with You, I ask that You do great things for each reader. Elisha did not ask for a light thing, nor did Hezekiah. They asked for something difficult (according to their own thinking) so help this reader to ask great things from you.

“Father God, please give them a breakthrough soon. Loose them from whatever burden they are carrying. Help them to trust that you have heard their prayers. These are the things I pray in the mighty most powerful name of Jesus Christ, the God of Elijah. *Amen.*”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

RANDRICK CHANCE is a US Navy veteran, #1 Amazon bestselling author, speaker, pastor, and lifestyle coach. After enjoying a successful naval career, he pursued a rewarding career in humanitarian relief and has traveled to over 25 countries on 6 continents. He uses his military experience and training to help others discover their passions and pursue meaningful service and career endeavors.

Chance and his B.M.W (*Beautiful Marvelous Wife*), Rhonitta, also enjoy bringing physical and spiritual relief to thousands of suffering and underserved people — in the U.S. and around the world. They have conducted outreach campaigns in some of the most neglected and at-risk cities in America and in Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Liberia, Suriname, Kenya, and Tanzania — transforming the lives of thousands of families as a result.

On the home front, he enjoys soccer, tennis, writing, and spending both quality and quantity time with Rhonitta, and their new son, Joel. Together, they provide spiritual encouragement and education to two congregations in Texas, two in Kenya, and three in Tanzania.

NOTES

Chapter 1:

1. Ellen White. *In Heavenly Places*. (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1967), 75.
2. *Christ's Object Lessons*. (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1941), 172.
3. *Prayer*. (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2002), 61.
4. *A Call to Stand Apart*. (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2002), 27.
5. *Prayer*, 62.
6. *Counsels for the Church*. (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1991), 100.
7. *Selected Messages*. Book 1. (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association), 121.

Chapter 2:

1. Second Kings 2:1-9.
2. Second Kings 2:10.

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

Chapter 3:

1. Famous quote by Angus Buchan in 2006 movie, *Faith Like Potatoes*.
2. Joshua 10:1-6.
3. Second Kings 20:1, 2. The story is also found in Isaiah 38.
4. Author's emphasis of 2 Kings 20:4.
5. Second Kings 20:5-6.
6. Acts 1:14; 2:1, 2, 4.
7. Acts 4:24, 29-31.
8. Acts 10:1-4; 44-48.
9. Acts 9:36-42.
10. Acts 20:7-12.
11. Ellen White. *Prayer*. (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2002), 53.

Chapter 4

1. Ellen White. *Steps to Christ*. 1892. (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1956), 94.

2. Definition of *pray and prayer* as found in Webster's Dictionary, 3rd ed. (New York: Random House, 1998), 562.
3. White. *Prayer*. (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2002), 8.
4. Points 4–10 taken from the definition of *prayer* as found in *Easton's Illustrated Bible Dictionary: And Treasury of Biblical History, Biography, Geography, Doctrine, and Literature*. (WORDsearch Basic 10).
5. Second Kings 1:1–4, 17a.
6. Luke 3:21; John 11:41–42; Matthew 6:6; John 14:15–16; John 17:1,5,9,11,24–25; Matthew 26:39; 43; Mark 14:35, 36.
7. John 14:13–14; John 16:23–24. See also Matthew 18:20; Mark 16:17a; John 15:16b.
8. White. *The Desire of Ages*. (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1940), 668.
9. *Steps to Christ*, 100, 101.
10. *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*. (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1943.), 242.

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

11. *Prayer*, 220.

Chapter 5

1. Ellen White. *A Call to Stand Apart*. (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2002), 27.

2. *Prayer*. (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2002), 314.

3. *The Southern Work*. 1898, 1901. (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1966), 12/5/1899, paragraph 1.

Chapter 6

1. Ellen White. *Prayer*. (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2002), 57.

2. First John 5:14-15.

3. *Prayer*, 57.

4. White. *Education*. Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1952), 257, 258.

5. Jeremiah 29:11-14.

Chapter 7

1. Second Timothy 1:7.
2. Matthew 18:19, 20.

Chapter 8

1. Luke 11:1.
2. Ecclesiastes 5:1, 2.
3. The *suggested models** of prayer are not meant to become rituals in praying. God would have His children be free to pray and meditate and not to become Pharisaic. They are models because they contain elements of various prayers found in scripture and can simplify the process of prayer.
4. Same as number 3 above.
5. Luke 11:5-8.
6. Definition of *Importunity* as found in *King James Dictionary*. (WORDsearch Basic 10).
7. Luke 18:1-8.

Chapter 9

1. Jonah 3:5-9.

PRAYERS THAT MOVE HEAVEN

2. Ellen White. *Education*. (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1952), 57.

3. This scene is similar to the one pictured in Revelation 6:12-17.

4. Before fasting, hypoglycemics, diabetics, pregnant women, and anyone taking medications or have health issues, should consult with their physician for extra guidelines on fasting.

Chapter 10

1. First Samuel 23:2; 1 Samuel 23:10-11; 2 Samuel 2:1; 2 Samuel 5:19.