

PRAYER

AUTHORIZING
HEAVEN ON EARTH



JOSEPH B. KACK

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Note From the Author	vii
Chapter One	
WHY PRAY?	1
God's Plan for Creation: "Let THEM Have Dominion...."	2
Legal Entry	3
God Needs an Invitation	4
Asking Is Authorizing	6
Chapter Two	
CHANGING OUR MINDSET	9
Our Identity in Prayer	9
Prayer Is Partnership With the Father	10
Locate Yourself in Prayer	12
<i>"Lord, I really need this!"</i>	14
Our Confidence in Prayer	14
Answered Prayer Begins With the Answer	15
Chapter Three	
AGREEMENT	19
Agreement: Starting With the Answer...in Your Heart	20
Some Homework Required	21
Chapter Four	
AGREEMENT IN WILL	23
What Does God Want?	23
The Secret to Jesus' Prayer Life	24
The Process of Agreement	26
Chapter Five	
AGREEMENT IN PROTOCOL	27
What Is Protocol?	28
Jesus Implements Protocol	28
The Father Is the Source	29

Entry Protocol—What's My Approach?	30
Make Your Request Known by Asking	34
Protocol in Declaring	36

Chapter Six

AGREEMENT IN POSITION	41
The Power of Agreement	41
We Begin With the Answer in Prayer	43
Embracing Our Bible Identity	43
Put on Christ	44
True Humility	45
We Are Who the Bible Says We Are	46
Joyful in the House of Prayer	51

Chapter Seven

ACCESSING GRACE IN PRAYER	53
Days of Great Grace and Supply	53
No Longer Praying Alone	54
Access Grace by Faith	55
Making a Faith Connection With the Holy Spirit	56
Our Helper in Prayer	57
Our Great Infirmity	58
Accessing the Fullness of the Spirit in Prayer	62
A Good Standing Before God	63

Appendix A

IS GOD REALLY IN CONTROL?	67
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Appendix B

PRAYER TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT	71
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A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

There is so much that could be said and taught regarding the subject of prayer. This book is by no means meant to be a comprehensive study on prayer but rather more like a prayer “check up.” We will be addressing and answering fundamental questions about prayer, which I believe will not only simplify and empower your prayer life, but may also challenge you at times.

This book may not be for everyone, but has been written for those who want to go deeper in their understanding of prayer, to know what really makes prayer work. It is for those who want to continue to improve, develop, and become even more fruitful in prayer.

God bless you as you help bring heaven to earth through your prayers!

Joseph B. Kack

CHAPTER ONE

WHY PRAY?

“Without prayer, there is no license for heaven to move on earth.”

In this lesson, we want to answer fundamental questions about prayer, mainly: WHY PRAY?

If you will observe the lifestyle of most Christian church members, you will find that the majority of those who attend regular Sunday church services rarely make it to special prayer meetings. Churches may be packed with people on Sunday mornings, only to have a handful of people showing up for mid-week prayer service. Prayer is often relegated to the “intercessors” of the church, the pastor, and select others who seemingly have nothing better to do with their time.

Why is that the case? I believe it's because Christians don't understand WHY they pray. If they only knew the part that prayer plays in bringing God “on the scene,” prayer meetings would be the most popular events in Christianity.

Most know that as Christians they “ought to pray.” Upon receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior, they are usually given three good pieces of advice:

1. Read the Bible.
2. Pray to God.
3. Go to church.

But many never go beyond that to discover WHY they pray. Even many religions of the world encourage you to participate in some

sort of “praying.” But what’s the point?

- Is prayer a mere religious practice, or is there profit in it?
- Why would I invest time to attend church prayer meetings or even take time to develop my own life of prayer?

The answer to the question “Why Pray?” is simply this:

Prayer authorizes heaven on earth.

This is a powerful statement, worthy of meditation—a statement that we will thoroughly examine and explain throughout this book.

Most have the idea that God just does *whatever* He wants *whenever* He wants on earth. But is that really true? Does the Lord just randomly pick and choose whom He wants to do things for? Or is there a connection between prayer and the movement of God and heaven toward our lives?

Yes! There is a connection! Through our prayers of faith, we actually *authorize God* (and heaven) to move upon the earth and in our lives.

That sounds absurd and outlandish at first! Why would an all-powerful, sovereign God need *me* to authorize *Him*? He’s God! Certainly He can do whatever He wants! Right? Well, that seems like normal reasoning until you discover how God sovereignly chose to set up the earth and His design for mankind.

God's Plan for Creation: “Let THEM Have Dominion....”

*Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, **over all the earth** and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’*

– Genesis 1:26

Notice that God said, “*Let THEM have dominion.*” He didn’t say, “*Let US have dominion.*” It appears that God did not include Himself in the authority structure for earth. The authority to oversee the natural realm on planet earth was delegated to mankind.

We can read other verses that make this even clearer:

*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, **what is man that you are mindful of him**, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. **You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet.** – Psalm 8:3–6 (New International Version)*

Mankind was made “*ruler over*” God's creation. Man was to rule and be in charge of the earth in submission to God. But nonetheless, man was to be THE ruler! So, if God wanted to get anything done on earth, He would need man's involvement to do it.

That's not difficult to understand when you consider how mankind has always been necessary in accomplishing God's will in the earth. For example, even with the birth of Jesus the Messiah, perhaps the most important event in human history up to that point, God did not do it alone. He first needed to have it spoken into the earth through the mouth of many prophets. And then He needed Mary's cooperation to agree with the word of God in order to conceive the Messiah. (See Luke 1:38, 45). In other words, He couldn't do it alone! It was God and man working together.

*The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; **but the earth He has given to the children of men.** – Psalm 115:16*

We can see from this verse that God has His realm (the heavens) and that mankind was given his own realm (the earth). Man was to rule over the earth in communion and fellowship with his Creator.

Legal Entry

*Then the Lord God formed the man from the **dust of the earth...** – Genesis 2:7 (God's Word Translation)*

We learn from Genesis that man was created an eternal spirit being “*in God's image and likeness*” and then given a body made “*from the dust of the earth*” so that he could rule “*on the earth.*” Without a body, man had no legal right to rule on earth.

Our physical body is our “earth suit.” It is what allows us to operate in dominion on earth. Without a body, we cannot express dominion here on the earth.

Even Jesus—God in the flesh—had to enter the earth “legally” through “*the door*” of an earth suit. God gave Him a body.

Consider these verses:

*‘Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold **by the door**, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who **enters by the door** is the shepherd of the sheep.’* – John 10:1,2

*Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but **a body** You have prepared for Me.’* – Hebrews 10:5

There is always legal protocol for heaven's involvement with earth. Nothing happens randomly or by accident! Here's the good news: Once you begin to understand that protocol, you can begin to cooperate with it! Prayer allows you to do that.

God Needs an Invitation

So now we can begin to understand WHY our prayers on earth would authorize heaven to move on earth: **it is simply because of the way God set it up in the beginning**—mankind was given dominion on the earth. He is God's authorized representative on the earth.

Prayer gives earthly license for heavenly involvement.

You cannot expect God to be involved in your life without prayer. It is not that He *doesn't* want to get involved, it's that He *can't* get involved! Without someone praying on earth, there is no “license” for God (and heaven) to get involved.

Without someone praying on earth, there is no license for God and heaven to get involved.

Even in natural things, without licensing, there is no authorization. For example, if you want to drive legally, you're supposed to have a driver's license. If you want to hunt legally, you need to have a hunting license. Unless you have a license, you're not authorized!

The same is true with God and the extent of His involvement with man on earth. He must have a "license"! God needs an *invitation* from man to get involved. How can this be? Because mankind was put "in charge" of the earth realm.

Prayer gives God a legal right and invitation to move upon the earth.

With man as the appointed ruler on the earth, God now needs man's permission in order to get involved. It sounds absurd! But once you understand God's honor for His own protocol and the way He set things up in the beginning, then your heart and mind can begin to submit to it.

The more you understand the legalities of the spiritual realm and how heaven works with earth, the more you'll understand the importance of prayer.

You might be thinking, "*But God is sovereign. He is in total control. He can do whatever He wants on the earth.*" Yes! It's true, God IS sovereign! And God, *in His sovereignty*, chose to share some of His ruler-ship with man. (See Appendix A: Is God Really in Control?)

We are not trying to take anything away from God; but rather we are giving honor for the way He has already established things. We are simply pursuing agreement with Him so that we can take our place as authorized ones and ensure results in prayer!

Asking Is Authorizing

Let's renew our minds to the reality that *asking* God in prayer is really *authorizing* God. Consider these verses:

*'But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For **your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.**'*

– Matthew 6:6–8

*'**Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**'* – Matthew 7:7,8

Think about this: If God already knows what we need before we ask, then why did God instruct us to ask? Why doesn't He just do it? It's because my "asking" gives Him the invitation He needs. It authorizes Him!

'Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."' – Matthew 9:37,38

Why would Jesus tell us to "pray" to the Lord of the harvest for laborers to be sent into His harvest? It's HIS harvest, right? So why doesn't He just do it Himself? Because He needs someone on earth to pray and authorize Him to do it!

You can now see that prayer is man and God **working together** to accomplish what God wants in the earth. Prayer is partnership between God and man. Man is now a necessary part of the equation. Because man is on the earth, he has the honored place of "licensing" God to do His will.

Asking and praying are now really authorizing. You are authorizing heaven to move on the earth!

These verses begin to take on new meaning to us:

*'In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. **Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**'* – Matthew 6:9,10

What is it that allows heaven to come to earth? Our Prayer! Then “His will” can be done.

*'Assuredly, I say to you, **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.** Again I say to you that if two of you agree **on earth** concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father **in heaven.**'* – Matthew 18:18,19

Read this verse again and again. Can you see what Jesus is revealing here? We can see this clearly: **heaven is responding to earth.** What we ask for in prayer on earth causes heaven to move.

'I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.'

– Matthew 18:18 (New Living Translation)

Because of man's God-given place of dominion on earth, he is the one who either permits or forbids heaven's involvement.

*Thus says the LORD, The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: 'Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons; and concerning the work of My hands, **you command Me.** I have made the earth, and created man on it.'* – Isaiah 45:11,12a

Here we see the awesome, yet humbling, position of authority that the Lord has given us to “*command Him.*” Do you see what is happening here? **He is authorizing us to authorize Him!**

CHAPTER TWO

CHANGING OUR MINDSET

“God designed a prayer system that would work every time.”

Our Identity in Prayer

*For **you are all sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus.
– Galatians 3:26*

*Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and **heirs of the kingdom** which He promised to those who love Him? – James 2:5*

We are sons of God and heirs of the kingdom of God! We must allow the Word of God to change our mindset about who we really are and what already belongs to us in Christ.

When we approach the Father in prayer, we must no longer see ourselves as “the needy ones” but rather as *ACCESSORS* and *POSSESSORS*. When we come to the Father God in prayer, we are merely accessing and possessing what is already ours!

*Therefore let no one boast in men. For **all things are yours**: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—**all are yours**.
– 1 Corinthians 3:21,22*

All things are yours! Did you see that? You never need to approach Him again as a beggar!

Consider the following statements:

Prayer is not trying to get something from the hand of God that He doesn't want you to have.

Prayer is finding out what He wants you to have and authorizing Him to release it!

John answered and said, 'A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.' – John 3:27

You can only receive from God that which has **already** been given to you. In other words, if God didn't want you to have something, there is no point in thinking that you are going to receive it from Him. So rather than approaching Him thinking you must convince Him of your request, instead see yourself as a son of God coming to access and possess what He has already given you!

*Fight the good fight of faith, **lay hold on eternal life...***
– 1 Timothy 6:12

Prayer allows us to *lay hold* on eternal life, including all the promises in God's Word that belong to us as heirs of God.

Prayer is laying hold of what is already yours.

Prayer Is Partnership With the Father

In order to have a fruitful and productive prayer life, time must be spent to study and investigate what already belongs to you through the redemptive work of Christ and finding out what God has already purposed to do.

Once you know what is yours and what God wills to do, then you can approach Him in prayer and authorize Him to release it!

Praying = authorizing
Asking in faith = authorizing
Speaking God's word in faith = authorizing

With this renewed mindset, it's not difficult to understand that **prayer is really partnership with the Father**—us laboring

together with Him to accomplish that which He desires.

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, [ye are] God's building.

– 1 Corinthians 3:9 (King James Version)

We are laborers together “*WITH God.*” Part of this labor is prayer labor.

*Thus says the LORD, The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: 'Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons; and **concerning the work of My hands, you command Me.**'* – Isaiah 45:11

Do you see what is happening in this verse? The Lord is inviting us to come and consult with Him about what He wants to do and then to give Him an invitation to do it!

'If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.' – John 15:7

What happens when you abide in God and allow His words to abide in you? Naturally, you will begin to know what He wants to do. You will begin to understand His will. And then, what? You can ask whatever you want, authorizing Him to do it!

*For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, **so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*** – Isaiah 55:8-11

This verse gives us a picture of the prayer process:

How does it begin?

The Lord sends forth His word.

What does His word do?

His word gets into our minds and down into our hearts, causing us to know His will.

What do we do then?

Once we know His will, our part is to “*return*” His word to Him in prayer, causing that word to “*accomplish*” and “*prosper*” that which it was sent to do.

The Word of God is really designed to prosper in *two respects*. First *IN our hearts*, causing us to be persuaded about His will, then *FROM our hearts*, in prayer and declaration.

Many are just sort of “hoping and praying”—throwing up just any words in hope that something will reach heaven. But without a renewed mindset that lines up with scripture, we are not really praying on solid ground.

Locate Yourself in Prayer

As we grow, develop, and get stronger spiritually, we can actually stop and listen to ourselves pray and discern whether we are praying amiss or we are hitting the target.

Here is a good way to locate yourself before you go to the Father God in prayer:

If you ever feel that you want something more than He wants it, you are not on solid ground.

Wow! That's a very revealing statement! I believe this statement will help you locate whether you are really praying as a desperate beggar or as a possessing son of God.

Prayer works when you come into agreement with God. If you find yourself thinking that you want something from Him more than He wants to give it to you, then you aren't really in agreement. It's then time to go back to what God's Word says and adjust your mindset.

Whether it is healing for your body, finances to meet a financial deadline, or salvation for a loved one—if you feel that you care more than He does, you aren't on solid footing and you will end up frustrated in prayer.

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything but **faith working through love.***

– Galatians 5:6

Faith works by love! And prayer works by faith! So if you want your prayers to work, you must remind yourself of God's love for you before you approach Him in prayer.

For example, if it's healing for your body that you desire, you must remind yourself of Love's reality before you pray.

You can say: "Wait a second! God loves me and He wants me healed and well and strong EVEN MORE than I do! In fact, not only does God want me well, but He has ALREADY made provision for me to be healed through the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross. 'By His stripes I was healed.' I will now go to my heavenly Father and access, authorize, and possess that which is already mine!"

*He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?
– Romans 8:32*

God's love for you was revealed in the fact that He did not withhold the very best He had for you—His Son Jesus! Shall He now withhold any other good thing? I don't think so!

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! – Matthew 7:11

God knows how to give good gifts to those who ask and authorize Him!

Here is another good locating statement:

If you ever feel the need to persuade the Lord about your request, you are not on solid ground.

Prayer does not work because you “bombard heaven” long enough until the Lord finally gives in to your request or because you are able to “twist His arm” in order to get what you want. Prayer does not work because you act sad and pitiful. No! Prayer works when you become persuaded about what He is already persuaded about!

Prayer works when you become persuaded about what God is already persuaded about.

When we find ourselves sort of “begging and pleading,” it reveals that we still have a wrong concept of who we really are in Christ

and of the role prayer plays in possessing and accessing our inheritance. Remember, prayer is authorizing Him to do *what He already wants to do* and what He has already made provision for.

Notice what the Bible says about Abraham:

*And **being fully persuaded** that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform.* – Romans 4:21 (KJV)

Abraham became “*fully persuaded*” about God's word to him. This full persuasion is what eventually allowed him to receive the promise of Isaac. Likewise, prayer works when you are fully persuaded about God's word and what He desires to do in the earth. The more persuaded you are, the better prayer works!

“Lord, I really need this!”

Have you ever found yourself going to God in prayer saying, “*Lord, I really need this*”?

I think we all have at one time or another! However, this type of speech reveals that you are not really on solid ground in your prayers. It's time to go back to the Word of God and, once again, adjust your mindset.

Having a need, even a great need, is not the basis for God's involvement in your life. It's not as if the Lord sits idly by and watches your situation until the problem reaches “critical mass” and then finally decides to do something. No, my friend! Need is not the basis for God's involvement. God's WILL is the basis for His involvement! Effective, answered prayer begins by knowing God's will before you ever attempt to pray.

God's will is the basis for God's involvement in your life.

Our Confidence in Prayer

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

What is our confidence and guarantee that God hears us when we pray? When we pray according to His will! If you don't have His will to begin with, there is no guarantee He even hears you because you're not in agreement with Him.

This may come as a shock, but all prayer is supposed to be **answered prayer**. Let the following verse renew your mindset:

'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives...' – Matthew 7:7,8

Everyone who asks receives! You are to be included in this. "Everyone" includes you!

*Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, 'Father, I thank You that **You have heard Me**. And I know that **You always hear Me**, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.'*
– John 11:41,42

Jesus was confident that the Father heard Him *every time* He prayed. And what was His confidence? He always prayed the will of God!

Is this type of prayer life and confidence for Jesus only? Without a renewed mindset, you might answer, "Yes!" But don't forget that now "*we are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*" (See Gal. 3:26). The success that Jesus enjoyed in prayer, we can enjoy also!

Answered Prayer Begins With the Answer

You may have a desire or even a great need, but your need is not the reason you should expect an answer from God. In order for your prayers to be effective, you must begin with "the answer." In every situation, you must ask yourself and remind yourself, "*What does God's Word say regarding this situation?*"

By asking this, you can then search His Word (which is His will) and start your prayer with the answer. You are now getting ready to authorize heaven on earth!

Let's look at a few of these examples:

- Do you need wisdom from God in any given situation? Start with the answer in prayer! What is the answer? James 1:5.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

- Do you feel burdened, troubled, or overwhelmed by some situation? Go to God with the answer in prayer. What is the answer? 1 Peter 5:6,7.

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- Do you desire revelation of His will in any area of your life? Begin with the answer! What is the answer? Colossians 1:9.

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding...

- Do you desire spiritual strength? Take time to find the answer! What is the answer? Ephesians 3:14–16.

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man...

- Have you committed some awful, regretful mistake for which you desire God's mercy? Start with the answer! What is the answer? Hebrews 4:16.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- Do you desire to pray about the unknown and yet glorious future that God has prepared for you? Go to God's Word and get the answer first! What is the answer? 1 Corinthians 14:2 and Romans 8:26.

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

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

I think you are getting it by now! Just because you have a need, or a desire, or a problem does not insure God's involvement. And just because you are “praying” does not ensure His involvement either. But if you will take time to search the scriptures and begin with the answer in prayer, you can ensure and authorize God's involvement every time!

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

Prayer was never designed to be a “hit and miss” operation. Prayer is supposed to be a “yes and amen” operation! God designed a prayer system that would work every time, once we learn how to cooperate with it.

CHAPTER THREE

AGREEMENT

“Prayer is God and man working together to accomplish what God has already willed and made provision for.”

In these lessons, we are taking time to answer fundamental questions about prayer. In our previous lessons, we have answered the question—**“WHY PRAY?”** As we have discussed:

Prayer authorizes heaven on earth.

Prayer gives earthly license for heavenly involvement.

In short, without prayer, we have no reason to expect that the Lord will be involved. Because of the position of authority that mankind has been given on earth, prayer is necessary to give God the invitation He needs to do what He wants on the earth.

But now let's answer another fundamental question: **“WHAT MAKES PRAYER WORK?”**

Is all prayer answered prayer? Why do we sometimes see answers to our prayers and at other times we do not? What is the key ingredient required to make our prayers effective?

The answer to the above questions can be found in one simple word—**AGREEMENT**.

Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? – Amos 3:3

If you will remember:

Prayer is partnership with the Father.

It is God and man working together to accomplish that which God has already willed and made provision for.

Certainly, to have an effective “partnership” and “working together,” agreement would be essential! Right? How can two “walk together” or “work together” without being in agreement? They cannot!

‘If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.’ – John 15:7

The second half of this verse is particularly inviting and exciting! “You will ask what you desire and it will be done for you.” But what is it that makes this work? The first half of the verse! “If you abide in me and my words abide in you.”

The word “abide” in these verses simply means *to continue*. So, if we will continue in our walk with the Lord and continue in the scriptures, we will find ourselves beginning to understand what the Lord wants and then desiring what He desires. This is agreement! We can then “ask what we desire” and it shall be done.

Even though as a Christian you are already authorized and can pray anytime you want, agreement is really what makes you a “licensed authorizer.” Being in agreement with the Lord is what will make your prayers work!

Agreement: Starting With the Answer...in Your Heart

As we discussed in our previous lesson, ***answered prayer begins with the answer***. That's why it is important that we take time to find out what God's Word has to say about any area that we desire to pray about.

But agreement does not really take place until we have that answer ***in our hearts***.

The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].
– James 5:16 (Amplified Bible)

Notice the word “*heartfelt*.” Effective prayer does not flow from your mind, although your mind and will are initially involved in making a decision to agree with God's Word. Effective prayer

flows from your heart...your spirit...your innermost being.

When God's Word and an understanding of what He wants are "in our heart," this is called BELIEF. Notice the emphasis Jesus put on "believing."

*'And whatever things you ask in prayer, **believing**, you will receive.'* – Matthew 21:22

Often with good intentions, we exhort people to "just believe" or "just have faith." But just believing "anything" is not what makes prayer work. **Believing what God says is what makes prayer work!** And when we believe what God says, we have reached AGREEMENT!

Believing what God says is what makes prayer work. And when we believe what God says, we have reached agreement!

Some Homework Required

As you are probably beginning to see, there is more involved with effective prayer than "crossing your fingers" and desperately throwing up random pleas and requests toward heaven. The kingdom of heaven is more exact than that!

If we want to be strong and effective in prayer, some preparation and homework may be necessary. We must take time to study, search the scriptures, and even meditate on scriptures BEFORE we pray to help establish our hearts. And why are we doing this? What is our goal? Agreement!

Sometimes we make the innocent mistake of rushing into prayer without first giving proper attention to the condition of our hearts. We must ask ourselves:

Do we really believe what God's Word says? Or are we just praying because we feel the urgency of the situation?

Have we done what's necessary to establish our hearts before we pray?

If we have done our homework, there will be an element of “rest” in our hearts as a result of believing God's Word.

For we who have believed do enter that rest... – Hebrews 4:3a

When we have a need, time is not always best spent immediately in prayer. Sometimes our time is better spent in preparation to pray so that we can pray to God from a place of agreement.

Prayer does not work because we have a desperate need or situation. Nor does prayer work because we want something very, very badly! Your need and desire may be very valid, but these are not what make prayer work. Prayer works after we have done what is necessary to allow our heart to come into agreement with God.

Remember, prayer is God and man **working together** to accomplish what God has already willed and made provision for. Prayer does not work by trying to persuade God to give us what WE desire. Prayer works when we get persuaded about what He wants!

CHAPTER FOUR

AGREEMENT IN WILL

“When you want what God wants for the same reason He wants it, you become unstoppable.”

*And **this is the confidence** (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that **if we ask anything** (make any request) according to His will (**in agreement with His own plan**), He listens to and hears us. And if (since) we [positively] know that He listens to us in whatever we ask, we also know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted us as our present possessions] the requests made of Him.*

– 1 John 5:14,15 (AMP)

What a powerful verse! When we pray **in agreement** with God's Word and His plan and purpose, we can be assured that He hears us and that our request is granted.

From that verse, it would seem that He doesn't hear all prayer. If that's the case, what's our assurance that He will hear us when we pray? We are assured when we pray according to *HIS* will.

What Does God Want?

Before entering into prayer for anything that we may think we need or desire, we should always first ask ourselves, “*What does HE want?*” “God's will” is simply *what He wants*.

You may think that asking such a question will *limit* your prayer life, but in fact, it will *empower* your prayer life! God is not a withholder. Every good and perfect gift comes from Him! He knows how to give good things to those who ask Him! He wants you well even more than you do! He wants you to prosper in all that you do! (See 3 Jn. 2, Ps. 84:11, Jas. 1:17, Matt. 7:11).

By asking the question, “*What does God want?*” it will allow you to begin to align yourself in agreement with Him. Because when you really begin to study and investigate all that He wants for you, you will find that what He wants for you is far better and greater than you even want for yourself! God is really that good!

When you begin to study and investigate all that God wants for you, you will find that what He wants for you is far better and greater than you even want for yourself.

By establishing what God wants BEFORE you pray, you can take your place as a “son of God,” accessing and possessing what is yours, rather than as a beggar hoping for a “hand-out.”

The Secret to Jesus' Prayer Life

*And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, 'Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And **I know that You always hear Me...**'*
– John 11:41b, 42a

What gave Jesus the assurance and confidence to know that the Father God always heard Him? Was it because Jesus was the Son of God? Or was there a universal truth that He operated in when He prayed that also applies to us?

*Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, '**Lord, teach us to pray**, as John also taught his disciples.' So He said to them, '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.**'* – Luke 11:1,2

Notice that when Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them to pray, Jesus did NOT say, "*Don't bother! I get answers in prayer because I'm the Son of God. You could never pray the way I do.*" No! Jesus taught them to pray the same way He prayed. And how did He instruct them to pray? "*Father...Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*" Can you see what Jesus was saying here? He was revealing the secret! And what was the secret?

"Don't pray YOUR will...pray HIS will!"

He was teaching them about agreement. Agreement is what makes prayer work! Find out what God wants to do and has already made provision for, and then authorize Him to do it!

This was something that Jesus practiced absolutely and perfectly. He only spoke those things that He heard from God the Father. (See Jn. 8:26,28). He took time to find out what God wanted, and then as "the Son of man" on the earth, He was able to authorize what God wanted through His prayers.

What Jesus did, we can do also! (See Jn. 14:12).

What makes prayer powerful? ***The clearing of human agenda and motives, and the entrance of God's agenda***—this is agreement!

The Lord Jesus was always protective of His own heart from man's human agenda. To be filled with man's agenda would corrupt His prayer life.

*But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me Satan! You are an offense to Me, for **you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.**' – Matthew 16:23*

One time I heard a minister say this: "*When you want what God wants for the same reason He wants it, you become unstoppable.*" I believe this is what made Jesus unstoppable in the fulfillment of His earthly assignment and in His life of prayer. And if it will work for Jesus, it will work for you!

The Process of Agreement

Agreement with the will of God is not something that happens overnight or the moment we receive Jesus as Lord and are born-again. Learning to walk in agreement with God is a growth process that takes place as our minds are renewed by God's Word and as our hearts are trained by the Spirit of God.

Here are four simple things you can do that will aid you in that growth process:

1. Pray Colossians 1:9 to *"be filled with the knowledge of His will."*
2. Continue in the Word of God through personal Bible study to find out what Jesus has already done for you and what He wants to do. (See Jn. 15:7; 2 Pet. 1:2-4).
3. Submit yourself to God-given 5-fold ministry gifts and teachers who will help you to think the way God thinks. (See Eph. 4:11).
4. Spend time speaking in tongues as part of your devotional prayer life. Praying in tongues will edify your inner man, give you greater access to the Spirit within you, and begin to build a revelation of God's will inside of you. (See 1 Cor. 14:2; Rom. 8:26,27).

CHAPTER FIVE

AGREEMENT IN PROTOCOL

“A prayer system has been put in place to eliminate confusion and ensure results.”

“What makes prayer work?” We are finding the answer to this question in one simple, yet powerful word—**AGREEMENT**. If we want our prayer to be effective and productive, we must strive to begin our prayers from a place of agreement with the Lord in our hearts.

As we have discussed, being in agreement with the Lord's WILL is essential! As we search the scriptures, feed our faith on good Bible teaching, and spend time strengthening our inner man through praying in tongues, our hearts and minds will begin to increasingly know and understand GOD'S WILL for any given situation. And as we have learned, praying according to HIS will is what gives us assurance that God hears us when we pray.

As important as “agreement in will” is to praying successfully, we also want to pursue **AGREEMENT IN PROTOCOL**. In other words, I can have God's will settled in my heart, but, “*Now what do I do?*” and “*What's my approach to God?*” This is where **prayer protocol** becomes important.

What Is Protocol?

Protocol – a system of rules that explain the correct conduct and procedures to be followed in formal situations (Webster's Dictionary)

You may be thinking, “*Protocol in prayer?! You are being too technical and legalistic!*” It may seem that way at first, until you realize **the reason** we have been given prayer protocol from the Word of God. The purpose of protocol is to ensure success!

The purpose of protocol is to ensure success.

As I have mentioned before, prayer was not given to us to be a frustrating sort of “hit and miss” venture. Prayer was given to us by God to get results—so that the will of God can be legally released into our lives and into the earth! For kingdom business as important as this, surely there is protocol. Right? Yes! Indeed there is!

Jesus Implements Protocol

We see an example of Jesus implementing protocol in the gospel of John.

‘And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you...In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you...’ – John 16:23, 26,27a

Jesus was saying to His disciples, “*There is a day coming when you are no longer going to ask Me for things, but instead you can go directly to the Father God and pray to Him in My name.*” What was Jesus doing here? He was laying out the new rules and protocol for prayer so that His disciples could be ensured results.

The answer that you and God both desire is too important to just leave the result up to some sort of random kind of praying.

A “system” has been put in place to eliminate confusion and ensure results—it’s called PROTOCOL! Now our hearts must learn to agree with and be trained in that system when we pray.

The Father Is the Source

Part of God’s prayer system includes that we should address our prayers and petitions to God—the Father. He is *THE SOURCE* of every good thing!

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is **from above**, and comes down **from the Father of lights**, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. – James 1:17*

*For this reason I bow my knees **to the Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ... – Ephesians 3:14*

*In this manner, therefore, pray: **Our Father** in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. – Matthew 6:9*

Have you ever been to a prayer meeting and you heard someone pray to “*God the Father...Father Jesus...Holy Spirit...for Jesus' sake... in Jesus' Name...Papa Jesus*”? I realize that God looks at the heart and is able to filter through much of that. But in reality, how much confidence will we have with this kind of prayer? We must be introduced to protocol as it is clearly laid out in God’s Word. If we will allow it, God’s Word will clean up our prayer life.

If we will allow it, God's Word will clean up our prayer life.

Sometimes you hear people praying *to Jesus* or *asking Jesus* for what they want. But that goes against the protocol that the Word of God has set in place.

We certainly aren’t trying to take anything away from Jesus! Jesus is the reason we can go to the Father, for we go to the Father in Jesus’ name. (See Jn. 14:6). And Jesus is the reason why what we are praying for belongs to us. (See 2 Cor. 1:20). But even Jesus Himself was the One who told us our prayers should be addressed to “*Our Father*.” This is an important part of prayer protocol.

Can you fellowship with Jesus? Of course you can! Can you talk to Jesus throughout the day? Most certainly! Can you fellowship with the Holy Spirit, acknowledging Him and thanking Him for helping you? Yes, you can and should! But when it comes to doing business in prayer, authorizing and making petitions, our prayers should be addressed to God—the Father.

When it comes to doing business in prayer,
authorizing and making petitions, our
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When we read the New Testament prayers of the apostle Paul, He always addressed his prayers to “the Father.”

*For this reason I bow my knees **to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory... – Ephesians 3:14–16a*

*...do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of glory**, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him... – Ephesians 1:16,17*

Entry Protocol—What's My Approach?

As you approach God—the Father—in prayer, there are three things to keep in mind relevant to protocol: ***the blood of Jesus... boldness...and thanksgiving.***

The Blood of Jesus

*Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest **by the blood of Jesus**, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. – Hebrews 10:19–22*

As we approach God in prayer, we must train ourselves and make it a habit to *ALWAYS* enter into His presence “*by the blood of Jesus.*”

You may be conditioned to enter into prayer by many other means. You may attempt to approach God on the basis of what YOU have done. Perhaps you had a particularly “good day” of Bible reading and hardly lost your temper. As a result, you feel confident to approach God in prayer. Or maybe it was a “rough day” and you acted in a way you wouldn’t want anyone to know about. And because of that, you feel no confidence to approach God in prayer. These scenarios are both very real and may make you feel that you either qualify or disqualify to approach God in prayer. But in either case, you are attempting to approach God contrary to protocol!

And what is proper entry protocol? *“Having boldness to enter the Holiest **by the blood of Jesus...**”*

Our approach to God in prayer is never based upon what we have done, either good or bad. If you want to be technical about it, even if you think you have been “good,” you would still come short of God’s holy measuring stick. So you may as well “give it up” when it comes to trying to approach God on your own merit.

Our approach to God in prayer is based upon what Jesus has done for us! He made a way into God’s holy presence available for all of us. That entryway is *by the blood of Jesus*. The Bible says it is *“a new and living way which He consecrated FOR US.”* He made this entryway available for each and every one of us! So, we should take advantage of it and always come the way He has prescribed. That’s protocol! Protocol that ensures success!

Satan is referred to as the “accuser of the brethren” and is always working to try and get you to disqualify yourself from approaching God by focusing on what you have or have not done. But thank God! By the blood of Jesus **you qualify** to come before God with boldness—every time!

By the blood of Jesus you qualify to come
before God with boldness—every time!

Of course, if you have sinned or done something you are not proud of, you will not feel good about it. So what's the remedy? Don't run away from God! Come boldly before God by the blood of Jesus! That's God's provision for you! Then you can receive mercy, forgiveness, and cleansing for whatever is bothering your guilty conscience. (See 1 Jn. 1:9).

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. – Hebrews 10:22

The Divine invitation to “draw near” is by the blood of Jesus and even includes provision for a guilty conscience—“*having our heart sprinkled from an evil conscience.*” So never allow what you have or have not done be the main issue when coming to God in prayer. Your entry is always by faith in the blood of Jesus and what that blood has done for you!

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. – Ephesians 1:7

Entering into God's holy presence by the blood of Jesus is like using a passcode to gain access to a computer or device. Without the proper passcode, access is denied!

Likewise, you may try to come before God by any number of different ways, but if you will come by the blood of Jesus (your passcode), you will never be denied access! The blood of Jesus is the great *QUALIFIER*, qualifying all of us for entry and access to God's holy presence!

The blood of Jesus is the great qualifier,
qualifying all of us for entry and access to
God's holy presence!

Boldness

So as you can see, coming to the Father God by the blood of Jesus is a necessary protocol to be followed to ensure access and success in prayer. When you come before God—the Father—in prayer, you can boldly say, “*Father God, I’m here by the blood of*

Jesus—the way that you made available for me.”

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

– Hebrews 4:16

The scripture instructs us that we are to come “boldly” to God’s throne of grace and mercy “that we may OBTAIN.” Many do not “obtain” when they pray because they are not aware of Bible protocol for entry to God’s throne. Boldness is part of that protocol.

When the Bible refers to “boldness,” it refers to outspokenness and confidence. Bible boldness is not necessarily LOUD, and Bible boldness is definitely not arrogant. But Bible boldness IS confident! It is a confidence that results from knowing that you are coming the way God has prescribed and according to His will.

Thanksgiving

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

– Psalm 100:4

The Bible also clearly includes “thanksgiving” as part of entry protocol.

You might be thinking, “What can I thank Him for? Don’t you know I have these problems?” Well, you can begin thanking Him for *the answer!* Thank Him for the finished work of Jesus and what it has secured for you! Thank Him for the blood of Jesus that has made a way into His very presence! Thank Him for the victory that is already yours in Christ! And don’t forget...you have already taken time to find out what He wants *before* you pray, so you can thank Him for that also! There is plenty to give thanks for!

We sometimes have the mistaken idea that if we come before God with long, sad faces, it will somehow impress Him or get His attention, when in fact, it is contrary to the way He told us to come.

Make Your Request Known by Asking

I can think of several times where people have requested an appointment to meet with me at the ministry office. As they enter my office, they sit down and begin talking...and talking...and talking. After a while, I can't help but to think, "What's your point?" or "What do you want?" or "Yes...and how may I help you?"

As much as I would like to help and serve people, I cannot help them or answer their question if I don't know what they want. It's not that I mind sitting and listening to someone share about their life, but at some point, they need to make a request if I am going to help them. The same is true with God in prayer.

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, **let your requests be made known to God.*** – Philippians 4:6

The Bible invites us to "make our request known." This is part of being in agreement in protocol—you have to actually ask and request what you desire.

There is certainly a time and a place for baring your heart to God and telling Him what is bothering you and how you have been affected, but in the midst of all of that, don't forget to take time to ask for what you want!

*You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. **Yet you do not have because you do not ask.*** – James 4:2

Completing the Transaction

Sometimes we "do not have" simply because we never took the time to officially "ask." Remember this: ASKING IS AUTHORIZING. Too often, people come into prayer and they just start talking and talking and releasing all kinds of words, but there is never an official prayer transaction made because they never take time to formally ASK.

Let's take the example of me going to my local bank to withdraw some money from my account. I could enter the bank praising the bank manager for what a trustworthy manager he is and how great the bank is. I could even have a long history of making

transactions at that particular bank. But until I actually submit to bank protocol and fill out a withdrawal slip and present it to the teller, I will be going home empty-handed!

Even when praying the prayer of agreement with another person, Jesus instructed us to *ASK*.

*Again I say to you that **if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ASK, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.*** – Matthew 18:19

How often have we rushed through the process and missed the power of this powerful type of prayer! We may loosely say to another believer, “*Yes, I agree with you for that.*” But did we ever take time to formally ASK together in prayer? According to Jesus’ instructions, this is an important part of protocol.

We should see ASKING like “making a formal request.” We must take time to think about what we really want to ask for and then make our request known to God—specifically.

The Bible also refers to what we ask for as a “grant.” When we come and ask in prayer, we are authorizing and receiving a heavenly grant. There is an exchange that takes place!

*For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...**that He would GRANT you**, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.* – Ephesians 3:14,16

When we ask, it is important that we see ourselves being granted that which we are asking. In our hearts, we are to believe that we receive that which we came to ask for. This is an important part of completing the prayer transaction.

Here are a few things to keep in mind when asking:

1. Ask specifically. (Phil. 4:6)
2. Ask in faith. (Jas. 1:5,6; Matt. 21:22)
3. Believe that you receive what you have asked for. Believe that it is granted to you! (Jn. 16:23,24; Mk. 11:24)
4. Complete the transaction “*with thanksgiving.*” (Phil. 4:6)

Remember, you did not come to prayer to “*beg and plead*.” You came to prayer to “*ask and receive*”! A transaction is being made in the spirit realm. We have enough sense not to leave the bank without receiving our money. Right? Is there any less protocol with our heavenly Father in prayer?

You did not come to prayer
to “*beg and plead*.” You came to prayer
to “*ask and receive*.”

*‘Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **For everyone who asks receives...***’ – Matthew 7:7,8a

We are not coming to God to ASK only. We are coming to God to ASK and RECEIVE—both! There is a big difference!

And what is the normal response when you believe that what you have asked for has been granted? Thanksgiving! You will take time to thank God for what you have received! Genuine, heartfelt thanksgiving is evidence that you have prayed properly. You have completed the prayer transaction!

Protocol in Declaring

Any healthy, Spirit-led prayer life will include times of declaration and decree! These are times when we “speak forth” the Word of God and become an enforcer of God’s will in the earth.

Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.
– Job 22:28 (KJV)

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

As the body of Christ on the earth, we are not only God’s hands and His feet, but *we are also HIS VOICE*. Our decree can be used by God to “put things in order” in our lives and in the natural world

that we live in. Look at this verse:

*By faith we understand that the worlds [during the successive ages] were framed (fashioned, **put in order**, and equipped for their intended purpose) **by the word of God**, so that what we see was not made out of things which are visible.*

– Hebrews 11:3 (AMP)

A common mistake I often hear people make in prayer is addressing all their declarations and decrees TO GOD, as if they are trying to get Him to do something or somehow manipulate Him to move.

But for me, I have found that much of my declaring is based upon my asking. In other words, I speak and declare in agreement with what I have already asked and received.

By doing this, I am enforcing my rights by decree to angels, principalities and powers, and the world of the spirit. My declaration not only becomes a further enforcement of what has been granted to me but is also a helpful reminder to myself that what I believe has been granted to me in prayer.

There is an important distinction between “Speaking TO GOD in prayer” and “Speaking FOR GOD in prayer.” They really are not the same. At times, the Spirit of God will lead you to come and petition God for your request, by asking. Yet at other times, the Spirit will lead you to speak forth the answer by decree and declaration. In such cases, God is using you as His mouthpiece to speak forth and enforce that which He desires. Both can yield the same results, but they are not to be confused with each other.

But here is what makes your decree powerful—*SPEAKING WHAT HE GIVES YOU!* There is no real decree apart from fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Notice this scripture:

*‘I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and **I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.**’ They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. Then Jesus said to them, ‘When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but **as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.**’ – John 8:26–28*

Jesus spoke what the Father taught Him. If Jesus needed to speak what the Father gave Him, how much more should we practice the same!

I want to encourage you to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in prayer because He will give you words to speak.

*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For **He Himself has said**, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' **So we may boldly say**: 'The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'*

– Hebrews 13:5,6

Notice in the verse, it says, "*He Himself has said...so we may boldly say...*" What we say should be in response to what He has said. We say it because He said it first! That's really the power of decree!

Making a decree is not just saying a bunch of things from the top of your head. It is saying what He said first! We are back to agreement again!

We say it because He said it first.
This is protocol in decree.

The Bible gives us the example of Abraham, who announced to the world that he was "the father of many nations" while old and still childless.

(as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, 'So shall your descendants be.' – Romans 4:17,18

And what gave Abraham the confidence, boldness, and authority to speak that way? He was speaking "*according to what was spoken.*" God had said it first! Abraham's decree was based upon what had already been spoken.

Let us all be encouraged with this: Each one of us has our own personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. And each one of us has the Holy Spirit empowering us from within. Let's not settle for just speaking our own words when we can speak the words that He gives us! His words in our mouth are much more powerful! By doing this, we will be exercising *protocol in decree*.

CHAPTER SIX

AGREEMENT IN POSITION

*“A revelation of our Bible identity will forever alter
the way we pray!”*

The Power of Agreement

As you can see by now, what we are actually getting into in these teachings is ***the power of agreement in prayer***—being in agreement with God. (See Amos 3:3).

Before we enter into any kind of prayer, we should always ask ourselves, not only “*What do WE want?*” What **WE** want is part of it. Certainly you need to identify your desire. You don't want to just pray for nothing! It is important to be specific about what you are praying for.

But even once you have identified what **YOU** want, there is a greater overriding question that must be answered—“*What does GOD want?*” By answering this question, you can pursue alignment with Him. Then and only then can you agree with Him and authorize it in prayer.

Asking what **He** wants won't limit you. It will actually release you! You need never be afraid to explore what God wants. His will is always to bring you **UP** from where you are now. That's precisely why Jesus came down **LOW** from heaven and identified with us in our lost condition—to bring us **UP** and give us life more abundantly. (See Jn. 10:10).

The more I learn about prayer, the more I can see that prayer is really “an agreement thing.” Agreement happens when two or more people are “on the same page” in mind, heart, will, and motive. That's why, fundamentally, if you see yourself needing to beg God for something or even persuade Him or convince Him of your request, it's easy to understand that you're already not in agreement. Therefore, you will ask amiss and you will end up with another bad prayer experience.

Prayer is “an agreement thing.”

Really, most struggles we may have in prayer usually stem from one of two *areas*—*Ignorance* and *Unbelief*.

1. *Ignorance* regarding what God wants and how He does things (Hos. 4:6)
2. Our own *unbelief* (Matt. 17:19,20)

Thank God! Both can be remedied through good Bible teaching and time spent in God's Word.

Remember, God doesn't show up just because you pray. He doesn't show up merely because you have a need. Need is not the basis for answered prayer. The idea that “*Well, we really need it, so I know God will do it*” is really incomplete and no reason for confidence and assurance when we pray.

As we have already discussed, having a need or even wanting something badly is not the basis for God's involvement in our lives. Praying with tears, desperation, and even volume (how loud we pray) are also not valid reasons to expect God to answer our prayers. Our needs may be very legitimate and our feelings valid. The Bible even teaches that Jesus is able to “sympathize with our weaknesses.” (See Heb. 4:15). But nonetheless, to ensure His involvement, something else is required—**AGREEMENT**.

We Begin With the Answer in Prayer

As we have mentioned in previous lessons, **answered prayer begins with the answer**. A good prayer habit is to go to “the Book” (the Bible) first and find out what God's Word says about any matter that you wish to pray about. But just because you find the answer “in the Book” doesn't mean the answer is “in your heart.” Prayer doesn't work until there is agreement in your heart. Answered prayer begins with the answer in our hearts!

Technically speaking, our prayers need not be long to be effective. But our preparation may be lengthy—long enough to prepare our hearts to do business with God in prayer.

Prayer works when we are in agreement with God. First—being in agreement with God's will—knowing what He wants. Second—being in agreement in protocol—knowing God's prayer system. We must settle what He wills before we attempt to pray for anything. But also, we must understand *AGREEMENT IN POSITION—who I am and what my place is in prayer*.

Embracing Our Bible Identity

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
– 2 Corinthians 5:17

We are who the Bible says we are! As we begin to embrace our Bible identity, it will radically alter the way we position ourselves and conduct ourselves in prayer. People who know who they are will pray differently from those who do not. Their prayers will take on a different sound, a different attitude, and, will in the end, yield a different result.

People who know who they are will pray
differently from those who do not.

As a result of Jesus' work on the cross and our spiritual “new birth,” we have become “*new creatures in Christ*” with a new identity. According to the New Testament, we are now:

- Heirs of God and heirs of the kingdom
- Kings and authorized ones
- The victorious ones
- Sons of our Father God
- Abraham's seed and a holy nation

The more these truths get rooted in our hearts, the more powerful we become in prayer. A revelation of our Bible identity will forever alter the way we pray!

Many people see themselves as mere natural human beings trying to get an answer from a far-off God. To think this way is not a crime, but it does present a problem! Look at this scripture:

*For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God**; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. – Romans 8:6,7*

To be carnally minded simply means to be *naturally minded*. And what is the problem with that? If we are naturally minded, it puts us in a position of being at “*enmity*” with God or “at odds” with Him. In other words, we are not in agreement! As a result, we will come short of God's best.

The “spiritually minded” man is the one who embraces the Word of God and what the Bible says about him. And it yields a completely different result!

Put on Christ

*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on Christ**. – Galatians 3:26,27*

The New Testament teaches us to “*put on Christ*.”

*...and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. – Ephesians 4:23,24*

And then we are instructed to “*put on the new man*.” The *new man* is a reference to everything that God has made us to be IN CHRIST through our spiritual new birth.

And how do we “*put on*” the new man? How do we “*put on*” Christ? The scripture tells us “*through the renewing of the mind.*” We put on Christ by agreeing with and submitting to who the Bible says we are in Christ.

*And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

– Romans 12:2

***Let this mind be in you** which was also in Christ Jesus.*

– Philipians 2:5

Putting on Christ is not something that comes automatically. It is something that we must learn and then give ourselves to. We must “*let this mind be in us.*” In other words, it's really up to us what we choose to believe about ourselves. We must allow God's Word to renew our minds about who we really are in Christ, by willingly laying aside old traditional mindsets and humbly embracing our New Testament identity.

True Humility

There is much religious confusion in the world today about what humility is. To “*humble oneself*” is *to make low or to bring oneself low*. But a good question to ask is this: “*How low do I need to go?*” An easy answer to that question is “*underneath the Word of God.*” A truly humble man is a man who submits himself to who and what the Bible says he is. He brings his opinions, feelings, emotions, and beliefs under the higher authority of what God's Word says.

A truly humble man is a man who submits himself to who and what the Bible says he is.

For example, if God's Word says, “*You are a son of God and an heir of God,*” but then you enter into prayer and say, “*Lord, I am nothing and I deserve nothing,*” you have really exalted your own opinion and feelings ABOVE what God's Word reveals. It may look and sound “*humble,*” but in reality, it is just the opposite!

A lot of times in prayer, we take a place of what I would call “false humility”—the place of the needy and beggarly, the poor and pathetic. It is rooted in a false concept that thinks, “If I act sad, God will answer my prayer.” But, as we have learned, a sad countenance is not the basis for God's involvement. A pitiful situation is not the basis for His involvement. Going through a rough season in life is no reason in itself to expect God's involvement.

Does the Lord want to get involved in the rough seasons of your life? Absolutely! Does He want to help out in your pitiful situation? Yes! Yes! Is He not merciful and compassionate? Most definitely He is! But just because your situation is pitiful does not bring His involvement. So what is needed? Agreement!

The truth is: God was moved with love and compassion for all the pitiful needs and situations of all lost humanity before the foundation of the world! That's why He decided to send Jesus to the cross—to secure redemption and victory for each of us! Now we must learn how to receive, yield to, and cooperate with what He has already done. Praying according to our true Bible identity is a big part of that!

We Are Who the Bible Says We Are

Let's take a look at some of these New Testament Bible identities. When we find out who we are, it will also bring a revelation of a particular posture that we can take in prayer and certain characteristics and behavior that will embody our prayer life.

We are...**Heirs of God and Heirs of the kingdom of God.**
Therefore, we enter into prayer as ACCESSORS and POSSESSORS.

*Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and **heirs of the kingdom** which He promised to those who love Him?*
– James 2:5

*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—**heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.***
– Romans 8:16,17a

As heirs of the kingdom of God, all that the kingdom has is now ours to come and freely access! Because we know who we are, we are bold to ask, claim, and receive what belongs to us. Our days of begging and pleading in prayer are over forever! We have taken time to study God's Word to discover what belongs to us in Christ. Now we possess it through our prayers! We make our requests known to our Father, and we believe we receive it when we pray!

We are...**Kings and Authorized ones.**

Therefore, we enter into prayer as AUTHORIZERS and ENFORCERS of the will of God.

*...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over **the kings of the earth**. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and **has made us kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

– Revelation 1:5,6

*And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and **have made us kings and priests to our God**; and we shall reign on the earth.'* – Revelation 5:9,10

We can now approach God's throne as a king on the earth, for this is what He has made us to be through our new birth! We have taken time to find out His will. Now, what we allow, He allows! What we don't allow, He does not allow! (See Matt. 18:18). We have authority to bind and loose in agreement with His will! We are His authorizing and enforcing voice in the earth!

*For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will **reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ**.* – Romans 5:17

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, '**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. GO THEREFORE** and make disciples of all the*

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' – Matthew 28:18,19

We are taking our place as authorized ones in Christ. We can now rule and reign in life through our prayers! We declare abundance in the face of lack! We declare health in the midst of sickness! We declare peace in the midst of chaos! We declare victory in the midst of apparent defeat! We are authorized to speak God's Word, and we are bold to use the authority that has been given to us in Christ Jesus!

We are...**the Victorious Ones.**

Therefore, we enter into prayer with a SHOUT and a PRAISE.

*...and what is **the exceeding greatness of His power TOWARD US** who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. – Ephesians 1:19–21*

...and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. – Ephesians 2:6

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. – 1 Corinthians 15:57

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is working toward us now! We have been raised together with Christ and made to sit together with Him in heavenly places. And so now we are forever “the victorious ones”! From now on, we enter into prayer from the place of victory, taking our seat of triumph together with Christ!

*Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! **SHOUT to God with the voice of triumph!** – Psalm 47:1*

We cannot help but to SHOUT in prayer, for we know the victory is ours!

Jesus overcame the grave...Jesus overcame the curse...
Jesus overcame the devil...Jesus overcame the world...

and He overcame FOR ME!! Now I take my place in prayer with a shout and a praise, knowing that victory is sure!

Jesus won the battle 2000 years ago on the cross. We are now "*more than conquerors*" through His love. Jesus won the fight, and He gave us the spoils! The power that has saved us...has also raised us...and made us to sit together with Him in heavenly places! His victory is my victory, for He went to the cross for me!

Our days of sad praying are over forever! Whatever I may be facing, Jesus already overcame it! Our situation and need may seem great, but His victory is greater! Shout! Shout! Shout! Hallelujah!

We are...**Sons of our Father God.**

Therefore, we enter into prayer in a place of INTIMATE RECEIVING and CARE CASTING!

*'But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be **sons of your Father** in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.'*

– Matthew 5:44,45

*'For **the Father loves the Son**, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.'*

– John 5:20

*'For **the Father Himself loves you**, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.'* – John 16:27

What Jesus said about the Father's love for Him, we can now say also! "*The Father loves the Son. I am now a son of God in Christ, so the Father loves me! Whatever I ask, I receive! For the Father loves me and knows how to give good gifts to His children.*" (See Matt. 7:11).

...casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

– 1 Peter 5:7

For I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until the day of His return. – 2 Timothy 1:12 (NLT)

From now on, we refuse to worry and we refuse to fret! Instead, we take the most intimate issues of our heart and life, and we cast our cares upon our Father God. We can now say:

“God loves me and He cares for me! Whatever I commit to Him, He will be faithful to guard it and keep it! He is my faithful Care-taker! I trust Him, for I know He cares for me. He will perfect that which concerns me!”

We are...**Abraham's Seed and a Holy Nation.**

Therefore, we enter into prayer as INTERCESSORS and a BLESSER OF NATIONS.

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

*I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.** – Genesis 12:3*

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, **a holy nation**, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. – 1 Peter 2:9*

As Abraham's seed, we each have a supply for the nations! We have a supply in prayer for “*all the families of the earth.*” As the Church, the body of Christ, we have been called out of every nation and set into a “*holy nation,*” a spiritual nation, with authority to bless all the nations of the earth. (See Rev. 5:9).

*I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and **I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.**’
– Psalm 2:7,8*

We now take our place and ask God for nations in prayer!
We ask God to move among the heathen! We ask for and
authorize His Plan! We call the nations blessed!

*Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications,
prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made
for all men, for kings and all who are in authority...*

– 1 Timothy 2:1,2a

We dare take our position in Christ and release a supply
of intercession. We pray for presidents and rulers of
nations, for God wills that all men be saved! Mercy! Mercy!
God delights in mercy! Mercy triumphs over judgment!
We ask God for mercy among the nations. We ask God for
mercy among the lost. (See Jas. 2:13, Micah 7:18).

Joyful in the House of Prayer

*Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And **make them joyful in My house of prayer.** Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations. – Isaiah 56:7*

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? – 1 Corinthians 3:16

We, as believers in Christ, are now the house of God and the temple of the Holy Spirit! God dwells *in us* by His Spirit! We are no longer searching out a holy prayer mountain in order to be close with the Lord, for we all have personal access to the very throne of grace. We have each become God's house of prayer—a house of prayer for all nations!

When these realities begin to dawn upon your heart and you take your position in prayer to work together with God, you cannot help but to be joyful! God makes us “*joyful in the house of prayer.*”

CHAPTER SEVEN

ACCESSING GRACE IN PRAYER

“Because of the Spirit of Grace and Supplication that is yours today, you never again have to pray alone.”

There is great grace available to each one of us every time we pray! When I refer to “*grace*,” I am talking about the Holy Spirit and the great help and supply that He offers us in prayer.

*And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the **Spirit of grace** and supplication...*
– Zechariah 12:10

Notice in this verse that the Holy Spirit is referred to as the “*Spirit of grace*.” One of the ways that the Lord has extended grace to us is by giving us His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God's enabling power for the Church!

The Holy Spirit is God's enabling power
for the Church.

Days of Great Grace and Supply

Unlike the days of Moses and the Old Testament Law of commandments, we are now living in New Testament *days of grace*. God *has not* changed from one dispensation to another,

but the way He deals with and relates to mankind *has* changed. And there is a primary difference between the days of Law and the days of grace—the law *DEMANDS*, whereas grace *SUPPLIES*.

The Law *DEMANDED* righteousness from man by giving man a bunch of commandments and ordinances to be strictly followed and adhered to in order to be “righteous” and receive God’s favor. Grace, on the other hand, *SUPPLIES* mankind with perfect righteousness and favor with God *as a gift* on the basis of what Jesus did for us as our sin substitute on the cross.

The Law demands...but grace always supplies! Through faith in Jesus Christ, we can freely receive a supply of God’s power and ability to live right, do right, and live a productive life that honors Him.

So because of the grace of God, and what Jesus has done for us, there is always a supply from God available to each one of us, including a prayer supply!

*For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance **through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit** of Jesus Christ.*

– Philippians 1:19

Here, the apostle Paul makes reference to a “*supply of the Spirit*,” which is both accessed and released “*through our prayers*.”

No Longer Praying Alone

Sometimes when facing a problem or a situation that you know should be prayed about, it is easy to feel alone or overwhelmed until you are reminded of this great reality—*YOU ARE NOT PRAYING ALONE!* There is *A SUPPLY OF THE SPIRIT* available to help you pray! Because of the Spirit of grace and supplication that is yours today...you never again have to pray alone!

*Likewise **the Spirit also HELPS in our weaknesses**. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

– Romans 8:26,27

The word “helps” in the original Greek language literally means *to take hold together with against*. According to this verse, the Holy Spirit helps us in prayer by taking hold together with us against whatever we may be facing. **We are no longer praying alone!**

According to Zechariah, not only is the Holy Spirit “*the Spirit of grace,*” offering a supply to each one of us as we pray, but He is also the “*the Spirit of grace AND SUPPLICATION.*” What is supplication? It is not a word we use much today. Supplication is simply *a heartfelt entreaty or request*.

The Holy Spirit will even help you form your supplication or request to God. He will help you make good, practical, and sensible requests to Him that will satisfy your heart and bring results! You never again have to pray another prayer alone! As you learn to access the Holy Spirit in your prayer life, He will help you to form the perfect prayer every time!

It's important to remember that every principle that you could ever learn about prayer works at the leading and direction of the Holy Spirit. He is the One who makes prayer work! He is our Teacher and Guide into the application of all truth. (See Jn. 16:13).

Every principle that you could ever learn about prayer works at the leading and direction of the Holy Spirit.

Access Grace by Faith

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also **we have access by faith into this grace** in which we stand...*

– Romans 5:1,2

One vital thing we can see from this verse is this: *Grace must be ACCESSED.*

Grace is *unmerited favor*. It includes everything that has been freely given to each of us because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Grace is also *God's enabling power*. It is His supply in our

lives and that includes the Holy Spirit, who is the “*Spirit of Grace*.”

But all this grace—everything Jesus made available for you on the cross—can remain untapped unless you learn how to access it. And how do you access grace? Grace is accessed “*through faith*.”

*For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. – Ephesians 2:8*

The same is true of the Holy Spirit. You have to know how to access Him in order to enjoy the fullness of His ministry and service in your life. And the way to access the Holy Spirit is BY FAITH.

Making a Faith Connection With the Holy Spirit

Every time we enter into prayer, it is important that we access that supply in our hearts by making a “*faith connection*” with the Holy Spirit. We always want to be mindful that we don't just “take off” in prayer in our own fleshly zeal and forget the Holy Spirit, the One who has been sent to help make our prayer effective. It is possible to know scriptures and true principles about prayer and yet leave your Helper behind!

Believing and Speaking

Faith, in its simplest form, operates primarily by *believing and speaking*—believing in our hearts what God's Word says and then speaking in line with what we believe. Faith is how we please God and is the means by which we can connect with all that He offers us freely by His grace. (See 2 Cor. 4:13; Heb. 11:6).

Real Bible faith will have an effect on both our hearts and our mouths. With our hearts we believe and with our mouth we confess what we believe—this is faith! (See Rom. 10:8–10). So in order to connect with the Holy Spirit “by faith,” it can be helpful to SAY SOMETHING in regard to what you believe about Him.

For example, I may simply take a moment to acknowledge the Holy Spirit during prayer by saying something like, “*Lord, thank you for giving me the Holy Spirit, my Helper in prayer.*” Or I may say, “*Holy Spirit, I am so glad that You are here.*” I am acknowledging Him “by faith” no matter what it looks or feels like.

By doing this from my heart and with my mouth, it is as if I am extending my “hand of faith,” expecting that the Holy Spirit will come and take me by the spiritual hand and help me forward in my prayer time.

One of the things I like to do is to rehearse who He is to me. I might say, *“Holy Spirit, You are GOD!! Not only are you GOD, but You have chosen to live inside of me. And I appreciate You!”* As I do that “by faith,” I become increasingly aware of Him as The Helper *inside me.*

What I am sharing with you here is not a formula that you must do every time you pray. There is no particular power in just mouthing some words by rote or repetition. I am merely sharing practical means by which you can learn to connect with the Spirit by faith in your prayer time.

*‘However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, the **Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby)** will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [to be in close fellowship with you].’ – John 16:7 (AMP)*

Take a look at what Jesus said about the multifaceted ministry of the Holy Spirit, and you can find your own way to acknowledge Him.

Our Helper in Prayer

*‘But **the Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.’ – John 14:26*

Have you ever had prayer times that felt so dry and unproductive that you wanted to do almost anything besides praying?

Have you had other times where you launch out into prayer “trying” to have a powerful prayer time and realize that it's just not happening?

I think we all have! And what should we do when this happens? That's a perfect time to STOP and acknowledge the reality of the

Holy Spirit. He is the One who will work together with God's Word to make our prayers work!

That's a perfect time to say, *"Wait a minute! I've forgotten something here. Holy Spirit, I acknowledge YOU. Help me, please. I look to You and wait upon You."* Then you can just rest, relax, and allow Him to begin to rise up within you. By doing this, you have just granted Him access. You have just accessed grace in prayer!

Our Great Infirmary

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

Whether we know it or not, we are naturally infirmed. And what is this infirmity of ours? According to this verse, *"we do not know what we should pray for as we ought."* The word *"infirmity"* here refers to *an inability to get results*. We need the Holy Spirit to get results in prayer!

The truth is: without the Holy Spirit, you don't really know how to pray. That's why we must learn to yield to and follow the Spirit in prayer. He is our *Guide* into all truth! Just because you read a book about prayer or learn prayer principles does not negate the fact that you still must depend on the Holy Spirit if you want to get results.

The sooner you go ahead and accept the reality of your *"infirmity"* in prayer, the better! Your heart will then more readily acknowledge, honor, and yield to the Spirit's role as your prayer Helper. If you will take time to acknowledge The Helper in prayer, then you are no longer infirmed. You become empowered! *"The Spirit helps our infirmities!"*

So, in reality, the only one who is really infirmed is the one who *doesn't know* he is infirmed! This is the person who attempts to pray without the Holy Spirit, thinking he can get results by himself.

Here are a few things that the Holy Spirit will do for you as you yield to Him in prayer.

1. He will cause you to know WHAT to pray for.

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

Many times, we may already think we know *what* we need to pray for, but in reality, we do not! For example, you may be thinking you need to pray for a new house and car, but when you enter into prayer, you find the Holy Spirit nudging you, “*No. You need to pray about your “place”—where I want you to be. Because in your place, there is a new house and car already waiting for you.*” The Holy Spirit will always help you to identify and pray about the key issues—what matters most.

*Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints **according to the will of God.** – Romans 8:27*

According to this verse, the Holy Spirit will always help you pray in agreement with the Father's will. And we know how important agreement is!

2. He will cause you to know WHAT KIND of prayer to use.

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with **all kinds of prayers and requests.** With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. – Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)*

As you can see, there are different “*kinds*” of prayer, and not all prayers work exactly the same way. To say that all prayers are the same is like saying that all sports are the same. But we all know that if you try to apply the rules of basketball at a football game, even though they are both “sports,” it won't work! The same is true with prayer—there are different rules that apply to different kinds of prayer.

These are some of the different kinds of prayer:

◆ The Prayer of Petition

This prayer is simply possessing what the Word of God says is ours by asking and receiving. In this kind of prayer, we find out what the Word says is ours and then we *petition* God for it.

We use this prayer, for example, with divine healing. Healing is ours! It's been bought and paid for through Christ's redemptive work. Our part is to go and receive it in prayer through the prayer of petition.

With this type of prayer, we never use the words, "*if it be Your will.*" Why? Because we already know God's will from His Word. We are simply coming to petition God and then "believe that we receive" what we are asking for. (See Mk. 11:24).

◆ The Prayer of Consecration

This prayer can be used when you are at a crossroads and are not sure what to do or if you already know what to do and you simply don't want to do it. This is the prayer Jesus used in the garden of Gethsemane. (See Matt. 26:39-42).

Through this prayer, you are offering your life to God in whatever direction He may desire for you to go. You are consecrating yourself to His leading and direction for your life, whatever it may be.

In this type of prayer, it is appropriate to pray, "*If it be Your will...not my will, but Your will be done.*" Through this prayer, you are authorizing God to lead you, guide you, and even strengthen you to do that which you might prefer not to do.

◆ The Prayer of Commitment

This is simply the prayer of casting your cares on the Lord and committing your burdens to Him. (See 1 Pet. 5:6,7; Ps. 55:22). In this kind of prayer, you transfer cares, worries, and anxieties *from your heart and mind* into God's mighty,

caring, and capable hands! The scripture invites us to come and give God our cares, once and for all!

This is a powerful type of prayer because it authorizes God to become the Keeper, Guardian, and Overseer of what you commit to His trust. (See 2 Tim. 1:12). Once you have given Him your cares, He will begin leading and guiding you in line with the things that you have committed to Him. He will watch over those things, give you wisdom, and lead you out into full victory. He will perfect that which concerns you!

◆ The Prayer of Intercession

This prayer is simply receiving from God on behalf of another. When the Spirit leads you into intercession, you will find yourself praying on behalf of another. They may not be praying for themselves, but you are asking and receiving answers *for them*. (See 1 Tim. 2:1,2).

◆ Prayer in Tongues

This kind of prayer is particularly helpful for the purpose of personal edification and speaking mysteries to God. (See 1 Cor. 14:2,4; Jude 20). There are times in prayer when we need to pray about a situation, but we don't have any idea where to begin. At these times, the Holy Spirit may lead us to pray in tongues to edify ourselves and to speak out divine hidden mysteries *in tongues*.

There are different rules, principles, and protocols in prayer. But we must understand that everything we do in prayer works *by the Spirit*. Effective prayer does not flow *from your head*. Effective prayer works by faith *in your heart* at the leadership, direction, and unction of the Spirit.

Effective prayer does not flow *from your head*. Effective prayer works by faith *in your heart* at the leadership, direction, and unction of the Spirit.

Ephesians 6:18 instructs us to “*pray with all kinds of prayer IN THE SPIRIT.*” What does that mean “*in the Spirit*”? It means to pray with all kinds of prayer *at the direction of the Holy Spirit.* You have several different kinds of prayer available to you, and the Spirit will always cause you to know which one will work the best!

Accessing the Fullness of the Spirit in Prayer

Aside from accessing the Spirit by faith, there are *two important keys* that will allow a greater release of the Spirit toward us in prayer. These two things are very closely related.

1. Being Blood-Conscious

Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ – Acts 2:38

Of course we are referring to the blood of Jesus. This verse shows us the connection between the remission of sins and the Holy Spirit. The more conscious we are of the blood of Jesus, the more our hearts will be aware of the fact that all our sins have been wiped out! This “not guilty” reality brings with it a flood and flow of the Holy Spirit! As I heard someone say one time, “*Where the blood of Jesus flows...the Spirit goes.*”

So if you want to access grace and supply in prayer, being blood-of-Jesus-conscious will help you. It is always good to come into prayer with this kind of awareness. You can begin by magnifying the power of the blood of Jesus from your heart and out of your mouth, thanking God for all that the blood of Jesus has done for you. As you do, you will find the Holy Spirit rushing in to assist you in your prayer.

2. Being Righteousness-Conscious

The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].
– James 5:16b (AMP)

It is not just any prayer that “*makes tremendous power available.*” It is the prayer of the *RIGHTEOUS MAN*. What kind of righteousness are we talking about here? We are talking about the righteousness

that is ours *as a gift, by divine legal exchange.*

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

– 2 Corinthians 5:21

Did Jesus commit any sin? No, He did not! Yet He took our sin upon Himself when He went to the cross and, in exchange, gave us His perfect righteousness. Did we do anything to become righteous? No! The Bible says our own righteousness is “as filthy rags.” (See Is. 64:6). But rather, we received the “gift of righteousness” and were made righteous through our new birth in Christ. It is ours by divine legal exchange!

*For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of **the gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.* – Romans 5:17

The righteousness I am talking about is righteousness as a gift. There is absolutely nothing you can do to deserve it! It cannot be earned, but instead it must be “received.” Just as Jesus hung on the cross and received our sins by faith as our sin-substitute, we receive the gift of righteousness by our faith in Christ and what He did for us.

*But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the **ministry of the Spirit** not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the **ministry of righteousness** exceeds much more in glory.* – 2 Corinthians 3:7–9

In this verse, the Bible refers to the “*ministry of righteousness*” as the “*ministry of the Spirit.*” They are one and the same! When you enter into prayer knowing that you are righteous in Christ, tremendous power and supply will be made available to you!

A Good Standing Before God

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and

the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

– James 5:17,18

What was it about Elijah that caused him to be mentioned in reference to prayer? What made his prayers powerful? It certainly wasn't his outward appearance. The Bible says “*he was a man with a nature like ours.*” So there must have been something else that made him powerful in prayer. What was it?

*And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, ‘As the Lord God of Israel lives, **before whom I stand**, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.’*

– 1 Kings 17:1

*Then Elijah said, ‘As the Lord of hosts lives, **before whom I stand**, I will surely present myself to him today.’*

– 1 Kings 18:15

What made Elijah's prayers powerful? It was the fact that he had “*standing*” before God. When you can stand before God, you can access His Spirit! You can know His mind and what He wants to do! This standing enabled Elijah to work together with God in prayer.

When you have right “standing” before God, you have access to the Spirit.

Elijah was a natural man just like us, yet the fact that he could “*stand before God*” gave him an advantage! This is precisely what the blood of Jesus and the gift of righteousness have done for us—they have given us a good standing before God and His Holy throne of grace!

Because of that standing, we now have full access to His Spirit! He will show us what to pray and what to say. In Elijah's case, he stood before the Lord...he heard from the Spirit...he agreed with the Spirit...he said what the Spirit said. And sure enough! It came to pass! Now we can do the same!

It is not only good doctrine and principles that will make you a success in prayer. It is also a prayer life that is filled with and

empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Word of God and the Spirit of God always work together.

So don't settle for a mere prayer life of "doing the best that you can." You have something better than that! You have a supply of the Spirit waiting to be accessed every time you enter into prayer. You don't ever need to pray alone again!

Appendix A

Is God Really in Control?

Whenever some terrible calamity or destruction happens, you often hear people say, “*Well, God is in control!*” as if He were sitting at the control tower of heaven pushing the control buttons for everything that happens in the earth today, both good and bad.

So the question is: “*Is God really in control?*” And if He is in total control, why does He let all these bad things happen on earth and in my life? Why are there war, murder, famine, disease, and the like in the earth if He is in control? If God is such a good God and He is running everything down here, why do bad things still happen?

Well, the answer is quite simple! God is NOT controlling everything that happens all the time on the planet. He is NOT running everything down here. He is ultimately in control in that He set the boundaries and parameters of what is allowed or not allowed on planet earth through His Word. But He is not orchestrating all events of human life.

Let me give you an illustration that I think will make this point clear.

Suppose a landlord leases his apartment unit to a tenant. Does the landlord have control of everything that takes place inside that apartment or house? Of course not! The tenant can sleep and wake up whenever he chooses. He can watch whatever TV programs he desires. Although he shouldn't, the tenant may even carry out some activity that goes against the will or desire of the owner. Does the owner have ultimate control of the apartment building? Yes! But is he orchestrating or ordaining everything that the tenant does in his house? No!

In effect, God sublet the earth to Adam and mankind on a 6,000-year lease when He gave man dominion over the earth. Through his trespass, Adam then opened the door for Satan and the curse to enter the earth. So now there are many bad things that happen on earth that the Lord has absolutely no involvement in whatsoever—things that He never sanctioned or ordained—

things that were never His will!

Here's another illustration:

Suppose I give you the keys to borrow and drive my car for one month. If you go out and wreck the car and kill 20 people, was it my will? Am I in control of everything you do with my car? Of course not!

When God gave mankind dominion over all the earth, He was giving man “keys” to borrow and to drive His car! Man was supposed to be driving the car in obedience and submission to God because, in reality, man was driving a car that he didn't know how to drive by himself! When he disobeyed God, he actually lost control of the car! Now many “wrecks” and casualties are happening in the earth today because of mankind who are not in submission to God!

How to Give God Control

Because dominion on the earth was given to mankind in the beginning, the Lord cannot just come *whenever* He wants and do *whatever* He wants on the earth. This may seem outrageous, but it is no different than the landlord who rents out his apartment building. The landlord cannot enter the apartment premises without knocking on the door or by invitation from the tenant—even though the house belongs to the landlord!

The Lord is always so willing to bring His power and goodness into the affairs of humanity. But now, He comes by invitation. Man's faith gives God invitation.

These are some ways we can give God control!

- **Declare the Lordship of Jesus over anything that is within our power.**

By declaring the Lordship of Jesus over your life, your family, your church, your finances, your body, and your future, you are actually putting these areas under the headship and leadership of Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9).

- **Seek and search out God's will in any situation and then obey Him.**

We give God control when we seek His revealed will through the knowledge of His Word and then act upon it. Taking time to acknowledge God and His will before doing things allows us to swing the door “wide open” for Him to be in control of whatever we are involved in. Doing things His way always puts Him in control! (Prov. 3:6)

- **Pray scripturally based, faith-filled prayers.**

Because man has been given dominion on the earth, our prayers of faith based upon God’s Word give Him an invitation to come and have control in the affairs of humanity. The Lord always wants to move but needs one of his earth representatives to ask Him! (Jas. 5:16, Jas. 4:2, Matt. 7:7,8)

- **Believe God's report and speak His Word on the earth.**

Our words release power and authority! When we choose to believe what God's Word says and then speak it, God can move and take control! The Bible says He “watches over His Word to perform it!” (Prov. 18:21; Is. 53:1; Jer. 1:12)

Appendix B

Prayer to Receive the Holy Spirit

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem...

– Acts 1:8

The moment you receive Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell **within** you. As a born again believer, you have become the temple or dwelling place of God's Spirit. But there is more of the Holy Spirit that God wants you to experience!

The promise of the Spirit was given to empower us to walk in all that God has prepared for us. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us, so that we can enter into all the fullness of God! All the believer must do is to receive this gift. This experience is called the baptism of the Holy Spirit or the Holy Spirit coming **upon** us.

If you want to experience the fullness of life that God intended for you to have with the benefit of praying in tongues, pray this simple prayer from your heart:

“Heavenly Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus. Your Word says that You will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask You. I ask You now to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I want to experience Your fullness in my life!

I release my faith to expect to speak with other tongues as the Holy Spirit will give me the utterance. I thank You Father, for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the ability to speak with other tongues. In Jesus' name. Amen!”

Begin to thank Him now for filling you with His Spirit. Yield yourself to Him. Speak the words—not in your own language—but in a language the Holy Spirit gives you. It is you who will do the speaking, not the Holy Spirit!

Praise the Lord daily for this wonderful gift of being able to communicate with Him spirit to Spirit!



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