

HELLO, GOD!

CHARLES EDWARD BORJAS

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INTRODUCTION

I hope to address some of the Christian concepts and beliefs today on prayer and contacting God. What many people think is prayer is not exactly Biblical prayer. It is not contacting the Almighty, getting answers and positive results, but meaningless, powerless wishful thinking, or ceremonial tradition.

Prayer is not wishful thinking, wishing, hoping, fretting, day dreaming, planning, scheming, vain repetition, spacing out, making your mind blank, wondering, freaking out, carefulness, ritual, traditional, religious, idol worship, animism, contacting the dead, calling on spirit guides, ouiji boards, fortune telling, sorcery, witchcraft, or anything of

the like.

I am not against anything or anybody. My purpose is not to criticize or belittle the sincere prayers which many people pray in faith and believing God will answer, but to empower you with ideas, tips, and equip you with inspiration that will help give a boost to your faith, prayer life and relationship with God, no matter what your church, organization or fellowship.

Also I hope to see you set free from preconceived ideas and concepts, and mindsets about prayer by seeing what the Bible really says about prayer and by encouraging you to try to put some of these principles into practice and application to see if these things can help you or not.

I want to show you from a Biblical standpoint that God does not relate to us or answer our prayers on a basis of what church, group, or nation we belong to. God relates to us on an individual basis, according to His Word, Spirit to spirit.

In this book I will attempt to give simple but practical ideas of what I believe prayer to be, how to pray and how not to pray, and it is my hope that it will make a difference in your spiritual life and walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

I can only share what has been revealed to me and what I have applied to my own life and seen the good fruits of its application. No one can really teach more than what has been a revelation to them, and go beyond his or her conception or understanding.

I know it is impossible to cover every detail and principle of prayer as it is such an unexplored territory of the spirit world, and it would take an exhaustive study, which would take a lifetime to even begin to get close to scratching the surface.

It just is not possible for only one person to have all of the truth on one subject for the whole world, because the Lord is always showing us new truths out of His Word. People who pray are experiencing things that are different from what others are experiencing, so no one can lay down the rules and say what will bring forth the perfect results for you every time.

There just isn't such a formula, other than following what the Word of God says and applying it to our daily lives, because God wants it to be that way. God wants to relate to each one of us on a personal, intimate basis. He wants us each to discover His goodness and unconditional love by having the proper attitudes and relationship with Him according to our individual faith, not group faith, or what is popular.

God bless you and bring forth great results through your prayers.

**Blessings, in Jesus Name,
Charles Edward Borjas**

Chapter One*

Old Testament or New Testament Prayers?

There are great examples of prayer in both the Old Testament and New Testament. Let's face it, the Bible is a book full of men and women who were real prayer warriors. There are many good prayers to pray in both the Old Testament and the New, and what I am going to say may shock you, but not ALL the prayers in the Old Testament are meant for us to pray today. I don't think I have to list all of the

examples and I don't have time nor space to do it, but I will try to list a few just to show that there was a difference in how God related to His children before and after Jesus.

Not that there is anything wrong with the way people prayed in the Old Testament, but we do have to remember that the O.T. folks were relating to God according to the Laws of Moses, and not the New Covenant as Jesus hadn't come yet! So they were praying the way **THEY** were supposed to pray, not necessarily the way **WE** are supposed to pray according to the New Covenant.

When Jesus came it changed the way God related to people, but the trouble, even today, is that many people did not want to change the way they relate to God.

Suddenly, Jesus brings this new concept of relationship with the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit. In the New Testament there were many new concepts to prayer and relating to God that were introduced, that did away with most of Old Testament traditional, ritualistic, ceremonialistic and repetitive prayer.

Jesus, in Matthew chapter 6, tells us how not to pray before he tells us how to pray, and admonishes us not to be like the hypocrites who **LOVE** to pray standing on the streets in front of people so they could be seen of men.

Mat 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites [are]: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

Mat 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

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

Mat 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Mat 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Mat 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as [it is] in heaven.

Mat 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

Mat 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. So here is Jesus giving us a whole new way to pray! Wait a minute! They didn't pray this way in the Old Testament now did they? Jesus gave some other examples of praying, both the right way and the wrong way.

6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

So here is Jesus giving us a whole new way to pray! Wait a minute! They didn't pray this way in the Old Testament now did they? Jesus gave some other examples of praying, both the right way and the wrong way.

I will attempt to wrestle with some of these verses later, but for now let it suffice to say that in this sample of Jesus' prayer which is widely known as The Lord's Prayer or The Our Father, Jesus was teaching His disciples how to pray in the New Testament way!

We have to understand that when Jesus came everything changed that was concerning the way God had been relating to man up until that

time. Now, Jesus is introducing “The Father” and that the correct way to pray is to address God as “Father” This is showing that God was opening up a new relationship with His children that they didn’t really have before.

The relationship based on a family level, and that we can approach the Father directly in Jesus name. There are different thoughts and beliefs on this I am sure, but this new relationship and way to relate to God, worship God, praise God and fellowship with God in communication with God is one of the most revolutionary things that happened in all of the Bible, and totally revolutionized the way we pray as compared to the way, for example, Moses prayed, or Daniel prayed.

This brought God down to earth, and gave His children the right and authority to approach the Father directly, in Jesus name.

This might shock some of you but we are not really supposed to pray the way Moses or Daniel prayed. If you want the right relationship with God, we should pray the way Jesus showed us to pray, and also follow the examples of, not only Jesus, but also Peter, Paul, John, and other New Testament Apostles and teachers, because Jesus came to reveal to us beyond any shadow of a doubt who The Father is!

Jhn 16:25 These things have I spoken unto **you** in proverbs: but **the** time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto **you** in proverbs, but I shall **shew you** plainly of **the Father**.

That doesn’t mean that we have to pray in exactly the same words as Jesus did, but it is beneficial to follow the pattern of the prayer, not as a

ceremony or tradition, but Jesus is teaching us to pray the Kingdom prayer.

We have to realize that we are citizens of a kingdom, and we are addressing the King here, so that is why we say His name

CHAPTER TWO (Our Father, Father God, Heavenly Father, Father, Lord Father God or whatever)

We have to let Him know that we are recognizing Him as the Father of the trinity and Godhead.

(which art in heaven)

Or recognizing the throne of God, where He is and the kingdom of heaven is His domain. (Hallowed be thy name) Here we are praising His name, entering into His courts with praise and worship. This is important to come before Him with praise and thanksgiving. It is very important to treat the Lord in every way the King He is!

The creator of heaven and earth is our King, and He is opening up a door for His creatures, His subjects, the citizens of His kingdom, His children, to approach Him in humility and respect and reverence. This is the most important part of prayer. Just praising, worshiping, adoring, stretching out our heart to God and loving Him with all of our heart.

(Thy Kingdom come)

You can imagine the Kingdom of God coming down from heaven to the earth as John in Revelations 21 and 22 describe, and not only that,

but we are acknowledging and confessing that the kingdom has already come in our hearts, as born again new creatures of the Kingdom of God. God will not answer or hear the prayers of those who do not accept His Lordship and Kingship. He does not answer those who do not want to know Him as Lord and Savior, and accept the fact that the Kingdom of God has come down to the earth in Jesus Christ His son. So that is what you are confessing when you confess that the kingdom has come and is coming in all its fullness.

(Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven)

A King impacts His kingdom and its people with His will, and they carry out the will of the king, as He is their Lord, or owner. He owns everything in the kingdom including the people, so we are confessing His Lordship and Kingship and His total ownership of us His children, and praying for His will, not OUR will to be done. We are bought with a price. 1Cr 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

So we are praying for His will to be done on the earth as it is being done in heaven. That is our goal as His children, citizens of the kingdom is to execute His will in the earth. Earth was originally made to be an exact replica of heaven. It was God's will for earth to be the same in nature and appearance as heaven. Everything we see here on earth has its counterpart in heaven, and was just like it was in heaven before the fall of man.

We are praying for things on earth to be restored the same way they were before the fall of man. We are praying that God's kingdom be established on the earth. That is God's highest will and His heart.

The closest to having the Kingdom of Heaven on earth after the flood and before Jesus was when David was king, and then Solomon became king after David died, until he strayed away from God. The kingdom of God was getting established on earth and was flourishing and would have conquered the whole world if Solomon had not started worshipping the idol gods of his wives. If he had turned them to the Lord, and then their people, and all the kings after that had obeyed the Lord, the Kingdom of God would have flourished and prospered to such a point that by the time Jesus the Messiah came, things would still not have been perfect, and people still would have had to repent of their sins in order to be saved, but it would have been a whole lot easier because the world would have been under Israel's rule instead of the Romans! What a radical idea!

People may not agree with that ideology, or theory, but you just think about that and see if you can't imagine how different the conditions would have been if it had been that way. The disobedience of the kings of Israel after that was what caused them to lead the people astray, which resulted in God sending heathen armies to conquer them and heathen kings to rule over them, and God scattering them all over the face of the earth, up until the time Jesus came.

That's an awesome truth! Disobedience, failure to give God the obeisance, respect, and reverence due Him caused Israel to lose the kingdom and be scattered all over the earth. What a powerful nation

they would have been, full of the Lord's spirit and anointing and blessing! Couldn't you just see what it would have been like with Jesus there working side by side with the King of Israel like in the days of old when the prophet of God was right there with the King giving him the words of God?

That would have been awesome, I am sure, but still Jesus would have had to die for the sins of the world, in order to bring salvation to mankind, so that would not have changed. The fall of man in the Garden of Eden still happened and a savior had to come and die for the people.

Now I don't want to get off picking daisies here and get off of the main subject of prayer, but I am just trying to show you how important it is for us to recognize the kingdom of God and to pray for it to come!

(Give us this day our daily bread)

Then, after we have spent most of our prayer time worshipping, praising, acknowledging, thanking, loving, reverencing the Lord in sweet fellowship and communion, and getting blessed by that by feeling His awesome love for us, stretching out our heart to love and fellowship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, getting filled and empowered by being in the very presence of God, you will feel his Spirit, the Holy Spirit of God, breaking you, making you, comforting you and giving you love, peace and joy and you will know that you now have the confidence, you now have the faith and conviction to ask Him anything, and then you make your request be made known unto God.

CHAPTER THREE: YOUR NEEDS

You have prayed for His will, you have prayed for others, you have entered into His gates with thanksgiving and given Him the fellowship and love He desires from you. Even then you know that you don't even have to make a big thing out of your requests. You just say (give us this day our daily bread) type of statement, because you know that He knows what you have need of before you ask Him.

We thank the Lord for the food before we eat because He owns even that and all good things come from Him.

Mat 6:8 for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

He says not to pray for treasures, not to pray to be rich, not to pray for things to gather up and heap up,

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

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

In fact, and this might shock you, He instructs us not even to pray for our needs! Check this out!

Mat 6:25-34 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin.

And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he] not much more [clothe] you, O ye of little faith?

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day [is] the evil thereof.

How much time do we spend praying for this need and that need. “ Need a new car, and new house, new clothes, O, Lord please supply this and that, and money, yes, of course we need money too.!”

Are we going to believe what Jesus said? That your heavenly Father KNOWS already what we need, and He has already answered our prayers before we even ask! How awesome! He is telling us what we have to do in order to get all we need and that is to seek the Kingdom of God first. Seeking the Kingdom of God is seeking an intimate relationship with the King!

He says if we do that, and really know Jesus and the Father, that is Eternal Life, and knowing the true God, and entering into an intimate relationship with Him is seeking first the Kingdom, when if we do that, all of our needs will be added to us. They will be the by –product of seeking the Lord first in our life. As He promised in Phil 4:13: But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches and goodness by Christ Jesus. “According to His riches and goodness”

CHAPTER FOUR: FORGIVENESS AND TEMPTATION

And Forgive US Our Debts (trespasses, sins, offences, hurtful acts and words we committed against others) as we forgive our

debtors,(those who committed hurtful and unloving acts or words against us, or those who owe us anything but can't pay it back)

We cannot expect God to hear us or give us answers to prayer when we have hate, bitterness, strife, unforgiveness and other bad feelings in our heart. We cannot demand anything from God, who is all- loving if we have not been loving and cannot forgive others for what wrong they did to us.

We cannot even expect to be able to experience the presence of God in all His fullness and the power of the Holy Spirit if we have been disobedient to the second greatest commandment to love our neighbor as yourself. It just won't work that way. There must be forgiveness in our hearts. There must be love and compassion. There cannot be hardness of heart.

And Lead Us Not Into Temptation

Why did Jesus say that? Would God lead us into temptation if we didn't?

God does not send temptation. God does not tempt us or lead us into temptation so why did Jesus say that? You can get a good balance on this part if you remember that we lead ourselves into temptation.

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

Jam 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

I just prefer to understand this as praying, "don't let me be led into temptation" or "help me not to be led into temptation of my own lust

and enticed” we are praying to have the spiritual strength to resist temptation when it comes and also, the temptation that means troubles, persecutions, afflictions, trials, battles and evil. We are praying here that we will have the spiritual strength to be victorious over all that is evil and wicked. That’s the way I would prefer to understand this.

Because the next part says ; But deliver us from evil” it says it right there! “Deliver us from evil” Do you know what that is saying? It is really saying that temptations, afflictions, trials, battles, persecutions, and all kinds of troubles are evil, wicked, from the devil, and we are praying for the Lord to deliver us out of them. This is a prayer of deliverance! Deliver us from evil! What it is really saying is “Deliver us from the Evil One, Satan!” Those things do not come from God! God does not send evil upon His children. Things are different now that Jesus has paid the price for our sins.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

And we end with Praise, Worship, Adoration, Glorifying God and His Kingdom, confessing that the kingdom is the Lord’s, all the power is the Lord’s, and all the glory is the Lord’s and will always be the Lord’s forever.

CHAPTER FIVE: PRAYER IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

So now you may ask, “But what is wrong with the way David prayed in the Psalms? Isn’t it ok to pray like He did, after all it says that David was a man after God’s own heart.”

Yes, it is true, David was a man after God’s own heart. The Holy Spirit spoke through him prophecies of the Messiah. I would say that all of David’s Psalms where he is praising and glorifying God and victorious over the enemy of our souls would be a great way to praise the Lord, and there are many of the Psalms put to song that make great praise and worship songs, so you have to ask the Lord for discernment as to which of David’s prayers would still be applicable and “legal” to pray according to the New Testament new covenant.

A good way to do that would be to look and see how Jesus prayed, how Paul prayed, how Peter and the apostles prayed. If it matches, then bingo, you got yourself a good prayer you can pray if you want. I would say that all the praises are fine, and in unity and agreement with the New Testament and new covenant.

Some prayers that they prayed in the Old Testament are great, if you add “in Jesus name” at the end, because now we have the authority given to us by Jesus to ask the Father in His name. If you use Old Testament prayers and pray in the Old Testament way, you just have to be sure you are not praying for your salvation over and over again, and asking God to keep coming to you, and the Holy Spirit to keep coming to you like they had to do in the Old Testament, under the Old Covenant.

Back then the Holy Spirit and the Word of God kept coming and going according to whom God was using and speaking through at the

time. There wasn't a personal intimate relationship with ALL of His Children like there is now. Peter in Acts 2:17 and 18 is relating the fulfillment of Joel 2:28 and 29 here by quoting it, and explaining that what the people were seeing was not a bunch of drunken party goers. This was the part of the Holy Spirit and only those who believed were invited to it!

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

So Peter was saying that the beginning of the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy was then, after the day of Pentecost. The Lord was pouring out His spirit and what was happening there had never happened before. The Holy Spirit was sent from heaven to be poured out upon all believers, and it was not on a come and go basis anymore! The Holy Spirit was here to stay!

There are a lot of prayers in the Old Testament that also might go along with the New Covenant. You just have to check it out to see if it coincides with the atonement of Jesus, and what was included in His vacuum packed and sealed with the Holy Spirit deal. In the Old Testament times it was much harder to get to God as you had to follow

the Law and all the ordinances and atonement rituals of sacrifice and cleansing etc.

If you weren't doing all those things you couldn't even think about trying to approach God in prayer. Those who got their prayers answered in the Old Testament were those who were specially chosen by God for His purpose, and were highly favored because of their extreme love for God and close adherence to His ordinances.

The average Joe or John could not keep those strict ordinances and laws and that is how God weeded out the ones who couldn't and picked the special ones we read about in the O.T. who got their prayers answered because they were following God about as closely as you could in those days.

As a matter of fact, no one could even become a High Priest if he had a mole anywhere on his body, a flat nose, flat feet, or any scars or marks or blemish any where on their body. God was trying to show what His standard of perfection was if they wanted to reach Him back then, and why they needed a savior.

Before the Law was given, things were different then too, and the way God dealt with man and related to man was on a one by one basis and there was actually more mercy and more grace in those days before Moses gave the law.

God was showing His true nature and His goodness and kindness and mercy more then, and this is why He did not judge certain people

for their sins, like Abraham , for lying to Pharoah and Abimilech about Sarah, and Jacob, for being such a deceiver.

He appeared to people more often and spoke to them personally, but after the Law, the High priest system started where no one could even get close to God unless they went through the High Priest, or the prophet, except in some outstanding cases like King David and Solomon, where God spoke to them personally. Even God can make exceptions, according to His righteous judgments.

Psalm 51 would not be a good prayer to pray for an already born again believer, but it might make a good sinners prayer of repentance. David prayed that when there wasn't a savior yet. Now there is so we wouldn't need to pray a repeated prayer (vain repetitions)

For the Lord to forgive our sins and create in us a clean heart, because that is what happens when a person is born again. You get a whole brand new spirit, a renewed spirit, and then with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we are renewed and sealed. So there wouldn't be a need for asking repeatedly for the Lord to keep renewing a right spirit in us, because we already have a renewed spirit and He said He will never leave us nor forsake us.

What we Christians need to work on is not renewing our spirits, but our minds.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Another example is when Abraham, Moses, Daniel, Jeremiah, and the prophets and priests interceded for the people, those prayers

would not count for us to pray today because they were the mediators between God and the people in the Old Testament. Their prayers had power of interceding for the people since they were the spiritual leaders and represented GOD. They were the mediators between the people and God.

Those kind of prayers would not count today because we are not the mediators between God and the people. Only Jesus is and there is only ONE mediator between God and man.

1Ti 2:5 For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Of course we can pray for one another using some examples from the Old Testament, and there are prayers we can pray for others who don't know the Lord, but it is not the same as it was there because there wasn't a savior yet who was a mediator for the people so the High Priests and the prophets had to be the mediator and intercessor.

There are many incidents and things that happened in the Old Testament including many of the prayers and ways people did things then that do not apply anymore because we are not accountable for the Laws of Moses.

However, what would benefit us all is if we can still learn lessons from the mistakes of others in the Old as well as the New Testaments, and remember that the spiritual principles in the O.T. are still the same today, and the meaning behind those things may still apply.

Another thing to remember is that rather than the actual words and position and things we say in prayer, God looks more at the motive we have for praying in the first place. He looks on the heart! If your heart is in the right place, the right kind of prayer will come out even if you don't know the proper words to say. Prayer that is heard by God has to be in the Spirit and by the Spirit of God, so just pray for the Holy Spirit to take over and go for it!

CHAPTER SIX: FALSE BURDEN BEARING and CONTROL

Now we have Jesus. **HE IS OUR INTERCESSOR**, and so is also the Holy Spirit. So we need to watch out and be careful about false burden bearing. Trying to take too much burden upon ourselves that needs to be given to Jesus. There is a time and a place for intercessory prayer. Intercessory prayer does not mean to take upon ourselves the responsibility of someone else. We have to put things in the right place. Everyone in this day and age under the New Covenant is ultimately responsible for their own spiritual life, and makes daily decisions that reflect their own choices.

You cannot interfere in anyone's majesty of free will and choice. To pray for someone against his or her will is not scriptural! To insist on praying a certain thing for someone that they are not asking for or don't particularly want prayer for is not according to the Word of God in this day and age.

To take upon you the problems and burdens of others as your own is a noble thing, and a loving thing to do, but we have to make sure it is the Lord's burden for them and not just our own good intentions,

otherwise you can get involved in a person's life and make matters worse!

You can become a busy body, and a buttinsky, butting in to the private affairs of others unasked and unwanted! If you are not sure what to pray for concerning a person, or have not been asked to pray even though you may be aware of a needy situation, and yet you have a heart to help that person somehow with your prayers, because you believe in the power of prayer and the unconditional love of God for their life, you can always pray for them another way.

You can pray for the Lord to have His way in their life. You can pray for the blessings of God on their life. You can pray that the Lord will give the solution to their situation and problem and that they will find the answers they are searching for. You can pray for any one of the fruits of the spirit, or all of them, to manifest in that person's life according to the will of God and according to how much that person is deciding to yield to God's will.

It is safer to pray that way, in a more general way, and put the ball in the Lord's court, instead of feeling so over burdened that you feel you have to get involved in the details of their life, and get in their to control the way you want things to go. That's not prayer, that's control and busy-body interfering. You have no right to force your prayers on anyone or pray into their life, or speak prophetically into their life without their permission. Every person has complete spiritual authority over their life, and you cannot go beyond those bounds to force spiritual influence into their life without it bordering on the occult and witchcraft and controlling prayers.

You cannot force your prayers on anyone! You cannot control a person's life by praying for them to do this or that, or to stop this or that if they are not in agreement with it, and have not given their consent. To try to take control of someone else's life through praying for them borders on witchcraft. That is what witchcraft is all about , control and abuse. Power and influence over someone's life. You want to have the last say in what they do.

That is not prayer but control. That is the problem that exists in many groups, churches and religious cults today. Where the leader wants to stay on top and control everybody so they made up these rules and regulations that would assure they remain as the leaders and no one else can take control away from them.

They have put themselves up as the only "special anointed" and "chosen" to lead that group or church and are not open to any other alternatives. They tell everyone else that they need to be willing to be humbled and learn to be good followers, but they are not willing to put them selves under the accountability of anyone else.

This is a false balance of power and will not be blessed by the Lord. There always arise questions, doubts, and division among the followers, and when the leadership's authority is questioned, they get invited to leave. Obey or go away.

They say they are open to suggestions, but that they reserve the "right" to have the final say and make the final decision. Even to the point of negatively affecting the lives, families, and future of others causing emotional harm and even marital damage!

In this type of a group or cult the members are not taught to hear from God independently, but only in accordance with the already laid down ordinances and regulations they have been handed.

The members are told that their opinions are valued, and they are an important part of the “work of God” but in the long run they are kept down in their “place” and told to abide in their “calling” where they can “burn free” and “be a blessing” to others in a “sacrificial ministry”.

In this way they are led to believe that they are “dying daily” to reach others, and “denying themselves”, sacrificing their own desires, putting themselves on the “altar” of “self-sacrifice” and that this is the only acceptable attitude approved by God and God’s best for their life.

Of course the principles of this kind of life are Biblical, but according to the Bible, it is strictly on a volunteer basis, and not to be “required” in order to be a member of this or that. It is a beautiful thing to see a person lay down his or her life for the brethren as John said in 1John 3:16: “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us, so we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

However, this verse is taken out of context and applied to members by leaders who intend to use this verse to impact their OWN will upon the members to use their sacrificial service for their own benefit, or to push their own agenda, making the members feel that unless they get behind this new agenda 100% they are half-hearted, and are not fully

“on – board” with all the “new moves of the Spirit” and are doubting, and cannot be trusted with responsibility.

These leaders convince their “half-hearted” followers that they are “disloyal” and are being influenced by negative or evil spirits because they are not following or obeying orders without question. So these “half-hearts” no matter what their age or past faithfulness, are then threatened that if they do not get on board and support these policies whole heartedly, they will be in danger of being put on probation, or moved to a place of lesser responsibility, or even having their membership terminated by “inviting” them to leave the group’s membership in a terminology that releases the leadership from the responsibility of kicking them out by saying, “well, if you don’t like it, there’s the door” or “ this life isn’t for everyone”.

Then if the person decides to leave, they can say, “well, they left, we didn’t kick them out, they left of their own accord”

When this happens, if it is a Christian group or church, the members are limited as to how far they can actually go in their relationship with the Lord, as they are told how to pray, how to seek God, how to relate to God instead of having the freedom to seek it for themselves and act according to their own faith.

This type of situation can hinder one’s faith to hear from God and get answers to prayer. It can be frustrating, discouraging and fruitless, even traumatic for some, if the member is seeking for an experience with God that exceeds the experiences only allowed inside of the closed confines of the cult or group’s limited rules and regulations.

Of course you can always choose to leave such a dry dead-end situation that has you leveled off at a spiritual plateau where you feel you can go no further in your spiritual life without some outstanding change or word from the Lord.

The truth is that you CAN hear from the Lord. Jesus said in John 10: “My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me.”

If you are one of His sheep, you DO hear His voice, and you CAN get a word from the Lord to show you what to do if you are willing to launch out into the deep, and step out on and walk on the water, but you have to take that first step and make the break.

YOU have to make that decision to break the control of those over you who are controlling your life in every aspect. If a leader or shepherd is really of the Lord and a godly person, they will see your need and will encourage you to seek and hear from the Lord and get a word from Him without trying to influence you one way or another.

A good leader will encourage you to follow whatever the Lord is showing you to do, because you have the Holy Spirit and can hear from the Lord just as accurately as the leader can! That’s a radical statement, but it is true!

Leaders have their responsibilities for organization and helping in different areas of their gifts and talents, but the Bible never says that people control is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit!

Some people like parents, spouses, relatives and friends can maybe tell you how to do your job better, or how to sweep you floor, or that

you need a hair cut, or something relating to your physical everyday life.

However, when it comes to the Spirit, and your relationship with the Lord, the Lord in His word has specifically stated that every man must give account of himself to God in word and deed. So if you are letting others lord it over you Spiritually and in matters of your relationship and service for the Lord, and dictate to you what to do in those matters to a point that goes beyond Godly counsel and just sharing wisdom and knowledge of God's Word when you ask for it, Then that is going too far according to God's Word.

Teachers can be a blessing, and specific instruction and the pointing out of God's Word and what it says can be vital when coming from good shepherds that are concerned for your welfare and future.

However, ask God for discernment to show you where to draw the line, and remember that you are bought with a price be not therefore the servants of men!

1Cr 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

But we should serve one another in love!

Gal 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the

book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rom 2:6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

1Cr 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

Gal 6:5 For every man shall bear his own burden.

2Cr 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [done] in [his] body, according to that he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad.

If you feel people are trying to control you and you don't have any say over your own life, pray for the Lord to help you break free from that bondage! He is our Lord and no one else has a right to lord it over you. He will provide the way and means to get out of that situation and help start you on a new road of freedom in the Spirit, where you can experience His love, peace and joy at a level you only dreamed of!

In addition to Old Testament prayers there are also prayers in the Old Testament that curse enemies of God, call for the judgments of God upon people, and people praying in sackcloth and ashes, renting their clothes, shaving their heads, disfiguring their faces, selfish prayers, and some other non-New Testament prayer methods that may have caused questions to rise, so watch out for those types of prayers. Prayers that put any type of a curse on others are directly from the devil, and not from the Spirit of God. Jesus said to bless your enemies, not curse.

Prayers that are of a "whatever it takes" nature are not of God and can cause much harm or damage to a person's life. The forces that answer prayers that are against other people are under the command of Satan,

and these types of prayers will bring Satanic results! God is LOVE and loves you unconditionally, and will NEVER curse you, if you are one of His beloved children. He died for you, so why would He turn around and curse you? God is not schizophrenic. He is not a Dr.Jekyll and Mr.Hyde.

CHAPTER SEVEN: KNOWING GOD IN AN INTIMATE WAY IS ETERNAL LIFE AND LEADS TO PRAYER

So I am sure you will be having some questions and maybe feel at a loss and will say “ so what CAN I pray for now? How do I pray and what IS a “legal” prayer?

I will also try to recommend some New Testament prayers as we come to them while studying the rest of the scriptures I am using for this book.

Jhn 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

1Jo 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, [even] in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

1Jo 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1Jo 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen [it], and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

When you know someone in an intimate way, then you know if anyone lies about them you can refute those lies with conviction. You know them better than anyone, and you know they would not do those things someone is trying to accuse them of. If you do not know the person and someone tells you something bad about them, the tendency might be to believe them, or at least if you do not know if it is true or not, it still may influence you in some way until you find out the truth.

In prayer and faith in God it can be the same with a lot of people, because they really don't know the true nature of God, His personality, and are relating to Him in prayer much the way many of the Old Testament saints did; without really knowing their savior intimately. There were very few who knew God in this way, and that's why there were so very few men of God and women in the Old Testament who knew how to get things from God.

In the New Testament we are told to know God and to know Jesus. We are told that if we abide in Him, and His Words abide in us, we can ask what we will and it shall be done.

Jhn 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Jesus said that He will be in us and we in Him, the Father will come and dwell with us and the Holy Spirit will be in us and we in Him. Wow! How much closer can you get to someone than that?

God wants us to know Him, who He is, what He is like. The Father wants us to know Him, about Him, and what kind of a personality and nature He has. Jesus said that he came to show us the Father, and that he doesn't do anything but what He hears from the Father, and doesn't say anything but what He hears the Father say, and also Jesus said that if they saw Him they saw the Father.

Jhn 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou [then], Shew us the Father?

Jhn 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

We know what God the father is like through the life of Jesus. Whatever you see Jesus did, that's was the doing of the Father. Whatever they heard Him say, it was the saying of the Father. The nature of Jesus is the nature of the Father. Identical.

Hbr 1:3 Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the EXPRESS IMAGE of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

The words “express Image” mean exactly the same thing, Below I give the definition as it is stated in the Strong’s Greek Lexicon;

- 1) the instrument used for engraving or carving
- 2) the mark stamped upon that instrument or wrought out on it
 - a) a mark or figure burned in (Lev. 13:28) or stamped on, an impression
 - b) the exact expression (the image) of any person or thing, marked likeness, precise reproduction in every respect, i.e facsimile

So Jesus was the exact carved image of the Father, stamped with the same mold, burned with the exact impression of the Father, the exact expression of the Father, the marked likeness of the Father, a precise reproduction in every detail, like a live zerox copy of the Father in ever respect.

In other words: The Express Image, just like the verse itself says! So you look around in the Gospels if you want to know what God is like, what the Father is like. Look at what Jesus did and what He said. He never refused anyone’s request to be healed. They called Him “Lord”. He never put sickness on anyone, He never hurt anyone. He only got angry at the scribes and Pharisees and merchants in the temple who were blaspheming God with their words and actions. He never got upset or critical of the publicans and sinners. He was their friend. He was always there for the poor, humble , the sick and dying, the unfortunate, and underdog. He healed ALL who came to Him!
Mat 12:15 But when Jesus knew [it], he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;

Luk 4:40 Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.

Luk 6:19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed [them] all.

Mat 4:24 And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

So we have to remember this when we go before the Lord to pray. Who are we praying to? Who are we petitioning? What kind of a person is He who heals all who come to Him? Who did he refuse? Nobody! That's the kind of a God we are praying to, fellowshiping with, worshiping, praising, getting blessed by, getting healed by, and getting salvation from.

If the eternal God through Jesus Christ would sacrifice His only Son on the cross for the sins of all for all eternity, why wouldn't he answer a little healing request? Or anything according to His will? Do you think He would go through all that suffering and Jesus would go through all that suffering to save our souls and not save our bodies too? Jesus said on the cross, "It is finished".

In conclusion to this chapter, what I would say, and this is according to the scriptures I have read, that in order to talk to God in

any form of prayer in any effective way, it is first necessary to know Him, and His Son Jesus Christ.

For those who do not know Jesus, and do not have a relationship with Him this would be the first step. If one has the desire to communicate with God and to enter into a relationship with Him, he or she must take the first step, and become a born again citizen of the Kingdom of God.

This is done by simply believing in your heart that Jesus Christ is your savior and that He died for your sins, and confessing that God raised Him from the dead, and asking Jesus into your heart and life. It is you surrendering to your King in submission and humility! It is impossible to communicate with God without having first accepted His Son, Jesus Christ, into your life. The King of Love and Life, who is also the Light of the world.

If you have not ever done that, then this is your day to do it before you go any further in this book! You can do it easily and simply by praying a prayer, from your heart. Just open your heart to God by praying something like this:

Dear Father God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ to die for my sins. I accept you, Jesus, as my savior and King. I believe that You died for me, and through Your sufferings, death and resurrection I can have eternal life, now as well as forever. I believe that through your power I can also have health, happiness and prosperity

Forgive me for my sins and wrong doings to others. I also forgive anyone who has wronged me including.....so and so.....and I

pray that you put your love in my heart and desire to share the message of your love and salvation with others. Please fill me with your Holy Spirit, who is the comforter, and help me to learn how to use the power of the Holy Spirit to pray, be in communion with You, and help others. I thank you for all of these spiritual blessings, in Jesus name , Amen.

Just in case you have any questions about what you have read or prayed here, and think it may not coincide with what you have heard or may have been taught, let me explain it in this way.

Salvation is a free gift we receive when we acknowledge Jesus Christ as our savior and ask Him to enter our hearts and lives forever. It is a change, because you receive a new spirit, and are born again in your spirit. You still have the same body, you still have the same soul, but your spirit is saved!

That is why you may not feel any different at all, but in others it may be a more dramatic or even emotional experience. It is not based or dependant upon emotions, as emotions are part of your soul, and your soul does not change along with the rebirth of the spirit. That is why you may still feel different from day to day.

However, it is your soul that needs to be renewed now by the faithful study of God's Word and entering into the proper relationship with God and others. This can take time because you still have the old thought patterns that you need to rewire, and that is why even born again Christians can fall back into their old sinful habits to where it will not seem like they have had a spiritual rebirth.

That's because they are looking at the soul, and flesh part of them, and not at the Spirit part of them. They don't see themselves as God does, because He is looking at their spirits and relates directly to our spirit, not the flesh or soul. That's why we need to renew our minds and get our soul to agree with our spirits, and then the body will just follow. The flesh cannot make decisions for you and lead you. You are led by your mind, soul, your thoughts and what you think of.

Pro 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he

That's why the Bible says: **(Philippians 4:8,9)** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things [are] honest, whatsoever things [are] just, whatsoever things [are] pure, whatsoever things [are] lovely, whatsoever things [are] of good report; if [there be] any virtue, and if [there be] any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

We are driven to action by our thoughts, and what we are thinking. If we think good thoughts we will do good deeds. If we are thinking evil thoughts, we will be driven to do evil things. It is not the spirit that has to grow after salvation, it is the MIND that needs to be renewed and cleansed. This is the whole Christian life after salvation; to teach your mind how to follow your spirit, and your body will just follow suit!

The word "salvation" or "saved" in the original Hebrew means the following : 1) salvation, deliverance, a) welfare, prosperity b) deliverance c) salvation (by God) d) victory. As defined by the Strong's Hebrew lexicon.

And in the Greek it is defined from the Strong's Lexicon:

- 1) deliverance, preservation, safety, salvation
 - a) deliverance from the molestation of enemies
 - b) in an ethical sense, that which concludes to the souls safety or salvation
- 1) of Messianic salvation
- 2) salvation as the present possession of all true Christians
- 3) future salvation, the sum of benefits and blessings which the

Christians, redeemed from all earthly ills, will enjoy after the visible return of Christ from heaven in the consummated and eternal kingdom of God.

The same Greek word in the New Testament is used and translated into the following words all meaning the same thing:

salvation 40 times, be saved 1 time, deliver 1 time, health 1 time,
saving 1, that (one) be saved 45

This meaning also includes:

to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction

a) one (from injury or peril)

to save a suffering one (from perishing), i.e. one suffering from disease, to make well, heal, restore to health

to preserve one who is in danger of destruction, to save or rescue

b) to save in the technical biblical sense

1) negatively

a) to deliver from the penalties of the Messianic judgment

b) to save from the evils which obstruct the reception of the Messianic deliverance

So as you can see, salvation, this free gift, includes not only the forgiveness of sins so you can skip out on eternal punishment, but is salvation complete in every way you can possibly be saved! It goes beyond mere religious doctrine or ceremony.

True, full salvation is salvation for your spirit, soul, and body. Complete, in all ways and all spiritual blessings from God.

Eph 1:3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS in heavenly [places] in Christ:

WELL, NOW THAT WE HAVE GOT THAT OUT OF THE WAY, your salvation, and you now know that this salvation also guarantees answers to prayer in order that you may be saved fully and completely, doesn't it make more sense that the loving Father and His Son Jesus Christ wills for you to not only be saved sometime in the distant future, but also right now on this earth while you are living in this body, which the Bible calls the Temple of the Holy Ghost?

Don't you think that a God who loves you enough to suffer and die for you would not love you enough to want to talk to you and answer your prayers and provide all your needs?

CHAPTER EIGHT: HE WILL ANSWER, and SPEEDILY!

Now it is getting a bit clearer as to why and how we can claim the authority in the scriptures for answers to our prayers to anything

concerning our relationship with the Lord, according to His will for our body, soul and spirit.

Luk 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Luk 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them SPEEDILY.

THIS SAYS THAT GOD WILL ANSWER YOU SPEEDILY! QUICKLY! RIGHT AWAY!

You might cry out and say, “No! I know that is not true because I have waited and waited for some answers to prayer and it never came!”

However, the Word of God says He **WILL** answer **SPEEDILY!** A good example in the Bible of this is when Daniel, praying for his people Israel, got an answer right away, **SPEEDILY! HOWEVER,** another time it took 3 weeks for the answer to come, but God had still sent the answer right away!

Dan 9:23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew [thee]; for thou [art] greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

Dan 10:12 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

Dan 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

What a lot of people don't realize is that there is a SPIRITUAL WAR going on! There is a SPIRIT WORLD that is inhabited with SPIRIT BEINGS!

The angels of God are fighting Satan and his demon angels! In the case we see here of Daniel's, obviously the answer to Daniel's prayer on Chapter 9 got through fine the first time, but something strange happened the second time.

The forces of Satan were notified, and the Prince of Persia, not a physical man, but a spiritual principality, was sent forth to do battle with the angel, and held up the answer for three weeks until Michael the Archangel came to help out.

THE POINT IS THAT GOD HAD ANSWERED RIGHT AWAY, but the answer was being hindered by dark spiritual forces! Daniel didn't see the answer until after Michael came to defeat the Prince of Persia, and then the angel was allowed to continue on to finish deliver the message to Daniel!

All of this was unseen, behind the scenes and boundaries of the 5 natural senses and could not be picked up nor perceived by Daniel, so he just kept on praying! He had no idea whatsoever what was going on in the unseen realm of the Spirit World!

How is this possible when you don't see the answer with your eyes, or perceive the answer with all of your senses that you are so dependant upon for your reasoning and very life?

One thing is for certain. The problem does not lie with God. The problem could lie with the person praying or the person, people, or circumstances one is praying for.

Every request prayed in the Spirit, according to the will of God is answered immediately! That is a shocking truth!

God relates to us Spirit to spirit, and sends the answer immediately to our spirits, to be released to our bodies and soul according to our faith, and how we respond to what He has already done and promised in His Word.

Faith is your positive response to what God has already given you in His Word by grace. You cannot get God to give you something He has already given you. We just need to learn to USE what God has already given to us by His unconditional love and grace, and utilize it. You already have all the love, all the joy, all the peace, all the faith, and everything your spirit will ever need forever because you are exactly the same as Jesus in your spirit.

[Rom 8:29](#) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the **image** of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

[2Cr 3:18](#) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same **image** from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.

[Col 3:10](#) And have put on the new [man], which is renewed in knowledge after the **image** of him that created him:

[1Jo 4:17](#) Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

When God answers your prayers He does not answer on the grounds of who you are or what you are doing. Your performance record has nothing to do with how God answers your prayers. That is a HUGE change from the way it was before Jesus.

God answers your prayers solely on the basis of what Jesus did. When God answers your prayers He looks at you in the Spirit and doesn't see you and all your so - called good works. He looks at you and sees Jesus! When He is answering your prayers and what you are praying according to the will of God and by the Spirit of God He is not answering you, He is answering Jesus!

Jesus is our intercessor, the one who is always making intercession for us, by the Holy Spirit. So we have both Jesus and the Holy Spirit making intercession for us.

Rom 8:26 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.

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

That is why a lot of prayers never get answered. God may not be honoring them because they did not come from the Spirit of God, the heart of God, according to the will of God, and therefore, they would not be included in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. God will only answer those prayers that are prayed according to His Word. We cannot get anything from God by faith that was not already provided for us by grace in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus.

It is only these prayers that get answered, and at that, speedily! This is because answer to prayer does not depend upon our goodness, or any righteousness of our own. We do not get answers to prayer because we read our Bibles or went to church or witnessed to someone. It is not dependant upon what we do or not do, but only upon our faith to believe that the atonement of Jesus was enough to get us answers to our prayers.

There is no hocus-pocus when it comes to getting our prayers answered. There is no magical formula if you follow this step or that step. Answer to prayer is based solely upon the fact that God recognizes that Jesus has atoned for our sins, and that is ALL He sees in us, His beloved Son, Jesus! We are the image of His Son, Jesus, and our spirits reflect the image of Jesus back to the Father and this is how you get answers to prayers.

He sees if Jesus has approved the prayer, if the Holy Spirit has confirmed it, if the prayer originated from His heart, and is according to His will, the Bible says “He heareth us” because we believe in His name!

1Jo 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

1Jo 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

1Jo 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

It's not according to the words we say, or how convincing we are to God of our plight, or even how needy we are or someone is. If our prayers are not based upon the atonement of Jesus , and do not reflect the face of Jesus to the Father, and are not according to His will, what has already been written down in the revealed will of God , the Bible, you can cry until the cows come

home and the moon turns blue, but you will not get answers to your prayers, at least not from God!

Answers to prayer are only released according to what was included in the package deal of the atonement of Jesus, and if you want to know what that was just read your Bible! It's all there in black and white in the Gospels, if you learn the Keys of the Kingdom and how to get access to them and how to use them. It's all there in the red-letter editions with the words of Jesus in red. It's all there in the Epistles and Acts and even in the book of Revelations!

Just about everything Jesus said and Paul said, and Peter, James, John, and the rest of the writers of the New Testament said are Keys that unbind, or unlock the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. They unlock the doors to the Kingdom of God, and are the rules and laws of faith and the Kingdom and you have to play the game according to the rules, or you get disqualified! You do not qualify to get your prayers answered if you do not want to follow the rules, and laws of faith and love laid down in the Word of God, given by the Spirit of God.

If you are not panting after God's heart and will in your life, and seeking Him with all your heart, soul, body and spirit, you will not see the miracles you have only dreamed of. If you do not follow the instructions of the hand book of faith, the Bible, you will not see the right results.

You will not have a victorious life but will live in defeat and despair wondering if God really loves you, because you are depending upon your own good works to save you and get answers to prayer when God is trying to tell you in His Word what is the right way to go. He is a Spirit and must be worshiped in spirit and in truth!

CHAPTER NINE: GOD IS A SPIRIT

God is a spirit, Jesus said, and we must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Jhn 4:24 God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.

Prayers are made by the Spirit of God, and these are the only kind of prayers He answers.

Rom 8:26 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.

Rom 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what [is] the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to [the will of] God.

Since God is a spirit, and is broadcasting all the time, the only way to pick up his signals, like the radio and television waves all around us, is to be a receiver. Except the flesh does a very poor job of being a receiver for the spirit of God, so God gave us a new, born again spirit , and then filled it with His Holy Spirit, and so now we can receive His messages and answer to prayer spirit to spirit, and not flesh to flesh.

People are looking for answers from God through the flesh. They want Him to answer this or that and solve all of their fleshly selfish problems. They are not interested in having a spiritual relationship

with God. Spirit to spirit. Instead they are mad at God for one reason or another, and ask selfishly of God, demanding He answer their prayers with no reverence, no respect, no love, no relationship.

You can't get answers to prayer that way.

YOU CANNOT GET GOD TO MOVE AND DO SOMETHING THAT HE HAS ALREADY DONE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

You cannot get something from God by faith that He hasn't already provided by Grace. We just need to learn to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" (which is Jesus) and all these other things will be added to us.

We need to seek the Kingdom first by seeking a relationship with the King of that kingdom, Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER TEN: EVERY SINGLE PRAYER PRAYED IN THE SPIRIT, AND BY THE SPIRIT ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD IS ANSWERED!

Jhn 14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do [it].

1Jo 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

When we get to the place where we are worshiping God in the Spirit, praying by the spirit, not the flesh, and according to His will, he hears us and answers us immediately sending the answer to our spirit.

Then we need to learn how to translate the answers into the material

world so they will be manifest in a tangible way by appropriating our faith.

That is where our faith comes in. Faith is not trying to beg God to do something and move on our behalf or on the behalf of someone else. **THAT'S RELIGION!**

Faith is our **POSITIVE RESPONSE** to what God has already done through Jesus Christ, according to His grace. Faith was not given to us just so we can get things from God, but so we can have a close relationship with Him. Then what results from that in blessings and answers to prayer are by-products of our relationship with Him!

EVERYONE who was healed or got miracles responded positively to the Words of Jesus. They called Him "Lord". They did what He said to do. They answered positively when Jesus asked them if they believed. He said, "Go thy way thy **FAITH** hath made thee whole" They had the faith so they already **HAD** it upon believing on Jesus! Their faith is what made them whole!

They already had the answer in their Spirit when they said "Yes , Lord , I believe" ! That is why they were healed! They believed the Words of the King! The words of the King are Law, and the King cannot even break His own law!

Your **BODY** is the flesh; your **SOUL** is the seat of your mind, emotions, character, personality, long-term memory, reasoning, and all of your mental and psychological attributes, and your **SPIRIT** is the real you that has been changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ through the born again **EXPERIENCE**.

1Th 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole SPIRIT and SOUL and BODY be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Cr 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, ARE CHANGED INTO THE SAME IMAGE from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.

CHAPTER ELEVEN: SALVATION IS FOR THE WHOLE MAN SPIRIT SOUL AND BODY.

Saved from our sins and eternal punishment, saved from disease and protected from disaster and untimely death, saved from fear and depression and all mental and psychological problems that weaken the spirit.

The sad part is, not everyone believes that! The majority of Christians today fall short of full salvation because they do not know this deep but simple truth because of erroneous teachings they have heard.

Don't misunderstand me now. It is a wonderful, marvelous thing for someone to experience the miracle of salvation, the born again experience. That is the greatest miracle of them all! To be able to sing the song of salvation, which even the angels cannot sing.

That is everything you will ever get for your spirit! That is the full joy, full truth, full peace, full light, and it makes your new, born again spirit complete in all its fullness, being then sealed with the Holy Spirit, vacuum packed, sealed forever with everything you need for your spiritual life from the point of salvation on into eternity.

That is only good for your spirit, and no matter what you decide to do with your life after that, God will never stop loving you and you will be saved because you gave your heart to Him and believe in Jesus as your savior.

But that is not all God has for you. It shouldn't stop there, but sad to say it stops there for many Christians who are content now to just go to church on Sunday and use their new found Christianity as a side sort of part-time hobby. Like a weekend sports club they do it with others on the weekends and enjoy the fellowship, and think that is all there is to it.

Then the doctor tells them they have Cancer, or some other disease, or they start having marriage problems, or other troubles and problems and they fall apart because they neglected the BODY and SOUL part of their salvation.

They go to their pastor or priest and he recommends a good doctor or psychiatrist or marriage counselor or whatever he can't handle because the pastor doesn't have faith in the salvation of the spirit, soul and body either!

I am not against doctors, but I just don't agree with them when they tell me things contrary to what the Word of God says. There are many Godly doctors who follow not the prescription, but the pre-scriptures! They have faith and believe in prayer! But they usually don't let those kinds of doctors around hospitals anymore. They might empty them with their faith like John G. Lake did in the early 20th century in Spokane Washington.

He was a faith healer and out of the two hospitals that were in Spokane at the time one of them was completely emptied and had to close down! That city got a special award for being the healthiest city in the U.S.A.!

You ought to look him up on the Internet to see how he did it!

People, and I mean Christians, do not realize that upon that day of salvation not only the spirit was saved forever, but the body and the soul as well.

This might shock you, but, when the born again experience happens, you, at that very instant, receive into your spirit all of the same power of God that raised Jesus Christ from the dead!

That IS the Gospel! That IS good news isn't it? You don't really have to get sick and die before the age of 70 or even eighty at least.

In fact there are those who love the Lord, real born again Christians who live well past that age!

Now this may be too much for some people to handle! However, here are some Bible verses below to verify this truth, everything I am saying here!

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Act 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, [even] by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Col 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with [him] through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Rom 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Phl 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Hbr 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Hbr 13:21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom [be] glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Eph 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Eph 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

CHAPTER TWELVE: IF YOU ARE A BORN AGAIN BELIEVER, YOU HAVE THE SAME POWER IN YOU THAT RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD!

So what are we saying here? What IS God's Word claiming here? That the exact same power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is inside ever born again believer, who has ALSO been baptized, sealed and anointed with the Holy Spirit. You, born again and filled with the Holy Spirit believers, God in al of His power, is on the inside of you, in your spirit right now! You may not feel like it, or look like it, and that is because you are looking at the flesh and thinking with your soul.

Your spirit has been renewed, reborn. So the job you have from the point of salvation is to commence renewing your mind with God's Word to change your thinking. The soul part of you that is made up of all your emotions, your mind, heart, personality and long-term memory. When you get your soul part of you on the same side as your spirit, then your body (flesh) just has to follow!

You have all the faith, all the love, all the joy and spiritual strength, all the miracle working power of God on the inside of you, but now come the process of learning how to get it to work for you in your everyday life.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN: THE WORD OF GOD

That is where the Word of God comes in and that is what helps you develop a strong relationship with God. You need to renew your mind with the Words of God. You cannot get answers to prayer unless you do. You cannot expect to be able to be able to get into a position where God listens and answers your prayers unless you do that. “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path”

Psalms 119:105

Jesus emphasized the Word even more than prayer, because The Word is one of the keys to a strong relationship with God, and IS a part of our prayer life.

Prayer is the key to spiritual growth, and the Word is an important part of it. Hearing the word is hearing God’s voice, which helps us to know His will, when we petition Him. If you are asking God for something that is not according to His Word, He will not answer.

Prayer is not just asking God to do things; it is also letting God tell you things and send His love to you! Through His Word is one of the main ways God talks to us. Prophecy is another way. The Word gives us the basic overall general will of God; the overall STRATEGY for our spiritual life and the spiritual war at hand.

Prophecy gives us fresh encouragement, inspiration, uplifting, and the current TACTICS and detailed instructions on how to do it now. So that's all part of prayer, getting answers from God, and hearing from Him the answers we need to help us make the right decisions in our everyday life.

God, with His unconditional love and grace for us, wills for us to learn how to have this kind of a strong relationship with Him. This, Jesus said, is the true God and life eternal.

The Word of God is the Word of the Kingdom of God, the word of the King. The Word is like a seed. The kingdom of God is like a seed.

Mar 4:14 The sower soweth the word.

Luk 8:11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

Mar 4:26-32 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come. And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? [It is] like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN: THE POWER OF A SEED!

Only God knows the power that is in a seed. When the seed of the Word of God is sown in the heart, and it takes root in there, it is going to grow up, first the blade, then the ear, and then the corn in the ear.

It is going to bloom up in all its fullness in God's time and be fruitful.

When we read the Word of God and meditate on it, the seed of the word of God germinates and takes root in the heart.

God custom made our hearts especially to be able to receive His Word, and let it bear fruit in our lives, just the same way the woman's womb is made to receive the seed of the man and bear a baby. It is much in this same way that the Word of God works the miracle of rebirth and renewed mind and heart, to change our lives! This also is part of prayer and communication with God. A huge part of what makes a strong relationship with God.

You see, God didn't give us faith so we can get money, houses, cars, and things, and everything we want and need. God gave us faith so we can KNOW Him and have an intimate relationship with Him, then, as He promised, "all these things will be added unto you".

The money, houses, cars and needs will be extras that will just come naturally from building up a relationship with God. Not that material things are any sign of a close relationship with God, but if you are pleasing God and in a close relationship with God, constantly in His presence, it just won't really matter whether you have these

things or not.

The Apostle Paul said:

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, [therewith] to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Phil 4:11-13)

If we are completely focused on God, instead of ourselves and our own selfish desires and needs, He will see to it that we have everything we need and even a few extras! We don't have to go hounding Him to demand He give us this or that, claim it in scripture, cry and beg, and hound Him for what we want! Then we wonder why we don't get answers to prayer. Most of the time it is because we are praying selfishly, and God will not answer selfish prayers.

Jam 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume [it] upon your lusts.

Much of the time we do not receive answers to prayer because we are not praying by the Spirit, according to the will of God.

1Jo 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

So we know by this verse that we will only get answers to prayers that are according to His will. How do we know what is according to His will?

We can know what is according to His will by the Spirit of God and the Word of God.

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

Rom 8:26 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.

Rom 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what [is] the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to [the will of] God.

God the Father searches our hearts to see if we are seeking His will, and the Spirit of God sees when we are seeking His will and makes intercession FOR us, and puts those desires and thoughts about what to pray for in our minds and hearts.

We don't always know what to pray for, but if we pray in tongues (in the Spirit) with groanings that cannot be uttered or understood, God understands it because it is the Holy Spirit praying TO God, through OUR born again spirit, making the connection between OUR spirit and God.

Jhn 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, [they] are spirit, and [they] are life. Jesus is saying that the Word of God IS Spirit, and life, and when we are praying according to His Word, we are praying according to His will, and ACCORDING to the Holy Spirit, and IN the Holy Spirit and BY the Holy Spirit, and RIGHT THERE is the presence of God in your life to answer

your requests that you pray. That is why God will send the answer speedily, directly TO your spirit, by means of the Holy Spirit, who makes the connection to God for us.

That is why fleshly, selfish, and soulish prayers do not get answered, at least not by God.

That is also why you don't always see the answer right away, because sometimes it takes a while before the SEED we planted through that prayer, which you plant in your heart by the Word, to take root and germinate.

It takes Faith to wait for the promise, but if you aren't planting those promises in your heart, the seed of the Word in your heart, it cannot germinate. If you don't claim the Word of God, the Constitution of the Kingdom, by planting those promises in your heart, the seed of the Word of God, then it cannot grow and you will not have the faith for that thing to come to pass. There will be unbelief, hardness of heart, bitterness, all of which fight directly against God and His word being fulfilled, and you will be DOUBLE MINDED about all things.

Jam 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

Jam 1:7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Jam 1:8 A double minded man [is] unstable in all his ways.

God's word says you will be like the waves of the sea, tossing and being driven with the wind, tossed about with every wind of doctrine.

Eph 4:14 That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and 11carried about with every **wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

CHAPTER FIFTEEN: CRY WITH ALL YOUR HEART

Prayer is the key to your spiritual growth! Prayer in all it's forms and manifestations. Prayer should be 95% Worship, Praise, Thanksgiving, Fellowship, just communing and loving God, then, after you have had a great time with the Lord hanging out together **WITH ALL YOUR HEART**, you can offer your requests and petitions, **WITH ALL YOUR HEART!**

Jer 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me **with all your heart**.

Joe 2:12 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye [even] to me **with all your heart**, and **with** fasting, and **with** weeping, and **with** mourning:

Jos 22:5 But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD **your** God, and to walk in **all** his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him **with all your heart** and **with all your soul**.

1Sa 12:20 And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;

Half-hearted praying is not really praying! It is not loving the Lord with all your heart! Israel went through a time when they were serving the Lord with actions and ceremonies and traditions. They were serving the Lord with their mouths, but their hearts were far from Him!

Mat 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [their] lips; but their heart is far from me.

Mar 7:6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with [their] lips, but their heart is far from me.

We have to ask ourselves, "Am I really praying with all my heart?" "Am I entering to this relationship with all my heart and soul?" In any relationship with anybody, any friendship, for example, what kind of a friend would you be if you were never there to talk to your friends? Every time they needed you for something you are off somewhere else, and they can never get a hold of you? You wouldn't be their friend for long!

In a marriage relationship, if my wife just cooked, cleaned the house and did laundry all day, and then I come in and she yelled at me for being messy, didn't give me a hug and kiss, but marched off upset for me having so many clothes to wash, and never wanted to spend time with me, that would not be a marriage!

In order to have a successful marriage relationship there has to be some common ground to communicate. You have to spend time with each other in sharing our hearts and loving each other and doing things for each other just because you love each other. Other wise, the relationship is going to fall apart and it will end in divorce!

Well, we are preparing to marry someone; Jesus! God sent His only begotten Son to suffer and die for our sins, taking them all upon Himself, then turned around and put His righteousness on us and betrothed us to His Son! We are learning how to be a bride. We are learning how to be a wife! We must practice loving the Lord with All of our heart, soul, mind, ,body, and spirit!

Jesus doesn't want a half hearted bride. This is what He says to one of the churches in Revelations:

Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have [somewhat] against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

In this chapter it sounds like the Lord is hurt because the church at Ephesus, although they had good works, and were laboring hard for the Lord, and had patience, and hated sin, even though it looked like all in all they were doing pretty good and on top, the Lord had somewhat against them because they left their first Love; Him!

The Lord was admonishing them for leaving Him and being luke-warm in their relationship with Him. “left thy first love”. They left Him like a harlot! They left Him and forgot about Him they were too busy working! They thought they were doing good, and bearing fruit, and keeping His commandments, and doing all the things they were supposed to do and it may have appeared like they were in great standing with God.

However, you can clearly see here that Jesus was hurt deeply by their infidelity in leaving Him! He said that they left Him. He encouraged them for all that they were doing, but just like the scribes and Pharisees, “this ye should have done and not left the other undone”

“ It was great you were doing all those things and hate evil and are doing all those good works, but listen, you are missing the main point of the whole thing.

I didn't join myself to you and send you the Holy Spirit and give you faith and power just so you could do all those miracles and works ONLY! I gave you all that power and faith so that we could have a relationship, and you could get to know what eternal life really IS! You are missing it, so get back to loving first. Return to seeking the Kingdom of God first! Get back to the loving relationship we had before because you've lost that lovin' feelin'! You never close your eyes anymore when you pray, there's no tenderness in your words or actions like before. You've hardened your heart! You're trying hard not to show it, but baby, baby I know it! You've lost that lovin feelin' and it's gone, gone, gone, whoah!”

To the Laodiceans He was saying that they were not serving Him from their hearts! They were lukewarm and he was getting ready to spit them out of His mouth! “You have riches, money, material wealth! You are

saying you don't need anything from Me! But if you only knew how poor and wretched and spiritually blind and naked you really are! Because with you now I can't get no satisfaction! You run around the town spending all my money and playing your high class games! You don't want to hear my voice! You put me out and it's a pity how I cry. ” The hardness of their hearts and lukewarm spiritual attitude hurt Jesus!

Rev 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

Rev 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Nevertheless Jesus still tries to reason with them, work it out. Try to get them to see it His way and gives them time to work it out. Tells them to get in the Word! Get real golden faith that has been tried! Cleanse themselves from filth and dirty garments, rid themselves of their nakedness and shame! He wants to heal their spiritual blindness! He never stops loving them!

Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and [that] the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN: GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND GRACE

God loves us unconditionally! He is not angry and mean! If He was we all would be heaps of ashes by now! God is a good God! He will never leave or forsake us no matter what! His mercies are new every morning. Even when we sin, it does not change God's opinion of us, or cause Him to withhold His blessings. If He did, the Laodiceans would not have been so blessed with material things as they were. God was still blessing them, because He loved them so much, but they got off the center, off the track and He wanted them back again!
Great is His faithfulness!

The Church at Philadelphia was keeping the Words of His patience! They didn't leave Him, they didn't deny His name! They were a faithful church and so Jesus is telling them how much more they were going to get blessed! They were going to escape the tribulation because they BELIEVED and had faith in the name of Jesus! Not because they were good, or blessable, or protectable, or lovable. God is simply love, and it is faith, which pleases Him the most, because faith is that POSITIVE response to what He has already done!

Because without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God!

Hbr 11:6 But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Faith is the only thing that pleases God. The 11th chapter of Hebrews is all about faith, and man and women of faith who pleased God enough for them to be remembered in this “Hall of Fame” chapter. It was not just their good works that pleased the Lord. It was their relentless and undoubting FAITH that produced the miracles and good works! The Love of God was not something that they worked for or earned. The Love of God was something they received by Grace, but had to show their FAITH in His Love and Grace and miraculous power to save and deliver them, or give them the strength and power to die for Him. This FAITH was a by product of the close loving relationship they had with the KING!

Their strong faith was a result of having built up a powerful loving relationship with God, through PRAYER! Again, when I say PRAYER, I mean a combination of WORSHIP, PRAISE, ADORATION, THANKSGIVING, COMMUNICATION, (READING, STUDYING, MEDITATING ON AND ABIDING IN THE WORD OF GOD AND LETTING HIM SPEAK TO YOU THROUGH HIS WORD IN LETTER AND IN PROPHECY) AND PETITION, INTERCESSION, SUPPLICATION, BESEECHING GOD, which is letting your requests be made known unto God.

Because by the time you have finished the most important part of PRAISE, WORSHIP, THANKSGIVING, ADORATION, COMMUNICATION, you will have the brokenness and contrite heart, the humility, and the proper motivation for bringing your requests before Him, and the results you receive will be astounding! All because you are putting Him first! You are putting the King of kings first and loving Him first as your first love,

and this is a **KEY** of the Kingdom if you want to get positive, lasting results.

God will answer your prayers because He **IS** Love. He will bless you because He **IS** love, and He is pleased with you spending the time to get to know Him, whom to know is eternal life.

God will never condemn you for anything! When the angels of God came down to the shepherds in Luke chapter 2 to announce the birth of Jesus, they gave a message of Love and Peace. “Peace on Earth, good will towards men”

This did not mean that God was making peace between man and man, but between God and man.

When Jesus died on the cross He said, “It is finished!” Jesus took upon Him all of the judgment for our sins. He received **ALL** of the punishment for past, present and future sins. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from **ALL** sin.

God is not angry at sin anymore because He already dealt with it! Jesus Christ came and brought **EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS**. He **IS** the righteousness of God! In the books of Romans, Galatians and Hebrews, Paul the Apostle explains this and why the Law is Dead now.

The Law never changed anybody! It only served as a schoolmaster to show everybody how bad sin was in God’s eyes, and to get man to a point where he would admit that he needed a savior!

Now, because of the sacrifice of Jesus, God does not impute our sin unto us. If He did, that would make the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross meaningless!

God now related to us from the standpoint of LOVE! He does not hold sin over our heads ready to judge us!

That does not mean it is ok to sin. That only means that God loves us unconditionally not proportioned to our performance. We no longer need to obey God in order to win His love and favor, BECAUSE with the proper relationship with God our obedience will be automatic. It will be a by product of our close relationship with the Lord and our love for Him, just as a life of disobedience in a Christian is a by product of their weak or no relationship

Living a godly life is the FRUIT of your loving God and your relationship with Him, not the ROOT of it.

In a disobedient Christian, an ungodly life style will be the results of not really knowing God or His Word, and not having a close relationship with God. Other things will take pre-eminence in your heart ,mind and life and will become like the thorns that choke out the fruitfulness of the Word of God such in the parable of the sower in Mark chapter 4.

That will still not change God's heart towards us, but it will change our hearts towards Him! We will still have the Love and Mercy and Grace of God, but we will not be able to enjoy the benefits and blessings. Instead we will be a fool for the devil playing his game, and suffering the consequences of SIN. Not very smart is it?

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN: THE PRAYERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

We considered how Jesus prayed and how He taught His disciples to pray “The Lord’s Prayer”

The life of Jesus was a life of prayer. Followers of Jesus should also make an effort to live a life of prayer. After all, to be a follower of Jesus means to follow in His footsteps and do what He did! He showed us the example. He showed us what God the Father is like, and what He desires us to be like.

We should study the Gospels more to get the full essence of how Jesus prayed and what His relationship to the Father and the Holy Spirit was like. This is the same kind of relationship we should have with The Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus never did or said anything without the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus was anointed of the Holy Spirit to do the will of God the Father. The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus, and the Father sent both His Son and the Holy Spirit.

All three were involved in Creation. All three bear witness in heaven. All three are present in the ageless past, the ever present, and the eternal future.

One does not move without the other. They do not operate alone as separate gods, but move and operate together as ONE God, each having a different function.

In Acts we see more of the moving of the Holy Spirit and the results of the presence of the Holy Spirit after Jesus went to be at the right hand of the Father. We see men of God with a relationship with God performing

miracles of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. We see men and women who love God hazarding their lives for the sake of the Gospel, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Paul the Apostle, the most active and prolific of all the Apostles, who joined the ranks of the Apostles, won many to the Lord and pioneered and ministered to churches all over the Roman Empire amidst persecution, and against all odds.

He had a strong connection with God and was a man of prayer. Let us take a look at some of the prayers he prayed as a sample as to how a New Testament Christian should pray.

He usually started off his Epistle with a prayer, and ended it with a prayer, sometimes interjecting prayers in-between.

Rom 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called [to be] saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Rom 1:10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

Paul starts out with a blessing, thanksgiving, requesting that he have a prosperous journey to see the brethren in Rome. Nothing selfish or self-centered about that. No doubt that prayer was answered speedily. The last chapter in Romans is almost ALL blessing, prayer, prophecy, thanksgiving and more prayer.

In the first chapter of 1st Corinthians, he starts it off again with blessing, thanksgiving, and a petition for the Lord to be enriched in the Lord.

1Cr 1:3 Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and [from] the Lord Jesus Christ.

1Cr 1:4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

1Cr 1:5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and [in] all knowledge;

1Cr 1:6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

1Cr 1:7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

He also ends First Corinthians with a blessing, thanksgiving and prayer for them.

This pattern of Paul's continues throughout his Epistles, in the beginning and ending, giving thanks, blessing, worship and praise to God, and finally petitioning the Lord for His blessings and gifts upon the churches.

One of my favorite of Paul's prayers is in Ephesians Chapter one, verses

15-23 : Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not 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 unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what [is] the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set [him] at his own 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 world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all [things] under his feet, and gave him [to be] the head over all [things] to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

The Epistles of Paul are chock full of praise , worship, thanksgiving, prayer, adoration, always giving God the credit, and never taking the credit to himself.

Pauls prayers are never self-centered nor selfish or soulish. Compare the New Testament way Paul prayed with the Old Testament way David prayed.

Now don't get me wrong. David prayed some beautiful Psalms of PRAISE and THANKSGIVING and WORSHIP. However, a lot of his petitions sounded like that of a desperate man, and a soulish, poor- me attitude, because in the Old Testament, God was dealing with mankind differently,

according to his performance. That is why David had to keep repenting, and asking God to keep cleansing his sin, because he wasn't saved by the blood of Jesus yet. The blood of Jesus hadn't been shed yet, and he was living under the Law of Moses, the Old Covenant, not the New Covenant.

That's not to say that the Old Testament is no good and we should throw it away, but that IS to say that we no longer need to PETITION the Lord the way they did in the Old Testament, according to the Law of Moses.

We sure can learn a lot from King David about how to worship the Lord and praise the Lord, give thanks and love the Lord as he was a man after God's own heart. We can also learn a lot from the lives of the characters in the Old Testament and the mistakes they made too! We can also learn a lot and get a lot of inspiration from their faith and works considering they had to live in a world that did not know the salvation of the blood of Jesus and the Baptism of the Holy Ghost!

There is much we can learn from the history and prophecy, the wisdom of Solomon, the patience and trials of Job, and all of the "hall of famers" mentioned in Hebrews 11.

Their dedication and love for the Lord was unparalleled, and their sincerity and faith strong and sure, and there are man examples of good sincere men and women of God who cried out to God from the depths of their heart that we can learn from.

Nevertheless, when it comes to the New Covenant relationship with the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, to learn how to approach God and

relate to God we need to take a look at how they did it in the New Testament, because when Jesus came, lived, died on the cross, rose from the grave, and ascended into heaven, that made ALL the difference in the world!

Now when we read the Old Testament we need to read it with discernment and ask the Lord to show us the things we can apply to our lives that apply to the New Covenant. It's a whole new ball game now with new players and new rules too!

We need to go back and take a good look at the old game and rules and take out what can be applied today under the New Covenant because it only then we will get the kind of results God intended for having a relationship with Him. You cannot get New Testament results with Old Testament rules. That is why Jesus said that you cannot put **NEW WINE** into **OLD BOTTLES** or else the bottles will burst! You can't pour Old Testament wine into New Testament bottles, or you get nothing but religious traditional deadness, and very little or no positive results.

Of course if you are not concerned with whether you ever get any positive results or not then you will never get positive results anyway. If you don't believe in miracles then you will never see one! If you don't believe in answer to prayer then you will never get your prayers answered!

If you don't believe in the miraculous supernatural healing of God then you will never experience it!

You can only relate to God according to your conception of Him.
"According to your faith be it done unto you"

When Jesus came it says, “For the Law came by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN: I DO NOT PRAY FOR THESE ALONE

In John chapter 17, Jesus prayed an awesome prayer to the Father in Heaven. It was the prayer of the Good Shepherd for the sheep. In that remarkable prayer Jesus prays the following words: “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

I cannot tell you how utterly amazed I am at the love that the Savior displayed for His sheep through this prayer. He is truly the intercessor, beseeching the Father for us before His throne.

“I do not pray for these alone, but also those who will believe in me through their word”

The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy. Jesus is praying a prophetic prayer for not only the ones he already had there with Him, but he was also praying for the sheep that would be won to Him later on in the future.

We could also safely assume that Jesus, with His foresight and power to see far into the future could also be referring to His sheep all through the ages reaching even unto the end time.

Jesus was praying for us because he already knew us before the foundations of the world. We already existed in the heart of God.

What foresight! What love! What a willingness to include all of His sheep from all of the ages even unto the last. His love is truly wide as the ocean, deep as the sea, and as high as the heavens!

Jesus was prophesying that “these” who were with Him then, and also future generations of Christians would witness and win others to Him. He was saying that His sheep would preach the gospel in all the world and many would believe in Him because of their word.

What a picture of His church witnessing all the way through any obstacle, any spiritual storm! Winning souls for Jesus all the way through to the end!

Do we have that much faith and courage to pray prayers like that? This is a prayer for His flock. Do we have the foresight to pray for souls like Jesus did? David Livingstone died on his knees. Can we not live more on ours? Jesus knew and He felt the responsibility to pray for His flock. Not only those who were with Him at the time, but also the ones that the Father would bring to Him from that time on.

It made me rethink my vision. What am I living for? Am I living for just this time I can do a little here and a little there for Jesus and be satisfied? It made me ask myself do I feel a responsibility for not only those I come in contact with everyday, but those who I will come in contact with in the future?

Is that really my responsibility to pray for people I don't even know, have never met and may not even be born yet?

I thought back when I first came to the field where I have been serving the Lord for the past 35 years and I remembered witnessing to all kinds of

students. College, high school, junior high school, elementary school students who were swarming all over the streets and arcades.

These students today are 30 -35 years older and God only knows what kind of lives they are living now. I can only hope and pray that the message of God's love I shared with them then through song, literature and word of mouth planted seeds that grew and will bear fruit in their lives.

Now I see I have a responsibility to pray for not only those souls and the people I come in contact with daily. I realize that I also have a responsibility, like Jesus, to pray for those who haven't been born again yet, and perhaps not even born into this world yet.

I see that I need to pray for God's Kingdom of the future. "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven" I need to pray not only for the present establishing of the Kingdom of God on Earth, but also for the future Kingdom and all of it's subjects.

"I do not pray for these alone, but also those who will believe in me through their word"

I need to not only pray for God's sheep now, but for those who will become His sheep in the future and from then on. How far does it go? How far does God's Kingdom continue? Is there a limit to what we can pray for? Jesus didn't think so. Here He is right here in John chapter 17 praying for the sheep who will believe in Him in the future too.

So I think that my prayer life will be a little different from now on. Jesus gave me a new vision as to what to pray for when I pray for His Kingdom to come.

There are people out there all over the world who will someday believe

because of our word. They are not believers now, but one day they will be, by faith, and by our faithfulness to share with them the Word of God.

Perhaps their eternal fate will depend upon just how faithful we are to pray like Jesus prayed.

“I do not pray for these alone, but also those who will believe in me through their word”

In conclusion:

I hope that these pages on prayer will help to give you, the reader, and a greater vision for prayer and how important it is. The way in which we approach the “throne of grace” should be in boldness not in fear; it should be in confidence and faith, not in doubt. The way we approach God should be in love, not in duty or service. We should approach God with a desire for loving fellowship. The Lord desires us to approach Him as a friend. Jesus wants us to come to Him and He will give us rest. He says to take His yoke upon Him and learn of Him and we will find rest to our souls, for His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

God never intended to make it hard or difficult to approach Him. Jesus changed the way God relates to man. Jesus was the express image of the Father, and came to show us the true nature of God. Sometimes God had to do things the way He did in the Old Testament with the Law and judgment because there was no other way as the atonement of Jesus had not taken place and men’s spirits could not be born again by the blood of Jesus.

The New Testament, under the New Covenant shows what God’s true nature is, and how He desires us to relate towards Him. The words of Jesus were the Words of the Father, and the Works of Jesus were the works of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus did and spoke the will of the Father and the Holy Spirit glorified Jesus and the Father. Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit, that He was going to send ANOTHER comforter. The Holy Spirit executes the will of the Father as spoken by Jesus, the Word of God.

Having a thankful heart is a key to a close relationship with God. Bitterness, hate and unforgiveness will hinder and obstruct our fellowship with God. Selfishness and self-centered-ness will greatly hinder getting answers to our prayers. A lack of knowledge of the word of God will cause us to lack faith to expect an answer from God. Wrong teaching will lead to unbelief and a distorted concept of the true loving nature of God, who desires to give to us more than we want to receive.

You cannot get from God by faith what He has already given by grace. Your heart was designed especially to be able to receive the Word of God as a seed and produce fruit from it. Meditating on the word of God causes the word of God to germinate in your heart taking root, and producing positive results in your life. You cannot have faith without the Word, and you cannot produce results without knowing Jesus, whom to know is Life Eternal.

I hope you will feed on His Words of life and let it sink deep down into your heart, as it is Spirit and it is Life, and it is also health to your body. Only a deep drinking in of God's Word will give you the spiritual stamina you need to do what you have to do everyday and to pray without ceasing.

And remember, if you have been getting the results from your prayers that you've been desiring, you must be praying the right way, so don't stop it, just enhance it and hone it.

God bless you as you soak and bathe in the fresh, invigorating, life giving

Waters of the Word, flowing down from His throne!

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