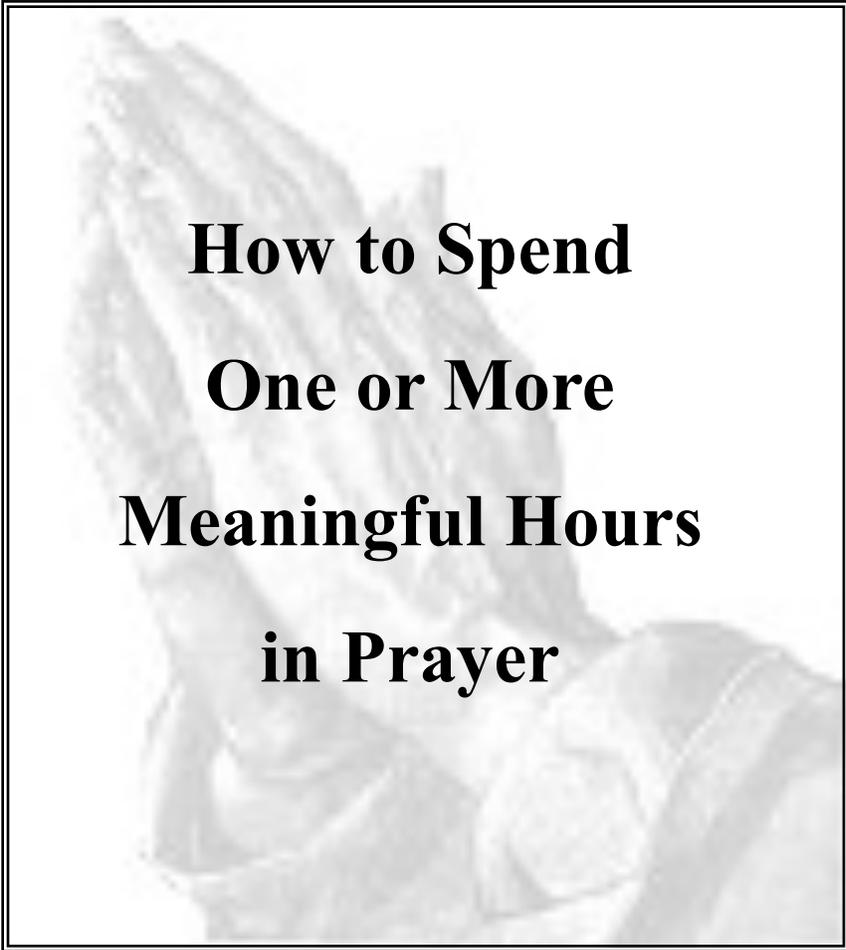


Prayer Manual

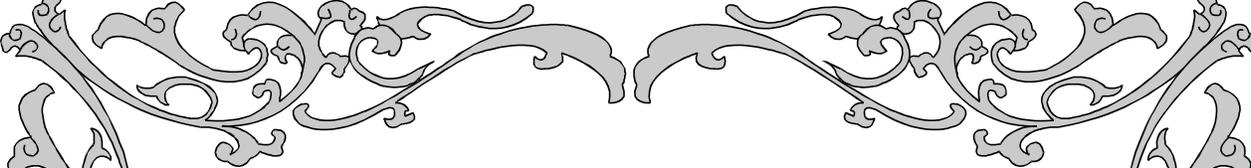
By Sam Hollis



Prayer Manual



**How to Spend
One or More
Meaningful Hours
in Prayer**



Sweet Hour of Prayer

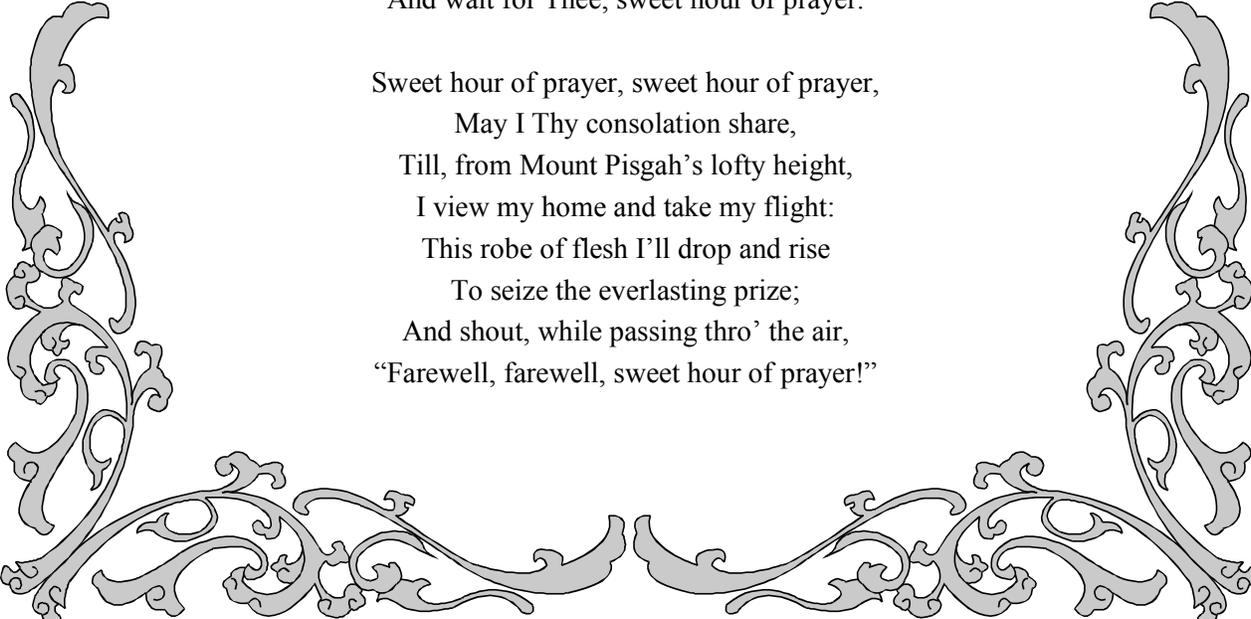
Words: William Walford, 1772-1850

Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known!
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless:
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my ev'ry care,
And wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
May I Thy consolation share,
Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,
I view my home and take my flight:
This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise
To seize the everlasting prize;
And shout, while passing thro' the air,
"Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"



The Attributes of God

God, I praise you because you are **all-powerful**—

You can do anything you choose to do.

God, I praise you because you are **everywhere present**—

You will always be with me, you will never leave me or forsake me.

God, I praise you because you are **all-knowing**—

You are infinite in wisdom and understanding. There is not anything that you do not know.

God, I praise you because you are **always faithful and true**—

You will always keep your promises. You are completely dependable.

God, I praise you because you **will never change**—

You will always be the same yesterday, today, and forever.

God, I praise you because you are **totally righteous** and **without sin**.

Confession of Sin

I. Conviction of Sin

- A. *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Psalm 139:23-24

- B. *We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses. Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations.*

Nehemiah 1:7-8

- C. *Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.*

Psalm 19:14

- D. *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

James 4:17

II. Confession of Sin and Cleansing from Sin

- A. *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*

Proverbs 28:13

- B. *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

I John 1:9

Thanksgiving

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:20

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

I Thessalonians 5:18

Father, I thank you for:

I. Physical Blessings

A. Physical health

I thank you for eyes that see, ears that hear, hands that feel, feet that walk, lungs that breathe, a heart that beats, a mind that thinks.

B. Physical Comforts

I thank you for food, clothing, shelter, electricity, hot water, ice, television, V.C.R., air conditioning, washing machine, clothes dryer, computer, indoor bathroom, electric stove, hair dryer, dishwasher.

II. Family Blessings

I thank you for the love and security of a father, a mother, a son or daughter, a husband, a wife, a grandfather or grandmother.

III. National Blessings

I thank you for...

The greatest, grandest, freest nation on earth is America.

The freedom of speech, of travel, of religion, and of assembly.

The freedom to choose a career, training, and education.

The freedom to accumulate wealth and to enjoy a standard of living that most of the world only dreams about.

IV. Spiritual Blessings

I thank you for...

Salvation, a changed life, the personal presence of God, pardon, peace, purpose, and pleasure.

The Word of God, the family of God, the privilege of prayer, a blessed hope, a heavenly home.

How to Pray for Personal Needs

There are personal needs to be met in your life for you to become more pleasing unto God. The request for each need is based on the Word of God. Therefore, it is God's will for these needs to be met.

1. Father, give me a heart that hungers for you.

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; to see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Psalm 63:1-2

2. Father, teach me how to love you more.

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. Deuteronomy 6:5

3. Father teach me how to seek you.

Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually. I Chronicles 16:11

4. O Lord, teach me how to praise you.

I will bless the Lord at all time; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. Psalm 34:1

5. O Lord, teach me how to pray.

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. Luke 11:1

6. O Lord, teach me how to study your Word.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

7. O God, teach me how to have a growing faith.

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

So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17

8. O God, make me a disciple and a disciple maker.

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. II Timothy 2:2

9. O God, teach me the value you place on humility.

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. I Peter 5:5-6

10. O God, I pray I will be holy in your sight.

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy. I Peter 1:15-16

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

How to Pray for Your Local Church

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. I John 5:14-15

God hears and answers prayers that are prayed in His will. The Word of God reveals the Will of God. Powerful praying, therefore, is based on the Word of God.

1. I pray the members of my church will love God supremely and seek Him constantly.

Jesus said unto him Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Matthew 22:37-39

Seek ye the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore. Psalm 105:4

2. I pray my local church will grow supernaturally, winning many lost souls to faith in Christ.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. II Peter 3:9

And he said unto them, Go ye unto all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15

3. I pray my local church will dwell in unity, loving, forgiving and caring for one another.

Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

Philippians 2:2

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

4. I pray the members of my church will be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

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

5. I pray the members of my church will be generous givers to the Lord's work.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. Malachi 3:10

Give and it shall be given you, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Luke 6:38

But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. II Corinthians 9:6-7

6. I pray my church will be mighty in prayer.

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jeremiah 33:3

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Matthew 7:7-8

7. I pray the leaders of my church will be holy men and women of God.

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. II Chronicles 16:9a

How to Pray for World Missions and Evangelism

- I. Father, I pray **your people will obey your command** to share the gospel with every person in the world.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15

- II. Father, I pray **your people will be deeply convicted** that Jesus Christ is the one and only Savior of the world.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Mark 4:12

- III. Father, I pray **your people will recognize the urgency of the hour** in which we live to preach the gospel.

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields: for they are white already to harvest. John 4:35

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. John 9:4

- IV. I pray that **all available resources** for world evangelism **will be identified and utilized** to share the gospel with every person on earth.

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

- V. Lord Jesus, I pray that **you will thrust forth laborers** into your harvest fields all over the world.

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:36-38

- VI. Father, I pray **your people will never forget what it means to be lost without hope and without God** in this world and in the world to come.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:13-15

Pray for Those in Authority

I exhort, therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

I Timothy 2:1-2

I. Local Church Leaders

II. City or Community Leaders

III. County Leaders

IV. State Leaders

V. National and International Leaders

Prayer in the Life of Jesus Christ

The life of Jesus Christ was characterized by prayer.

I. Jesus Prayed:

A. In the morning.

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

Mark 1:35

B. Alone and in secret.

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

Matthew 14:23

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.

Matthew 6:6

C. When He was baptized.

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened.

Luke 3:21

D. When eating.

1. Feeding of 5,000

And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

Matthew 14:19

2. Feeding of 4,000

And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

Matthew 15:36

3. Lord's Supper

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

Matthew 26:26

E. All night before choosing His Twelve Disciples.

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles.

Luke 6:12-13

F. When He was Transfigured.

And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.

Luke 9:29

- G. **Before giving the Lord's Prayer**
And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.
 Luke 11:1
- H. **For all believers.**
 (Read John 17)
- I. **In the Garden of Gethsemane.**
And being in agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
 Luke 22:44
- J. **While hanging on the cross.**
And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, la-ma sa-bach-tha-ni? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
 Matthew 27:46
Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.
 Luke 23:34
- II. **Jesus Taught Us to Pray:**
- A. **Believing.**
And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.
 Matthew 21:22
- B. **Forgiving one another.**
And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you and your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.
 Mark 11:25-26
- C. **Agreeing with one another.**
Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.
 Matthew 18:19
- D. **In His Name.**
If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.
 John 14:14
- E. **Abiding in Him and His words abiding in us.**
If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
 John 15:7
- F. **Never giving up.**
 (Read Luke 18:1-8)

Prayer in the Life of the Early Church

- I. Prior to the Day of Pentecost the Disciples were with one accord in prayer (Acts 1:14).
- II. Following the Day of Pentecost they continued steadfastly...in prayer (Acts 2:42).
- III. Following the first persecution of the Jerusalem Christians, they called a meeting of fellow Christians (Acts 4:21-23), and lifted their voice in prayer (Acts 4:24), asking God to give them boldness to speak His Word (Acts:29). When they had prayed the place was shaken, they were filled with the Holy Ghost, they spake the Word of God with boldness (Acts 4:31).
- IV. Men, whom many believe were the first deacons, were chosen to enable the apostles to give themselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:1-4).
- V. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, prayed while dying (Acts 7:59-60).
- VI. Peter was kept in prison. Prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him (Acts 12:5). The angel of the Lord came and released him (Acts 12:6-11).
- VII. The church at Antioch fasted and prayed and sent out Saul (Paul) and Barnabas as missionaries (Acts 13:1-3).
- VIII. Paul ordained elders in every church, prayed with fasting, and commended the believers to the Lord (Acts 14:21-23).
- IX. After being beaten and placed in jail, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God (Acts 16:25).

Tell It To Jesus

Words: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904; Music: Edmund S. Lorenz, 1854-1942

*Are you weary, are you heavy hearted? Tell it to Jesus, Tell it to Jesus;
Are you grieving over joys departed? Tell it to Jesus alone.*

Chorus: *Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus, He is a friend that's well-known;
You've no other such a friend or brother, Tell it to Jesus alone.*

*Do you fear the gath-'ring clouds of sorrow? Tell it to Jesus, Tell it to Jesus;
Are you anxious what shall be tomorrow? Tell it to Jesus alone.*

The Power of Prayer

I. Revealed by the Performance of God

- A. Joshua prayed, the sun stood still, and he won a military victory. Joshua 10:12-14
- B. Hanna Prayed, God gave her a son. I Samuel 1:9-20
- C. Solomon prayed for wisdom and God made him the wisest of mortal men. I Kings 3:9-12
- D. Elijah prayed, God answered with water conquering fire. I Kings 18:37-39
- E. Jonah prayed, God delivered him from the whale. Jonah 2: 1, 10
- F. The thief prayed, he went with Christ to Paradise. Luke 23:42-43
- G. Peter prayed, Dorcus came alive from the dead. Acts 9:36-42

II. Revealed by the promises of God

- A. *Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?*
Jeremiah 32:27
- B. *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*
Jeremiah 33:3
- C. *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*
Matthew 7:7-11
- D. *And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*
Matthew 21:22
- E. *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*
Mark 11:24
- F. *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.*
John 14:13-14
- G. *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*
John 15:7

H. *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.* Ephesians 3:20

I. *And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandments.* I John 3:22-23

J. *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.* I John 5:14-15

III. **Revealed by personal experience**

List the ways you have seen God answer prayer in your life:

- A. _____

- B. _____

- C. _____

- D. _____

- E. _____

- F. _____

- G. _____

- H. _____

- I. _____

***Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that
which lies outside the will of God.***

How to Pray With Power

I. PRAY IN JESUS NAME

And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:13-14

II. PRAY ABIDING IN JESUS AND HIS WORDS ABIDING IN YOU

If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. John 15:7

III. PRAY IN FAITH BELIEVING

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

Therefore I say unto you, 'What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.' Mark 11:24

IV. PRAYING WITH SINS CONFESSED

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. Psalms 66:18

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear. Isaiah 59:1-2

V. PRAY IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDS

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. I John 3:22-23

VI. PRAY IN HIS WILL

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

VII. PRAY FERVENTLY

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

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

VIII. PRAY AS JESUS TAUGHT US TO PRAY

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. Matthew 6:9-13

The Weapon of Prayer

II Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:18; I Thessalonians 5:17

INTRODUCTION

There is an absolute necessity for earnest, fervent prayer if we are to live triumphantly as Christians. Every Christian soldier needs to keep in touch with his commander, Jesus Christ.

We must be constantly in prayer because we are constantly in danger. The battle is not ours, but God's. He alone can empower us to win.

Prayer should be as natural as breathing. Physically, we cannot survive without breathing. Spiritually, we cannot survive and thrive without prayer.

The Apostle Paul commanded us to pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17) and Jesus taught that man ought always to pray and not to faint (Luke 18:1).

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. Ephesians 6:18

I. Pray without ceasing.

- A. I Thessalonians 5:17
- B. Maintain an attitude of prayer. Learn to live in the conscious presence of God. Constantly acknowledge God's presence in your life.

II. Pray a variety of prayers.

There are many kinds of prayer . . .

- A. Intercession, which identifies with God's purposes.
- B. Thanksgiving, which recognizes God's grace and His riches.
- C. Praise, which focuses on God's attributes.
- D. Worship, which adores, loves, and honors God.
- E. Confession, which agrees with God regarding our sin.
- F. There is also private prayer, public prayer, silent prayer, audible prayer, family prayer, mealtime prayer, church prayer, and emergency prayer.

III. Pray led by the Holy Spirit.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
Romans 8:26-27

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. I John 5:14-15

IV. Pray alertly.

We are to be watchful, careful, and alert as we pray. We are to be aware of our enemies in spiritual warfare and of the urgency of the hour.

A. Nehemiah 4:7-9

B. Mark 13:32-33

V. Pray with persistence.

Don't give up. Don't stop praying. Be so concerned and burdened you will not quit praying until God answers you or the Holy Spirit leads you to cease praying about a given matter. See Luke 18:1-8

VI. Pray in faith.

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:14-16

I Must Tell Jesus

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929

*I must tell Jesus all of my trials; I cannot bear these burdens alone;
In my distress he kindly will help me; He ever love and cares for His own.*

Chorus: *I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus! I cannot bear my burdens alone;
I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus! Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.*

*I must tell Jesus all of my troubles; He is a kind, compassionate friend;
If I but ask Him, he will deliver, Make of my troubles quickly an end. (to chorus)*

*Tempted and tried, I need a great Savior, One who can help my burdens to bear;
I must tell Jesus, I must tell Jesus; He all my cares and sorrows will share. (to chorus)*

*O how the world to evil allures me! Oh how my heart is tempted to sin!
I must tell Jesus, and He will help me Over the world the vict'ry to win. (to chorus)*

Why God Does Not Answer your Prayers

I. They are Unasked

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jeremiah 33:3

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you.

Matthew 7:7

. . . Yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

James 4:2b

We call not. We ask not. Our Heavenly Father owns all, knows all, is everywhere present and possesses all power but many times as Christians we live as if God is dead or is greatly limited in power. Our lack of prayer, at least partially, reflect this attitude.

II. They Are Asked in Unbelief

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. James 1:5-7

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Matthew 21:22

God honors faith. Without faith we cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6). We are saved by faith (Ephesians 2:8), justified by faith (Romans 5:1), walk by faith (II Corinthians 5:7), quench the fiery darts of the wicket by faith (Ephesians 6:16), and overcome the world by faith (I John 5:4). Therefore, we must have faith to get our prayers answered.

III. There Is Unconfessed Sin in Your Life.

If I regard iniquity in heart, the Lord will not hear me. Psalm 66:18

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:1-2

And Whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. I John 3:22-23

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

God will not hear and answer our prayers if there is unconfessed, unforsaken sin in our life. To live boldly for God is to pray boldly to God. "The praying man will quit sinning and the sinning man will quit praying."

The unconfessed sin in your life may be:

1. Your unwillingness to forgive another person.

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

2. **Lack of love for others**

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 13:35

3. **An improper motive.**

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James 4:3

4. **Discord in your marriage relationship.**

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

I Peter 3:7

5. **Prayerlessness.**

Pray without ceasing.

I Thessalonians 5:17

6. **Not Studying the Bible.**

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II Timothy 2:15

7. **Not sharing the gospel.**

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15

Take Time To Be Holy

Words: William D. Longstaff, 1822-1894

Music: George C. Stebbins, 1846-1945

*Take time to be holy, Speak oft with thy Lord; Abide in Him always, And feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children, Help those who are weak; Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.*

*Take time to be holy, The world rushes on; Spend much time in secret With Jesus alone:
By looking to Jesus Like Him thou shalt be; Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.*

*Take time to be holy, Let Him be thy guide, And run not before Him Whatever betide;
In joy or in sorrow Still follow thy Lord, And looking to Jesus, Still trust in His Word.*

*Take time to be holy, Be calm in they soul; Each tho't and each motive Beneath His control;
Thus led by His Spirit To fountains of love, Thou soon shall be fitted For service above.*