

Intimacy in Prayer

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

God is progressively bringing us into levels and degrees of understanding in many areas of our Christian experience, especially in the area of healings and miracles. In this regard, we want to look at the subject of prayer.

In John 15:16, Jesus said to the disciples, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you."

Prayer is such a misunderstood subject. It has caused us all kinds of problems, not because we don't believe, but because we don't understand that we have been chosen and ordained to bring forth fruit that remains. Because we lack precision, many of us have used prayer the way a hunter uses a rifle to shoot at ducks in the air from quite a distance, having no idea what he is going to hit. This booklet will reveal that God is

looking for precise faith that comes from receiving a precise promise spoken by weak yet overcoming believers who find intimacy with God through prayer.

Chapter One
ESTABLISH THE PROPER
PREMISE FOR PRAYER

Prayer should always lead to the fruit that Jesus Christ ordained for us. And the only way we can have that is through an intimate, personal relationship with Him who is able “to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25). He is our High Priest, holy, undefiled, separate from sinners. As we think of Jesus Christ in His priesthood, each one of us must consider this: *How do I pray?*

First, I cannot allow unholy spirits to influence my habits, my thoughts, or my speech. I must be cleansed from any and all evil spirits, including passivity, neglect, and lukewarmness—not to mention any overt sins. Psalm 66:18 says that “if I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” That is, if I regard anything in my emotions that is not according to the

Word of God, that goes against the authority of God's power, against the spiritual authority of His promise, He will not hear me. I can just forget about praying. I must deal with my priorities in order to get my prayers answered.

If I live in personal sin, if I live in iniquity, if I live in mental attitude sins, He will not hear me. If I do not minister grace with my speech, God will not hear me. (That explains most of the problems with prayer right there!)

Once I have dealt with the things in my life that could hinder my prayers, then I must discover what works.

Plug in to the Power

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy [Spirit]: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18-20a).

I must be plugged in to the power of God, plugged in to the delegated authority of Jesus Christ, my Lord. I need to have an uninhibited personal relationship with Christ. That means that no other relationship can ever take precedence.

A personal relationship with Christ must include these things: First, I must be rightly related to Him in categories (John 15:7-8), "...If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you...." When I am rightly related to His words, then I must be in union with Christ's life. Without Him, I can do nothing (John 15:5). Then, I will realize the purpose of prayer, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit" (John 15:8a).

So when I am plugged in to the right source, I will have an uninhibited personal relationship with Christ through His Word. Abiding in the True Vine, I become a branch that glorifies the Father, bringing forth much fruit. Also, John 15:9-17 reveals the importance of having right relationships with my family and with the brethren: "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you:...love one another, as I have loved you...."

When both my horizontal and vertical relationships are absolutely proper, I will bring forth fruit. That does not mean getting "things" according to my desires. First, I must give who I am and make available what I have to Jesus Christ, rather than looking to get what He has for me.

Precise Promises for Specific Prayers

If God tells a woman that she can win her unsaved husband by her ‘conversation’, or, by her manner of living, (1 Peter 3:1-2), that is a specific promise. If God tells another that he can sanctify his partner so the spouse will not interfere with his Christian life (1 Corinthians 7:14-15), that is specific.

Prayer is not based upon impersonal, religious duty, just throwing things up in the air. I need to have a *rhema*, a personal illumination of a word from the Bible. If God gives me a *rhema* such as Acts 16:31, that I can believe and all my house shall be saved, then no matter where my family is spiritually, I have a specific prayer promise. So, *because He has given me a specific promise, I have grounds for my faith.*

For example, God said He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Therefore, knowing that it is God’s will that everybody be saved, I pray a specific prayer for specific opportunities to minister to those He brings in my path today: “Lord, You said you are not willing for anyone to perish. I’m going out now, on purpose, to seek the lost. Holy Spirit, convict some of the people I

meet today, according to John 16:8. I'm asking for specific doors for specific people, because of Your specific desire. Amen."

Now, instead of a generalized concept of prayer, I enter into the absolute, precise understanding of profound prayer at its very best, which is being missed by so many good and sincere believers.

Take God at His Word

I must believe in God's promises more than I believe in what I see or feel or experience against the promises. I must call those things that are not as though they were (Romans 4:17), because I believe a specific promise. In order to believe, I must have faith. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Categorical promises produce categorical faith, and categorical faith will always impart God's nature through those promises (2 Peter 1:4).

Understanding this, we sacrifice the pleasure of things in this life to enjoy the pleasures of God's life. We gladly sacrifice the temporal for the eternal. "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11).

Now we begin to take God at His Word. In

John 6:7, Philip had it all calculated and figured out mathematically why Jesus could not possibly feed the multitude. Yet Andrew just took what came—five loaves and two fish—and gave a boy's lunch to Jesus. Andrew didn't try to figure out a thing. That is how people begin to understand prayer in *God's* economy.

Once we are rightly related to God and men, and we are plugged in to the right power, we get a specific promise from the Word, and we exercise specific faith. Then we need to recognize that time is no longer an issue. Time isn't even important. The answer may come when I am one hundred, but it was a fact as soon as I believed. Abraham got his answer when he was ninety-nine.

Prayer works on the basis of God's promises. I have a precise promise and a precise faith, therefore time is not relevant. When a mother prays for her children to be saved and proclaims it as a precise promise, she may be in heaven when her children actually get saved, but she will meet them in glory. This is so important for us to understand for the days ahead.

The Fruitless Fig Tree

Mark 11:12-22 tells how Jesus cursed the fig

tree that had no fruit but only leaves. The fig tree represented *self*-righteousness and a false covering. Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with fig leaves when they became self-conscious because of sin. The fig tree also represented the nation of Israel who, in their self-righteousness, were not ready for the Messiah when He came to them.

The Lord Jesus cursed that tree by its roots—not just the leaves—because it brought forth no fruit. In that act, He demonstrated what he can do to disease. He can curse cancer just as quickly as He did the fig tree, and He can curse the thing that is prohibiting His life from flowing in us.

When the disciples asked Jesus how He was able to curse the fig tree, Jesus said, “Have faith in God.” We have been placed into a relationship with God. We are to have faith in the power of His promise, and that faith is to be directly in God, with nothing interfering. “*Have faith in God.*”

The more we fellowship with His promises, the more we understand that they are real and that they do work. Don’t go to God worrying and fretting, because He has already told you not to do that. When you read Matthew 6:25-34, jump up and down because He cares more

about you than He does the lilies (and He does a magnificent job with the lilies!).

Speak to the Mountain

Next, we need to understand the importance of our confession. I am to give all that I am to God and make available what I have to Him, which is quite different from trying to get something for me. But “speaking the word” is crucial.

In Mark 11:23-24, Jesus said, “Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed ...and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he *saith* shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he *saith*. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, *and ye shall have them.*” But here is a condition: You can’t pray today then talk with your friend about the very problems you just prayed for. That reveals you do not believe. You can’t whine tomorrow after you pray tonight, because whining nullifies your prayer. You weren’t talking to God; you were just talking to the ceiling.

This is why people don’t take time to pray: they don’t understand prayer. But God cannot lie.

Plugged in to the power, having a precise promise from a right relationship with God’s

Word, I will have a proper confession because I am rightly related to God, my family, and the Body of Christ. Because I have a rich and deep fellowship with Jesus Christ the person, then I can be rightly related to the lost and dying world, which means they are going to hate me though I love them (John 15:17-20).

Delight in the Lord

There is a specific way to hear, receive, and have what we pray for. We must stay away from subjectivity and delight ourselves in the Lord. If we pray but do not delight in the Lord, then we will not have the right desires in our heart.

To “delight yourself in the Lord” (Psalm 37:4) means that the Lord is first and the Lord is all. So, if your desires don’t come to pass, you know you are getting the best from God, because He loves you! He wants the best for you and He knows how to give you the best. He is wise enough to know when to do it, how to do it, and He *will* do it.

Now, if you understand how to receive God’s specific will, you will pray something like this: “Lord, it is Your will that we send missionaries into 220 countries, and I am going to pray for You to ordain the steps in details.” Or, “Lord, it

is Your will to see a certain couple reconciled. Now that I know this because of Your Word, I will pray in specifics and receive what You promise toward that reconciliation.”

God wants intimacy in prayer. He doesn't want it to be a person tucking in two or three paragraphs (when he didn't plan to pray), just praying out of religious duty. *That is not prayer.*

There has never been a true work of God without an assembly that really grasps the subject of prayer. People will not be added to the Church daily, and there will never be miracles of compassion and love until this is understood.

When you have a problem, fight the good fight of faith; don't try to fight it with your emotions or by bringing up the past. Stand in the will of God and claim one specific promise after another. Set the Lord before your face and you will not be moved (Psalm 16:8). The righteous shall not be moved. We learn to be utterly dependent on Jesus Christ because of a personal, intimate relationship with Him. Every other relationship I have comes after Christ.

Here Is the Key

Have you prayed specifically? Is your prayer based upon a specific promise? Do you make

declarations of precise faith? Have you already received the answer based upon the character of God—even when you can't see it, feel it, or experience it? Is it your greatest desire to delight in Him? That is the key to having a rich prayer life.

There are so many breakdowns to prayers, because so many are not connected to precise truth. Some people have said that God doesn't come through when they pray. Others will swear they heard Him speak when actually, they have fed so many lies to their emotions by their feelings, their feelings told them it was God, and it was not! It was subjectivity. Those people need to repent and begin to delight themselves in the Lord. They need to get out the Book, start believing the promises, and then stand on the promises of God.

Of course, with every selective group of promises we receive, we must also receive His divine nature and His wisdom. The promises reveal His character of integrity and the essence of His nature, so we can receive His divine nature. This is how we escape the contamination of *self*, the contamination of emotions running wild, and the contamination of subjectivity. We do it through a precise promise and the precise will

of God.

Now when I pray, I will pray precisely according to God's will. If God gives me 3 John 2 as a precise promise—"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth"—then *I will receive the promise when I believe it*, regardless of what I see. My confession will be according to that promise, and any time I think of it, I will confront sight and feelings with what I receive from the Word (Mark 11:22-24).

In Hebrews 11:13, many great men of God died in the faith. Having seen the promises afar off, they were persuaded of them and embraced them. They didn't see the promises on the earth, but their rewards follow them.

Chapter Two

ACCEPT YOUR POSITION OF AUTHORITY

God has placed every born-again Christian into a position of authority as a believer-priest. Jesus Christ said in Matthew 28:18-19, "All power is given unto me...Go ye therefore." He is saying, "I will never send you out without giving you a position of power and authority." In Luke 10:19, He gave power over serpents and scorpions, and power over every enemy.

Understand that when a person keeps taking drugs, it is not a habit or an addiction; it is a spirit. The purpose behind that spirit is to kill—first to divide, then to steal, then to destroy.

Every Christian needs power over *all* the enemy. The Lord instructed the seventy (not just the Twelve) in Luke 10, and sent them out with great authority. Jesus said to the disciples in John 20:21, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." He prayed for all of us who would be-

lieve (John 17:20); and in Matthew 28:18-20, the resurrected Lord delegated His own authority to men. His final words before His ascension were, “But ye *shall receive power*, after that the Holy [Spirit] is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Every Christian has been given a position of power.

Once we recognize that we have been given a position of power, it is important that we hear God speak precisely through His words and through His promises. Don’t go off in a wild vision or a subjective delusion in the name of Christianity. We must have the precise Word, the precise power, and the precise faith.

In Mark 11:14, 20-22, Jesus said, “*I withered up this fig tree. And do you know what? You can do it, too.*” How? Have faith in God. Plugged in to His power, receiving a precise promise, we exercise our system of faith in a precise way—*we believe precisely.*

Child-Like Faith

George Müller, a man of God known for his great life of faith and prayer, established many caring, Christ-centered orphanages in Victorian

England. In addition, he was used to raise support for China Inland Missions. Though he never made any public appeals for finances, every request was met. Müller's faith encouraged Christians throughout the world to believe every promise of God and to trust Him implicitly.

As we understand it, a little girl in one of the orphanages said to Mr. Müller, "I've never had a toy in my life. Do you think God would give me one?"

George Müller said, "Yes, He will. What do you want?"

She said, "A ball."

"God has all kinds of balls," he said. "What kind do you want?"

"A velvet, multiple-color ball!"

"Well, God will give it to you."

She ran after him and asked, "When?"

He thought to himself, "Lord, here I go!" Then he answered her, "In three days."

Müller didn't mention the request to anyone, and the girl didn't tell a soul. Three days later, along with supplies and food brought by a faithful giver to the orphanage, this man said, "God led us to bring this for a young child," and he gave a beautiful multiple-colored ball to the girl.

It was a precise prayer with precise power

because of precise faith based upon a precise promise that the girl received from God.

Have faith in God. "Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea...." Notice the precision. Jesus didn't say "a mountain." He said, "I want you to address *this* mountain." Interestingly, they were standing on the Mount of Olives, which will be split and cast into the sea in its entirety during an earthquake in the last days.

Christ is saying to everyone who believes, "If you want to, speak to this mountain. Remember, I have nearly eight thousand promises, so what are you going to ask me for? Which promise are you going to pick up?" It is as though He is saying, "So you want a ball? *What* ball? You want a healing? *What* healing? You need finances? How much? Don't just come to Me and speak carelessly. I want you to tell me what *the* mountain is."

By the way, in Mark 11:23, He was not dealing with our faith but with what we *say* with our faith. He said that the things we say will be what we receive; and He wants us to *speak* the Word.

The Bible says in James 3 that the tongue can be creative, or it can curse. God spoke the Word in Genesis 1, and it had creative power. We are

to speak creatively to see God's character and God's nature created in our life and the lives of others.

See the Promise Afar Off

Hebrews 11:13 says that there were many who saw the promise afar off. A vision begins by seeing something afar off. Once you see the promise, you walk with God, agree with Him, and become persuaded. It is all by faith. And once you become persuaded, you embrace the promise. Finally, you confess it.

Of course, when you start confessing it (providing you have heard from God), you put yourself out on a limb, but God will never cut the limb off. God says, "I gave you that promise, and you have to speak it creatively. If you don't speak it, I will not let it happen."

When God has spoken, you should get around your best friends and confess the *rhema*. You don't have to go around discouraged, depressed, and dejected, confessing negative things about your life and reinforcing the spirit world of Satan. Instead, reinforce the Holy Spirit's world. Confess the promise! You may not know where and how God is going to lead with a vision. Just believe that what He said He will do.

Mark 11:23 says, "...he shall have *whatsoever he saith*." You have got to *say* it, and what you confess must be based upon the Word of God.

With millions of people in the world going to hell, why would you stay in some convenient lifestyle? Why don't you get right with God? If He calls you to the mission field, then take that step. But why don't you start confessing big things for God?

When the disciples came to Jesus and said, "The multitudes are hungry," He replied, "They need not depart." Now, there is no way that five loaves and two fishes could feed the multitude. But the little boy brought to Jesus the only resources he had, which became more than enough. *The way you get what you need from God is to bring the resources you have to Jesus.*

Speak Precisely

We receive whatsoever we say. We speak precisely to this mountain; not a mountain—*this* mountain. We receive according to our faith.

Mark 10:46-52 gives the account of blind Bartimaeus crying out "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me." Though he knew who Jesus was, Bartimaeus hadn't yet received salvation. Jesus stood still with the multitude behind Him

and commanded the disciples to bring the blind man to Him. When Bartimaeus came near, Jesus said, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?"

Jesus was saying, "Don't just say, 'Have mercy on me.' *What do you want Me to do?* I have eight thousand promises. Which one do you want to be fulfilled?"

Bartimaeus replied, "Do You want to know what my mountain is? It's my eyes. I can't see!"

And Jesus said, "Your faith against this mountain—your faith for this need of your eyesight—has made you whole." The blind man's condition was obvious, but Jesus made him *say* it.

Don't go to God and say, "Oh, bless me today. We have need of finances. And bless the students. Amen." That is not prayer. God has given us a position of authority, a position of power. Be precise about the mountain.

Exercise your faith, then confess the answer; speak creative words among each other. Speak creatively about each other. Don't confess the kind of life where there is no victory and no power. Confess the promise and bring into action what God has said, remembering that our confession must be what *God* has said, and not subjectivity.

First, Forgive

Take away the 'logs' that block your vision so you can see the vision clearly. Don't worry about this, that, and the other thing. You can have what you say and what you desire. Therefore, fix your hope completely on the grace of God that comes by doctrine (1 Peter 1:13). The minute you crucify the instinct to judge, you will begin to receive the gift of discernment without judging. God will give discernment about precise situations and precise satanic warfare, which is always associated with a spirit.

When you pray, make sure you have forgiven everybody, or don't even bother to pray (Mark 11:25). The only way God answers believers' prayers is on the grounds of the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3); and wherever that unity is expressed, God commands a blessing (Psalm 133:3).

Forgiveness (Matthew 6:14) may not always mean going to the person who has something against you. But the moment you hear it, forgive them mentally, right on the spot. If you can remember what they did, you haven't forgiven. God does not remember our sins (Jeremiah 31:34). But many people try to obey forgiveness

without forgetting, so they have the knowledge of what to do without the power.

To have faith without confessing it is not faith. When you confess what you believe, then you are putting yourself on the spot with what you heard from God. If God has spoken, we must confess it.

We need the authority of God's power. With all the pollution, unknown bacteria, colds, flu, and diseases that are spread through handshakes and on doorknobs, Satan has found a way to cause so much sickness. Doctors have told us that 60 percent of all illnesses are caused by these things we encounter daily, and which are nearly impossible to avoid.

So often we think we are dealing with bad habits when in fact we are dealing with a spirit. But when we realize that Jesus Christ has given us precise promises over precise mountains, we will understand the power of our confession. God's people are a community of believers. If charity is motivating our souls and humility is communicated through our lives with meekness as the vehicle for receiving God's life, then we are quickened with the power of God, and God can give us His promises.

What to Do with a Vision

When I read the Word, the promises should jump out. Once I receive the objective Word, it produces objective faith in Christ's character. I can speak the Word, confess the truth, and show by my faith that I believe it before it happens. We have a beautiful life ahead. You are not just "anybody" with mountains to tackle. You can be "somebody" who is getting a victory over *this* mountain.

In Matthew 14, Jesus went to the mountain to pray. As He prayed to the Father, the disciples were on a boat. During the fourth watch, there was a terrible storm. When the disciples saw Jesus on the water, they thought it was an evil spirit; but He said, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid." So Peter said, "If it's really you, bid me to come," and in verse 29, Jesus said, "Come."

That was a precise promise in an invitation: "Come." Precise. And Peter believed.

The storm was terrible, and Peter, as we know, walked on that water, looking at Jesus Christ and honoring the invitation of faith. Jesus wanted to show him that God's supernatural life superseded the natural, in this particular case, when it was necessary to build him up in faith.

As Peter walked, Jesus allowed the demons to bring a tremendous wind. Of course, when Peter turned to look at the waves, he began to sink. He knew enough to cry out, "Save me!" and Jesus did. But the waves and the wind had promoted Peter's emotions and fears, which came from a spirit in the air, causing him to take his eyes off of Christ.

As we grow progressively each day and begin to give our resources over to God, what we give may not seem like much. But as with the five loaves and two fishes, we begin to realize that creative power really works when Jesus speaks. If you don't trust Him, though, you are not going to speak it.

The vision comes from God. The Word comes from God. The grace, the power, and the love come from God. Patience and forgiveness come from God. Revival comes from God; therefore, no man could ever stop the vision for one moment, because God is in it (Acts 5:38-39).

Harness up your faith. Enter into new dimensions of faith, new degrees of believing, new degrees of studying, and new degrees of praying, with new degrees of worshipping God through His provision. Take up your authority.

Chapter Three

BE CREATIVE, SPEAK FORTH THE PROMISE

To have intimacy with God in prayer, we know that first we must hear from God's Word and receive a precise promise. Then, we have to plug in to our position of authority (Matthew 28:18). Next, our prayer requests must be precise: We ask for *this* mountain to be removed. Like the Old Testament saints, in Hebrews 11, who saw the promises afar off, *we must be persuaded that we will receive the promises, then embrace them and confess them.*

Previously we referred to Adam and Eve's false covering of fig leaves. We also said that the fig tree that had leaves but no fruit represented Israel. In both cases, self-righteousness substituted for God's righteousness and resulted in a curse.

Isn't it interesting that in Mark 11, Jesus goes from cursing the fig tree right into a lesson on

how to pray? The disciples asked how He withered the tree, and He said, "Have faith in God."

What Jesus did, He wants us to do. Yet, we are so far behind in what we could have. "*Whosoever shall say unto this mountain...and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*" Then in Mark 11:24, He said, "What things soever ye desire, *when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*" That's plain, isn't it?

In John 16:23-24, Jesus said, "...Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name...." In other words, "You haven't asked the right way. But whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give it to you." It is not wishful thinking. It is not subjectivity. It is based upon the Word of God. And according to Jeremiah 1:12, "...I will hasten my word to perform it." God wants to perform His word because He wants *you*, His child, to receive it and to enjoy it."

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalm 37:4). But before He will give me my desires, I need to speak to this mountain and confess it publicly. God is saying, "Whatsoever you *say*, you shall have." If I don't understand that, I am

not going to have my request.

In 2 Chronicles 6:10, the Lord performed the word that he had spoken. In Ezekiel 12:25 and 28, He said, “the word that I shall speak shall come to pass...I say the word and will perform it...the word which I have spoken *shall be done.*”

We have to live in this confession, read in it, pray in it. We have to speak the Word of God. God spoke a word, and the worlds were formed. It's the creative power of the spoken Word. In Acts 3, when Peter and John saw the lame man at the gate called Beautiful, Peter said, “I don't have much—neither silver nor gold—but what I have, I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ, rise up and walk.” He spoke and the man was healed. Jesus spoke the word to the ten lepers, and they were all healed, though only one went back and praised Him (Luke 17:12-18).

We can choose to just sit back in no-man's-land and wonder (which unfortunately is what so many people do), or we can obey God's Word in Matthew 28:18-20, to go and preach, teach, baptize, and make disciples. Psalm 119:172 says, “My tongue shall speak of thy word.” And in Jeremiah 25:3, “the word of the LORD hath come unto me, and I have spoken unto you.” Several times, God instructed Jeremiah to speak His

words (Jeremiah 13:12; 22:1; 23:28). In Ezekiel 33:30, God's people were told to "hear what is the Word that cometh forth from the LORD."

Daniel: Man of Prayer

Emotions come and go, but you cannot trust your feelings. You cannot take orders from your feelings. You get your orders from the Word and from the Holy Spirit. Experientially, most of us have no idea who we are or where we are. But consider a man like Daniel who heard King Darius' decree that no one could worship God. What did he do? He opened the windows of his chamber that faced toward Jerusalem, and three times a day—morning, noon, and night—he prayed toward God's temple (Daniel 6:10).

During that time, Jerusalem was desolate because of Israel's wickedness, and in chapter nine, Daniel prayed for God to turn away His anger and to pour out His mercy. Daniel always included himself among the sinners: "We have sinned, and have committed iniquity..." (Daniel 9:5). He always had an attitude of praise and honor to God in his prayers: "for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies" (Daniel 9:18b).

In verse 23, the Word of God came to him saying, “thou art greatly beloved.” In other words, “You are special, you are a darling.” God beautifully answered his prayer. He was delivered *in* the lion’s den and the king realized that Daniel’s God was *the* God.

I want to reemphasize that God has said very clearly, “*Ask*, and it shall be given you.” He didn’t say, “Some day,” or “On a certain day you will receive.” He simply said, Ask—and you shall receive. “Seek, and ye *shall* find.” Time is not the issue; *the character of God is the issue*. “Knock, and it shall be opened unto you,” for everyone who asks, receives. And everyone who seeks, shall find. And to everyone who knocks, it shall be opened unto him (Matthew 7:7-8).

Matthew 7:9-11 says that if a natural man would not give a stone when his son asks for bread, nor give a serpent for fish, “how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”

Be Fruitful

We have been chosen and ordained to bring forth fruit that remains (John 15:16). Our prayers should lead to our goals and to people’s healings. There are believers in our church who will

be up all night, praying power for people, praying healing for people. They do it quietly and humbly, not parading it in subjective pride the way some do, and they will get results. Why? Because, they have learned how to pray to the Father in the nature of His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Spirit-filled believer has fruit that will remain. Thank God, the tares don't remain! And from now on, whatever we ask the Father, He will give it. It's always that way with God. He doesn't say "maybe." Rather, He promises that all things—when you pray believing—you shall receive.

But you must be specific. It is not, "Please bless us today." That doesn't cut it with God. Don't say, "Bless my marriage." That is not a prayer of God's people. You say, "God, this is what I want for my marriage," then declare it. Pray for the church, "Lord, Raise up an army of soul winners, an army that has the life of God within, people who are obedient, an army of givers. And bless them financially. Do it now, Lord! Bless them so they can help us to send missionaries into all the world and to provide our community with provisions for your people. That is what we are saying, this is what we are confessing, and it is what we are believing! Thank you

Lord for hearing and answering. Amen.”

Perhaps You Need Patience

Sometimes, after you pray, you have need of patience before you see the promise. Therefore, don't cast away your confidence (Hebrews 10:35-36). Jeremiah 28:7a says, “hear thou now this word that I speak in thine ears.” God said He will speak something into our ears that will produce faith, and He will cause the Word to do what He said it will do.

There may be times when God does not respond quickly because He wants to test you to see if there is doubting in your soul that could lead to criticizing, sowing discord, and not living a godly life. James 1:6-8 puts it this way: “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.... For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*” And in James 4:3, “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” These people do not ask so that God may be glorified. On the contrary, they haven't even made themselves available to God.

We need to take our five loaves and two fish, give them to God, and let Him do what He does

best: He answers prayer, multiplying our substance. He provides abundantly and always has some left over.

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication *with thanksgiving* let your requests be made known unto God” (Philippians 4:6). Plugged into God’s power, we receive a precise promise, then we pray precisely, believing, receiving, and always glorifying God.

If we don’t understand how to speak the Word of God, abide by it, and love people, we will give in to a spirit of fear, criticism, or discord. There are solid Christians who go through cycles of negativity because they let something hinder their walk (2 Thessalonians 3:6). We are to walk in the Spirit so we do not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16). We are to walk in wisdom (Ephesians 5:15, Colossians 4:5). We are not to walk as carnal men (1 Corinthians 3:3), but to follow godly examples.

When people do not know how to walk, they do not walk in virtue love, and they will not profit from God (Galatians 5:2). Why? Because they regard iniquity in their emotions (Psalm 66:18).

God wants to bless us! The Lord of Hosts said in Jeremiah 5:14a, “Because ye speak this

word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire.” His words will become life and power that we speak forth, so we can get to know the Word. Let God speak it in your ears. Then you will speak the Word into other people’s ears. Be plugged in to your authority. Be plugged in to faith that comes from the Holy Spirit.

The Lord said in Ephesians 3:20 that He is waiting to give us above and beyond all that we could ever ask or think. Take God at His Word. Speak faith into other people’s hearts. Speak faith around them. Because of the nature of people, it may take a process of time before they can be built up in faith. But as we build them up, we will teach them to encourage themselves. We will build levels of faith, levels of grace, and levels of mercy, with levels of power and protection—erecting superstructures of spiritually built-up ones. And as people are released, they will no longer regard iniquity in their hearts.

Dealing with Iniquity in the Sanctuary

Iniquity is emotional rebellion against God. We know that Satan desires to multiply iniquities and defile the sanctuary. He wants to give Christians the same emotional problems he first experienced against God when he found out

that angels would go to hell—and he's done a good job of it.

To deal with the effects of demons, there is no need for lengthy dialogues with the devil. In Acts 16:18, when the demon-possessed woman was following Paul, he simply said, "I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." Paul had the authority of the spoken Word, and the demon came out.

When we use the Word of God and plug in to our position of authority, demons will no longer influence our emotions. Remember, we are being influenced every moment, by either the Holy Spirit or unholy spirits. What we blame on the old sin nature is actually a spirit that is controlling or influencing us or, in the past, has hypnotized our memory center. The old sin nature releases principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness (which speaks of the demons that rule over cities and governments), and spiritual wickedness in high places. Satan and his forces bring infection on the emotions and minds of those who do not obey the truth and are not plugged in to purity by faith in Jesus Christ.

"Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD's

house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word" (Jeremiah 26:2). I love that He said, "*diminish not a word.*" It means, "Be precise; I don't want you to leave out anything. Tell it all, and I will take care of the results."

God gave a word to Balaam and told him how to speak it (Numbers 22:8; 23:5). We speak against demons, against flesh, against worldliness, against sight. We speak the Word when our feelings are affected by the devil's crowd. We must learn how to speak the Word of God.

When the Word is hidden in a clean heart, there is no wounded spirit. Your memory can't recall anything bad because you don't have a past, except for the fragrance of memories.

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39). The Lord did not mention the past in these verses because your sins were cast into the sea (Micah 7:19), and God has put up a huge sign: "No Fishing Here."

CONCLUSION

Having an effective prayer life depends on having a life that is rightly related to God and to people, which enables us to draw from the proper power source. As soon as we hear and get definition from His Word, we obey (Psalm 18:44). Still, we often fail to live by every Word of God, so we must use rebound as often as we need it.

I love what the Lord spoke in Isaiah 57:19: "I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him." God will help us to speak with creative power. He will enable us to pray effectively. We will see so much fruit as a result of learning to have intimacy with God in prayer, because the root will be dealt with and we will be led with precision. We will confess what we believe and reap the abundance of what was sown in faith.