

**Ian Wilson**  
**With**  
**Malcolm Ross**

**With Christ in  
The School  
of**

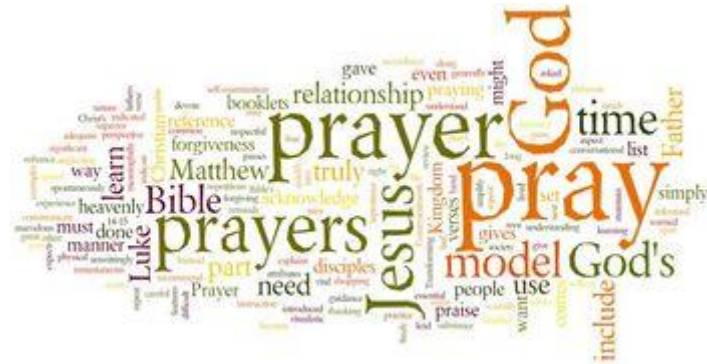
**PRAYER**

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## Introduction



*“Lord teach us how to pray.”*

Had we been around the Lord Jesus in the days of His earthly ministry we would have made a similar request. Jesus was a man who saw His prayers answered .... every time.

To be around Jesus was to see constant visible and audible communication between heaven and earth.

“Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven” was the great theme of His ministry among men. It should also be the desire of every sincere believer today, for this petition is at the very heart of the Lord’s Prayer.

So, we say with all earnestness “Let it be, dear Lord, let it be!”

To this end, we have written this short booklet and study guide that we might all move more deeply and more effectively into his mysterious and wonderful realm of prayer.

We trust you will enjoy the group studies or simply be blessed as you read on through these eight brief chapters.

If your desire to find a PLACE to pray in your home and a SPACE to pray in your daily calendar is met, we will count it ‘Mission Accomplished;’

## Chapter One

### Prayer, the Principal Means of Grace



In our walk with the Lord Jesus we will quickly become aware of what the Bible calls GRACE at work in our lives. As His children, our relationship with God the Father is of first and primary importance. To grow in this relationship, we will find ourselves being called into an ever-deepening communion with Him. The PRACTICE of this relationship is what the early Christians called “pursuing the means of grace.”

Notice that things must be PRACTICED in our faith, or else there is the danger that we become mere theologians.

Briefly then, what are the MEANS that we are referring to?

- 1) Prayer.
- 2) Study the Word.
- 3) Meditation (Psalm 1)
- 4) The assembling of the saints for edification.
- 5) Fellowship.

Let’s discuss this list between ourselves at this time to ensure that we are in agreement with each of the five points.

Paramount in this list is PRAYER; our daily communication with the Lord. This communion begins with first learning to discern and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to our own spirit.

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With this in mind we will think of the ever-present telephone.



Everybody has one and some people have several! We employ them to speak to people we cannot see.

The phone is not simply for the purposes of SPEAKING, it also has an EARPIECE for listening. Surely this is the essence of prayer. A two-way conversation where we are not only speaking to the Lord but where we are also LISTENING to what He is saying to US. And, continuing with the illustration of the modern cell phone, this conversation can be ANYWHERE at ANYTIME.

Places and times are important because while the LORD is everywhere, WE are creatures of time and place and habit.

Therefore, in our busy lives it is imperative that we have a daily TIME when we pray, and a PLACE where we pray.

The idea of making the car you mobile, private chapel is stretching the point, since the primary focus of driving is to keep the car on the road and arrive safely at your destination. If you are going to pray seriously in your car, pull over and give the Lord your undivided attention.

In our next chapter, we will be dealing with Jesus' command to pray ALONE and without distractions, not multi-tasking while we are testing our friends.

Of all the means of Grace the practice of prayer requires the greatest focus, both in the tuning of the heart and in the illumination of the mind that we might pray aright.

We will carry these thoughts into the next chapter.

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## Chapter Two

### Hindrances to Prayer



Prayer is our primary approach to God. As it was with Jesus so it is with all His disciples. If He prayed so must WE. That simple, we pray because He did and because He commands us to pray.

In **Matthew 18** Jesus says: “*Men ought always to pray and not to faint.*” That word ‘faint’ implies that you are putting REAL effort into the exercise and will at times feel like giving up!

In **Matthew chapter 6** Jesus stressed the need of PRIVATE prayer to the FATHER IN SECRET. Think of that title “The Father in secret.” Jesus said: “*When you pray, enter into your room and CLOSE the door.*” As soon as you do, the act is registered with:

- A) The people who live in the same house as you.
- B) The Lord himself.

When we close the door, it means that we have set ourselves to be alone with God. And make a statement to the rest of humanity that the business of prayer is important to us. Your wife or your husband see this, your children see this, God sees it and an

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exclamation mark has been added to your life. You have shut OUT and shut IN yourself and the Lord.

# Shhh!



Please do not  
disturb.

There is always challenge to prayer. The competitors are all too familiar.

- 1) Busyness. The call of innumerable duties and jobs is incessant in our work-a-day-world. Things just must get done and get done NOW.
- 2) The siren call of our entertainment centre is present in every house. My, how many channels there are on our T.V. The Sport's Channel with football, soccer, baseball, basket ball, Formula One, hockey, not forgetting hunting and fishing, etc. And, if that's not all, there's our favourite weekly dramas with installments that must on no account be missed. It must be admitted that our forefathers prayed with greater effect because they didn't know what an entertainment centre was.
- 3) The ever-present demands of the flesh that require our immediate attention. The philosophy of our bodies is pretty basic. It can be summed up thus: "Do this NOW, I want it NOW, pray later." This was the reproof of Jesus to His disciples when He had asked them to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane and they had fallen asleep: "What! Could you not pray with me for one hour? Truly the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. "Is our flesh any different to theirs"?"
- 4) The telephone. Isn't it remarkable that as soon as we shut the door to pray the phone rings OR the door bell rings or the ringing of the check-out bell in the mall goes through our mind. We can't miss that special sale. GO NOW. Pray later.

Enough said.

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We get the point. Prayer is costly. But to wander all our lives in a barren, prayerless wilderness will exact an infinitely greater price by the time life's effatic journey is over.

And for how long should I pray? Sometimes you may go to pray for ten minutes, sometimes for thirty, sometimes until you feel your heart warmed by the presence of God, sometimes until you have felt the burden upon your heart lifted. Sometimes until you have an assurance in your heart that God has heard your petition.

Sometimes .... Build prayer into your life and you will always know how long "sometimes" is.

In our next chapter, we will look at different types of prayer that are mentioned in the Bible.





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## Chapter Three

### Prayer: The Bible Definitions



We are going to discuss the types of prayer in TWO chapters.

We will look at:

1. Petition
2. Intercession
3. Supplication
4. Prayers of Agreement
5. The cry from the heart



## PETITION

Let's think about prayers of petition.

The definition of the word simply means 'earnest request or entreaty'. Bear in mind that word EARNEST. All of prayers should be in earnest.

We are creatures of need. We are in need of clothes, of shelter, of food, of warmth, of affection, of significance, of air to breathe, of protection, in need of rest, of, of, of .... if we go without these things our lives are seriously affected.

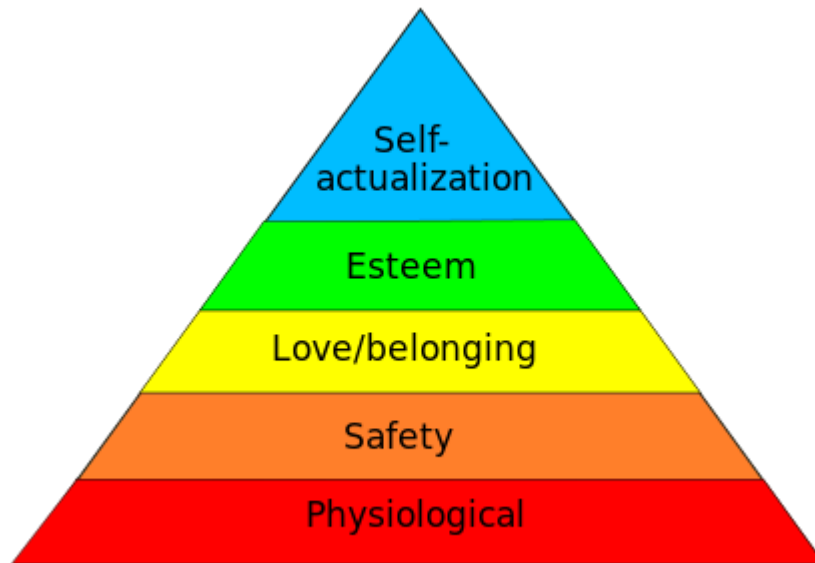
The Lord has designed us this way that through our needs and because of our needs we should come to a place of trust in Him, and in His faithfulness, to hear our petitions and answer them.

Built into the Lord's prayer are petitions.

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*“Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive u our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.”*

The are things CENTRAL to our humanity and our continued life on earth.



In Maslow’s hierarchy of needs he does not place vacations, entertainment, or a new car at the base of his pyramid. Instead, on the bottom row, he has the things classified as irreducible for life, such as food, shelter and clothing, stuff that Paul summed up in **1 Timothy 6:8**.

*“Having food and raiment therewith to be content.”*

Said Jesus: *“Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these essential things will be taken care of. For you Father in Heaven KNOWS that you have need of them.”*

These are what we might term ‘third world’ needs. As for first world needs there is no reference to them in scripture.

If petitions in prayer are for PERSONAL needs, then intercessory prayer is on the behalf of OTHERS.

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Let's look at intercession as our next point.

We don't have to read far into the gospels before we see Jesus praying for the needs of others: for His disciples, for the sick and afflicted and for the Nation of Israel.

Locate some of these prayers as part of our discussion together.

When we intercede for others we are always in an UNSELFISH posture and, therefore, can have confidence before God that we are not praying with wrong motives. Marvelous things happen when we pray with the right motive and for the needs of others.

"Rees Howells: Intercessor" is a powerful tribute to a man called to give his life to intercessory prayer. He prayed for individuals, for communities and fasted and prayed for fine weather when the British Expeditionary Force was evacuated from Dunkirk. For the ten-day operation, the English Channel was like a mill-pond!

Abraham took on himself to intercede for the city of Sodom when God had purposed to destroy the place. The dialogue he had with God over the whole matter is a revelation as to what goes on in the heavenlies when men and women set themselves to pray for others.

Moses, Daniel, David, Jeremiah, Elijah and many others have long prayers of intercession recorded in the scripture.

Paul, in **Romans**, cried out to God for his own nation Israel, saying he would be willing to be accursed if it would only bring his people back to God. What a heart! So, let us not grow weary in the work of the Kingdom and in interceding for our loved ones.

## Chapter Four

### Prayers of Supplication, Agreement and Heart-cries

LORD I NEED  
YOUR HELP

Paul, in **Philippians chapter 4** writes:

*“Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

A great verse and one that is worth memorizing.

supplication

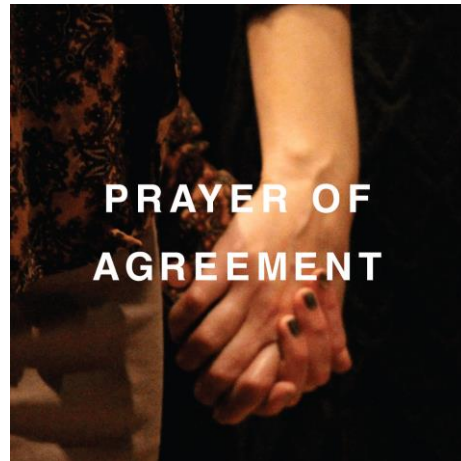
Prayer and supplication are the means whereby requests are brought to God along with thanksgiving both in advance and after payers are answered.

Supplicated means ‘many layered’.

This implies that prayers can be laid on top of one another in laminations. Some repeated; some added to.

When Jesus said: “*Ask and it shall be given.*” The sense of the teaching is “Ask and KEEP ON ASKING” i.e. Keep in supplication.

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Then there is the prayer of agreement.

This prayer is recorded in **Matthew chapter 18** where we read: *“If two be agreed on anything touching the Kingdom of God it shall be done for them by my Father in Heaven.”*

To bring people to agreement in heart, mind and soul is nothing less than a work of God’s grace. This is why the previous verses in this chapter deal with forgiveness and how to heal offence. In other words, taking steps to bring about unity and agreement between brothers and sisters.

The most powerful of all prayers of agreement are made by a husband and wife, who, being joined together in the covenant of marriage and unity of purpose can see mighty things take place in answer to their prayers. When it comes to ‘agreement, unity and the bonds of peace’, Paul uses the word ‘*beseech*’ in **Ephesians chapter 4**. That is the most powerful of all pleas that can be made of anybody. The act of beseeching! And here it is made on behalf of brothers and sisters to maintain the spirit of unity and the bonds of peace in Christ. Wherefore? In order that they might see their prayers of agreement answered and the Kingdom of God advanced.

Finally, there is what we might call:

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The Cry from the Heart.

There are multitudes of occasions in life when we discover ourselves in unplanned and dire circumstances. We don't have the time to go behind a closed door or call in another believer's help. It is just us and the Lord and a big problem. Now what?

Emergency brings urgency and urgency takes precedent over theology, we simply must CRY OUT to the Lord. An arrow prayer straight from our heart to Heaven with the trust that He will hear and answer.

Take the prayer of Cyrus Brown for example.

“The proper way for a man to pray.”

Said Deacon Lemuel Keyes,

“and the only proper attitude, is down upon his knees.”

“No, I should say the way to pray,”

Said Reverend Doctor Wise.

“Is standing straight, with outstretched arms and rapt and upturned eyes.”

“Oh no; no, no,” said Elder Slow,

“Such posture is too proud: a man should pray with eyes fast closed and head contritely bowed.”

“It seems to me his hands should be austerely clasped in front with both thumbs pointing towards the ground.”

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Said Reverend Doctor Blunt.

“Last year I fell in Hodgkin’s well

Head first,” said Cyrus Brown,

“With both my heels a-stickin’ up, my head a-p’inting down;

An’ I made a prayer right then an’ there – best prayer I ever said,

The prayingest prayer I ever prayed. A-standing on my head.”

Humorous but very true and all of us can relate.

A cry from the heart. A cry for deliverance, a cry for Divine help and intervention. Straight to the point and straight from the heart right to the Throne of God.

We know that Cyrus Brown’s prayer was heard because he said his accident had occurred the previous year. So, it is with you and me. Our cry to the Lord must have been heard because we are still here to tell about it.

Why don’t we take time to share a testimony of how the Lord came through for us at the very moment we cried out to him?

Here is a picture of Jehoshaphat crying out to God in the Battle of Ramoth Gilead.



No time for him to get his act together. He was a good man who nearly died on the wrong battlefield. On this occasion the Lord heard his cry and delivered him.

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So too with David, Jacob, Jonah, Joshua, Hezekiah and many others recorded in both the New and Old Testaments for our example and encouragement.

Refer to some of these in group discussion.

Rest assured, if you set yourself to do the will of God on earth and to walk by faith, you will have plenty of situations in which to cry out to the Lord for His help.

But all is well. *“For He is a very present help in time of trouble!”*





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## Chapter 5

### Prayer that Really Works



Let's face it, we all want to know and experience our prayers being answered. And answered they all will be, one way or another.

#### **In 1 John 5:14-15**

*“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.”*

These verses pack real punch when it comes to praying.

This John, who wrote the epistle is the same John who wrote the **Gospel of John**, and who said in **Chapter 14:13-14**:

*“And whatsoever you shall ask in My Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you shall ask anything in My Name, I will do it.”*

It is clear from both the epistle and the gospel that FAITH and KNOWLEDGE are working together in order to see prayers answered.

It is not only FAITH in the employment of Christ's Name. It is also a KNOWLEDGE of what God may be saying in this or that instance. Such things cannot be reduced to a formula. If they could be, somebody could have figured it out by now.

The closest we come to this is the incident where Jesus had cursed the fig tree. When the disciples expressed their amazement when they say the fig withered, Jesus simply said: *“Have faith in God.”*

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He then went on to say:

*“For verily I say unto you, whosoever shall say unto this mountain be removed, and be cast into the sea: 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 you desire, when you pray, believe that ye shall receive them and you shall have them.”* **Mark 11:23-24**

It comes back to the ear-piece of the telephone, of time spent with the Lord, of intimacy and communion with Him.



When Jesus in **Chapter 13:21 of John’s gospel** said: *“One of you shall betray Me”* there was great consternation among the disciples who began to ask, “Is it me that He is speaking of?” But John never asked that question because he **KNEW** that it could never be him. He was leaning on Jesus’ chest at the time, reclining at the table close enough, when Peter beckoned, for Jesus to whisper in his ear the name of Judas Iscariot.

In other words, through his own intimacy he knew the will of God and was able to tell Peter.

There is something special about being in the same room as Jesus. When we live in the same house we hear the conversations that pass between members of the family.

Jacob had never had a personal experience with the Lord until the night when he fell asleep at Padan Aram. It was here that he had the vision of the ladder ascending to the sky, the Lord being at the top of the ladder and the Angels moving up and down as messengers between earth and heaven.

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When he awoke he immediately was in great fear and said” “God is in this place and I knew it not. This is the very house of God.”

Well spoken Jacob! Nobody taught you that. It came as reflexive to the revelation of being in the Presence of God and of God speaking to him. Therefore, it **MUST** be the House of God.

The House of God, in **1 Timothy 3:15** is described as the “*pillar and ground of truth*”

Pillar and ground: things vertical and things horizontal. Things that go up to Heaven and things that affect the earth.

When we make our abode in the House of God and stay in the same room as Jesus, **EVERYTHING** we do has impact on the world around us especially our prayer-life.

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## Chapter Six

### Praying with Perception



This word “perception” has two parts to it and it means “seeing through.”

It is a gift that in the Bible is called “discernment” and in **1 Corinthians Chapter 2** is spoken of as a quality belonging to ALL spiritual people. *“The spiritual man judges all things and is himself judged of none.”*

Think about that for a while.



This gift of discernment is in continual operation in the **Book of Acts**. When the chips were down and God was moving, the apostles (or other ministers) did not have time to call a committee meeting. They simply had to rely on the “seeing the Spirit” when they were preaching the word and praying for people. So, prayer and perception must always be at work together.

Case in point: to answer a call to pray for a sick friend or neighbour who is vastly over-weight and has a dislodged disc. The LOVE of God constrains us to pray for those in distress, but the DISCERNMENT within us tells us the reason why this person is disabled with a slipped disc. Therefore, TRUTH needs to be spoken before any prayer is released.

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The second commandment says:

*“Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord They God in vain.”*

We are familiar with the common understanding of this verse. “Do not use the Name of the Lord thoughtlessly or irreverently” and nor should we. BUT to be employing Christ’s name in prayers that HE has no intention of answering until there has been heart-felt confession of gluttony (in the case mentioned) is to use the Lord’s Name in vain.

There may be all sorts of sincerity and genuine sympathy behind this sort of prayer, but it will be a prayer offered in vain because it missed the mark at the point of perception.

One of the most dramatic miracles in the Book of Acts takes place at Lystra. Here in **Acts 14:8-10** the miracle is both RECORDED and EXPLAINED. We read that Paul PERCEIVED that a man in the audience had faith to be healed.

He could then PRAY in the IMPERATIVE with immediate effect. This should be a discussion point between any brethren seriously considering being used in the ministry of prayer. We are not to be running around like well intentioned nannies when it come to praying for people. We are to be led by the Spirit.

When we pray with the perception we combine SEEING with BELIEVING. It is a combination of faith working by love with insights from the Holy Spirit. It is the act of power-praying, for to see or perceive something helps us to know that we are praying according to God’s purpose.

I recall praying for a brother who had suffered heart-failure. As I was speaking with him I had an inward vision of a flattened straw and two fingers squeezing it open. I told him what I had seen and knew immediately that this was a constricted artery and could pray in confidence that he would be healed ... And he was. He never had a problem with his heart again.

Human need is everywhere, so to be merely motivated by meeting its immeasurable challenge will be to run ourselves to exhaustion.

The High Priest’s garment had a breastplate attached to it with 12 stones representing the tribes of Israel.

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The general principle of intercession is herein illustrated, for the priest symbolically bore every person on his heart before the Lord. Thus, we are given a picture of intercessory prayer. BUT behind this breastplate was a pouch containing what were called the Urim and Thummim. These are the ‘yes’ ‘no’ stones which indicated the will of God in SPECIFIC cases. They represented the immediate working of God’s will at any particular moment.

When I have been asked to accompany a brother on a prayer mission I do not give an immediate yet. I pray and ask the Lord whether I should accept the invitation, worthy as it may be. Many time I decline. The check and promptings of the Holy Spirit are all important when it comes to praying.

It is better to go the ‘sent’ way of the Spirit than the ‘went’ way of the undirected mercy mission. Jesus said: “*The poor you have with you always*” which can surely be re-phrased “NEEDS you will have with you always.” To go or stay, to pass or to pray? The Lord will make it clear to us if we enquire of Him.

Let us all come under the constraints of the Holy Ghost who is the great builder of the Church on earth. Then we will be seen as wise servants building with Him: “*The Lord working with us with signs following.*” (Mark 16)

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## Chapter Seven

### Attitudes that Affect the Actions of God



It is generally agreed that sickness and physical conditions are often closely linked to the negative attitudes of bitterness, unforgiveness, anger, depression and hatred.



We might say that these dispositions are landing strips for the devil to arrive and begin his grim work.

In **Acts chapter 10** Peter described the ministry of Jesus as “*Doing good and healing all those who were oppressed of the devil.*” This ‘oppression’ comes in many forms and has many faces. Often when a person is led to renounce the bitterness or hatred that they have been nourishing in their hearts, grace from God flows to them and they are suddenly healed of their affliction. To pray and to lead another person in a prayer of forgiveness is often to see healing as a BI-PRODUCT of that prayer.

The Roman Catholics might call this type of prayer a ‘confessional’. Call it by any name you may wish, but it is clear that deep mechanisms within the human being are unlocked when a person’s heart is bared and is honest before the Lord.

**James 5:14-17** should be looked at and considered in this regard. “*Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing*

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*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 has committed sins they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults, one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*

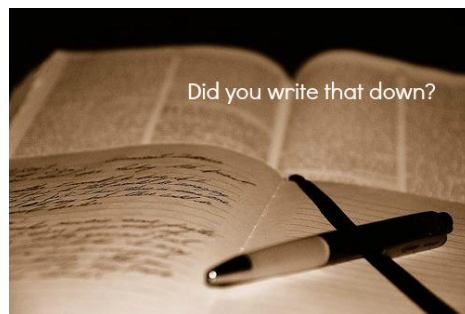
What is termed the “prayer of faith” by the church elders is preceded by confession and forgiveness by the brother or sister who has requested prayer in the first place. So, there is more at work than the faith of the pastor or church elder. Hidden things are always present when there is oppression and bondage. Revelation and confession leading to repentance, all work together to achieve deliverance and freedom.

Several times Jesus exhorted people to “watch and pray.” That “watching” involved being on full alert and observant of the present circumstances. It also included the employment of intelligence and spiritual intuition in praying for others.

If we must search our own hearts to discover what might be hindering our prayers, then it follows that in praying for others who are afflicted they must also be prepared to SEARCH THEIRS. We are guaranteed in God’s word that if we approach His throne of grace with clean hands and a pure heart that our prayers will be heard and answered.

## **Finally**

It is also good and necessary to keep a prayer journal. When we pray in our Fellowship we work with a prayer board.



Each week requests are listed on one side of the board and answers from previous prayers are listed on the other. This puts things in clear perspective and shows how the Lord is working in our midst. Prayer and praise. Requests brought to God and thanksgiving for answers received. It is a real faith building adventure for all who give themselves to regular fervent prayer.



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How quickly the human being forgets! We see this in a very well know incident in **Luke 17** when ten lepers come to Jesus for healing.

He sends them away with the command to “show themselves to the priest”. This was really saying, “By the time you get to the synagogue you will be healed.” Although there was no evidence of this at the time He said it.

On the way to see the priest (to be re-entered into society and deemed to be clean) all ten suddenly saw that they had been healed. What a dramatic moment! However, what happens next is the MOST instructive. Of the ten who were healed only ONE returned to Jesus to give thanks which prompted Jesus to ask the question almost satirically, “Only one? I thought that ten of you were healed?”

What does this tell us about the Lord? Simply this, that He expects us to remember His goodness and His gracious answers to our petitions and prayers and to render Him all due praise and thanks giving. When we recall His gracious works in our lives and give Him praise we come to yet another degree of wholeness in our lives. Just as the one leper who returned to give thanks to Jesus.

Therefore, lest we also forget, it would be advisable that we record our own prayers and be quick to recognize God’s answers when they come.

There are prayer journals that can be bought at any Christian book store but, if you want to save money, go to the dollar store and get a hold of a notebook. The important thing here is that you keep a record of your prayers. Do it for a year and you will be amazed at the evidence of God at work in your life in things large and things small.

Finally, remember that there are no professionals in prayer. You don’t need a degree in theology. It is simply that you are a child of God and you have a Heavenly Father who listens to you and knows your every need. Keep it simple folks. He IS our Father in Heaven and we ARE bona fide members of His family. Pray to Him with that understanding ever in your heart and your prayer life will be a JOY not a drudge.

## Chapter Eight Praying in the Spirit



“*Praying in the Spirit.*” This phrase is found in **1 Corinthians 14**.

Here Paul is instructing the Corinthian church on the public meeting and how members ought to conduct themselves. He concludes by saying, “*Let every thing be done decently and in order.*”



It is clear that in the gathering of God’s people spiritual gifts were going to be exercised and public prayer was going to be made. This public prayer involved a language that was intelligible to everybody (Greek in the case of the Corinthians) and prayers were also being offered in ‘tongues’.

Let those praying in direct spiritual communion and in unintelligible language do so in private, says Paul. If they don’t then no one is edified, and public gatherings are **ALL ABOUT EDIFYING** the people who are present.

However, bearing in mind that we are involved in spiritual warfare, there **ARE** occasions when a believer will pray in the Spirit against demonic forces that have entrenched themselves in opposition to the moving of God’s Spirit. In cases, such

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as this public prayer in the Spirit is entirely permitted as anybody who has cast our devils will attest.

Praying in the Spirit brings us to the puzzling verses in **Romans Chapter 8**. Here we read in **verses 26-28**;

*“Likewise, the Spirit also helps our infirmities for we know what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. And He that searches the heart knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.”*

Consider what is being said here.

These prayers are not being said by rote or read from a prayer book (as many of us were brought up to pray). Nor are they being made at the usual level of petitions being offered in a public prayer meeting.

Here is being described for us a degree of fervency that cannot be expressed through the normal medium of language. There are groanings, sighings and spiritual language being employed all of which is UNKNOWN to man but which is KNOWN to God. A language and fervency that touches His heart and moves His hand in response.

And we must ask, why do we HAVE to know everything that is going on in the Spirit? Why does every thing have to be expressed in intelligible language in ordered phrases?

Jesus, when He was before the Tomb of Lazarus groaned in Himself. The groan was loud enough to be heard but nobody understood it save the Father who was about to answer with an act of awesome power.



Think also of Hannah. Her heart was also burdened for the want of a child that she prayed with moving lips but with NO WORDS. Her fervency in her prayer went

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beyond phrases. Old Eli thought she was drunk and reproved her. However, SHE was in the Spirit and the PRIEST was out of it!

So, we must pray, pray, pray both in the Spirit and with the understanding, but whatever we do PRAY.

Finally, we have several exhortations to pray “without ceasing”.

How do we do that we may ask? We have jobs to do, tasks to perform, daily business to conduct. How do we pray without ceasing? Surely to pray without ceasing we would have to take up Holy Orders and join a monastery or retire to a convent.

Not so! We come back to the illustration of the priest’s breastplate and the names of the tribes inscribed upon it. While he was about his business and exercising himself in his office as priest he was not down on his knees in his prayer closet. He was doing other things. BUT he still had the people ON HIS HEART.

So too with the saints. They are about their earthly business BUT their heart is always postured to the Lord both to hear and to speak. People are borne on our hearts in love and in constant memory just as the priest wore his breastplate with the names of his people inscribed upon it. It was a form of constant prayer, care and intercession.

So, keep postured before the Lord. We won’t know everything that is going on but we WILL know that everything is working for their good and God’s highest glory.

Amen.



[Type here]



In a world of frantic activity, endless knowledge and streams of new ideas we can begin to think that prayer is outdated and irrelevant.

Is praying a quaint notion? Maybe it is a pastime for older ladies and for the professional ministers but surely not for the go-getters and the super achievers of our slick, fast moving society.

WE trust that this booklet and our group sessions have helped you to think again.

Paul, in **1 Corinthians 3** puts an indelible, eternal perspective on our earthly life and labours when he says: *“Everyman’s work shall be brought to the trial of fire to find out what it is made of: whether it be of hay, wood or stubble, or whether it be of gold, silver or precious stones. All our works shall be brought to the final trial of God.”*

Therefore, we should immediately begin to search out a place to pray (by ourselves and with others) and ask the Lord to reveal to us the value of how we are spending our time and resources here on earth.

If it be so “That to seek first the Kingdom of God” is true for us in Canada in 2016, then let’s do just that and choose to LET GOD TAKE CARE OF THE REST.