# Do You PRAY Or Are You The PREY

Stuck In Spiritual Insanity?

Learn To PRAY Like Jesus, Abraham, & Daniel.

# Do You Pray, or Are You Prey?

Isaiah 59:2 says our sins separate us from God and hide His face so He does not hear us.

# Remind Me, Who's World Is It Again? satan's

What if I told you when you return home today, you will find your spouse being unfaithful?

How would that make you feel? What would the outcome be? How would you live with that pain for the rest of your life? How would you forgive? How would you move forward in that relationship? And how deeply would that break your heart?

These are difficult questions, uncomfortable, heartbreaking, and heavy. Yet they help us understand something even more serious.

Now consider the separation we have created between ourselves and our Heavenly Father since the day we were baptized. Our own actions are committing spiritual adultery, more than they glorify Jesus. Our daily routines, filled with distractions, worldly desires, and misplaced priorities, testify to this reality.

Every day, we commit spiritual adultery against our Heavenly Father by placing worldly pursuits above Him. This separation happens daily, hourly, even within minutes.

And we rarely notice it. All the while, our Father watches us give our hearts to everything but Him, like a cheating spouse, until we need something. Then suddenly, we are loyal, attentive, and eager to pray.

Imagine again, the pain of seeing your spouse in the arms of another, witnessing their desires fulfilled by someone else, their attention, drawn away from you. It is devastating.

Now, compare that feeling to what our Heavenly Father witnesses every day. He watches His children seek comfort, pleasure, fulfillment, and identity in the world rather than in Him. He watches us commit spiritual adultery against the relationship He died to restore. How long would you stay in a relationship if you had to watch that kind of betrayal day after day, hour after hour?

Are we still wondering why Jesus does not hear us? Yet He stays. He watches. He waits. And He still loves us.

That truth should not only make us uncomfortable, it should break our hearts enough to return faithfully to Him.

Please be prepared to hear the phrases; watch, mission, spiritual adultery, the Great Commandment, and The Great Commission, repeated often. Do not allow these words to fall on deaf ears.

Their repetition is intentional, emphasizing the seriousness of learning to pray and live in a way that I feel Scripture supports as being the "correct way." Do not forfeit your salvation by embracing a lifestyle that leads to spiritual death.

Jesus is always with us, so how could it be possible that He does not hear us? Before addressing that question, one critical truth must be considered: satan has had nearly 2,000 years since the crucifixion of Jesus to develop and deploy strategies, traditions, and methods designed to separate us from our Heavenly Father.

Consider this example. If you were to plan a robbery, of course having no experience and living as a law-abiding Christian, how long would it take to plan a successful escape? Let's say 30 days might be enough to plan a simple robbery and get away unnoticed.

Now ask yourself honestly: Do you believe you are wiser than <u>Satan</u>, who has been here since Adam & <u>Eve</u>, having thousands of years to plan the theft of your **salvation**?

Examine how we live today and you will begin to see how this separation occurs, often without Christians even realizing it. This matter is so serious that pastors and teachers worldwide should closely examine how they are ministering to their congregations.

Personally, I do not want to fall into a pit, and even worse, take my family and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ with me. For that reason, I have prepared this pamphlet with Jesus's help through prayer and scripture to help correct how we view our salvation through prayer, allowing our Heavenly Father to guide us toward heaven.

If following Christ the correct way were easy, everyone would do it. But Jesus said the gate is narrow for a reason. Take a moment to reflect on that. Why is the gate narrow?

Is it your daily actions, from morning to evening? You start the day beginning with prayer, then wake up and get ready. You check your schedule, handle family duties, and head off to work or school. In the afternoon, you bless your meal and push through the responsibilities still waiting for you. When work ends, you drive home to more family needs, chores, and the rhythm of everyday life. After dinner, some of us fit in Bible study or another prayer before finally going to sleep.

That's a typical full day, but how many of those hours truly glorified Jesus? How much of your time went to Him compared to everything else you needed to accomplish? This is where sin takes root, when our daily actions slowly create a separation between us and our Heavenly Father. To visually grasp this do the math.

(Hours of our actions spent on worldly tasks) minus (Hours of our actions that glorified God) = Your time in separation from our Heavenly Father. Now you can visually see a plus or minus figure representing the separation.

How many people were separated from God that cried out with unfaithful hearts right before the great flood of Noah killed them. God separated himself from not hearing their cries. They allowed their family members to die by allowing eternal separation. The gate back then was very narrow.

This separation from Him hearing us isn't permanent. Our Heavenly Father is always with us. But most of us only encounter Him when He chooses to break through our noise. This is not because we have kept the communication line open but it's through His love and grace we are heard.

Imagine no separation. Jesus's mission would be to always hear you. Every prayer, every whisper, every cry. Then Jesus would guide and provide for us to WATCH and to do His desires as Scripture supports. That's interesting, what is our Heavenly Fathers mission for us? It's the **Great**Commandment and the Great Commission. But first, we must close the gap of separation we created. Once that separation is removed, our prayers will keep us on our spiritual, predestined path, watching for Jesus to guide us time after time.

Only then can we stand confidently at the second judgment, the "**Seat of Christ**", knowing that we followed His daily path and not our own.

Many Christians struggle with prayer because of incorrect traditions that have shaped how spiritual communication is practiced. Two thousand years later, people are still asking, "How do I know if Jesus answered my prayer?" After two thousand years, should we not be more advanced in our understanding of prayer? It seems we have gone backwards.

We can invent and advance in countless worldly things, yet, our practice of prayer has not progressed. In fact, true prayer is slowly fading away. We have moved from hearing and recognizing God's voice to saying, "I don't know." Even worse, we believe we are praying correctly, because we're following standards created by men rather than by Scripture. The act of "prayer hands" is not even mentioned in Scripture. So, why do we use prayer hands? If you do not know the answer, then you are truly being misled. Google "Where did prayer hands come from?" Not from Jesus!

An alarm should go off. But the deeper question is, "Who has been <u>WATCHING</u> to guide my prayer life, since I separated myself from Jesus?" Who is actually in control of my salvation? Remember our prayers are not exclusive, there is more than one person listening.

We need to protect our prayer life with the correct foundational building blocks as scripture supports.

We have to demolish the tradition of today and restore prayer using scripture as our spiritual blueprint.

# The Importance of Spiritual Prayer Communication

Now imagine your child living with the limitations Helen Keller faced: deaf, blind, and mute.

Picture this: You're folding laundry while she was a toddler walking toward a hot stove. Her hand reaches outward, not seeing a pot of boiling water. You want to shout, "Stop, <u>WATCH</u> Out!" But she can't hear you, or see you. The result would be devastating. And this is only inside your home.

Outside, the world is far more dangerous. Without your guidance, without communication, her chances of surviving, learning, or thriving would drop instantly.

We depend on communication to protect, teach, and shape our children. Without it, we would be no better than people living in the darkness of the Neanderthal age, where a single warning, "WATCH out," could save a life.

How would you keep her safe? How would you teach her to live with love and strength? In the end, she must rely on her limited senses to navigate a dangerous world that feels like complete darkness. Without prayer to communicate to our Heavenly Father, we are in the <u>same situation</u>.

When separation supersedes praying, this is what happens spiritually; We become <u>Deaf</u> to God's voice, <u>Blind</u> to His path, and <u>Mute</u> to His presence. Without prayer, we wander in spiritual darkness. And just like a child who cannot hear a warning, we walk into danger that wounds us again and again. Spiritual pain happens when we separate ourselves from our Heavenly Father. Spiritual death will follow when communication stops altogether. The burn from boiling water is nothing compared to the loss of our salvation through the slow, quiet pull of separation from God that leads to a pit of fire.

# **Spiritual Warfare For Dummies**

When we feel unsure about whether Jesus hears our prayers, we should use what I call the Flip-Flop. Instead of asking, "Is Jesus listening?" ask, "Is satan attacking my prayer life?" If satan works hard to disrupt our prayers, then the Flip-Flop assures us that Jesus is listening even more closely.

satan wins the moment he distracts us, through urgent thoughts, noise, responsibilities, or wandering minds. Prayer is our strongest spiritual weapon, which is why he targets it first. Even when we are alone, he tries to interrupt ALL communication with God by attacking our minds with unwanted thoughts.

<u>Spiritual Prayer Test</u>: Acknowledge the distractions that occur right before you begin your prayer or as you're praying. No matter the distraction this is satan in the background being an influence, waiting watching and ready to attack. This is how you can prove spiritual warfare exists. Which I feel, ironically, proves that Jesus is in fact very much alive.

The real issue is not whether He hears us but whether we are building spiritual devoted consistent communication with Him. Jesus said a divided heart cannot stand. When we live for worldly desires, we slowly separate ourselves from God, and He may remain silent until we return through repentance. Again, look at our actions throughout the day, that glorified our Heavenly Father, noted in our spiritual time card!

Many Christians "Ride the storm out," sitting in church, ignoring spiritual warfare, with a lukewarm mindset. But the <u>Armor Of God has no back plate</u> to protect our back side, because we were not created to run or hide in a facility called church. We were made to spiritually fight, not live a lifestyle.

Worldly desires can become habits that blind us to deeper spiritual attacks on our hearts and minds. satan knows our weaknesses and understands that we are sinners, which makes it easy for him to attack our minds and leads us to believe unwanted thoughts. This is where much of our mental health struggles originate from. satan targets our hearts and minds in order to silence our prayer life, because he knows it is our main source of strength.

Our Heavenly Father allows distance when we choose our own will over His, but always welcomes us back when we realign our hearts. The Holy Spirit lives in us and if we are listening will return us back to our Heavenly Father. Yet satan distracts us with fleshly desires, complaints, dissatisfaction, and emotional turmoil to weaken our faith. His influence is obvious, proud, selfish, and relentless, satan fights daily to weaken our prayers because prayer reconnects us to our Heavenly Father's mission, the Great Commandment and the Great

# Commission.

Jesus will always forgive us, but our choices carry consequences. Every day we risk weakening our prayer life through small steps of separation from Him. The Flip-Flop correction to our lifestyles reminds us that our worldly desires should be empty, and our spiritual lives full, serving others and following our Heavenly Fathers predestined path. Without constant prayer and communication we risk our salvation by not doing His works.

The only way to do this is to pray to Jesus and then <u>WATCH</u> to follow the next step towards fulfilling His **Great Commandment and Great Commission.** 

# Spiritual "Insanity" John 3:16

Let's explore a subject that remains largely uncharted. In today's world, we often focus on reading Scripture and sharing spiritual intellectual insights, mostly with people who already believe in Jesus Christ. Yet the instruction we truly need from our preachers and teachers is this:

How do we pray in a way that aligns with our Heavenly Father's mission leading us <u>confidently</u> toward eternal life? And how do we teach others to do the same? If prayer is our most powerful weapon against satan, shouldn't it be the topic we hear most in church until it is fully understood and practiced? Or <u>do most of today's church leaders simply do not know and are following satan's tricky traditions?</u>

In my experience, the message most often repeated in church, the one everyone seems to agree on and the one we sing about most, is simply that <u>Jesus is the Messiah</u>. Scripture already establishes this truth throughout the entire Bible. So why do we continue gathering with believers only to reaffirm what we already know, as if we are circling endlessly around the same point?

We keep repeating the same methods while expecting different results, both in how we speak to our Heavenly Father and in how we reach non-believers and believers. By definition, this is a form of spiritual "insanity."

Yet Jesus tells us exactly what to do and how to do it. You may be surprised to learn that Jesus does not command us to attend church or to study Scripture. That may sound shocking, because so many believers emphasize on attending church and reading their Bibles.

Educated scholars with extensive biblical training preach about the importance of such practices. Not to mention Pastors pay for degrees attending Bible colleges to learn how to instruct our congregations correctly. But if these were truly commands from Jesus, then Scripture would say so.

# Here is what Jesus actually commands of us:

# Repent and believe.

Matthew 4:17 Mark 1:15

Follow Me.

Matthew 4:19 Matthew 16:24

Luke 9:23

# **Love God and others (Great Commandment)**

Matthew 22:37-40 Mark 12:29-31

# Seek first the kingdom of God

Matthew 6:33

# Deny yourself and take up your cross

Matthew 16:24

Abide in Me

John 15:4

### Love one another

John 13:34-35 John 15:12

### **Pray**

Matthew 6:9-13

Luke 18:1

# Watch and pray

Matthew 26:41

**Make disciples (Great Commission)** 

Matthew 28:18-20

# Preach the gospel

Mark 16:15

**Be witnesses** 

Acts 1:8

# Love your enemies

Matthew 5:44

# Forgive others

Matthew 6:14-15 Matthew 18:21-22

# Serve others humbly

John 13:14-15 Mark 10:44-45

So why does it feel as though, in the church, we are not taught complete and accurate instructions on how to live as a Christian? Instead, we often hear messages designed to sound inspiring and motivating, unknowingly bringing more glory to the pastor than to our Father. Meanwhile, the congregation sits idle and listens, with no actions applied toward our Father's mission. They simply just talk and take notes saying how great the sermon was.

However, these weekly messages often fail to show us how to practically apply spiritual truths in ways that <u>prepare us for the second judgment</u> to help us walk in the real world with true spiritual obedience.

Just as mental instability is not something we are born with, spiritual confusion does not arise naturally; it develops when our practices drift away from their true purpose.

Let's consider prayer from our Heavenly Father's perspective.

You don't need special prayer hand gestures, and you are not always aware when you start or end prayer.

Actually every step, every thought, every action, every moment of your life, is communication with our Heavenly Father; in public or in our closet, it's simply just called prayer. This is why separation from Jesus happens so easily. Again once we add the hours from our typical day, separation is clearly seen.

Jesus is not going to ride shotgun as we commit sin. Jesus sees all sin as equal other than [spiritual adultery.] This is the one and only unforgivable sin.

Jesus warned that few will enter through the narrow gate, and Scripture tells us that satan will influence the church so that wolves devour the sheep. That is why we are commanded to <u>WATCH</u>. Do you know what the importance of WATCHING has to do with prayer?

# "Prayer Becomes Power, Once Faith is Activated"

Many times Jesus said, "Your faith has made you whole." We must <u>WATCH</u> for many spiritual signs.

- → The hemorrhaging woman believed that touching Jesus' garment would heal her. Jesus said, "Daughter, your faith has made you whole."
- → Jesus healed ten lepers. One returned to thank Him, and Jesus said again, "Your faith has made you whole."
- → There was a blind man in Jericho who cried out for healing. Jesus said, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you whole."
- → In Lystra, Paul saw that a crippled man had the faith to be healed. Paul told him to stand up, and the man walked. It was his faith that made him whole.

Sometimes it wasn't the person's faith at all, it was the faith of another. In this case, it was actually Jesus. His Faith was 100% Spiritually active. Therefore, his ability to heal was very simplistic to him, but a miracle to us.

- → Lazarus was raised from the dead. It wasn't Martha and Mary's faith—they were mourning. It wasn't Lazarus' faith—he was dead. It was Jesus' faith.
- → Jairus' daughter was raised from the dead. Again, it was Jesus' faith.

Sometimes healing came through other brothers and sisters' active faith.

- → The men who lowered their friend through the roof, Jesus saw their faith and healed the man.
- → A mother came to Jesus for her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus said, "Great is your faith; let it be done for you."
- → A nobleman's son was dying. Jesus said, "Go your way; your son lives." The man believed Jesus' word, and his son was healed.

We believe God can do things, but deep inside we still carry uncertainty. We must learn to activate our faith to overcome satan's tricks that cause our dishelief.

If you were running fast and tripped, you would instinctively activate your body to break the fall.

In the same way, activated faith knows we can spiritually fall face-first, with our hands behind our back, trusting that Jesus is also falling. We must Watch for and allow the Holy Spirit to protect us.

Prayer is to carry out our Heavenly Father's mission: through faith, fasting, prayer, patience, and WATCHING for His work to unfold.

This is why we anoint ourselves with oil just as the elders did. The anointing helps activate faith in the mind of a believer.

In James 5:14-15 Jesus said," If someone is sick, call the elders of the church to anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of *faith* will save the sick."

The oil itself does not heal, instead the process, itself and *activates* the person's faith, to *believe* Jesus will heal them.

- → There was a time when Peter walked down the street and people positioned themselves so his shadow might fall on them. It wasn't the shadow that healed. It was the activation of their faith.
- → The same happened when people touched Paul's sweatbands. Their faith was activated when they touched them.
- → At the pool in Jerusalem, people believed if they waited for the water to be stirred. That the first person in would be healed. Again, it was faith being activated.

# "We Must Have Spiritual Principles"

When Abraham was about 100 years old, he was physically unable to have children. His wife Sarah's womb was also "dead," unable to bear a child. Humanly speaking, it was impossible for Abraham to become a father. But Abraham removed the human limitations from the equation.

He chose to be strong in faith, believing in the son God had promised long before the child arrived. He praised the Lord for the blessing before he could see it. Abraham simply knew God fulfills every promise He makes.

Now let's break down the four principles of faith Abraham demonstrated:

- 1. Don't let human limitations control your faith. What is impossible for man is never impossible for God.
- 2. Don't shy away from God's signs! After prayer, stand firm and <u>WATCH</u>. Holding tightly waiting for God's next step.
- 3. Be strong in faith by praising the Lord before the answer arrives. It's easy to praise God after the blessings, but true faith praises Him beforehand. When we struggle to praise before receiving, it reveals our <u>faith is weak</u>.

Imagine your unreliable car breaks down, and you have no money to fix it. This is very serious. You cannot pay bills without going to work or be able to run errands. The next morning you get a text from a childhood friend saying he's buying a new car and wants to give you his old one for free. You would dance and shout with joy, "Praise the Lord!"

Then God asks, "How do you know he will really give it to you?" You answer, "Because he is honest, loyal, and has always kept his promises."

Then God says, "Have I not also promised to give you everything you need? Why aren't you rejoicing with that same excitement at My word?"

We often trust the promises of a person more than the promises of God. <u>That's borderline spiritual</u> <u>adultery.</u>

4. Know that God fulfills His promises at the perfect time, according to His will.

We must believe that God is going to do it now. Not hope, wonder, or guess, but KNOW without a single doubt. If you ask, then you will receive, so long as it aligns with our Heavenly Fathers mission.

Again we must know we can spiritually fall forward with our hands behind our back, fully trusting that Jesus is with us every moment as we are falling not knowing the end result.

That is the faith that pleases God. That is the faith that receives promises.

John said that if we ask anything according to God's will, He hears us. Sometimes we feel we don't need to pray, thinking it's obvious what we should do. But God freely gives His wisdom and guidance when we simply ask. We obviously can't be smarter than Jesus.

When I pray according to God's will, I can be confident that He will answer. This is why it's vital to include that our will is to be replaced with our Heavenly Father's will in our prayers, so that what we ask is not driven by our own selfish desires.

I believe the true power of prayer is to communicate with our Heavenly Father and watch so we have what we need to be blessed to spread the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Here on earth. It's very simple.

It is our privilege as His servants to take part in His purposes. In prayer, God does not hand us a blank check to fill in whatever we want. Our prayers must be meaningful and then we WATCH for an answer within God's timing, that must align with His mission.

# "Are You WATCHING For Jesus"

One of the greatest challenges Christians face in prayer is this: Are we hearing God's voice, or are we listening to our own hearts? When God speaks, His Spirit bears witness with our spirit. Our spirit then communicates with our mind through a thought, impression, or feeling. The difficulty is knowing whether that thought came from God or from ourselves, because it often arrives in the same way—as an idea, a flash, or a feeling. This is why it can be so hard to know what is from God and what is from us.

I feel a gifted teacher should be able to answer this question. Over the course of time, was this knowledge lost, by not being passed down to fellow believers?

When Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter responded, "You are the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, for flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father in heaven." Peter probably didn't realize he was experiencing something spiritual—he may have thought it was simply a thought that came into his mind.

But watch, moments later, when Peter told Jesus to spare Himself. Being outside our Father's mission, Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Get behind Me, satan. You are an offense to Me." Peter could not yet distinguish what came from God and what came from man.

We can ask our Heavenly Father to open and close doors according to His mission so that we know the opportunities are from Him. If we have to force doors open or reopen them ourselves, then we are not being spiritually led.

When we insist on pushing something through "no matter what," it is a clear sign we are not following God's will.

When God leads, He guides us step by step. At each crossroads, we must ask Him, "Which way should I go?" We must remain dependent on our Heavenly Father moment by moment. And just as we guide our own children, He guides us.

Paul told the Colossians to "Pray & Watch."

Jesus also told His disciples in the garden, "Watch and Pray" so that you do not enter into temptation.

Luke 21, In the Great Tribulation, Jesus said, "Watch and Pray" always so that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass."

We should live every day as though we are watching for Jesus' return. Actually, once resurrected, he lives within us. <u>Watch</u> for God's work, noticing spiritual battles around us, and guarding our hearts against worldly distractions that pull our focus away from our Heavenly Father. Watch for spiritual signals, be patient, and continue steadfastly in prayer until God answers.

Again, If Hannah had given up praying, her son Samuel, the greatest judge of Israel, would never have been born or dedicated to the Lord.

Continuous, faithful prayer can lead to spiritual breakthroughs and blessings that honor God and strengthen our walk with Him.

satan will try to block the opportunities God places before us, but God is stronger. If we truly seek to fulfill the **Great Commandment and the Great Commission**, and satan places a barrier in our path, God will remove it so we can move forward. Jesus told the church in Philadelphia that He had set before them an open door that no one could shut. When <u>God guides</u>, <u>God provides</u>. We must remain patient and <u>WATCH</u> for His wisdom to open doors along our spiritual journey. If we truly want God's will for our lives—or do we want to see His will first before we accept it?

One cannot have a divided heart. Jesus said no one can serve two masters. Our worldly desires can easily draw us away from God, causing us to serve the needs of the flesh instead. Again review your spiritual timecard and revise as necessary.

Do not be deceived—someone can fear the Lord, yet still worship another master, materialistic or not. That's spiritual adultery, as mentioned before, it's one of the worst sins you can commit.

Yet we are so quick to point out others' sinful ways when we are blind to the worst Sin we could ever commit, Spiritual Adultery. Sadly most of us unknowingly are already at serious risk.

# "Help Jesus Carry His Cross"

Prayer is the God-given means through which the gospel is advanced and the Great Commandment and Great Commission are fulfilled.

This is why prayer becomes such a primary target for satan, its power directly threatens everything he seeks to oppose. Prayer was never intended to center on our "personal needs or daily conveniences," especially when they do not align with God's mission.

Even when Joseph, the one given the "Coat of Many Colors," was imprisoned, he never prayed for release. He simply trusted that God was working and had faith that he would be protected and was ultimately freed according to God's predestined plan, just as God has a unique plan for each of us.

Over time, prayer has shifted into something we mostly use for ourselves, our families, and our personal concerns.

Yet Scripture shows that prayer was intended as a weapon for spiritual warfare and a means to advance God's mission, not merely to secure our preferred lifestyle.

The prophates and apostles prayed to strengthen the spread of the gospel, to stand firm against spiritual opposition, and to align themselves with God's will.

They were not distracted by worldly priorities or the subtle deceptions that pull our attention away today causing separation with our Heavenly Father. Remember satan has been developing ways to own our salvation, having stellar experience since Adam and Eve. You are no match for satan without Jesus.

Jesus was asked what matters most; His reply was the **Great Commandment and the Great Commission**. When our prayers are shaped by these priorities, we begin to experience the power, clarity, strength, and effectiveness seen in the prophets, apostles, and disciples. To regain this foundation, we must learn from their example and return to the biblical structure and purpose of prayer. This is how to experience the same power in prayer that the apostles and disciples did. Let's understand how they prayed.

# "How Can We Have A Lifestyle When We Are Infants, Compared To Eternal Life?"

In the New Testament, we are taught that God does not dwell in buildings made by human hands; rather, our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

If this is true, how did the church building become viewed as essential, or even a great symbolism that we are living correctly? Attending church and listening to inspiring messages that often have little to no impact on whether a congregation truly lives out the life demonstrated by Jesus, as described in Sermon of the Mount. These Pastors are failing us. Instead of getting us through the narrow gate, they're simply giving us directions to get there.

God loves us so deeply that He chooses to dwell within us. What does this mean? It means we are praying more than we realize because He is always with us. This is why we must lay aside worldly desires, otherwise, again we may be on the continuous path, to committing spiritual adultery and weakening our communication with our Heavenly Father.

Solomon did exactly that. He asked God for wisdom, and God granted it. Since Solomon's request was within God's desires, and not selfish for himself. With that wisdom, Solomon built many remarkable projects for God's people.

However, once <u>Solomon separated himself from</u> <u>God, by his lifestyle, spiritual adultery followed</u> <u>soon after.</u> His gift of wisdom vanished. He was no longer being used for God's desires therefore no longer would need to be blessed with the gift of wisdom. Lets hope he did not lose his salvation as well.

The book of Hebrews says that after we are patient and do the will of God, then we will receive His promises.

Consider Hannah once more. She was unable to have children and prayed continually for a child. Her burden grew so heavy that she could not eat or sleep, her longing consumed her (form of fasting).

But when she finally <u>surrendered her desire</u> and <u>promised to dedicate her son to God</u>, her prayer was answered <u>after aligning with His desire</u>.

God needed a man to lead Israel, and since none was found, He chose a woman to bring that man into the world.

# "How To Be Favored By God? Simply Do Not Give Up."

In Daniel 10, Daniel sought the Lord by **fasting** and praying for 21 days. After 21 days, an angel appeared and told him he was highly favored by God for doing so.

The angel also explained that from the moment Daniel prayed, God sent him with the answer. But the forces of darkness resisted him, and he was delayed until the Angel Michael came to free him. It took 21 days for the angel to finally reach Daniel.

Imagine if Daniel had given up praying. He may never have been favored by God. <u>I believe we all want to be favored by God. However, many times we give up too quickly in prayer.</u>

God sometimes delays His answers so He can give us something greater. This is what happened with Martha and Mary when their brother Lazarus died. Martha wondered why Jesus took so long to come.

If Jesus had simply healed Lazarus while he was sick, it would have been just another healing. But by allowing Lazarus to die and then raising him from the dead, God was glorified, and Jesus was revealed as the Messiah in a powerful way.

The delay produced a greater miracle and a stronger testimony for advancing the gospel. Fulfilling the Great Commandment and the Great Commission is our primary purpose for living on earth.

# "Why Do We not Pray Like Jesus?"

Jesus prayed His prayer many times as preparation for His final stand for His crucifixion. For Jesus' prayer was a personal connection with Our Heavenly Father. He did not use it for public display or self-elevation.

Jesus would Fast taking the time normally used for eating and redirecting it toward talking with His Father.

Creating a thin place where communication becomes intimate, where you can be heard, and where you can receive sooner what our Father intends for us later.

Jesus' showed us how to store true treasures by new creation, transformed character, and healthy relationships. This allows us to see God's Kingdom on Earth. Reflecting God's image is our greatest honor, for it is what we were created to do.

We are expected to pray daily, in order to live up to God's image. Regularly, consistently, and sincerely. Do not ramble or speak aimlessly. Get to the point, for God already knows what you need.

Avoid drawing attention to yourself during prayer. Standing taller, lifting your hands higher than others, or worshipping in exaggerated ways can draw attention to you instead of God. Our flesh enjoys being noticed, but this is not the posture of a humble heart.

Public prayer can easily become an attempt to impress people instead of God. Do not pray out loud for the ears of others—pray for the ear of the Father. Prayer should be thoughtful, sincere, and reverent. Do not waste God's time with vain repetitions.

This Is Jesus' personal prayer broken down for explanation", An intimate message from the Son to the Father, and we have been given this very prayer to use for ourselves.

### Matthew 6:9

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

→ Heaven refers to the skies, symbolizing God's presence everywhere. God appointed humans—His beloved children—to use His wisdom to rule the earth in His holy name. That God is "Awesome" and Scripture supports this; no other name carries this title.

# Matthew 6:10

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

→ When we love God and our neighbor, treating others with generosity and justice, we begin to enter God's Kingdom. This is a prayer for Heaven and Earth to be reunited.

### Matthew 6:11

"Give us today our daily bread."

- → Jesus invites us to trust God and ask for our daily needs to fulfill His mission.
- → A husband must first pray and partake of the daily fruit to fulfill our Fathers mission; we cannot give to others what we do not have ourselves.

### Matthew 6:12

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

→ Forgiveness is like breathing—To receive God's forgiveness, we must practice forgiving others. This is the only part emphasized again at the end of the prayer. Scripture is clear: we must forgive. God has forgiven us many times over.

# Matthew 6:13

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

→ Humans were appointed to rule the world.

No matter if we follow our way or God's way?

In every test, we must ask God to deliver us from temptation from the evil one.

### Matthew 6:14

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

→ God demonstrated His forgiveness by sending His only Son to defeat evil through His resurrection, restoring God's holy name and opening the way for Heaven's kingdom to come to Earth.

### Matthew 6:15

"But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your sins."

→ The prayer calls us to daily trust God, love one another, and forgive freely, so that Heaven may be revealed on Earth and we may become one with the Father and one another.

Perhaps try making this your own prayer to start with as a beginning foundation to build upon.

Jesus prayed this prayer to prepare himself mentally, physically, and spiritually for His crucifixion. <sup>9</sup>'Our Father, who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. <sup>14</sup> For if you forgive *other* people for their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive *other* people, then your Father will not forgive your offenses.

# "Now you know to wait, watch, continue in prayer, and repeat.

From this point forward, our new lifestyle should be to **Pray & Watch**, so we can live out the **Great Commandment and to faithfully spread the Great Commission.**"

# "It's Time To Experience Heaven On Earth," Unless You're A Schmuck!

<u>"Pray and Watch"</u> for God to open opportunities for us to share Christ with others, those "divine appointments" with people whose hearts He has already prepared to receive His truth through us. I believe the following verse expresses precisely what we are called to do. We must spread the truth of the Gospel; this is the **Great Commission**.

## Matthew 28: 19-20

19 **Go**, therefore, and <u>make disciples</u> of all the nations, <u>baptizing them</u> in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 <u>teaching</u> them to follow <u>all that I commanded you</u>; and behold, **I** am with you always, to the end of the age."

Sharing your personal testimony, how Jesus saved your life and the ways you have witnessed His work, is often more heartfelt and Spirit-led than any verse you memorize simply to recite. Allow the Holy Spirit to do the work. Your part is to pray, remain faithful, watch, and stay on the path He sets before you. The spirit will provide the gifts we need at the time we need them according to our father's mission, as we evangelize spreading the gospel.

Jesus also taught us the two **Greatest Commandments** to live by: To love God and to love your neighbor. **Love** is the central key within both divine commandments. It is fair to say that the way you love your neighbor reflects the way you love God. When we approach Scripture from any perspective other than love, we miss the very heart and purpose of all scripture.

We are all part of one human family—believers and non-believers alike. But for those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we are united as brothers and sisters in Christ.

As Christians, our lives should display Scripture through our actions even more than through our words. Each of us should have spiritual gifts, and when we join these gifts with other believers, we form the Body of Christ. Our unified witness becomes a light on a hill—so bright that others are drawn to follow by example, soon accepting Jesus as their savior.

This reflects the essence of the Sermon on the Mount. In that sermon, Jesus provides the only message that fully connects and clarifies both the Old and New Testaments. He teaches what true life is and how to live it well. Through His teaching, Jesus opened the door for the narrow gate, Allowing us to experience Heaven here on Earth. When we follow Jesus, He teaches us how to live and how to participate in Heaven on Earth.

In doing so, we begin to experience, and be prepared for life in God's Kingdom, even now.

This may sound unusual, but when we slow down and take time to pause, we gain the opportunity to truly absorb what Jesus is teaching. Through prayer, His message becomes clearer, and we begin to perceive what He means by Heaven on Earth. When Jesus declares that the Kingdom has arrived, pay close attention, because <u>He is announcing that Heaven is present in the here and now, and that He Himself has come dwelling within us.</u>

Therefore, our hearts should belong to the lacking, hungry, and thirsty people who search for righteousness and understand the need to show up for one another to fill the emptiness in others.

We are to help orphans, widows, immigrants, sick and the weak first, being they are the weakest members of the BODY of Christ. Those who choose not to live this way are acting unrighteously. This is why we are God's people. Only we can show the world how to live and how to experience Heaven on Earth by using prayer correctly to remain on our path of salvation.

Something equally important, you will now be able to guide others to carry their cross as a disciple of Jesus.

## "We All Know Spreading The Word of the Gospel Is Very Difficult"

Yes, I agree. Some individuals prefer to remain silent rather than confront an unbeliever's attitude toward Jesus. However, an important question arises: How will you explain that choice to Jesus?

#### Matthew 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

I am aware that this observation may appear daring, but when we stand before Jesus, do we truly believe He desires to hear our excuses regarding the difficulty of spreading the Gospel?

It may be worthwhile to consider His perspective on spreading the gospel; He undoubtedly faced greater challenges. We should, perhaps, reflect on what Jesus' viewpoint would have been.

Remember, actions speak louder than words. As you read, contemplate the actions undertaken to glorify God.

Spreading the Gospel can be stressful for me and may invoke anguish when discussing Jesus with non-believers.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed fervently to the point of sweating blood;

a rare physiological condition known as hematidrosis, which occurs under extreme stress and anguish when capillaries burst.

I find it essential to have others support me in sharing the Gospel, as I often feel uncomfortable in confrontational situations.

When Jesus heard the soldiers approaching—led by Judas—He stood up, empowered by prayer and fully submitted to the Father's will. Jesus remained calm during the tumultuous events that unfolded. As soon as He was arrested, all His friends, the disciples, fled into darkness. Have you ever felt abandoned by a friend? Jesus experienced that profound sense of abandonment by all His companions.

What about the possibility of being judged by others? It really makes me fall apart inside trying to please everyone.

The guards marched Jesus into Jerusalem under cover of darkness. Over the subsequent hours, He endured six trials, three religious and three civil, each one illegal.

During these trials, He was mocked, slapped, and punched repeatedly. Yet, Jesus did not retaliate. Though He could have summoned lightning to obliterate His tormentors or called an army of angels from Heaven to rescue Him.

He chose instead to endure each punch, slap, and false accusation. Jesus was willing to bear whatever was necessary.

What if I am yelled at, made to feel uncomfortable, or viewed as eccentric, a crazy Christian, for spreading the Gospel of a man whom others cannot see? Such situations can swiftly escalate into uncomfortable confrontations.

After Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, handed Jesus over to be crucified, the real brutality began. Roman soldiers; masters of torture and execution; stripped Him of His clothing and likely chained Him to a stone pillar. They beat Him mercilessly with a Roman flagrum, a whip made of three to twelve strands of leather, interwoven with metal balls and sharp fragments designed to tear flesh down to the bone and muscle.

Imagine Jesus as He endured repeated blows, each one ripping pieces of skin, muscle, and tissue from His body. By the end of this ordeal, His back, buttocks, and legs would resemble bloody ribbons of flesh.

This beating was referred to as "the half death," as half of those subjected to it died. Yet, Jesus pushed forward; He had further trials to face.

The soldiers dressed Him in a purple robe, fashioned a crown of thorns from the Jerusalem thorn bush;

thorns up to three inches long and forcefully pressed it into His skull with a rod, also used to strike His face.

More than 700 years before Jesus' crucifixion, the prophet Isaiah foretold that the Son of God would be beaten beyond recognition.

The greatest fear I face in spreading the Gospel is the fear of rejection, which I find profoundly difficult to bear. The toll it takes on me, both physically and mentally, is significant.

Soon after, they led Him to Golgotha, the hill of the skull, just outside Jerusalem. There, the Roman soldiers stripped Him of His garments, forced Him onto a wooden cross, and drove nails through His wrists.

Had the nails been driven through His hands, His body weight would have caused them to tear through His hands, leading Him to fall from the cross. However, by piercing the wrists, the bones connecting the wrist to the hand prevented this.

Before driving the nail through His feet, the soldiers bent His legs at the knees, placing one foot flat against the vertical beam, positioning the other foot on top, and driving a single nail through both. When the cross was raised, Jesus' weight caused him to start slumping by, placing all His weight on the nails through His wrists, which compressed His lungs.

To breathe, Jesus had to push his body upward using his staked legs. Each breath required him to lift his severely beaten, exposed body, causing it to rub against the rough surface of the cross. Every movement was agonizing and made drawing air increasingly difficult. Having to repeat this motion over and over to continue breathing.

<u>Do we have any reason left that may prevent us</u> <u>from spreading the Gospel?</u>

## "If I Can See It, I can do it, I Believe I Can Evangelize!"

Many Christians view evangelism as a daunting task. Thoughts may race through your mind: What should I say? Which direction should I walk to find someone? Who should I approach? Once I am ready, what should I say first? How should the conversation flow until I mention Jesus?

These questions and concerns can be overwhelming. The core issue lies in relying solely on oneself. In many situations, the simplest answers can be the hardest to grasp.

Evangelism is fundamentally straightforward, yet for some, it can transform into a source of stress as they attempt to discover the best way to share the Gospel.

Perhaps this anxiety arises from a lack of understanding regarding the good news we have to share. There are two key messages: First, Jesus is our Savior! Second, Jesus found you; it may seem that you have found Him.

So, what is the obstacle? Why do we find it so difficult to share the message of Jesus with unbelievers? I believe the answer often lies in our approach to the Bible. We may feel the need to fully understand the Gospel's instruction manual before discussing it, believing that we must diligently study in order to pass a test. From a young age, we are conditioned to learn and educate ourselves, whether through hobbies or fun activities. As a result, until we feel adequately prepared, we may simply attend church, take notes, and wait. Unfortunately, this mentality can hinder our spiritual communication with our Father; we may not be truly listening.

Jesus never instructed us to become experts before sharing the Gospel. Furthermore, the good news is not solely our own to share yet; it is the good news that Jesus purchased with everything He had. Therefore, we should communicate His story in His way. But isn't that what reading the Bible is for? No, absolutely not. Sharing Jesus' story with any person at any time is not a mathematical process of collecting words or spiritual knowledge to provide the correct answer that leads others to Him. This is where the stress arises from attempting the impossible. Please let me know when you or your Pastor became wiser than the Holy Spirit. Jesus has equipped us with His Spirit to guide and supply what we need to fulfill His mission. We simply need to have faith. The Holy Spirit will lead us and provide the necessary actions to find and engage with future believers.

The second aspect of the good news that you can share is how Jesus found you. We should cherish the moments when Jesus reached out to reassure us of His presence. Interestingly, this aspect is not found in the Bible either—unless, of course, your story has been included. If not, your unique story can only be expressed by you when you share the love that Jesus has shown you and the blessings you have received that align with His desires. When someone experiences the heartfelt words you share, no scripture can match the spiritual connection that will be formed.

We have now overcome two significant milestones. We now understand that.

The Spirit speaks on our behalf, guiding us in sharing the message of Jesus as He would convey it, provided that we remain attentive to the Spirit. When we express our own message it originates from our hearts, infused with Jesus' love, and reflects how His presence has touched and transformed our lives.

Both actions are quite straightforward. Simply pray for your free will to be aligned with Jesus' desires, and then remain alert for the signs. The Spirit will take the lead; that is His role. Our responsibility is to follow. There is no need for extensive reading, I truly believe that slows the process down making it overwhelming to even try to evangelize, giving up before you even start to spread the Gospel.

### Perhaps another widespread trick by satan to steal generations of salvations.

Evangelizing is essentially the "flip-flop" of what occurred before we were saved. We once lived in sin, then walked through humility and repentance to receive salvation. Now, we take those same experiences and abilities and turn them around—using them to share the gospel with people who are walking the same path we once walked as unsaved sinners, helping lead them to Jesus for salvation.

Paul is a powerful example of this. Before his conversion, he hunted, beat, imprisoned, and even killed Christians, openly opposing Jesus.

After he was saved, Paul faced the very hardships he once inflicted—he was hunted, beaten, jailed, and even left for dead. Yet through all of this, God used Paul's past to strengthen his ministry and to help him reach others for Christ. His transformation became one of his greatest tools for evangelism.

If you are seeking direction in how to evangelize, consider the "flip-flop." Let God use the story of who you were to reach those who are where you once were to win others over returning them back to Jesus.

# "Are Your Last Words Prayer?"

Often called the "Seven Last Sayings of Christ." And consider this: before dying, most people speak only about what truly matters to them. We all tend to express the most important truths and leave behind our deepest thoughts before dying.

Shouldn't we take seriously the things Jesus emphasized most as He prepared to leave this world?

What will be your ending thoughts right before you depart?

1. "Father, forgive them..."

Luke 23:34

2. Promise to the repentant thief

Luke 23:43

3. Care for His mother

John 19:26-27

4. Cry of abandonment

Matthew 27:46

Mark 15:34

5. Expression of suffering

John 19:28

6. Declaration of completion

John 19:30

7. Final act of trust

Luke 23:46

8.

### "Conclusion"

By now, you should clearly understand why we may or may not recognize our Father's voice in prayer.

At first, I set out to write a prayer book to discover how we can know Jesus' answers to our prayers and how to identify that those answers truly come from Him and no one else. During the in-depth review, my focus remained on prayer—its "do's and don'ts," and how these elements compare or contrast with other teachings. It was not until the very end, when I believed the work was complete, that I realized something important:

there were missing elements needed to support a true understanding of prayer.

As I neared completion, it became clear that prayer is the center of everything. The deeper I studied prayer, the more it opened a new perspective—a perspective seen through the eyes of Jesus. We all strive to be Christlike and desire to do what Jesus would do, but this process allowed me to see and feel the journey of Jesus' life in a new way.

When prayer is fully understood, it enlightens the believer. It opens the door to walking with Jesus through ongoing communication that builds faith. Though prayer is constantly available to us, it is often overlooked until it feels distant. We all know what life is like without Jesus, but do we truly know what life is like when Jesus is actively guiding our steps, strengthening our walk, and rewarding our obedience to His desires—which are, in fact, His commands?

Spiritual adultery occurs when we divide our devotion and choose the world over the One who gave everything for us. Satan has spent a lifetime studying humanity, working tirelessly to sabotage our salvation. This is why Jesus describes the narrow gate—not because God desires to keep us out, but because we spend countless hours separated from Him, consumed with worldly distractions. Yet Jesus continues to guide, provide, and hear us. Our prayers are not limited to specific moments;

they are formed through every thought, every step, and every intention of the heart. Therefore, we must learn to watch patiently, trusting His timing rather than forcing our own.

It is no surprise that Satan is cunning. He has spent nearly 2,000 years manipulating and distorting the church using the same strategies he employed with Adam and Eve. Jesus knew we were no match for Satan, which is why He came to earth and defeated him through the crucifixion. Satan targets our hearts and minds because if he can disrupt our communication with God, he can weaken our defenses. Yet we were created to stand firm, resist, and overcome through the power of Christ.

The "flip-flop effect" reminds us that our confusion about whether God hears us is often revealed by the intensity of Satan's attacks. The armor of God has no backplate for a reason—there is no room to retreat. The enemy strikes the mind and heart repeatedly, attempting to lure us into spiritual instability by reacting without faith and repeating the same sins.

Prayer becomes truly powerful only when faith is activated. Faith turns empty words into spiritual force. Scripture shows repeatedly that prayer is a weapon—a divine tool for spiritual warfare. Because of this, Scripture must serve as the blueprint for how we pray.

Our prayers should be shaped by God's Word, anchored in His promises, and aligned with His heart.

It is also important to remember the significance of anointing. Many assume anointing is less important today because Jesus is no longer physically present. But He lives in us through the Holy Spirit, making anointing just as vital now as it was then. Anointing symbolizes consecration, empowerment, and God's covering over our lives.

A mature prayer life requires surrender. We must pray for God's will to replace our own so our prayers are not driven by selfish desires. When we insist on forcing doors open, it is a clear sign that those desires are not aligned with God's. His timing and direction bring clarity; our impatience brings confusion. Prayer must not only be spoken—it must be lived. Our actions should reflect the Scripture we proclaim. Our obedience should reveal the truths we pray.

In many churches, prayer is underemphasized simply because it is not fully understood. If we truly grasped prayer, we would not be so confused or uncertain when seeking answers from our Heavenly Father.

But we must not think for even a moment that Jesus died on the cross—bearing the weight of every sin and conquering satan,

so we could use prayer to decide between Yale or Harvard for our child. Prayer is meant for spiritual warfare, for salvation, and for aligning ourselves with God's mission. The degrees our children earn will not matter in eternity. The "degree" that matters is earning an A+ in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount—the only full-length sermon Jesus preached, and the one that teaches us how to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

We should know that sermon inside and out, like the back of our hand, and teach it faithfully to our families so that all of us have the best chance of entering heaven. Yes, we will fall short. Yes, we will struggle. Yes, the journey will be uphill. It will be a battle. We must wear our spiritual armor, know our commands, understand our approach, and be empowered by the Spirit.

The only way to remain spiritually ahead—to guard our salvation and resist Satan—is through constant prayer. Only then can we know our next steps. Jesus will give us everything we need through the Holy Spirit as long as we remain faithful to His desires and watch for the signs that align with His will—not ours, not our spouse's, not our children's, not our parents', not our siblings', not the flesh, and not the expectations of any church or pastor—but solely our Heavenly Father's mission. That is exactly what prayer is for. Now you're ready to hear our Heavenly Fathers voice!

# Holy Spirit's Gifts On Fire!

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GIFTS

If you ask most Christians, "Are you saved and going to Heaven?" they will often reply, "Yes, I believe in Jesus." Yet, this is precisely why Jesus said the gate is narrow. Scripture teaches that our works of faith are inspired by our faith itself. As Christians, we also understand that works without faith amount to nothing.

But how can we discern whether our works are inspired by the Holy Spirit, or merely by our own intentions?

When you accept Jesus, you are truly saved. However, if we fast forward to the second judgment—what then? There are no second chances. Our works of faith will be examined, and Jesus Himself will stand as our advocate before God......

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