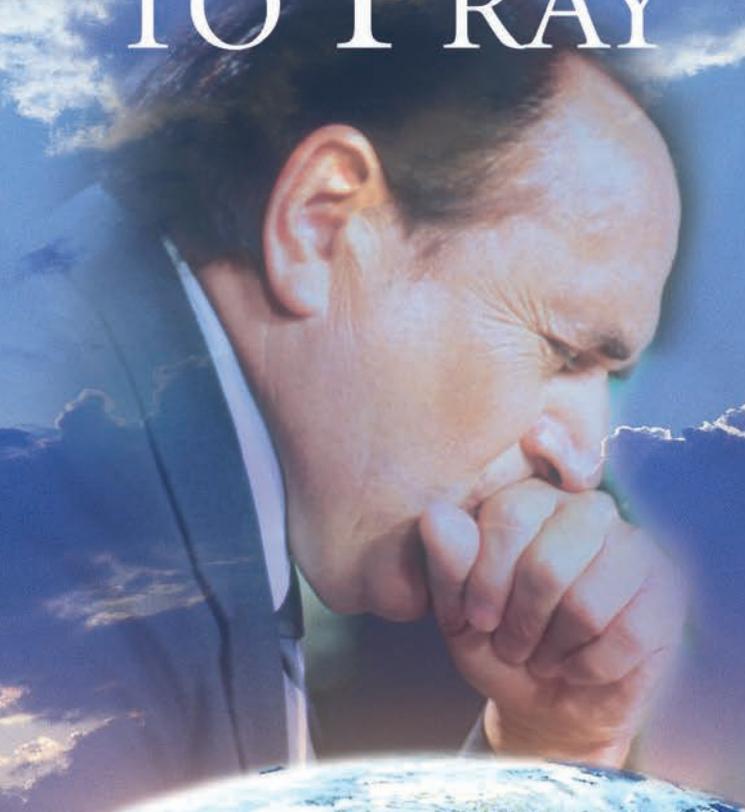




LORD,

TEACH US
TO PRAY



A PRAYER CLASSIC
MORRIS CERULLO

**LORD,
Teach Us to Pray**

Morris Cerullo



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Contents

Chapter One	
Beyond Ordinary Prayer	6
Chapter Two	
A Holy Summons	30
Chapter Three	
Break Open Your Alabaster Box	52
Chapter Four	
Christ’s Prayer Mandate	73
Chapter Five	
Prayer That Takes Hold Of The Impossible	98
Chapter Six	
Between The Porch And The Altar	126
Chapter Seven	
Christ, The Great Intercessor	149
Chapter Eight	
Throne Room Intercession	166

Chapter Nine
Our Divine Enabler.....181

Chapter Ten
Prayer Command Of Faith200

Chapter Eleven
Beyond Basic Training.....219

Chapter Twelve
Holy Wrestling.....239

Chapter Thirteen
Christ’s Seven-Fold High Priestly Prayer261

AFTERWORD
Morris Cerullo World Evangelism283

Chapter One

Beyond Ordinary Prayer

We are on a spiritual journey in the passionate pursuit of Christ, to learn how to pray in the same powerful, unlimited dimension He taught and demonstrated.

We know it is possible!

We know that Christ desires for us to live in a powerful, supernatural dimension of prayer, where nothing is impossible to us!

We are not satisfied with the status quo, or living below the full potential of the true power of prayer that Christ intended for His Church to possess!

The cry, welling up from deep inside our innermost beings is, *Lord, teach us to pray!*

Regardless of your current level of experience in prayer, Christ is calling you to rise up and join Him at His side, in strategic prayer and intercession that will result in entire cities, nations, and people groups being transformed by His power!

Are you ready and willing to move beyond ordinary prayer into this new strategic level of prayer?

How hungry are you for a fresh manifestation of His Presence?

How hungry are you to receive a fresh anointing and impartation of His Spirit?

Are you hungry enough to die to yourself and your dependence upon your natural mind and abilities?

The first thing you must be willing to do is lay aside all pre-conceived ideas, man-made traditions, and religious ideologies concerning prayer. These things will only weigh you down and

prevent you from advancing in the Spirit, to a new revelation and experience in prayer.

Prevailing prayer is God's ordained means for extending His Kingdom, for defeating Satan and his empire of darkness and evil, and for fulfilling God's eternal plan and bringing into effect His good will on earth.

Wesley L. Duewel

True prayer is much more than a formal repetition of eloquent words strung together to impress the hearers. It is more than just repeating or quoting prayers from a prayer book.

Prayer that moves the hand of God, to produce His will upon earth, is not based on the well-planned strategies developed by our natural minds.

In fact, true prayer transcends the limitations of our natural minds, because it is born of the Spirit.

Prayer itself, is an art that only the Holy Spirit can teach us. He is the giver of all prayer.

Charles Spurgeon

There are many great books and sermons on prayer. However, the best way to learn how to pray is to come alongside the Great Intercessor, Who lives to make intercession for us! We must look to the Holy Spirit, not only as our Teacher, but also our Divine Enabler, Who makes it possible to pray prayers that are motivated, directed, and divinely energized by Him.

Just as the disciples cried out to Jesus, *Lord, teach us to pray*, we must look carefully at what Jesus taught and demonstrated concerning prayer.

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples

said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Luke 11:1

More than likely, the only kind of prayer the disciples knew was the traditional prayers they learned from their worship in the synagogues, under the priests.

Imagine for a moment, being in the Presence of the Son of God and hearing Him pray. The atmosphere is electrified, as the windows of heaven open, and He begins to commune with His Father.

There is something different about His prayer. Unlike the priests standing in the synagogue reciting words, the words He speaks are alive and pulsate with life. The tone in which He speaks resonates with power.

One of the most outstanding things in Christ's life that the disciples closest to Him had observed was His life of prayer. Jesus lived in unbroken communion and fellowship with the Father. He would often rise while everyone was sleeping and slip away before daybreak to pray. One of His favorite places of prayer was the Mount of Olives. I can almost see Him there, kneeling under one of the olive trees, with His eyes lifted toward heaven, talking with the Father, listening to hear the Father's heart, and receiving His instruction.

Before every major event in His life, Christ spent time alone with the Father. He said, ... *The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise* (John 5:19).

The great victories Jesus experienced out on the "frontlines," as He ministered to the needs of the people—teaching, opening blind eyes, unstopping deaf ears, healing all manner of diseases, and raising the dead—were not automatic. They were won before He went out on the frontlines in prayer!

Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's infinite grace and power.

R.A. Torrey

Although He was the Son of God, Jesus did not win these victories in His own strength. He had stripped Himself of His divine abilities, and was subject to the same human limitations as you and me. He did absolutely nothing independent of the Father. None of the tremendous miracles and healings He did was automatic.

Everything Jesus did was a result of what the Father revealed to Him while He was in His Presence—while He was in prayer!

Before He went out onto the frontlines, Jesus spent time in His Father's Presence, where the Father revealed His will to Him. Through prayer, He penetrated the enemy lines, fought the battle, and won it!

BEFORE Jesus began His ministry, He spent 40 days in fasting and prayer, and returned in the ... *power of the Spirit into Galilee* (Luke 4:14).

BEFORE feeding the five thousand, by multiplying five loaves of bread and two fish, He went by boat out into a solitary place, where He prayed (Matthew 14:13).

BEFORE a great healing campaign in Gennesaret where people brought the sick to Him, Jesus went up on a mountainside by himself, where He prayed (Matthew 14:22-23).

BEFORE choosing the 12 apostles, Jesus ... *went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God* (Luke 6:12, NASB).

BEFORE He began His ministry throughout Galilee, where He preached and cast out demons, Jesus prayed. *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed* (Mark 1:35, NIV).

Beyond Ordinary Prayer

BEFORE He was arrested, beaten, mocked, and crucified, Jesus went into the garden of Gethsemane, where He wrestled and agonized in prayer (Matthew 26:36-46).

Before you take any steps that will affect your life or family, shouldn't you enter into spiritual warfare through prayer, penetrate the enemy lines, and win the battle?

Would you pray with mighty results? Seek the mighty workings of the Holy Spirit in your own spirit.

E. M Bounds

Now let us go back to Luke 11:1, where Jesus was praying and His disciples came to Him asking that He teach them how to pray.

As they listened to Jesus praying, it was so awesome that they could not stand by any longer and be content to just listen. I imagine hearing them cry out, "We want what you have! Lord Jesus, teach us how to pray. You are doing something we have never experienced before. We are hearing you touch heaven. We are hearing you in relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It's not just tradition, but what we are hearing is reality, and we want to know how to pray as you pray!"

PRAY "OUR FATHER ..."

In answer to their heart's cry, Jesus began to teach them how to pray with what we refer to as "The Lord's Prayer." This beautiful prayer is probably the most widely known and loved prayer ever prayed. Untold millions throughout the ages have repeated it. Books have been written about it. It has been sung in stately stained glass cathedrals and houses of worship of all denominations.

Jesus never intended for His prayer to become another traditional prayer, simply to be repeated as part of a liturgy.

In this prayer, He set forth a heavenly pattern upon which to base our prayers. One of the great truths from Jesus' prayer that I want

us to focus our attention on is that He broke through the traditional barriers, and for the first time, He taught them to acknowledge and pray to God as their Father.

Jesus said, *When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven* ... (Luke 11:2).

No longer was prayer to be just a form or ritual!

No longer was it to be relegated to vain repetitions, as it was with the heathen nations.

No longer was it to be a religious exercise to impress others.

Prayer was to be based upon a new revelation of recognizing and coming to the God of Israel as their Father!

A RADICAL NEW CONCEPT OF PRAYER

Jesus broke through the tradition and formalism of the religious leaders and Pharisees by teaching a radical new concept of prayer. In one of His first references to prayer, during His Sermon on the Mount, Christ taught the people to love their enemies and to pray for them. In fact, He taught praying for one's enemies as a natural response of those who are truly one of God's children.

Jesus said,

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:43-45, NIV

It is interesting to note that in His first references to prayer, He emphasized prayer that goes beyond the ordinary.

How often have you spent time in prayer for your enemies—those who stabbed you in the back, betrayed your confidence, lied about you, and hurt you deeply? In the average Christian's prayer experience, very little time, if any, is spent in prayer for their enemies. Yet, Jesus emphasized the importance of this type of prayer.

It is only as we give ourselves to the Spirit living and praying in us, that the glory of the prayer-hearing and most effective mediation of the Son can be made known by us in their power.

Andrew Murray

Notice what Jesus said: ... *pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven* (Matthew 5:44-45). In the natural, it is not difficult to pray for friends, family, and other Christians in need. But prayer for our enemies is not easy, and cannot be done in the natural, because it originates in the Father's heart. It involves His love and forgiveness, and those who are truly His sons and daughters, born of His Spirit, will follow His example.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

Not only through His words, but also through His example, Jesus taught that we must be willing to forgive and to pray for our enemies.

Jesus, the holy, pure, Son of God was despised, rejected, and betrayed, even by those closest to Him. He was falsely accused, spit upon, made a public spectacle of shame and disgrace, and nailed to a cross. Hanging there in pain and agony, He prayed the greatest prayer ever prayed: ... *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do ...* (Luke 23:34).

This prayer, falling from the lips of the Son of God, ascended unto the Father, Who heard His cry, received the sacrifice of His

life's blood, and responded by extending to man the priceless gift of salvation.

His prayer transcended every natural limitation. It was not ordinary prayer.

It has transcended time.

As a result of that one prayer, countless multitudes throughout the ages stand acquitted, forgiven, and restored into fellowship with God as their Father.

Lord, teach us to pray! Teach us to go beyond ordinary prayer, to love our enemies, to forgive and to pray for them as you have taught us through your Word and through your example as our Great Intercessor.

BEYOND HEAD KNOWLEDGE AND TRADITION

Prayer is 'the breathing of a soul inflamed for God, and inflamed for humanity.'

E. M. Bounds

True prayer must be from the heart. It is not just the words or phrases a person repeats as a mere routine or formality. It involves coming before God, as our Father, with our hearts—our entire beings—in an attitude of humble submission. God requires our whole heart! In His dealings with the children of Israel, He spoke through the Prophet Jeremiah, *And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart* (Jeremiah 29:13).

Jesus exposed the hypocrisy and religious tradition of those who prayed in the synagogues and street corners to be seen of men. He called the Pharisees hypocrites:

*You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you:
'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart*

is far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men'”

Matthew 15:7-9, NASB

We must be careful not to become bound by religion or the traditions taught by men. There are many Christians sitting in our churches who pray on a regular basis. The words coming out of their mouths are what they have learned, but the words are empty and hollow because they are coming from their heads, not from their hearts.

To go beyond ordinary prayer, we cannot be content with head knowledge or religious tradition. The cry of our hearts must be, “Lord, break through the dead, dry tradition and formalism, and teach us how to pray as you prayed!”

The Pharisees were committed to, and preoccupied with, strict adherence to the Law and the oral tradition, with its rules for interpreting the Law, purification rites, and man-made laws handed down by their fathers. With minute attention to detail, they observed all the sacred times laid down by God. They gave tithes of all they possessed and fasted twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays. They were doing all the right things, but they were so bound by tradition that they did not really know God, and could not receive the truths Christ spoke to them.

Their understanding of God was primarily as the Law-giver, and their pre-occupation with strictly fulfilling His commands became an end in itself. When they went to the Temple to pray, their prayers were formal and legalistic. And, they went there to be seen and heard of men, not to meet with God.

Public prayers were offered daily in the synagogue that included the Shema, consisting of three passages from the Old Testament: Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Deuteronomy 11:13-21, and Numbers 15:37 and 41. The Shema was repeated both morning and evening with benedictions.

In addition, the Tephillah, or Eighteen Benedictions, was repeated three times a day. Much of this was incorporated into the Hebrew prayer book that is still used in Jewish synagogues today.

In sharp contrast to the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, Jesus broke through the rigid, formal tradition of man's religious forms, rituals, and concepts of prayer, and established it upon a relationship with the Father!

He taught the people the importance of shutting themselves away in a secret place to pray. Jesus said:

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 6:5-6, NIV

PRAYER, A LIVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER

No longer was God to be known as a Supreme Being, far removed in the heavens—inaccessible and unapproachable—but as a loving, heavenly Father, Who desires to live in intimate fellowship and communion with His children.

Throughout the ages, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Elijah, David, and the other Old Testament prophets and saints had directed their prayers to the One, true and living God, the all-powerful Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel. They knew Him as the Almighty God, Who revealed Himself with signs and wonders, rolled back the Red Sea, led them through the wilderness, rained down manna from heaven, caused the water to gush forth from the rock, rained down fire from

heaven, delivered them in the fiery furnace, shut the mouths of lions, and fought for and delivered them out of the hands of their enemies.

But, they did not have an intimate relationship with Him as their heavenly Father. None of the Old Testament saints ever prayed to Him as their Father.

Listen to their prayers:

Solomon prayed: *O Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing mercy and loving-kindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart* (1 Kings 8:23, AMPC).

Hezekiah cried unto the God of Israel: *LORD, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the Kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth* (2 Kings 19:15, NIV).

Elijah called upon the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. He prayed: *LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command* (1 Kings 18:36, NIV).

The Old Testament prophets and saints were unable to know God intimately, in a relationship as a Father, because the Holy Spirit had not yet been given. God promised that He would make a new covenant with Israel, and that He would place His Spirit within them. He said, *A new heart will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you* (Ezekiel 36:26, AMPC).

Under the New Covenant, Jesus came not only to redeem man from His sins, but to bring man into a new, intimate relationship with God. Six different times in His Sermon on the Mount, Christ emphasized prayer, based on a living relationship with the Almighty God of Israel, creator of the heavens and earth, as a Father.

Jesus said, ... *pray to your Father* (Matthew 6:6, AMPC); ... *your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you* (Matthew

6:6, NIV); ... *your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him* (Matthew 6:8, NASB); “*This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven ...* (Matthew 6:9, NIV).

BEYOND SELFISH PRAYERS

In Matthew 6:31-33, Jesus teaches us not to be concerned about the basic necessities of life—what to eat, what to drink, or how we will be clothed. He said, ... *for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*

In these verses, Jesus reveals our priority in prayer. Our major concern when we come before the Father is not to bombard Him with our needs. Yet, in the life of the average Christian, the majority of our prayer time is spent focusing on our immediate needs and the needs of our family. We often become so occupied with our urgent petitions that we forget that our Father sees and knows.

Jesus didn’t say these things aren’t important to the Father, or that we should not ask Him to meet our needs. He said that our Father already knows what we need before we even ask Him.

We must not allow our minds to become preoccupied or to worry about the basic necessities of life. Worry is sin, because at the root of it is really a lack of faith in the Father’s love and concern for us, or the fear that He will fail to meet our needs. When we pray, we do not need to try to compel an unwilling God to listen to us with the urgency of our words. As a loving, heavenly Father, He not only hears our prayers, but is just waiting for us to ask!

All that God is, and all that God has, is at the disposal of prayer.

R. A. Torrey

The key to having our needs met is found in Matthew 6:33. Jesus said, *But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.* When we know and

are confident in the Father's love for us, and know that He already is aware of our needs, we will set our focus upon seeking Him—seeking to know Him, seeking to be filled with His Presence and His righteousness. Our priority in prayer will be focused upon the Father, and seeing that His will and plan is fulfilled in our lives and upon the earth.

In Matthew, 7:7-11, Jesus again stresses the fact that when we come to God in prayer, we are to come as a loving, trusting child – asking in confidence, knowing that our Father will give us whatever we ask. Jesus said: *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?* (Matthew 7:11).

GOD'S UNIVERSAL LAW CONCERNING PRAYER

God does nothing, but in answer to prayer.

John Wesley

In His teaching on prayer, Jesus taught God's universal law concerning prayer. He said. *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened* (Matthew 7:7-9).

Just as God has a universal law concerning giving in Luke 6:38, His universal law concerning prayer is found here in these verses. Everyone who asks in faith receives!

This law God has established is irrevocable! Knowing that God has bound Himself to His Word to answer prayer is the very basis and foundation for our prayers.

When we come to the Father, we must believe that we are going to receive, or we might as well not even ask! *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him* (Hebrews 11:6).

Too many times, when the answer does not come immediately, Christians are willing to resign themselves to the fact that their prayer was unanswered because it was not God's will. God's law is that everyone who asks in faith receives! We must continue to persevere in faith, and accept and believe His promise until we receive what we have asked.

Jesus said, "How much more will your Father give good gifts to those who ask him?" Our Father is a REWARDER of those who come to Him in faith. He will do all that He has promised, and far beyond anything we can ever imagine or ask. He will do *exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us* (Ephesians 3:20).

THE TRUE FOUNDATION AND BASIS OF PRAYER

To go beyond ordinary prayer, we must have a fresh revelation of God as our heavenly Father, Who desires to pour good things into our lives. He has provided everything we need, and is just waiting for us to ask. He is just looking for opportunities to manifest His power on behalf of His children. *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him* (II Chronicles 16:9). When we live in this intimate relationship with the Father, the prayer of faith and its answer will be the natural result!

Moses, who talked with God face-to-face and was known as a friend of God, did not have the privilege we have today of calling upon God as our Father! Elijah, who prayed and shut the heavens so that it did not rain for 3½ years, who prayed and opened the heavens, who prayed and God responded by sending fire from heaven, did not have the awesome relationship we have with God as our Father. David, who had an intimate relationship with God, and was known as a man after God's own heart, did not know Him as Father!

Today, through Christ, we have been restored into fellowship with Almighty God and enjoy the awesome privilege and blessing our spiritual forefathers did not have. Through prayer, we have intimacy with Him and call Him our Father!

To go beyond ordinary prayer and live in the powerful dimension of prayer that Jesus taught, you must come before the Father with your whole heart, and know Him intimately as your Father. This is the foundation and basis of all true prayer. Jesus said, *After this manner therefore praye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name* (Matthew 6:9).

True prayer—beyond ordinary prayer—is much more than asking God for things. It is a living, vital relationship with our heavenly Father. We must learn to come before Him with a childlike simplicity, in faith, trusting and knowing that He desires to pour into our lives all that we need.

Father, how we praise you for this glorious privilege of coming into Your Presence and knowing You intimately as our Father! As Your children, we want to pour out our love upon You, and to know You in the fullness of Your glory. We want to know Your Father's heart, to hear Your voice and to walk in obedience and intimate fellowship with You. Draw us near to Your heart so that we can learn how to live in unbroken communion and fellowship with You.

**PRAYER THAT REACHES THE FATHER
MUST BE IN THE SPIRIT!**

It is through Christ that we have divine access to the Father by the Spirit. *For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father* (Ephesians 2:18).

Paul, the great apostle of prayer, stressed that true prayer must originate in the Spirit. He said, *Pray at all times (on every*

occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people) (Ephesians 6:18, AMPC).

R. A. Torrey said, ***“The whole secret of prayer is found in those words, ‘in the Spirit!’”***

We are exhorted to pray *in the Holy Ghost*.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Jude 20

The first lesson you must learn in “Christ’s School of Prayer,” and the key to true power in prayer, is that your prayers must originate from the Holy Spirit.

God is a Spirit, not bound by time or space. The only way you can know Him is by His Spirit dwelling in you.

The Holy Spirit ushers you into the Father’s Presence. He is the One Who calls you to pray, teaches you to pray, guides you in your prayers, gives you faith, and strengthens you in your prayers.

To become mighty in prayer, you must be willing to go beyond ordinary prayer—beyond the limitations of your natural mind—and develop a total dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit can enable you to know the heartbeat of God, the priority of God, and the will of God, so that you can pray and see God’s results. True prayer is the Holy Spirit releasing the mind and will of the Father in us, and then giving the divine unction and utterance to speak the word of faith to accomplish it.

PRAYER – BEYOND NATURAL LIMITATIONS

The apostle Paul gives us a clear understanding of the vital role of the Holy Spirit and prayer:

Beyond Ordinary Prayer

So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance. And He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the [Holy] Spirit [what His intent is], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads [before God] in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will.

Romans 8:26-27, AMPC

To go beyond ordinary prayer, you must break through every natural barrier so that the Spirit inside you begins to pray.

Paul said we do not even know how or what to pray. We must stop trying to pray according to our natural understanding. The natural mind does not understand the things of the Spirit. *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned* (I Corinthians 2:14).

When the Spirit of God in you takes over and prays through you, you will always pray the will of God. And, you will always receive the answer!

If you would pray in faith, be sure to walk every day with God. If you do, He will tell you what to pray for. Be filled with His spirit and He will give you objects enough to pray for. He will give you as much of the spirit of prayer as you have strength of body to bear.

Charles Finney

Prayer prayed in and by the Spirit—that is prayed in the will of God—never goes unanswered!

The Holy Spirit living within us knows our infirmities. In the natural, we don't know how to pray. But when the Holy Spirit begins to take over, we go beyond ordinary prayer—beyond our capacity—and we enter a new dimension of prayer.

Paul said, ... *He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit [what His intent is], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads [before God] in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will* (Romans 8:27, AMPC).

We provide the vessel; the Holy Spirit does the interceding according to the will of God!

As I stated earlier, the Old Testament prophets and saints never prayed to God as their Father. They prayed to Jehovah. But now, because of our relationship with Christ, we are able to call Him our Father. Jesus said, *And when that time comes, you will ask nothing of Me [you will need to ask Me no questions]. I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that My Father will grant you whatever you ask in My Name [presenting all that I AM]* (John 16:23, AMPC).

And, because of the Holy Spirit living within us, we have the divine capability to go beyond our natural capacity—and the Holy Spirit, Who knows the mind of God, intercedes for us according to the mind and will of God!

We will go more in-depth into the strategic role of the Holy Spirit, and how to pray prayers that are divinely charged and energized by the Spirit, in chapter nine.

In your pursuit of learning how to pray in the powerful dimension of prayer Christ intended for His Church—not ordinary praying—you must seek to be filled and under full control of the Holy Spirit. The more you surrender your life to Christ and die to self, the more you give room for the Holy Spirit to work in you and release His power through you.

The Father yearns and is searching for those whom He can use in prayer to accomplish His will in this end-time hour.

Will you respond to the wooing of His Spirit?

Will you empty yourself and allow the Holy Spirit to flow through you in an unprecedented measure?

You can remain at the level of ordinary prayer, or you can determine that you will rise to a new level of prayer that goes beyond your ordinary capacity—beyond your natural mind and all the things you have learned, beyond your thoughts—and become a vessel that the Holy Spirit can pray through.

When the Holy Spirit prays through you, it is the only time when the answers will be manifested 100% of the time, because it is not ordinary praying.

Only when our prayers are divinely energized by the Holy Spirit do prayer breakthroughs really happen, and we take possession of God's promises.

TRUE PRAYER IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT

One of the first things Jesus taught was that God is a spirit!

As He was traveling through Samaria, Jesus met a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. In this familiar story is a major key in knowing the secret of how to pray.

Jesus was weary from His journey and sat down at the well. His disciples had gone into the city to buy something to eat.

As He sat there, the Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. This was not a chance meeting that day, but a divine appointment that would forever change her spiritual destiny. Through the encounter this woman would have with Christ, many Samaritans would come to receive Him as their Messiah and Savior.

Jesus said to the woman, ... *Give me to drink* (John 4:7).

The woman was no doubt shocked that Jesus had even spoken to her, because Samaritans were despised by the Jews.

Fixing her eyes on Jesus, the woman asked, “*How is that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?*” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans) (John 4:9, NASB).

Sitting before her was the promised Messiah, the Son of God, but she did not even know it.

Jesus replied, “If you only knew who you were talking to, who I am, you would have asked me to give you a drink of living water.” (John 4:10).

The woman still did not understand who Jesus was or what He meant. She was limited by her natural mind. She saw He didn’t have a bucket with which to draw water and said, “Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water?” (John 4:11).

Jesus wasn’t talking about natural water, but the living water of the Holy Spirit. He said concerning the natural water in the well:

*Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:
But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give
him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give
him shall be in him a well of water springing up into
everlasting life.*

John 4:13-14

The water Jesus was talking about was the Holy Spirit that He was going to send. The living water of the Holy Spirit would flow out of those who received Him like a mighty river!

What about you? Are you thirsty?

Do you want a fresh drink of that living water so that you will be able to worship and pray in the power of His Spirit?

Beyond Ordinary Prayer

This is an hour when the Father is looking for those who are crying out for Him. He is seeking those who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth. By faith, cry out to Him now and allow Him to breathe His Spirit upon you and release a fresh anointing into your life.

How hungry are you for God? How much of a longing do you have inside your being for God?

The best music in the world cannot quench the thirst you have for God. Even reading the Word cannot quench the thirst you have in your soul for more of God.

There is only one thing that quenches the thirst and hunger that you have in your heart. It is when you commune with Him in prayer. Nothing else satisfies, quenches the thirst, and fills the void.

The beautiful song, *Breathe*, expresses this hunger so beautifully:

*This is the air I breathe, Your Holy Presence living
in me. This is my daily bread,
Your very Word spoken to me. I'm desperate for You
... I'm lost without You.*

Jesus broke through the outward form and religious barriers concerning worship and communion with the Father. The Samaritan woman, perceiving He was a prophet, wanted to know the correct place to worship.

She was concerned with the outward formalities of prayer.

Christ was concerned with the inner workings of the Spirit in prayer. The Samaritans worshipped the God of Israel, but had erected a Temple on Mount Gerizim, in competition with the Temple that God established in Jerusalem. She was bound by tradition. She said, *Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship* (John 4:20).

Jesus said:

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:23-24, NASB

In other words, the hour had come when true worship would no longer be in the ceremonial observances of the Mosaic Law, or in the importance of the place of worship, but true worship would be based upon worship and communion with the Father in the Spirit!

A DIVINE LINK TO THE FATHER

There are Christians today who pray, but they barely know what they are asking for. They pray earnestly, but receive little. They have not learned how to worship and commune with God in Spirit and in truth.

The only way we will be able to reach the heart of the Father in prayer is by His Spirit. The Father has given us the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of adoption, whereby we are able to cry, *Abba, Father.*

The apostle Paul said:

For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father) Father! The Spirit Himself [thus] testifies together with our own spirit, [assuring us] that we are children of God.

Romans 8:15-16, AMPC

The Spirit of God in us is a divine link between the Father and us. By His Spirit we are able to know Him, to know His heart, to live in continual communion with Him.

We must realize that true prayer is not based upon a formula. It is not based on the stirring of our emotions, or just going through some spiritual exercise.

It involves our spirits reaching up, by the power of the Holy Spirit He has placed within us, to commune with the Father.

True prayer is not relegated to a specific time or place. It is a way of life, and should encompass every area of our lives. It goes beyond all natural limitations, and is the highest and holiest work to which man can arise.

The extent of the abiding is the exact measure of the power of prayer. It is the Spirit dwelling within us that prays, not in words and thoughts always, but in a breathing and a being, deeper than utterance.

Andrew Murray

Through Spirit-directed and empowered prayer, we take possession of our spiritual inheritance, and have the privilege of working together with the Father to bring His will to pass on the earth.

In chapter two, we will continue our journey in learning how to go beyond ordinary prayer into the powerful, supernatural dimension of the Spirit, to pray prayers that move the hand of God. We will look closely at the single most important aspect of prayer that positions us spiritually to take hold of all that God planned for His Church to receive.

It is my prayer that your heart will begin to beat with greater fervency and passion for the Father. I pray that you will cry out to Him and wait before Him, in His Presence, until you are so saturated and empowered by His Spirit that your prayers will be fervent, on fire and straight from the Father's heart to fulfill His will.

Father, thank you for placing Your Spirit within us, giving us divine access to Your throne. We submit ourselves fully into Your hands. Holy Spirit, have full control in our lives! Teach us to pray! Reveal to us the Father's heart, His will, and His vision for our lives, families, cities, and nations. Father, impart to us divine ability to pray prayers that will release Your power and anointing to bring salvation, healing, and deliverance. Anoint us to pray prayers that will result in Satan's strongholds being destroyed, and Your Kingdom and will being established in every nation.

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