

The background of the cover is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, there is a dense line of evergreen trees. Behind them, rolling hills and mountains are visible, some with patches of forest. The sky is a mix of light blue and white, suggesting a clear or slightly hazy day. The overall tone is peaceful and natural.

**REWARDS
AND NEEDS
OF
PRAYER
AND JESUS**

BY WILLIAM R. HUNT

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of
Prayer and Jesus**

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The author gives thanks to Shawna J. Wright
for taking time out of her busy schedule
to edit this little booklet.

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Author's Purpose

My purpose for writing this booklet is to help motivate people to be prayer warriors and have a love relationship with both Christ and His Word. Lord, teach me and all who read this booklet to pray with the intention of glorifying the Trinity. The church as a whole is in crisis, and many people are unaware of it. That is due partly to the lack of prayer warriors. But God is not surprised. He is still the Pilot of the “prayer ship.” He has the wisdom and knowledge to pilot the ship through the crisis.

This booklet on prayer is dedicated to Elaine—my wife for sixty-nine years, and my sweetheart for seventy. Elaine did not like to pray in public, but she knew how to pray in private for her family and for her and her husband's ministry—especially that the Lord would give them souls for the glory of Christ. Once, Elaine was facing around twelve hours of cancer surgery prep. The night before, I heard her praying for God to give us both souls. She prayed this prayer while asleep, as she would sometimes do.

Elaine and I had devotions together most nights right up to the time she went home to be with her Lord. One night a few weeks before her death, she followed me in prayer. Parkinson's disease wreaked havoc on her brain, and this short prayer took her ten to fifteen minutes. She would stop speaking for a bit, then she would pick up and start again where she had stopped. On this particular night, that happened a number of times, so I wrote my sweetheart's prayer down so you might know what her heart was fixed upon. She said, "Lord, I am so tired. I don't know where we are at, but I know You know. I don't know where we will stop and stay all night, but You do. Lord, we will need You tomorrow." *I knew that in her mind we were still traveling as field representatives for Kansas City College and Bible School.*

Here are Elaine's notes on prayer from the Lord's teaching on prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

Characteristics of the pattern of this prayer.

It defines the spirit in which we should pray.

- a: an unselfish spirit (Our)
- b: a filial spirit (Father)
- c: a reverent spirit (Hallowed be Thy name)
- d: a loyal spirit (Thy kingdom come)
- e: a submissive spirit (Thy will be done)
- f: a dependent spirit (Give us this day our daily bread)
- g: a penitent spirit (Forgive us our debts)
- h: a humble spirit (Do not lead us into temptation)

The spirit in which we pray is more important than the words.

It is brief yet—.

(End of Elaine's notes.)

You choose whatever word you want to use after "yet."

The Priority of Prayer

When it comes to prayer, God exhorts us to “ask to be taught to pray.” His further instructions include the following statements:

- “Continue instant in prayer.”
- “Take ye heed, watch and pray.”
- “Pray always.”
- “Pray without ceasing.”
- “I will therefore that men pray every where.”
- “Pray one for another.”
- “This kind goeth not out but by prayer.”
- “My house shall be called the house of prayer.”
- “Whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer.”
- “Give ourselves continually to prayer.”
- “Give yourselves to fasting and prayer.”
- “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.”
- “Supplications and prayers night and day.”
- “His ears are open to their prayers.”

Dependent Prayer

Prayer is the language of dependency. One of the cries of God's heart is that people become like little children. Little children are totally dependent on their parents. Jesus said, "Verily [truly] I say unto you, Except [unless] ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

There are different types of prayer:

1. A prayer of faith (James 5:15).
2. A prayer of supplication—a humble and earnest prayer; a request. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Philippians 4:6).
3. A prayer for growth. "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him" (Ephesians 1:17).

Examples in Scripture

There are over six hundred prayers listed in the Bible. There are also a great number of answers to prayers. Every student of the Bible knows these two men were great men of prayer—Abraham (Genesis 18:23-32) and Moses (Exodus 32:8-11—his prayer concerning the sin of the molten calf). The LORD said unto Moses, “I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name” (Exodus 33:17). These two examples are sufficient, but some other men who could have been mentioned are David, Jeremiah, Daniel, Habakkuk, and Paul. The twelve apostles and the Holy Spirit considered prayer a necessity for the ongoing of the church. It is written, “It is not reasonable that we [the apostles] should leave the word of God, and serve tables. . . . **But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word**” (Acts 6:2-4).

Elijah's Example

Jesus taught that men ought to pray. Well over five hundred verses refer to prayer using different words—**call** upon the Lord, pray, prayer, etc. God has given all men access to the throne of God through prayer. James uses Elijah as an example of the power of prayer. Elijah, the man of prayer, knew fear (1 Kings 19:2-4). He knew discouragement (verse 4). He knew depression or despondency (verse 4). Elijah was an ordinary person like you and me. One day, he led a whole nation in repentance, and the next thing we read is that he fled to save his life. He was discouraged and gave up all hope for Jehovah's cause. He said, "O Lord, take away my life." Yet Elijah is set forth as an example to us as a great man of prayer. Study chapters seventeen and eighteen of 1 Kings. They reveal the weaknesses and the strengths of humanity as well as the ability to be a man of prayer and be accepted to stand before God.

Elijah's Loyalty

In 1 Kings chapters 17-19, God gives us more about this man of prayer named Elijah. He was loyal to his God and God's kingdom. When the leaders of Israel led the people away from God, Elijah went to seek out the presence of God. The Bible is silent on how long Elijah prayed before he was invited to stand before the LORD. But after standing before Him, Elijah became God's messenger, called to execute the judgment of God upon King Ahab and Israel. Listen to Elijah's words: "There shall not be dew or rain these years, but according to my word" (James 5:17, 18). Verse 17 tells us that Elijah was a person just like you and me. Loyalty to God is one of the foundation blocks of total confidence in God and the power of prayer.

Provisions

God gives us an encouraging account of His care for men of prayer when they become discouraged or despondent. After Elijah had exhausted himself due to his despondency, he lay under a juniper tree and slept. He had escaped from Jezebel, but not from God. God sent an angel to touch Elijah and say, “Arise and eat.” After Elijah awoke, he looked and there was a cake baked on coals, and a cruse of water to drink. Elijah ate and drank. Then, he laid back down again (1 Kings 19:5, 6). Oh, how compassionate and loving God was to this great man of prayer! In this situation, God didn’t send a raven to provide food, or a brook to provide water, for this man of prayer. God sent an angel to Elijah when he became discouraged and despondent. I would like to confirm that God will furnish all needed provisions for men of prayer.

No Complaints

1 Kings 17:3-11 reveals that Elijah's prayer cost him the comforts of life. He was in hiding—isolated from people, and fed by ravens. His diet consisted of bread and meat. Every morning and evening for a year or two, he ate the same food. How would you like the same food for every meal for one or two years? (When my wife Elaine and I were first married, we ate cooked dry beans for breakfast, dinner, and supper every day for about three months. At the end of that time, I thought I would never eat another cooked dry bean!!!) Elijah's water source was the brook or creek. When that brook dried up, the Lord told him it was time to move. God sent Elijah to a widow's home (v. 10). The first two things Elijah asked her for were fresh water and a morsel of bread. There is no account of Elijah's complaining concerning God's provision. Elijah remained loyal to God under difficult circumstances.

God's Voice

1 Kings 19 reveals to us that Elijah, a man of prayer, had a nature just like ours. Though he was fearful and hiding in a cave to escape Jezebel, his relationship with God was up to date. The Lord came to where Elijah was hiding, and revealed Himself—not by a strong wind, earthquake, or fire, but by a still (quiet, calm), small (a very little thing) voice (audible). In John 10:3-5 we read that Jesus said, “My sheep know my voice.” Men of God have always known God’s voice: Exodus 33:12-14; Jeremiah 1:3-7; Job 42:1-7; and Hosea 1:2, 3. The Lord Jesus desires a relationship with you so intimate that His voice is your joy (John 15:1-7). Yes, Elijah, a man of prayer, knew the voice of his God, and so can you.

Answers for Elijah

Elijah, the man of prayer, knew fear, discouragement, depression, and despondency, and he lost his focus. But he also knew God's voice. He lived on provisions provided by God, and did not complain. He knew what it meant to stand before the LORD. He had confidence that God would use him and answer his prayers. We can read about some of Elijah's answered prayers in 1 Kings—drought (17:1); meal and oil multiplied (17:14); a child restored to life (17:21, 22); a sacrifice consumed by fire (18:38); and rain (18:45). We find an account in 2 Kings 1:10 of captains and men slain by fire. Place all your confidence in Christ. Live a life of prayer. Christ rejoices in men of prayer.

Why Should Parents Pray?—1

Rich and precious gifts are usually highly treasured and well-secured. Often the value of a treasured gift is determined by the giver. The Bible teaches clearly that children are a gift from Him who created all things that are “in heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Colossians 1:16, 17). In these verses, Paul spoke of the Lord Jesus as Creator; but in 1 Timothy, Paul spoke of Jesus Christ as the King of kings and Lord of lords. The writer of Revelation informs us in Revelation 19:16 that Christ has “on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Parents, when you pray for your children, pray in Christ’s name to the Father.

Why Should Parents Pray?—2

From the time of Adam and Eve, men and women have recognized children as a gift from God. When Eve gave birth to Cain, she gave the Lord the credit. In Genesis 33:5, Jacob spoke of the children God had graciously given him. In Genesis 48:9, Joseph said to his father, “They are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place.” In Joshua 24:3, the Lord spoke through Joshua and said, “I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.” The writer of Psalm 127:3 said, “Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD. . . .” The Lord recorded this in Ezekiel 18:4, “Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.” Parents have been entrusted by the King of kings with His heritage. Oh, the responsibility given to parents!

Why Should Parents Pray?—3

We have concluded that children are gifts from a mighty King, and therefore very precious. The King of kings and Lord of lords not only gave parents precious gifts, but also instructions—by example and written word—and many great promises for these wonderful gifts. In Job 1:5, we read that after each feast, Job would send for his children and perform a ceremony as a way of asking God to forgive them of any wrongs they may have done. It is recorded in Matthew 15 that a Gentile mother came to Christ asking for mercy. She asked the Lord to deliver her daughter from the grips of the devil. Christ did not respond to her cry, but she persisted in seeking His help. Finally, Christ answered, “O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.” Her daughter was made whole from that very hour. *This example shows parents that they should NOT GIVE UP. Keep praying until the answer comes!*

Why Should Parents Pray?—4

In Matthew 17, we read about a father who was enlisting the help of the disciples to cure his lunatic son, but they could not do it. When the father came into the presence of Christ, he knelt and asked the Lord to have mercy on his son. Jesus said, “Bring him here to me.” He then rebuked the devil, and the child was cured. *The cure did not come about until the father came to Christ with his request.* Parents should not disregard through either ignorance or ingratitude the confidence and responsibility given them by the King of kings and Lord of lords when He entrusted them with the gift of children, the heritage of the Lord.

Why Should Parents Pray?—5

Through God's written Word, He has given parents a motivation to pray for their children. We find exceeding great and precious promises in Scripture concerning our children. These promises should encourage every parent to pray for his children. In Isaiah 49:25, the Lord promises to help parents rescue their children from cruel and brutal enemies. Proverbs 8:32 states our children may be happy or blessed—"Blessed are they that keep my ways." The prayer of every parent should be for his children to be blessed or happy. Parents should rejoice in praying for their children when they realize what is written in Isaiah 66:8: "As soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children." Remember that God is no respecter of persons. If He will bring forth Zion's children, He will bring forth the children of praying parents.

Why Should Parents Pray?—6

Since 1972 the writer has claimed Psalm 128 for himself, his wife, and his children. Verses 3 and 4 tell us that the man is blessed who fears the Lord. He shall have a wife which shall be as a fruitful vine by the side of his house, and his children shall be like olive plants around his table. How can a man be fully and totally blessed if his children are traveling a path that does not lead toward heaven? For many years, the writer has prayed for the Lord to grant him the type of fear written about in Psalm 128. The writer recently saw evidence that the Lord is still keeping His promises. Praise His holy name!

Why Should Parents Pray?—7

About the year **1005 B.C.** King Solomon, the wisest man on earth, said, “Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according **to all that he promised:** there hath not **failed one word** of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant” (1 Kings 8:56). About **400 years** earlier, Joshua had voiced a similar idea: “Ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, **and not one thing hath failed thereof**” (Joshua 23:14). Based on the Bible and the words of both King Solomon and Joshua, I challenge each parent to ask the Lord to give you a Scripture to stand on in prayer when all appears hopeless for your children.

The Layman's Prayer Revival—1

Author Unknown

Hell Corner, New Hampshire was a stronghold of sin. The Layman's Prayer Revival sweeping all over America invaded this wicked village, and turned some hardened sinners to God. America's moral recovery was under way. In 1858, in great cities and small towns all over America, people were assembling every night for prayer. In fact, you could travel by horse and buggy from Omaha, Nebraska to Washington, D.C., and expect to find churches packed for prayer wherever you might stop for the night. This prayer movement began in the fall of 1857, and was known as the Layman's Prayer Revival because there were businessmen (rather than ministers) who were leading.

The Layman's Prayer Revival—2

This movement of prayer invaded even the village of Hell Corner, New Hampshire. Prayer, of course, was unheard of in this stronghold of sin. However, one day a man unleashed a volley of profanity so outrageous that even the citizens of Hell Corner were shocked. Jokingly, somebody said, "We need a prayer meeting here in Hell Corner." To everyone's amazement, plans got underway for a village prayer meeting. Finding someone to lead it proved to be quite a challenge. One notorious backslider tried to lead, but he broke down while praying. So they went to a nearby town and found a deacon who came to lead a prayer meeting in this citadel of evil. God answered prayer, and four hardened men became Christians. Soon prayer gave birth to a group of godly believers, proving that the gates of hell cannot prevail against the fervent prayers of people who trust the Almighty.

The Layman's Prayer Revival—3

This prayer movement had its roots in 1856 when a Methodist named William Arthur published a book of fiery sermons which closed with a prayer pleading with God to “Crown this nineteenth century with a revival of pure and undefiled religion . . . greater than any demonstration of the Spirit ever vouchsafed to man.” His prayer was answered when the greatest revival in American history began the next year.

Before the prayer awakening, there was a major spiritual decline. Churches were sliding downhill. Thousands of Americans were disillusioned with Christianity. William Miller, a New England farmer, had captured nationwide attention with his prediction that Christ would return on October 22, 1844. When nothing happened, many abandoned their faith.

The Layman's Prayer Revival—4

American's moral recovery began when Jeremiah Lanphier, a concerned layman, started a noon prayer meeting for New York businessmen. Only six people came to the first prayer meeting on September 23, 1857 on the third floor of the "Consistory" of the Old Dutch Reformed Church on Fulton Street. By spring, daily prayer meetings sprang up in many locations, and daily attendance grew to 10,000. America's greatest spiritual awakening was underway. During the Layman's Prayer Revival, the owner of a hardware store in New York urged businessmen at the Fulton Street prayer meeting to always set a holy example. A well-known manufacturer followed him to his store, and confessed that he had cheated him for years, and wanted to pay back all he had stolen.

The Layman's Prayer Revival—5

When the news spread that there were daily prayer meetings where sinners were welcomed, prayed for, and encouraged to turn to Christ, some hardened criminals were saved. A notorious criminal nicknamed “Awful Gardiner” surprised everyone when he found Christ through the prayer meetings. He was not alone. Hundreds of people who had always spent their nights in the gates of hell came to the prayer meetings that had begun in the evenings. Thousands forsook crime, and became devoted followers of Christ. Crime and vice drastically declined. Wealthy people generously helped the poor whom they regarded as their brothers and sisters.

The Layman's Prayer Revival—6

Ships coming into New York harbor came under the power of God's presence. On one ship, a captain and thirty men were converted to Christ before the ship docked. Four sailors knelt for prayer down in the depths of the battleship *North Carolina* anchored in the harbor. They began to sing, and their ungodly shipmates came running down to make fun, but the power of God gripped them, and they humbly knelt in repentance. "Do you have to stop business at noon, and go to a prayer meeting?" a customer from Albany asked a New York City merchant. "Yes, I must. Why don't you go with me?" The customer went with him, and received Christ. He returned to Albany, and started prayer meetings there.

The Layman's Prayer Revival—7

In March of 1858, a religious journal reported that “The large cities and towns from Maine to California are sharing in this great and glorious work. There is hardly a village or town to be found where ‘a special divine power’ does not appear displayed.”

In Chicago, 2,000 men met at noon for prayer in Metropolitan Hall. In Jayne's Hall in Philadelphia, 4,000 were meeting. An elderly philanthropist named John Crozer wrote in his diary, “I have never, I think, been present at a more stirring and edifying prayer meeting, the room quite full, and a divine influence seemed manifest. Many hearts melted, many souls devoutly engaged.” In December of 1857 in Utica, New York, attendance at a weekly union prayer meeting increased so rapidly that by the third meeting the main floor and the balcony of the First Presbyterian Church were filled with deeply burdened people. Then daily prayer meetings started each morning.

The Layman's Prayer Revival—8

One night when Dr. John L. Girardeaux dismissed the prayer meeting for spiritual awakening at Anson Street Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina, no one left. The congregation stayed until midnight while the Lord powerfully worked. Eight weeks of nightly meetings followed, reaching crowds numbering from 1,500 to 2,000. Many turned to the Lord. The *New York Observer* published a report from Waco, Texas of a mighty moving of God. "Day and night the church has been crowded during the meeting. . . . Never before in Texas have we seen a whole community so effectively under a religious influence . . . thoroughly regenerated."

The Layman's Prayer Revival—9

The power of prayer touched every aspect of business. There had never been a higher tone of honor. The Bible became the standard. Any business that injured the community was regarded as wrong. People in every kind of business began to be more honest, truthful, and conscientious.

At least three thousand came to Christ in Newark, New Jersey. In many smaller towns, scarcely any unconverted people remained. In Haverhill, Massachusetts, the Spirit deeply moved the crowded daily prayer meeting. Sometimes half of the assembly silently wept. One pastor found at least one person in every home in his congregation deeply concerned about his relationship with God.

An unsaved man went to the prayer meetings on Fulton Street in New York, hoping someone would help him, but none did. Then one day he heard a mother's request for her son's salvation. He discovered that note was from HIS OWN mother! Soon afterwards he found Christ.

The Layman's Prayer Revival—10

In Kalamazoo, Michigan, a woman turned in a request for her husband's salvation. One man responded, "Pray for me. I'm that man." Four more men did likewise. A wealthy young New Yorker was born again at a noon prayer meeting. Upon returning home, he read from the Bible, and knelt to pour out a fervent prayer for his wife and sister. His wife and his sister knelt beside him and wept as they also received Christ. One man disowned his daughter when she confessed Christ. However, when he fell deathly sick, he sent for her and asked her forgiveness. She shared Christ with him. Within three days her father, mother, two brothers, and a sister entered the family of God.

The Layman's Prayer Revival—11

In March of 1858, the voice of prayer and praise to God was heard beginning at 8:30 every morning in the halls of the New York state capitol. Six people began a prayer meeting for the Legislature. By the fifth day, two rooms were filled, and interest was growing. In 1858 in Louisville, Kentucky, 1,000 attended the daily union prayer. One writer exclaimed, "The Spirit of God seems to be brooding over our city, and to have produced an unusual degree of tenderness and solemnity in all classes." An amazing work of grace was changing the city. Some of the leading businessmen of Boston were attending prayer meetings. An unusual number of people who had lived wicked lives also came. One writer said, "'Publicans and sinners' are awakened, and are entering the prayer meetings of their own accord. Some of them manifested signs of sincere repentance."

Note of Thanks

A message from a friend: “Bro. Hunt, the night you called, I told you about hurting my leg. I couldn’t stand it at all. You said, ‘Let’s just talk to God about it right now.’ You started praying, and it was just like God was right there on the phone. It felt like I could feel a bottle of oil (pouring) on my head and going down through my body. Immediately, I felt the pain getting less and less. I could even walk on it some the next day. It felt stronger each day, and it wasn’t any time until I didn’t need my cane at all!! I keep getting stronger, and can walk as fast as I can. I know it was God who touched me. Thank you, Bro. Hunt, for your prayer! Thank God for healing me. I had company coming for Christmas, and I could get around just fine. Thanks be to God!!!!”

Prayer for Guidance

Shortly after I was saved, the Lord called me to work for Him. I prayed and said, “Lord, I have two jobs. Between the two jobs, Lord, I work between seventy and eighty hours a week. I make approximately the same amount of money at each job. I do not care which job I give up so I can work for You. Please, Lord, show me which job to give up.” I was a real estate broker, and I had enough homes listed to equal a decent year’s salary for a good real estate salesman. Within two weeks after I made this request to God, every house I had listed was sold. When a real estate broker has sold all his houses, he is out of business until he obtains more listings. What happened to me was unheard of in real estate! That ended my career in real estate. It was all due to the mighty power of prayer! I stayed with the other company I was working for, and eventually retired with a full salary.

A Miracle

Reverend Ross Query and I were traveling east on I-70 near Denver, Colorado, fighting a head wind. I had only enough money for gas to get home, but I also needed to take Ross to his car in Bluejacket, Oklahoma. I asked Ross how much money he had. He said he had one dollar. I said, "Ross, we're in trouble. My car gets bad gas mileage in head winds." Ross said, "I'll take care of that. Lord, You know I haven't wasted Your money foolishly. I have been a good steward. Lord, send that wind down our tailpipe. Amen." In a short time, the wind changed and was going down our tailpipe. When we turned south on I-35, the wind changed directions with us, and still went "down our tailpipe." Later, we turned east. So did the wind! We then turned south. Still the wind was blowing "down our tailpipe." We made it to Bluejacket, then we headed back north. The wind changed, also, and still blew "down our tailpipe!" The extra cost for the additional almost three hundred miles was—one dollar!

Prayer Is the Key

God has always had people praying for His work. He is building the church, and when the church is plunged into deep perplexities, the only help she can hope for must come by way of prayer. The ministry of prayer has been the peculiar distinction of all God's saints. A Christian's prayer should not be adjusted around life, but life should be adjusted around prayer. Prayer is the key that unlocks God's exceeding great and precious promises. If we lose the key, the door will shut until prayer becomes a desire, a must, and a need realized. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Overcomers Through Prayer

In Jesus' day, hatred or hostility was rampant among the Jewish leaders. They would rather release a murderer than release a righteous person from a death sentence. The crime rate was high. Persecution was rampant—people were imprisoned, beaten, and killed. We live in a day of darkness, as did Martin Luther, John Wesley, and the Apostles. These men did not travel the road of gloom and doom. They did not believe that everything was hopeless. They believed that Christ had given them the power to build His church even when times were dark. Christ honored their prayers and efforts by giving them the power to overcome the difficulties they faced daily. These men were men of prayer. Hear their words: "We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4).

Paul's Prayer

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians demonstrates the exceeding greatness of God's power to us in prayer: "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead . . ." (Ephesians 1:17-20). What the eyes are to the body, understanding is to the soul. As light reveals understanding to the eyes, so does the Spirit of wisdom to the soul.

Answered Prayer

After preaching one Sunday night, my father rode home with me. On the way, I noticed I had forgotten to fill the gas tank the day before. I told my father we had only enough gas to drive to Harrisonville. We would park there, and then I would fill the tank Monday morning. Dad said, “Son, we’re going home.” Then he began to pray. He prayed for a considerable time. At Harrisonville, I told him we could make it to Peculiar. Dad said, “We’re going home.” About that time, a semi-truck passed us then slowed down to 55 mph, the speed limit. I pulled up behind the semi, and tailgated it. Later I said, “We can make it to the Blue Ridge Mall.” Dad said, “We’re going home.” The semi-trailer turned off the road then, but a huge bus passed us and slowed down to 55 mph. So, I tailgated the bus to I-435 and Truman Road. That left two more miles before we were home. My gas gauge was sitting on “empty” for the last two miles. Oh, the power of prayer!!

Prayers of Submission

When Jesus was on the cross, the thief lost his hope. The chief priest was rejoicing. He conceded that God disowned Jesus. He said, “He trusted in God” (Matthew 27:43a), but at last the truth comes from His own lips: He is forsaken of God (Matthew 27:46). But wait! He is saying more: hope for a sin-sick world. “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit” (Luke 23:46b), and last, “. . . It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost” (John 19:30) OH!! The power of the short prayer of our Lord on the cross, and His resurrection turned the world upside-down (Acts 17:6).

There are Christians who have followed Christ’s example, who have forsaken every pleasure and enjoyment that undermines their enjoyment of God. Their greatest joy is the enlargement of Christ’s church. The cry of their heart is, “Lord, glorify Thyself through me.” They have placed all their confidence in Christ.

Praying for Others

God wants us to pray for those who have wrong opinions about Him. Please notice God rewarded Job after Job obeyed God and prayed for Eliphaz the Temanite and his two friends.

“After the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath” (Job 42:7, 8). Please notice the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for Eliphaz the Temanite and his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before (Job 42:10). It is apparent Job diligently sought the Lord during his life. God is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). God changes not. God will accept any person whether he is young or old, poor or rich, uneducated or has multiple doctors’ degrees, single or married, who will diligently seek Him, and surrender all to Him, and follow where He leads. They will learn to say, “Lord, give what is best.”

Our Father

“. . . Lord, teach us to pray, . . . And [Jesus] said unto them, When ye pray, say, our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name . . .” (Luke 11:1, 2). May we think of this prayer as foundation blocks for people of prayer. When Jesus said “Our Father,” He taught there must be a relationship. We know the father and children have the same DNA, which shows there is a relationship of nature. Jesus said this relationship was with a holy Father, and even His name, as well as His nature, was holy. Jesus, in John 15:1-6, taught it was possible for people to have a holy nature, when He said, “I am the vine, ye are the branches. . . .” The vine and the branches always have the same nature. Peter wrote the same as Jesus taught: “. . . Be partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4). Paul taught the same in Ephesians 3:19: “. . . Be filled with all the fullness of God.” Oh, what a privilege and honor! That should increase our confidence in prayer.

Thy Kingdom Come

“Lord, teach us to pray, [Jesus] said unto them, . . . Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth” (Luke 11:1, 2). In this foundational block we find our Father has a kingdom; therefore He is a King. There are numerous benefits to being a child of a holy King. I will list a few: His promises never fail. He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. He shall supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by His only begotten Son. Ministering spirits are sent forth to minister for them that are His children. Our Father makes available to us the armor needed for any battle: our loins girded about with truth, breastplate of righteousness, our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, above all, the shield of faith. Remember, “We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12).

Thy Will Be Done

“. . . Lord, teach us to pray, . . . “When ye pray, say, our Father which art in heaven, . . . Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth” (Luke 11:1, 2). In this foundational block on prayer we find we are to pray for our Father’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Many desire the heavenly Father’s will to be done, but their will is interfering with their heavenly Father’s will. Is there a Biblical solution? Yes! It is written by the prophets of imparting a different heart. “And I will give them one heart, and one way” (Jeremiah 32:39a). “And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 11:19). Both Paul and Luke confirm what is written: Paul in Romans 6:6-18, and Peter in Acts 15:9. Those who have had heart surgery as spoken by the prophets, and confirmed in Acts 15:9 with heart purity, can die to their own will, that their Father’s will be done on earth.

Daily Bread

Think of this prayer as foundation blocks for people of prayer. “Give us day by day our daily bread” (Luke 11:3). Those words are easy to say, but to pattern our life after them is much more difficult. One way to cultivate daily dependence on God is to “seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness.” Our Lord said, “For without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5). When we grasp those words, we are beginning to learn to “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5). As we learn to depend on and trust God, we learn that God is the Fountain of all good; that His promises never fail. As we mature spiritually, and become better established in God’s Word, we realize Hanani the seer was right when he told King Asa, “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong on the behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward him . . .” (2 Chronicles 16:9). Lord, teach me to pray.

Helplessness

Prayer is energized by helplessness. Jesus said, “For without me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

That’s a hard lesson for some of us to learn; therefore, many of our prayers are never activated. Jesus also said, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (verse 7). If we purpose in our heart to make verse 7 a reality in our life, we will realize our helplessness. It will lead us until we are able to trust in the Lord with all of our heart, and lean not unto our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5). The eyes of our understanding will be open, and we will begin to understand Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 1:16-23. Lord, I want to know more prayer. How about you who read this booklet?

Our Refiner

Read Malachi 3:1-4. “He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.” The refiner purifies the silver by heating and continuing to skim off the scum until nothing but his own reflection is seen. THIS IS MY PRAYER FOR MYSELF. I invite you to make this your prayer also. “Lord, sit as a Refiner of silver over my passion, my affections, my desires, my goals, my emotions, my zeal, my will, my choices, my delights, my feelings, my goals. Oh, Lord, don’t stop the refining process until You see Your image, and only Your image, in the totality of my being.” Lord, unless You sit as a Refiner and Purifier of silver over us, we cannot be efficient men of prayer, nor efficiently proclaim the covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that in their seed, all the families of the earth should be blessed. That Seed is Jesus the Christ, who said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

A Praying Church

The church of our day must have men and women who are willing to face the crisis of our day: people who have studied the passion of Christ, and have learned the business of prayer: people who are willing, like Jacob, to wrestle with the Lord in prayer until the Lord gives them power with God and man: people who will pray until the opposing forces are defeated. The world's analysis of the praying church of the first century was, "These . . . have turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). Those who had turned the world upside down had an absolute transfer of trust from themselves to Christ (Acts 6:4). They believed that to have Christ commit the future of His church to them was the highest honor that could be conferred on them. Their chief business through prayer was the advancement of His kingdom. They made prayer a controlling factor in their lives.

Intercessory Prayer

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5, 6). This is a word picture of Abraham. He trusted in God. When called to leave his homeland, he knew not where he was going, but he did not think he needed to understand. He acknowledged God in obedience, in teaching his children, in worshiping God, and in praying for others. Notice the intimate relationship of God and Abraham. The Lord and His angels were on their way to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah due to their wickedness when the Lord stopped by Abraham’s tent and said, “Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?” (Genesis 18:17). Abraham began to intercede—pray—for Sodom and Gomorrah. There is a lesson here for many of us to learn. Abraham was praying for an exceedingly wicked place. Lord, help me in this area of prayer.

A Child's Prayer

Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). Little children know how to pray. I heard two missionaries at a Wycliffe translators' banquet talk about their children's prayers. Their families were serving as missionaries in another country to a tribe of people who lived in an area surrounded by high cliffs. The river provided the only ground-level access. A small airplane could land on a dirt runway. Then two small children of the missionaries prayed for God to send them a horse to ride. The parents told them numerous times they couldn't get a horse into that place. But the little children kept praying. One day, over shortwave radio, a rancher announced he was in dire need of a particular medicine. The missionaries had that medicine. So, they jumped in their plane with the medicine, and went to the rancher's home. While landing, they noticed an old, sway-backed white horse. After the missionary wife

(a registered nurse) administered the medicine, they returned home. One day after they were back in the village, they heard the tribal people making a lot of noise. The missionaries decided it was not a noise of anger, but of excitement. They went out to where the tribe was gathered by the river. Coming down the river were two canoes fastened together. There came the old swayback horse—his front two feet in the front canoe, and his back feet in the back canoe! A group of men was traveling with the canoes. The rancher called the missionaries on the radio, and said he thought maybe the children would like a horse to ride. Oh, the power of a child's prayer!

Confidence Rewarded

Here is another example of the power of prayer. This is a memory from forty-plus years ago. I am acquainted with the parents and children in this account. This family had two very small children. They loved their uncle, who was a career Marine. He served in the Fleet Marine Amphibious Unit. His desire was to serve wherever the action was. The two small children wanted their uncle to come home. They began to pray for their uncle's return. The parents explained to the children several times that their uncle could not come home, yet the two children continued to pray. One day, a chaplain boarded that uncle's ship. At the time, it was in a hot spot. The chaplain asked the ship's captain in charge to release the uncle to him. The captain explained to the chaplain that no one was allowed to leave his ship due to the circumstances they were facing. The chaplain saluted the captain, and returned to his vessel. Later, the chaplain returned with the fleet commander. The fleet commander requested that they call the uncle

to the deck. The uncle came to the deck. The fleet commander requested the ship's captain to come to the deck. The fleet commander commanded the captain to send the uncle home. The ship was an aircraft carrier. The fleet commander told the captain to immediately place the uncle on a plane, and send him home. The captain immediately sent the uncle to Australia, and from there to Tahiti, Los Angeles, and then home to Kansas City. That Marine then spent several months working at a Marine recruiting center. He was eventually honorably discharged. Oh, the power in the prayers of little children!

Lord, help me to have the confidence children have when praying to God for their needs.

Lessons From John

John 15 is very informative and encouraging when it comes to answered prayer. God's Word must abide in you. This means having a love for God's Word, and a love relationship with Christ (verse 7). In John 14, we see the cry of Christ's heart is for the Father to be glorified through our prayers (verse 13). We learn that if we love Christ, we will keep His commandments, and Christ will pray to the Father, and He shall give us another Comforter who will abide with us forever (verse 16). The Comforter is the Spirit of Truth (verse 17). In John 15, we learn how we are to approach the Father. We are to approach Him in Jesus' name (verse 16). In chapter 17, there is great comfort for those who love Christ and have made Him Lord of all. Christ sends His people into the world, but He prays the Father will keep them from evil (verse 15). Christ also prays to the Father for His people to be with Him to behold His glory (verse 24).

Prayer = Dependence

Yet another element of faith is DEPENDENCE. Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). A small child is totally dependent on his father. Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow . . ." (Matthew 6:33, 34). Again, we see Jesus teaching dependence upon God by faith. Prayer is the language of dependency. People who think they are independent and self-sufficient do not pray except for 9-1-1 prayers. W. W. Walford, author of "Sweet Hour of Prayer," understood dependence upon God. You, too, can depend upon God; He CARES for you.

Spiritual Growth

God's Word emphasizes prayer. The following are thoughts on spiritual growth through prayer. 1. Pray that God will not answer any prayer that would cause leanness of soul (Psalm 106:15); 2. Pray that our love for Christ shall not wax cold (Matthew 24:12); 3. Pray that the Holy Spirit will pour the love of God into our hearts (Romans 5:5); 4. Pray for a love of assembling with God's people in Christ's church (Hebrews 10:25); 5. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to submerge our will into God's will until our will is God's will (Matthew 26:39); 6. Pray that, whatever the cost, we will glory in nothing but the cross (Galatians 6:14); and 7. Pray that we will not become selfish lovers or lovers of PLEASURE more than lovers of God (2 Timothy 3:1-4).

Lessons From Jairus—1

There are lessons to be learned about prayer as we study Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue (Mark 5:22-43). He selected those privileged to speak in the synagogue. It is apparent Jairus chose speakers with good and right concepts of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. We will be no more spiritual than our concepts of God. To be assured of a proper concept of God, we must read the Bible daily, prayerfully, with an open mind—asking God to open our eyes of spiritual understanding while enabling us to live a life pleasing to the will of God. We need to be very careful whom we choose to listen to about God, the Father of Jesus Christ. Not all churches or preachers have high and holy concepts of God. Be a seeker of correct concepts of the Trinity.

Lessons From Jairus—2

Jairus displayed great confidence in Christ. When a crisis arose in the family, he had confidence enough to ask if Christ could take care of the situation (Mark 5:23). Apparently, Jairus knew that Christ cared about all of man's needs and frustrations. Jesus knows our every need, heartache, frustration, and pain. He knows our good days and our bad days. Jesus knows the circumstances that we have created for ourselves, and the circumstances others have created for us. Jesus knows what is ahead of us on the road of life. His eyes are on us; His ears are open to our cries for help. He cares for our sorrows. Place all your confidence in Christ; He will come to your rescue, or make a way of escape. "He that honors Me, I will honor," said the Lord.

Lessons From Jairus—3

Jairus not only had right concepts and confidence in Jesus, the Messiah/Christ, but he also humbled himself before Christ and a multitude of people by falling at Jesus' feet. He pled earnestly with Jesus, "My little daughter lieth at the point of death . . . come, and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live." Jesus went with him (Mark 5:22-24). The Bible reveals many people who stood tall in God's eyes because they humbled themselves and earnestly sought God. Belief in God resulted in their needs being sufficiently met. "He that shall humble himself shall be exalted" are Jesus' words in Matthew 23:12. "God giveth grace to the humble" (James 4:6). Jairus teaches us how to approach Jesus in prayer if we wish to see our needs met.

Lessons From Jairus—4

Jairus' request for the healing of his daughter is put aside temporarily while Jesus fine-tunes a woman's concept of her healing (Mark 5:25-34). The woman had said, "If I may touch but his [Jesus'] clothes, I shall be healed." When she touched Jesus' clothes, she was healed. Jesus said, "Who touched my clothes?" (verse 30). Jesus wanted the woman to confess her need to Him. I believe He also wanted her to know that it was not her action of touching Him that healed her, for Jesus said to her, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole" (verse 34). Hebrews 10:38, Romans 1:17, and Habakkuk 2:4 all state, "The just shall live by faith." Jesus and the Holy Spirit taught that faith was the way for mankind to touch God. NOTICE: JAIURUS STAYED IN JESUS' PRESENCE DURING THIS DELAY. What a great example this is for us!

Lessons From Jairus—5

Jairus faces another obstacle to his request that Jesus heal his daughter. His own household throws cold water on the situation with the statement, “Thy daughter is dead.” In essence, they said, “Give up; it is too late. You are wasting your time by making such a ridiculous request.” Wait! The message from Jesus was this: “Be not afraid, only believe” (Mark 5:35, 36). Jairus’ decision to stay in the presence of Jesus paid off. It will be the same way for us when we are praying if we stay in Jesus’ presence until the answer comes. When they arrived at Jairus’ house, another bucket of cold water awaits Jairus. The others laughed at the idea that Jesus could answer Jairus’ request. But the request is answered anyway. “Damsel . . . arise,” said Jesus. She arose and walked (verses 41, 42). Jesus answers prayer!

Lessons From Jairus—6

Here is a summary of what we have learned about prayer from Jairus (Mark 5:22-43). 1. Choose to listen to people who have right concepts of Jesus. 2. Have confidence that Christ cares about your needs. 3. Believe that God is sufficiently able to do the impossible. 4. Be willing to humble yourself before Christ, no matter who is present. 5. Do not become discouraged. Stay in God's presence when requests are delayed. 6. Don't allow other people or Satan to weaken your faith or confidence by ridiculing you. 7. Your own household may say God won't answer your prayer. 8. Stay in the presence of Jesus. 9. Jesus will encourage His people. 10. God majors in impossibilities. Delays and throwers of cold water are part of "boot camp" for praying people, but the reward is great, to God's glory.

Help for Seekers of Salvation

What does Jesus offer to ALL people?

Answer: Forgiveness from sins

To be saved, you must acknowledge that you are a sinner. You must believe you are created by God and have enough faith to believe God's Word. Forgiveness is for "who-soever" shall confess with his mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in his heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead. The Bible says *that* person "shall be saved" (Romans 10:9). St. John confirmed this when he said, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). "Whosoever believeth in him [Jesus] should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:15). The gospel of Jesus Christ is for you!

What does Jesus have to offer to the world?

Answer: Removal of sin

If a person travels straight north until he reaches the North Pole and then he keeps moving, he will begin going south. If a person travels straight east, though, he can continue indefinitely, never meeting the west. “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12). God will “subdue our iniquities” and cast all our sins “into the depths of the sea” (Micah 7:19b). God said, “I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:34). Not only does God remove sin and remember it no more, but God also said, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).

What must I do to receive God's salvation?

Answer: Believe that God will forgive you of your sins when you ask Him.

Reader, you, too, can be saved and have a personal relationship with Christ. Here is a suggested prayer. "Lord, I know I am a sinner and need to be saved. Lord, I know Jesus arose from the dead and that His blood was shed for my sins. Lord, I'm asking You to forgive me of my sins and cleanse me. Lord, help me grow in Jesus and develop a love for Your Word. Lord, above everything, help me to keep my eyes focused on You and not on people. Lord, Your Word has confirmed that You would save me; I believe You *have* saved me. Please give me a witness from Your Spirit to my spirit that I am Your child. By faith I believe Your Word; still, my faith is weak. Lord, increase my faith. Amen."

Name and Date: _____

Scriptures for Times of Doubt

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

“As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35-39).

“. . . Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:20).

Scriptures for Times of Doubt

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love” (Ephesians 1:4).

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

Scriptures for Times of Doubt

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

“And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day” (John 6:37-39).

“The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah” (Psalm 46:11).

“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower” (Psalm 18:2).

“In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears” (Psalm 18:6).

“For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock” (Psalm 27:5).

