



The power of prayer can never be underestimated. It is one of the most important spiritual disciplines that we could ever practice yet it is often one of the most neglected among Christians. The Christians that have accomplished great feats for the glory of God through the years have understood the importance of prayer for their own personal life and furthering of the Kingdom of God. The Apostle Paul illustrates the importance of prayer by imploring all Christians:

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – Pray without ceasing...

This principle still stands as a critical mandate for Christians today. I have heard men declare that “Prayer is preparation for the battle” referring to the spiritual battle that we are engaged in daily. It is critical for us to come to the realization as Christians that, “**Prayer is the Battle...**” This was illustrated by the persistent prayer life of George Mueller who dedicated his life to prayer. History records an example of the devoted prayer life of Mueller as follows,

**LEONARD
RAVENHILL**

A man who kneels
before God will stand
before men.

A man who is intimate
with God will never be
intimidated by men.

More than half a century ago, George Mueller, that prince of intercessors with God, began to pray for a group of five personal friends. After five years one of them came to Christ. In ten years,

two more of them found peace in the same Savior. He prayed on for twenty-five years, and the fourth man was saved. For the fifth he prayed until the time of his death, and this friend, too, came to Christ a few months afterwards. For this latter friend, Mr. Mueller had prayed almost fifty-two years! When we behold such perseverance in prayer, we feel that we have scarcely touched the fringe of real importunity in our intercessions for others.¹

We cannot afford to lose this battle. Every morning Christians go about their business, heading into the midst of the battle without arming themselves with the Armor of God thus ensuring the truth of the axiom, “**Prayerless People are Powerless People.**”

Three Truths About Powerful Pervading Prayer

I don't know about you but I want to be a Christian that has a vibrant prayer life that makes a difference not only in my own life but also makes an eternal difference in the life of others. I want to have the kind of prayer life described by James as he states,

James 5:16 (ESV) – The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working...

James 5:16 (NLT) – The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

James 5:16 (KJV) – The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

The Greek word used here for “**power**” refers to mighty power that comes from a source beyond your own strength. We observe three central truths in this verse about the importance of prayer.

- **Truth #1** – Prayer is critical to the life of the Christian. The Lord moves mightily in the life of a Christian that prays and provides His hand of provision and protection in magnificent ways.

¹ Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 1052.

- **Truth #2** – Prayer produces mighty results. We also observe that prayer accomplishes mighty results in the life of the Christian and impacts the world around the Christian.
- **Truth #3** – Prayers can be hindered. We also observe within this verse that central truth that if the prayers of the righteous have great power and accomplish great works for the glory of God then the opposite must also be true. The implication is that the prayers of a non-righteous individual will not be powerful and effective.

Prayer Barriers You Must Break Down In Your Life

Maybe you are an individual that has felt that your prayers were just hitting the ceiling and going no further. Maybe you have felt like your prayer life was being hindered in some fashion but you could not pinpoint what was going on. If this describes you then maybe it is time to examine yourself and see if there are any Prayer Barriers that need to be removed in your own life. Consider some of these Barriers,

■ **Prayer Barrier # 1 - Unconfessed Sin**

Psalms 66:18 (NLT) – If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Isaiah 59:2 (ESV) – But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

Bust through that Barrier – Make a regular habit of confessing and repenting of sin in your life in order to connect with the Lord and experience his refreshing in your life.

■ **Prayer Barrier # 2 - Lack of Faith**

James 1:5-8 – ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For that person must not suppose that

he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Bust through that Barrier – Make a regular reading the Word of God and applying Biblical truth in your life. This will help you recognize and see the Lord at work in mighty and miraculous manners.

■ **Prayer Barrier # 3 - Disobedience**

1 Peter 3:12 – For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil

Bust through that Barrier – Make a regular habit of trusting and applying the promises found in the Word of God. Correctly apply the Word of God in your life even in trying times and the Lord will reward you for your faithfulness.

■ **Prayer Barrier # 4 - Unforgiveness**

Matthew 6:14-15 – ¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Bust through that Barrier – Make a regular habit forgiving those who have hurt you in life due to the fact that you have been forgiven so much through God's grace.

■ **Prayer Barrier # 5 - Wrong Motives**

James 4:3 – You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Bust through that Barrier – Humble yourself before the Lord on a daily basis and ask for His will to be done in your life and choose to yield your own will to Him.

God's Blueprint for Prayer

Have you ever wondered why the Lord was allowing you to go through a set of circumstances, only to discover that God used

those events to accomplish something extraordinary? I remember reading of this type of a circumstance in the life of NFL running back Sherman Smith who stood six feet four inches tall and weighed 225 pounds.

Smith had quickly gained a great reputation as a stellar running back as he played for the Seattle Seahawks. Smith was traded to the San Diego Chargers early in his career and a few weeks after the trade he seriously injured his knee. Everything changed overnight for this young man, whose Christian faith was rock solid. While he went through recovery he often found himself asking this question, "Why did you allow this to happen Lord?" Then the answer came in the most unexpected way. While his knee mended, Sherman had the opportunity to lead one of his teammates, Miles McPherson, to the Lord. Miles has become an outstanding youth evangelist who continues to reach tens of thousands of people each year.

The point is clear, the Lord answers the prayer of the righteous in unexpected ways at times but He always continues to equip His people with the right tools and opportunities to further the Gospel and bring Him glory.

This booklet is written to encourage you to continue in steadfast prayer during the course of your life whether facing times of trial or triumph. The Lord is ready to move among His people in a mighty way and He is waiting to move spiritual mountains as you lift your requests to Him. The question that weighs heavy upon the heart and mind of many individuals is simple:

How can I effectively pray in a manner that moves spiritual mountains?

The answer is found in the model prayer as give by Jesus Christ also known as God's Blueprint for Prayer. One day His disciples came to Him and made a simple request that would forever set the stage of victory for those who would apply His principles of prayer. The request: "Lord, Teach us to pray..."

Over the years, I have witnessed many apply the principles of the Savior when it comes to prayer and these individuals have moved mountains. I have also witnessed others who have ignored these principles and the results was apathy, complacency, and a stagnant faith that yielding little to no fruit. Here is the lesson I have learned and pray that you understand today,

Victory Over the Enemy is Always Accomplished by Persistent and Prevailing Prayer

The model prayer given to us by Jesus presents an important model that we can implement it in life. As you practice this model then you will be able to more effectively be led by the Lord in order to accomplish His desires for your life.

It is one thing to know the definition of a Biblical principle but it is another thing to put the principle into practice. The elements of the model prayer are essential to the life of the believer as discovered in Matthew 6. Take a moment and reflect upon the Master's Model in Matthew,

Mathew 6:5-15 – ⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread, ¹²and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

The disciples witnessed something different about the prayer life of Christ that drew them to desire to know more about how they could pray like Him, as one with authority. (Mt. 7: 28-29) Jesus declares, “**Pray then like this...**” giving His followers a model to put into practice which serves as the basis of the model prayer for every Christian. Consider the different steps of this model,

The Model Prayer in Action (Matthew 6:5-13)	
And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites (v.5-8)	Step #1 – Authenticity: Pray to the Lord with sincerity.
Our Father in heaven... (v.9)	Step #2 – Humility: Pray to God as the Heavenly Father
Hallowed be your name... (v.9)	Step #3 – Reverence: Set God apart as Holy in your life.
Your kingdom come... (v.10) Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.	Step #4 – Surrender: (1) Submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in your life. (2) Pursue God's will in and for your life.
Give us today our daily bread. (v.11)	Step #5 – Reliance: Look to God for physical & spiritual provision.
Forgive us our debts... (v.12)	Step #6 – Repentance: Confess and repent of your sins.
As we also have forgiven our debtors. (v.12)	Step #7 – Grace: Seek strength to show grace toward others.
And lead us not into temptation... (v.13)	Step #8 – Direction: Pray for God's guidance and direction.
But deliver us from the evil one. (v.13)	Step #9 – Protection: Pray for protection from evil

Conclusion

As a Christian, you have been given an amazing access to the power of the Lord in this life. He has promised to lead, guide, direct, provide, and strengthen you if you would humble yourself before Him and follow Him as the Lord and Savior of your life. Maintain an active prayer life and watch God move mountains in your life. Start today!



GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR PRAYER

Matthew 6:5-13

Step #1 - Be Authentic (v.5-8)

Step #2 - Humble Yourself (v.9)

Step #3 - Praise the Holiness of God (v.9)

Step #4 - Surrender Your Will to the Lord (v.10)

Step #5 - Trust in the Lord's Provision (v.11)

Step #6 - Repent of Your Sin (v.12)

*Step #7 - Pursue God's Wisdom
to Show Forgiveness (v.12)*

Step #8 - Seek God's Direction (v.13)

Step #9 - Pursue God's Protection (v. 13)

