
MINEOLA BIBLE INSTITUTE AND SEMINARY

Releasing the Anointing

Radical, Biblical, Apostolic, Christianity



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--RELEASING THE ANOINTING--
How to Pray an Hour without Repeating
Yourself

By
Larry L. Yates, ThD, DMin

After this manner, therefore, pray ye:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

--Matthew 6:9-13 King James Version (KJV)—

Becoming a House of Prayer

In the Garden of Gethsemane, while Jesus earnestly prayed in such agony of spirit that His sweat became like Great drops of blood falling to the ground, His disciples, ignorantly oblivious to the eternity-shaping events about to transpire, slept. Jesus, heavy and sorrowful in spirit, awakened His sleeping disciples and asked, *"What, could you not watch with me one hour?"* (Matt. 26:40).

Mirrored in that tragic scene is the plight of the church today. Jesus, our interceding High Priest, is praying; His disciples are sleeping, and Satan is winning contest after contest by default. It would be impossible to calculate the failures, the ruined reputations, the defeats, the broken homes and the other multiplied tragedies that could have been avoided if believers had prayed.

It would be impossible to measure the destruction that could have been turned and the judgment that might have been averted if only God's people had taken the time to pray. I am guilty, and so are you.

I'm not here to put anyone on a guilt trip. I know what it's like to be haunted by the call to pray, and because I know what it's like to let interruptions, fatigue and pressures drown out that call.

I want to make you a promise: Something supernatural happens when you pray for an hour a day. It does not happen overnight, but slowly, almost imperceptibly, the desire to pray becomes firmly planted in the soil of your heart by the Spirit of God. This desire crowds out the weeds of apathy and neglect and matures into the discipline to pray. Then one day you discover that prayer is no longer just a duty or drudgery, instead, the discipline of prayer has borne the fruit of delight. You find yourself eagerly longing for your daily time with God.

The supernatural work of prayer continues and begins to possess and reshape every area of your life. You notice that your heart is no longer devoid of the presence and promises of God. You discover how to set, maintain and pray God's priorities in your life; you learn how to appropriate God's provision for your needs. Life moves into a new dimension as you begin to experience greater joy and fulfillment in your relationships with people. And as you begin to walk, not in the realm of the flesh, but in the realm of the Spirit, you discover how to move in the power of God and stand in the victory Jesus has won for you.

I know because that is what happened to the believers after Christ's ascension. Think about it: What made them into a mighty, spiritual army that seized difficulties and turned them into opportunities; an army characterized by clear-headed, incisive decisions instead of foggy thinking and confusion; an army that, in one generation, turned the world upside down for Jesus Christ? Prayer! Prayer that unleashed the power of God and tapped into His infinite resources.

What will transform the slumbering disciples, dis-heartened believers and vacillating followers today into a mighty, marching army with deliverance as its song and healing in its hands? Prayer! Prayer that snatches the victories Jesus won for us out of Satan's greedy clutches. Prayer that storms the gates of hell.

As you learn to pray the way Jesus taught us to pray, your prayer life will no longer be a frustrating, hit-or-miss experience; instead, tarrying with the Lord an hour in prayer will actually become easy and natural.

Won't you bow your head right now and pray: "Jesus, plant in my heart the desire to pray. Enable me to develop a daily consistent time of prayer. Transform prayer from a duty to delight. Make me a mighty warrior in your prayer army?"

Did you pray that prayer? Did you mean it? Then you'd better get your uniform out of mothballs, polish those brass buttons and spit shine your boots because, soldier, God's army is getting ready to march.

Every believer may not be called to preach, but every Christian is called to pray. Prayer is our duty. Prayer is our privilege. Prayer, like air, water, and food, is necessary for our survival and growth. But many believers regard prayer as an optional activity.

Corrie ten Boom, the beloved author of *The Hiding Place*, sometimes posed this question to believers: "is prayer your spare tire or your steering wheel?" Meditate on that question in the privacy of your own heart and remember: There is a higher call—the call to pray.

Have you answered it?

A Divine Progression

People heard God's voice yesterday, and that was good. But it is also essential that we hear His voice today. *"Today if ye will hear his voice harden not your heart..."* (Heb. 3:7).

Today the Holy Spirit is speaking a word to the church. God is calling His church to pray, and we had better listen because the bottom line on all that will take place from now on is: *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord"* (Zech. 4:6).

It is important for us to understand that the desire to pray is not something we can work up in our flesh; rather, the desire to pray is birthed in us by the Holy Spirit. If He has already implanted that divine desire in your heart, pause right now and thank God for it. If not, ask Him to put it there. Then pray God will help you transform that divine desire into daily discipline. As the discipline to pray is formed within you, discipline will "shift gears." Prayer will no longer be duty or drudgery. It will become a holy delight!

God longs to see your heart transformed into a house of prayer. Why? Because there is so much He longs to do for you and through you, therefore, as you begin to pray, a divine progression begins to take place within you. Let me explain what I mean.

It was a normal business-as-usual day in the temple at Jerusalem until the moment Jesus walked in. His grief joined hands with holy anger. After fashioning a whip from small cords, Jesus strode purposefully toward the moneychangers and the buyers and sellers of oxen, sheep, and doves, forcefully driving them and their mooing, cooing, bleating wares out of the temple. Before the amazed onlookers could react, Jesus was back, this time to overthrow the tables and seats of the moneychangers and dove sellers.

The scattered coins still spun and rolled across the floor when He thundered,
"My house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves."

Sensing that only the guilty had anything to fear the blind and lame thronged to Him in the temple, and He healed them there amid the laughter and happy hosannas of children. When the chief priests and scribes angrily demanded that Jesus quiet the children's joyful cries, He calmly countered, *"Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?"* (See Matt. 21:12-16).

Take a moment to observe the beautiful progression in these verses. First, Jesus cleansed the temple causing it to become a **house of purity** (v. 12). Then He made the pronouncement: it would be called a **house of prayer** (v. 13). Next, the temple was transformed into a **house of power** as the blind and the lame came to Him and He healed them there (v. 14). And finally, the temple became a **house of perfected praise** (v. 16).

Shouldn't this same progression take place in the church and in the individual believer today? To echo the words of Paul, *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"* (1 Cor. 3:16).

You and I are part of the church that is the habitation of God through the Spirit (Eph. 2:20-22). But sadly, our temples, too, are often polluted by grasping greed, maneuvering motives, and selfish sins.

It is a mockery for believers to talk one way and live another. God will not bless an impure church. His church will not become the house of power and perfected praise until it allows the Holy Spirit to purify its sanctimonious soul and transform it into a house of prayer.

Listen to God's solemn warning to His church: *"Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness..."* (Heb. 3:7, 8). These verses indicate that because the children of Israel heard but did not heed, their mission to possess the land of Canaan was thwarted.

God had promised that land to the children of Israel. But, when ten out of twelve men sent by Moses to spy out the land returned fearful and fainthearted because the land seemed unconquerable, an entire generation died in the wilderness. Although two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, confidently affirmed:

"Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it" (Num. 13:30), when the vote was in, the tens had it over the twos.

God does not operate on our timetables. He was ready to march them across the Jordan River, but the people were caught up in petty daily routines. A self-seeking leader remarked smugly, "Have you noticed? Moses just isn't anointed anymore." A dissatisfied wife nagged her weary husband, "You've got to get more manna for our kids!" A well-meaning elder warned, "Joshua and Caleb are off on a 'hyper-faith' tangent. How can they run around proclaiming, 'We're able to overcome when everybody knows that the enemy is stronger than we are?'"

They feared the giants instead of God. They focused on the problems instead of the promises. They saw walled cities instead of the will of God. And because they missed

what the Spirit was saying, they wandered in the desert 40 years. They died there and their bones bleached in the wilderness.

It's no different today. We're here to possess the land but, instead, we're busy redecorating the house, watching Monday night football, trying to pay the mortgage and worrying about our "stuff." All the while, the interceding Holy Spirit is calling us to pray, and we are not listening.

The contemporary church is far from biblical Christianity. Mediocrity has invaded the body of Christ, and we think it's normal. God is accelerating everything in these last days, yet 99 percent of us are lagging behind. We long to see God's power, but before the power of God can be revealed, we must develop the discipline of prayer.

Today if you hear His voice calling you to pray, don't harden your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you no rest until your prayer life moves from mere desire to daily discipline and on to holy delight. Let Jesus drive out and overturn the things in your life that are preventing your temple from becoming a house of prayer. Smelly oxen, bleating sheep, cooing doves, and tarnished coins are poor substitutes for the satisfying, holy presence of God.

Face the facts. If you do not begin to pray, you will not be any further along with the Lord next year than you are right now. There is always the agony of choice before the promise of change. So what will it be: business as usual or are you ready to take your next step with God?

Jesus is waiting for you to pray, "Lord, make my temple a house of purity, prayer, power and perfected praise for Thy glory." He is ready to begin that divine progression in your temple right now. Are you?

Prayer is Important to God

2 Chronicles 7:14

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.

Zechariah 4:6

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

The Importance of Early Morning Prayer

Psalm 63:1 (NKJV)-- *God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.*

Proverbs 8:17 (NKJV) -- *I love those who love me, and those who seek me early will find me.*

Mark 1:35 (NKJV) -- *Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.*

Matthew 6:33 (AMP) -- *But seek first of all His kingdom and His righteousness, and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.*

Jesus' ministry bears witness to the fact that He spent much time in prayer. In fact, we see Jesus, in the Gospels as He went from one place of prayer to the next and in between—power flowed.

Let's look at a few examples:

At the Beginning of His Ministry-

Mark 1:34-35

And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

During the Middle of His Ministry-

Matthew 14:22-23

And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

At the End of His Ministry-

Luke 22:39-40

And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

He even prayed on the Cross:

Luke 23:34, 46

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

Jesus' death did not stop His ministry.

His Present Ministry

Hebrews 7:25

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Jesus continuing life in Heaven is a ministry of prayer.

Jesus wants His life of prayer to live on in His disciples: in His Church.

Where will you find Jesus today? You'll find Him at the place of prayer!

The early Christians who are mentioned in the book of Acts were on fire for the Lord. Their secret is revealed in Acts 2:42.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit; let's start there.

John Chapter Three gives us a puzzling, yet profound truth about Jesus:

John 3:12-16

If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

(How was Jesus on Earth and in Heaven at the same time? Get a handle on that and you'll start to understand who Jesus is.)

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

It all begins at the Cross. Have you met him there?

The Divine Progression: A Closer Look

Matthew 21:12-16

And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,

And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves.

And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them.

And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased,

And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

First, the temple was cleansed

The place where God is invoked must be a **House of Purity**. (verse 12).

It is God's will that His temple be filled with prayer (verse 13).

It must be called a **House of Prayer**.

Then shall signs and wonders occur (verse 14).

It will be known as a **House of Power**.

The consequence of these signs in the temple will captivate the people so that they will call out to God.

The final result will be a **House of Perfected Praise** (verses 15-16)

Where is the House of God today?

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Ephesians 2:20-22

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ought not this same Progression happen in the Church today; in each individual believer?

Jesus wants His disciples to be Houses of Purity, Prayer, Power, and Praise!

If we will make prayer our primary emphasis, that same divine Progression will be actualized in us!

What is Prayer?

To talk with God (not "to" God. It's a conversation).

Luke 6:12

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

To ask of God.

Matthew 21:22

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Prayer is work.

Colossians 4:12

Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Prayer is helping others.

II Corinthians 1:11

Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

Prayer is warfare.

I Peter 5:6-9

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for He careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Prayer is praise.

I Timothy 2:1

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to help us to pray.

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

The Holy Spirit births in us the Desire to pray.
It is important to be obedient to this desire.

You can only achieve this desire by Discipline.
The word disciple is derived from the word discipline.

When we have learned how to pray, then prayer becomes a Delight.
What could God do if we all together as a Church developed a consistent daily prayer life?

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible.

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

“Discipline” is the purposeful persistence towards a goal. How important that is to an athlete; How much more then for a Christian.

1 Timothy 4:8

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

How Must I Pray?

The Teachers of the Law taught the nation of Israel by highlighting certain Topics to make remembering easier.

Jesus responded to the request from His disciples in Luke 11:1 when they said, “*Lord, teach us to pray,*” by pointing them to certain Topics or “running tracks” in the familiar “Lord’s Prayer.”

Topic 1: The Paternal Part--*Our Father who art in heaven,*

Marks the beginning of your prayer time. Here we enter the presence of God with Praise. This gives us the security of knowing God as our kind, merciful and loving heavenly Father.

Topic 2: The Presence Part-- *Hallowed be Thy name:*

Signals the beginning of the second prayer topic. It is here we access the benefits and promises of the New Covenant by praising His name.

Topic 3: The Priority Part--*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done.*

The third prayer topic. Here we establish and maintain our Priorities. We have to get our priorities straight or we’ll be like the proverbial cat chasing its tail.

Topic 4: The Provision Part--*Give us this day our daily bread.*

Denotes our fourth prayer topic. It is here that we appropriate God’s Provision for that day. This part can help lead us into true biblical prosperity - God meets our needs—not according to those needs, but according to His riches in glory!

Topic 5: The Pardon Part--*Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.*

The fifth prayer topic. This is where you set your will to have the right attitude toward other people all the time. This is where we learn what I like to call "spiritual breathing." We breathe in the forgiveness from the Lord and breathe out that forgiveness to others.

Topic 6: The Power Part--*Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

Here we learn how to put on the “Armor of God” and pray a hedge of protection about ourselves, your family and your possessions. We prepare ourselves to be victorious in the onslaught of the devil.

Topic 7: The Praise Part--*For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory.*

Our seventh and final topic. We return to Praise at the end of our prayer, and our prayer run is victoriously complete.

TOPIC NUMBER ONE

The Paternal Part

“Our Father who art in Heaven”

How to praise the Lord and appropriate His promises.

To be able to call someone Father we must first be His child.

Galatians 4:4-6

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

The blood of Jesus was a sacrifice for us. Through this, we became children of God.

Thank Him for the Blood. Thanksgiving begins at the cross.

There is now a secure relationship between us and God. We can speak with boldness to God and know He will hear.

Hebrews 4:16

*Let us, therefore, come **boldly** unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Once we come to the place we can tarry with the Lord for one hour, something supernatural happens. We begin to move into the Spirit of God, to understand the character and purposes of God, and to experience the anointing of the power of God as never before.

The essence of prayer is not twisting the arm of God so He will do something He does not really want to do. Rather, prayer is coming into agreement with what God has already done in Jesus Christ and getting to the place where our petitions harmonize with what Jesus Himself is praying.

If you do not have liberty at times as you begin to pray, one thing to remember is to begin by singing songs of praise to the Lord. Psalm 22:3 tells us the Lord inhabits (sits down among) the praises of His people.

When we sing to God, He is enthroned upon our praises and sits down among us. Isaiah 61:3 speaks of putting on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. As in Psalm 22:3, the word for praise in this verse is *tehilla* meaning "the residual song of the Spirit." We are to put on the garment of praise — the song of the Spirit — for the spirit of heaviness. Psalm 100:2 instructs us to come before God's presence with singing.

So at times, you may want to sing to the Lord in your prayer time; clearly, this praise is entirely scriptural. Remember that you are not racing the clock or praying some formula. You are free to take time to enjoy the Lord and to let your soul go out to Him in praise and adoration.

Why do we begin praise and worship?

- Praise releases us of circumstances.
- Praise connects us to Jesus.
- It builds and releases faith.
- Praise makes us aware of who we are in Christ.
- It leads to spiritual freedom.

Through the Son, we know God as our Father (Galatians 4:4-6). The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ was the agency by which God adopted us into His family, and because of that blood we can say, "Our Father."

We are in a covenant relationship with God by virtue of the blood of Jesus. It is helpful if we form a mental, visual picture of Christ hanging on the Cross and of the blood that put us into a covenant relationship with God our Father. We need to begin thanking Him for the blood.

By doing this, we are not following a formula or chanting an incantation. This is not simply praise in itself. It is praise FOR something — the blood of Jesus and all it has purchased for us.

TOPIC NUMBER TWO

The Presence Part

“Hallowed be Thy Name”

Here we praise God for the many facets of His Being.

The word “hallowed” means:

To be sanctified or “set apart.”

To be praised.

To be honored.

This means that our Father must be praised, honored and glorified.

To be able to do this, the Father’s Name must be known.

The Old Testament teaches us that God has at least eleven compound redemptive names, each revealing a unique facet of His being and character.

We are going to look at eight of them.

These names describe who God is.

As children of God and assured that we are in Christ, in the New Testament/Covenant, we can enjoy privileges in the following areas:

Sin- Forgiveness, and deliverance from sin’s dominion.

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” --Romans 8:2

Spirit- The Fullness of the Holy Spirit.

*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be **filled with the Spirit***

-- Ephesians 5:18

Soundness-The Promise of health and healing.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth -- 3 John 1:2

Success- Release from the curse of the Law.

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: -- Galatians 3:13

Security- Freedom from the fear of death and hell.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage-- Hebrews 2:14-15

I. Benefit 1—Sin—Forgiveness of sin and deliverance from sins dominion.

The first benefit we enjoy in the New Covenant because we are children of God by virtue of the blood of Jesus is the forgiveness of our sins **and** deliverance from its contamination. This reflected in two compound names of God, Jehovah-tsidkenu (sid-kay'-noo) and Jehovah-m'kaddesh (ma-kah'desh).

Hallow His Name:

A. JEHOVAH TSIDKENU - The Lord our Righteousness.

God revealed Himself to the Prophet Jeremiah in this way to emphasize that aspect of His character that transacts the redemption by which we are fully restored to Him. This came through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

God has already made a decision about our sins—He elected to forgive them because you bear His Name. All we have to do is access that forgiveness by “applying” that blood to our hearts, even as the blood of the Passover Lamb, released its saving power when applied to the doorposts of the home.

Jeremiah 23:5-6

⁵ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

⁶ In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, The Lord Our Righteousness.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Praise Jehovah--Tsidkenu, Who has forgiven your sins and made you the righteousness of God in Christ.

Your Heavenly Father's Name guarantees more than forgiveness of sins, however. It also offers deliverance from the dominion of sin.

B. JEHOVAH M'KADDESH - The Lord our sanctification. The Lord who sanctifies.

This name was revealed when God's people were coming into a new land promised them by the Lord. That land was a region filled with wicked nations whose people worshipped other god's and lived horribly sinful lives.

Most of us work each day along similarly ungodly people. We live next door to them, we work with them and their wickedness is routinely emblazoned across the headlines.

When we hallow God's name in prayer, we declare through His name and by the Blood of Jesus, we will live unaffected by this rampant evil. The power of sin is broken in our lives.

Romans 6:17-18

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

To be sanctified means to be “set apart,” or “separated.” We are separated or set apart **from** sin and set apart **to** God in righteousness.

Leviticus 20:8

8 And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the Lord which sanctify you.

1 Corinthians 6:10-11

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

God sanctifies His people. We are separated from the world and set apart for His use. His Holy Spirit indwells us and empowers us to live holy lives and to walk in holiness daily.

II. Benefit 2: The fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Because God is your Father, the second benefit you enjoyed in the new covenant is the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The two compound names of God that reflect this are Jehovah-shalom (sha-loam') and Jehovah-shammah (shaw-mah).

The name Jehovah-shalom appeared as the result of a revelation received by Gideon in Judges, chapter six. Despite the fact that Gideon had hid himself in the winepress and was cowering in fear, the angel of the Lord addressed him as the Lord saw him, a “Mighty Man of Valor.”

And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the Lord, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord God! for because I have seen an angel of the Lord face to face.--Judges 6:22

²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord, and called it Jehovah-shalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.--Judges 6:24

The Hebrew word *shalom* is most often translated “peace” and represents wholeness and harmony with God and contentment and satisfaction in our life with Him.

Hallow His Name:

A. JEHOVAH SHALOM - The Lord our Peace

Colossians 1:20-22

And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled. In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

We live in a broken world; it is confused, full of sin and depressed. The communion and fellowship between God and man, which was broken by sin, is restored by the blood of Jesus.

Another compound name of God that relates to the fullness of the Spirit is the title *Jehovah-shammah*, which means “the Lord is there.” The Lord promised to be present with His people; this presence sets them apart from all other peoples of the world.

Exodus 33:15-16

¹⁵ And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. ¹⁶ For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

B. JEHOVAH SHAMMAH- The Lord is there—He is The Ever-present One.

God’s actual presence was first manifested in the tabernacle of Moses and later evidenced in the beautiful temple built by King Solomon. When Israel began to worship false gods and turn away from their heavenly Father, His presence withdrew, and the people were conquered and captured by their enemies.

At that time, the prophet Ezekiel saw a vision of the future when the presence of God would return and God's name of Jehovah-shammah was revealed to him (Ezek. 48:35).

When God sent Jesus to this earth He was called *Immanuel*, meaning “God with us,” and once again Jehovah-shammah lived among human-Kind. After Jesus died, rose, and ascended to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit, and God's presence now dwells in your spiritual temple (John 14:16-17).

God is not an absentee Father, and He has not abandoned you to face the crises of life alone, "for He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" (Heb. 13:5). God is, indeed, Jehovah-shammah, "the Lord who is there." The power of His presence sets us apart from the world.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

God is omnipresent. His very presence is in a believing heart.

Jehovah-shalom and Jehovah-shammah reveal God as a Father who brings both supernatural peace and divine presence through His Holy Spirit, the very presence of Christ Himself.

... lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. --Matthew 28:20

III. Benefit 3—Soundness – Health and Healing

The third benefit you have in the new covenant is the promise of health and healing.

Jehovah-rapha (rah-phah') means "Jehovah heals." The name was revealed in an incident recorded in Exodus 15:22-27. After the Israelites escaped the slavery of Egypt, they were traveling through the wilderness of Shur and went for three days with no water. They finally arrived at a stream called Marah, but they could not drink from it because the waters were bitter or poisonous.

The people began to murmur against Moses and ask, "What shall we drink?" God showed Moses a tree on the bank of the waters and told him to cut it down and throw it into the waters to make them sweet or drinkable.

When Moses did that, God revealed Himself as Jehovah-rapha. He said, "*If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.*" (Ex. 15:26).

Matthew recorded that "*He [Jesus] Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses*" (Matt. 8:17), and the prophet Isaiah declared, "*By His stripes we are healed*" (Isa. 53:5). The apostle Peter also confirmed the healing benefits available to us through the blood of Jesus when he confirmed that Christ "*Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed*" (1 Peter 2:24).

God sees your healing as already done: "*By whose stripes you were healed.*" When you appropriate the name Jehovah-rapha, you can claim the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual healing guaranteed by your heavenly Father's name.

Hallow His Name:

C. JEHOVAH ROPHE- The Lord our Healer

Praise God for your healing!

IV. Benefit 4—Success—the promise of freedom from the curse of the Law.

The fourth benefit you enjoy because of the covenant relationship with God your Father is freedom from the curse of the law. This benefit, which assures your success, is reflected in the name *Jehovah-jireh* (gy-rah), which means "Jehovah my Provider."

The name was revealed to Abraham in an event recorded in Genesis 22. God commanded Abraham to offer his son, Isaac, as a burnt sacrifice on Mount Moriah. Abraham knew it was not God's nature to require human sacrifice as other heathen

nations did, but he proceeded to fulfill God's command. He rose early in the morning and made a three-day journey to comply with the directive.

When Abraham arrived at Mount Moriah, he built an altar and placed Isaac on it. Just as Abraham raised the knife to sacrifice the young man, God commanded Abraham to stop. The Lord provided a ram, caught by its horns in the bushes, as a substitute for Isaac. Through that incident Abraham received a new revelation of God, which was reflected as he named the place "The-LORD-Will-Provide," or *Jehovah-jireh* (Gen. 22:14).

Without God, all people are cursed to failure—not because of what a parent might have declared but because all have sinned (Rom. 3:23). Paul indicated that *"cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them"* (Gal. 3:10). But Paul shared the good news that *"the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death"* (Rom. 8:2).

Through the blood of Jesus, we can be redeemed from the curse of the law: *"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus"* (Gal. 3:13-14).

You can be delivered from sin and freed from any curse spoken over you any other person.

God blessed everything Abraham did because *Jehovah-jireh* became his provider. The blood of Jesus made provision for us, the curse is removed, and we are heirs of the same promises of success given to Abraham (Rom. 8:32). God promises success if we base our lives on scriptural principles: *"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success"* (Josh. 1:8). In Deuteronomy 28, God promised that blessings

would "overtake" us if we obey Him. If we do not choose to obey, the curses of Egypt (a spiritual type of sin) will be upon us.

The blood of Jesus releases you from the curse of failure in this world and destines you for success. God sees your needs beforehand and makes provision. While you are going up one side of the mountain as Abraham did, God is sending your ram of provision up the other side!

Hallow His Name:

D. JEHOVAH JIREH- The Lord our Provider

Romans 8:32

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

God blessed Abraham in all things. (Gen 24:1) Spiritually, as believers, we are the descendants of Abraham. Jesus removed the curse from us. (Gen 3:17-18 and John 19:2)

V. Benefit 5—Security—Freedom from fear

The fifth benefit you enjoy in your covenant relationship with God your father is freedom from the fear of death and hell. This is reflected in two compound names of God, Jehovah-nissi and Jehovah-raah.

In the name *Jehovah-nissi* (nis'-see), or "Jehovah my Banner," the word for banner is translated as "pole, ensign, or standard" and also means "miracle." In Old Testament

times, a banner or standard was a signal to Israel that their conflicts were actually God's battles and He would deliver them.

The name Jehovah-nissi was revealed through an incident recorded in Exodus 17:8-15. God's people, Israel, were engaged in heavy battle with their enemies, the Amalekites. While they were fighting, Moses viewed the warfare from the top of a hill, and an interesting phenomenon occurred. As long as Moses held up his hands, Israel prevailed in the conflict. When he grew weary and let down his hands, the Amalekites prevailed. Because the battle was lengthy, Moses' hands became so weary that Aaron and Hur came alongside to support his arms until Israel defeated the enemy. After the victory, Moses built an altar and called its name "The-LORD-Is-My-Banner" (Ex. 17:15).

The prophet Isaiah predicted that someday a "banner" would be raised for God's people (Isa. 11:10). That banner is Jesus Christ who was lifted above all our battles on the cross of Calvary. He is our eternal standard, and through Him, we are freed from the fear of death, hell, and all the power of the enemy. As you and I fight our own "Amalekites" in our valleys of battle, we are assured of victory because this standard was raised over us once and for all on the hill of Calvary. He is raised up over every problem and circumstance in your life. When you get in trouble, don't look to yourself. Look to the Banner raised high above you!

Isaiah 11:12-16, which depicts Jesus as the Banner, has spiritual parallels with the account we studied in Matthew 21:12-16 where Jesus cleansed the temple. When Jesus is lifted up, *purity* results; Isaiah 11:12-13 indicates there are no more petty envy and harassment between Israel and Judah (representative of God's people). Then God's *power* is manifested as outcasts are drawn to this Banner (Isa. 11:12), just as people who could not see or walk went to Jesus in the temple. The power of the enemy is broken over their lives as their adversary is "cut off" (Isa. 11:13). As a result, *perfected praise* erupts in Isaiah 12.

Hallow His name

E. JEHOVAH NISSI - The Lord our Banner

Romans 8:37

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

One other compound name of God provides freedom from fear. It is *Jehovah-rohi* (row-hee'), which means "Jehovah my Shepherd." This name occurs in Psalm 23 where David declares, "The LORD is my shepherd." The primary meaning of *rohi* is "to feed or lead to pasture" as a shepherd does his flock. It is also translated "friend" or "companion."

In the New Testament, Jesus declared concerning Himself, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11). He is our spiritual Shepherd because of the blood of His "everlasting covenant" (Heb. 13:20). Because He is your Shepherd, you do not have to fear evil, you can feed in spiritually green pastures, and you can rest beside the cool waters of the Word of God. Your Shepherd makes every provision for your righteousness and your material and spiritual needs. You do not have to fear in the "valley of the shadow of death" or in the presence of your enemies. The anointing of God rests upon you, and your eternal destiny is assured (Ps. 23).

F. JEHOVAH ROHI- The Lord our Shepherd.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. --Psalm 23:1

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. --John 10:14

Thank God that he is your banner who has conquered death, hell, and the great. Praise the Lord because he is your shepherd who will lead to through the valley of the shadow of death and into the house of the lord where you will dwell forever.

Hallowed be thy name, Jehovah-Nissi, "Lord my Banner." Hallowed be thy name, Jehovah-rohi, "the Lord my shepherd."

When you repeat the phrase "hallowed be Your name" with understanding, you appropriate the five major benefits of the new covenant that are contained in the compound names of God we have studied. All these provisions that God performs in our behalf are scriptural parallels of fatherly functions that should be provided by a loving earthly dad.

When you boldly make these confessions, you will enter the presence of your heavenly Father every time—I guarantee it! Something supernatural happens when you begin to pray by faith. A channel of divine presence and provision is opened to you, and the mantle of the prayer anointing descends to remain with you throughout the day. It happens because you are approaching your Father on the basis of the blood and its covenant benefits revealed in His name.

The anointing of personal prayer is intricately related to the hallowing of the names of God, recognizing that your Father really is all of these names manifested in your personal life. Until this revelation of divine fatherhood is locked into your spirit, you will not be able to proceed with confidence, assurance, and success in your prayer life.

The Name of Jesus!

Philippians 2:9-11

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The knees of every foe must bow and the knowledge Christ's supreme authority, power in dominion. The full character and nature of God the Father are found in the name of Jesus.

The Name Jesus literally means "Jehovah Saves" or "Jehovah is Salvation," it is the ultimate revelation of who God is!

The compound names of Jehovah all point to Jesus who said, "*I am come in my Father's name*" (John 5:43), for "*in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*" (Col. 2:9).

If we allow anything in our lives that is not his nature and will, we're taking his name in vain. We are not sanctifying his name; we are profaning it.

In the great Azusa Street revival of the early 1900s, this altar call was given: "everyone interested in pardon, sanctification, healing, and the baptism in the Holy Spirit, rise and come."

They were right on! Jesus is our righteousness, sanctifier, peace, healer, provider, banner, shepherd, and salvation, He is the overflowing one, present within us.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Help us, Lord, not to take your name in vain

TOPIC NUMBER THREE

The Priority Part

“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven”

How to establish and live out your priorities

The first two topics on your prayer track, *“Our Father which art in heaven and, hallowed be Thy name,”* have been passed.

You have entered into God your Father's presence with praise and are now in a position to petition. Jogging on in the Spirit, you come to the third Topic on your prayer track: *“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven”*

This is where you pray over the priorities God has set for your life.

You are not begging; rather, you are declaring that God's will **shall** be done — not simply willed, but done — in the earth.

This is not a passive verb, as in a polite request. The form of the Greek is almost violent in its intent, like putting your foot down.

It's a bold Command! (Stomp) **“COME Thy Kingdom (Stomp) -Be DONE Thy Will.”**

You are helping to establish the Kingdom of God in the Earth today.

Setting and maintaining priorities is a common dilemma.

We form priorities on Sunday and forsake them by Friday.

God has a will for each day of your life; therefore, put your foot down in prayer.

Instead of constantly mouthing weak little prayers such as "Jesus, help me be a better person today" begin boldly declaring God's promises.

Stand in the victory that Christ has won for you.

Refuse to let Satan's puny attempts to intimidate you hinder God's mighty purposes.

Declare that God's will shall be done; that His kingdom shall come. And what is the kingdom of God?

Paul tells us, "*The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost*" (Rom. 14:17).

It's the Presence of God, ruling in your life!

We want God's priorities to become established in our lives, but so often "the tail wags the dog."

Someone has called it "the tyranny of the urgent," meaning we allow many things that cause us anxiety and trouble to crowd out the important things, things that should be given top priority.

For example, have you ever buttoned up your jacket and missed the top button?

You glanced down, saw everything was out of line and realized you'd have to unbutton it and start all over.

Life is like that.

If you don't have God as your top priority, nothing else will line up as it should. Your health, emotions, goals, and relationships get off center.

This is a frustrating experience, but such frustration can be prevented if true priorities are planted in our lives by the Holy Spirit.

FOUR MAJOR AREAS IN WHICH TO ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM

God's kingdom should be established in four major areas: (1) yourself, (2) your family, (3) your church, and (4) your nation.

A. YOURSELF

Begin with yourself.

The Bible says, "*The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*" (James 5:16).

Unless **you** are right before God, your prayer will not be effective and, you will be of little use to yourself or others!

Focus here on your spiritual relationship-*seek His face, not His hands*. At this point, the issue is not your physical needs, but rather your spiritual needs. We'll get to the physical in our next topic.

Examine yourself--Be certain you are right with God.

Pray in the Spirit until you feel a release in your own spirit.

Pray in the Spirit because this builds you up:

Jude 20

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

Abide before the Lord until the course of your day is set, and the Spirit of God is functioning in you.

Pray about God's plan for your life.

Abide before the Lord until the Spirit of God is stirred in you and the course of your day is set.

Ask the Spirit of Christ to order and implement your priorities and help you live them out.

You cannot properly administrate your home, business, resources, and so forth, without divine wisdom and revelation.

B. YOUR FAMILY

Your family is your second priority.

If you are married, pray for your mate.

Pray righteousness, peace, and joy will rule that mate's life.

Making the declaration of faith, "*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done.*" Pray over the needs of your mate until the Spirit gives release to move on in prayer.

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Don't worry Ladies; the Word of God applies equally to you! Don't feel left out!

If you have children, declare *"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done"* in each of their lives.

Psalm 127:3-5

Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Make specific petitions for each of them.

Pray over their mates if they are married.

If they are not married, do not forget to pray for the person they may marry in the future.

Pray they will not depart from the perfect will of God for their lives.

If your children are young, ask the Lord to reveal His plans for each child in the future, so you can train up that child in the way he should go.

Treasure in your heart those things the Lord speaks to you about each child, and daily ask for God's wisdom in guiding and training your children.

Petition the Lord to lay other family members upon your heart.

Allow the circle of your concern and compassion to be enlarged.

C. YOUR CHURCH

Your third priority is your church. Pray for the pastor and his wife, the leadership of the church, the faithfulness of the people, and the harvest.

1. Your Pastor and his Wife

As you pray for your Pastors, ask God to anoint them, speak to them, and direct them.

Petition the Lord to give your Pastors a shepherd's heart, to impart wisdom to them as they spend time in the Word and in prayer, and to make them pure channels through which the wisdom, gifts and power of the Holy Spirit will flow.

2. Leadership and Ministry Team

The Youth Leaders, Sunday School Teachers, Praise Team, your Preachers, all your ministry teams.

Call the leaders names in prayer. As you pray for them one by one, the Holy Spirit will often show you specific needs.

Pray for the people in the church who are doing the work of the ministry which directly touches your own life.

Pray the Lord will make the various groups and organizations in the church healthy. Ask the Lord to show them how to breathe in through fellowship and breathe out in evangelism.

3. The People

Pray for individual members as the Lord leads.

Pray the people of the church will be faithful to their families, to the vision God has given your church, and to Jesus.

Entreat the Holy Spirit to plant them in the house of the Lord, so they will bring forth fruit as soul winners and intercessors, and be faithful in bringing their tithes and offerings into the storehouse.

Pray they will serve God as He deserves to be served.

4. The Harvest

This may be a bit unique to you but bear with me. It's really cool.

You want to see your church grow and continue in revival?

Pray for the harvest of souls (Isaiah 43:4-6).

Matthew 9:37-38

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Pray for workers with a heart for God and a love for people. Then:

Pray the Holy Spirit, like a divine magnet, will repel those who are not to become a part of your church and attract those who are, and that the Holy Spirit will draw people into your church out of the north, south, east, and west.

Where do I get this? Let me show you!

Isaiah 43:5-7

Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Jesus said, "... *the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force*" (Matthew 11:12).

When you begin praying over your church, speak to the powers and principalities of the air who work in the sons of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2).

Those powers and principalities hold the reins over certain areas. Therefore, speak to the area north of your church as if it were a person and say,

"North, you have people God wills to become a part of my church. I command you in the name of Jesus to release every person who is supposed to become part of this body."

And then speak to the south, then on to the east and west. In the Spirit look them in the face, and command them to release every one — not every other one — that God has ordained to be saved, planted, established, strengthened, and settled in this church.

Tarry there in prayer until you have a release in your spirit that they are listening and relinquishing what belongs to you.

Through the Spirit, face these geographical areas, challenging them until they drop the reins of control.

Then in Jesus' name, ask God to dispatch angels to minister to the heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:14).

Implore the Holy Spirit, the Lord of the harvest, to draw the people and plant them in the church (Psalm 92:13).

D. OUR NATION

1 Timothy 2:1-3

I exhort, therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

For kings and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Your fourth priority is your nation. Pray *"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done"* in your city, state, and nation.

Pray our President will have the wisdom of God; that our spiritual leaders will walk in wisdom, be people of prayer, and be kept by the power of God. Pray over the elections. Pray specifically.

Call the leaders by name.

Passionately intercede for the United States.

Pray for revival.

The Lord commands us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6), so pray for the success of the nation of Israel.

You may wish to ask God to lay another nation of the world on your heart — muslim nations, communist nations, countries experiencing persecution, revolution or famine, etc.

Let the Spirit of God enlarge your borders and enable you to love the world in the same way God loves it, to cherish different peoples as God cherishes them.

Persist in prayer.

Luke 18:1-8

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

And he would not for a while: but afterward, he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man.

Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

At this point, do you understand what it means to pray your priorities? You set your rudder on your priorities in the Spirit and declare them: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in myself, my family, my church, and my nation." Set the course of your life by the Spirit of the Lord every day. As that is done, you will truly live out your priorities, for they will be implemented by the Spirit of the Lord.

In the context of this prayer are the five major themes that have been restored to vitality in the church in our time. They are praise and worship; kingdom authority; prosperity; relationships; and spiritual authority. Each of these themes is there, and each is in perfect balance and harmony.

In the context of this prayer is everything you need to live full and free in spiritual victory!

TOPIC NUMBER FOUR

The Provision Part

"Give us this day our daily bread"

How to receive God's provision

Jogging in the Spirit, we come to the third topic on our prayer track: *"Give us this day our daily bread."* Do you know how to pray in what you need? If not, this lesson is for you because it teaches us how to appropriate God's provision.

When Jesus was teaching His disciples to pray, He told them our Father sees us when we pray in secret and rewards us openly (Matthew 6:6). Furthermore, He explained that our Father knows the things we need before we ask Him (Matthew 6:8). He then taught the way to appropriate God's provision.

Face it, as long as we are in the world, we will have many needs.

There is, however, a difference between needs and desires.

Consider the Children of Israel in the Wilderness:

They yearned for the fleshpots of Egypt,

They had strong worldly desires,

They were self-righteousness.

Remember, what you do becomes a habit.

What they should have done instead was:

Shown appreciation for the manna and quails Realized their dependence on God's provision

Expressed appreciation

Experienced true joy in all things, no matter how small.

HOW TO PRAY IN WHAT YOU NEED

There are four basic requirements for successfully praying in what you need, each starting with a "B" to make them easy to remember. First, you must **BE** in the will of God. Second, you must **BELIEVE** it is God's will to prosper you. Third, you must **BE** specific when you daily pray for what you need. And fourth, you must **BE** tenacious.

TO PRAY SUCCESSFULLY, YOU MUST APPLY THESE FOUR PRINCIPLES:

A. BE IN THE WILL OF GOD

Being in the will of God implies four things:

Fellowship with Jesus through a personal prayer life and the Word of God,

Fellowship with God's Church,

Diligent, balanced work habits, and

Obedience in giving.

1. Fellowship with Jesus

To be in the will of God, fellowship with Jesus through a consistent personal prayer life and the Word of God is essential.

Jesus warned His disciples, *"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"* (Matthew 26:41).

James said: *"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed"* (James 1:25).

As we seek the Lord each day, His Holy Spirit empowers us with ability, efficiency, and might to do the will of God.

We are commanded to do two things in Hebrews 10:22,25: (1) draw near to God in prayer, and (2) not forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

Fellowship with Jesus is a prerequisite for fellowship with His Church. As we fellowship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit enables us to walk in the light in order that we can have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin (I John 1:7).

2. Fellowship with One Another

The second requirement for residing in God's will is to be rightly related to our brothers and sisters in a local church.

We should also be committed and submitted to our Pastor as the Shepherd of our souls (Hebrews 13:7, 17).

We must remember that we are part of Christ's body. If one member suffers, we all suffer; if one member is honored, we all rejoice. We cannot say to another member of the Body of Christ, *"I have no need of thee"* (I Corinthians 12:20, 21, 25, 26).

There must be no division in the body, but the members should provoke one another to love and good works and exhort one another (Hebrews 10:24, 25).

3. Diligent, Balanced Work Habits

The next prerequisite for being in the will of God is to have diligent, balanced work habits.

Paul gave instructions regarding work (I Thessalonians 4:11,12).

We are to earn our living with our own hands and command the respect of the outside world, as we are self-supporting, and having need of nothing.

Paul also warned that we are not to be neglectful of duty and pass our lives in idleness, being busy with other people's affairs instead of our own, thus doing no work (I Thessalonians 3:11,12).

Indeed, Paul commanded: ". . . *if any would not work neither should he eat*" (II Thessalonians 3:10).

However, we are not to go to the opposite extreme of workaholism, allowing the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches to choke out the Word of God, rendering our lives fruitless (Matthew 13:22).

Work must be balanced with play.

Diligence and duty must be balanced by devotion.

Fear, worry, and insecurity drive us to overwork. When we realize that God our Father is our Source, we are content to do the possible and let Him do the impossible.

4. Obedience in Giving

The fourth prerequisite to being in the will of God is obedience in giving.

In Malachi 3:10, God promises if we bring our tithes into the storehouse, He will open the windows of heaven and pour out so many blessings we cannot contain them.

Why did God give this bountiful promise?

Because He knew we would not believe. He knew also that the love of money is the root of all evil (I Timothy 6:10), and if we take care of the root of evil, we will not have the fruit of evil in our lives.

God promises that if we bring our tithes into the storehouse, He will pour out blessings upon us.

On the other hand, in Malachi 3:8, 9 He promises curses if we rob Him of tithes and offerings. God will not bless something He has cursed. Obedience to Malachi 3:10 is essential if we are to receive God's best.

There is a proper order to giving and receiving.

First, we give that there may be meat in God's house. Then He blesses our house (Malachi 3:10).

First, we give; then it is given to us (Luke 6:38). We are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, then all these things shall be added unto us (Matthew 6:33).

When we give to God first, rather than hoarding our limited resources, we acknowledge He is our source. We cannot receive God's blessings if we are violating this basic principle for prosperity.

The requirements for being in the will of God can be reduced to one element: the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives.

If He is Lord, we will have fellowship with Him in personal prayer and the Word. We will fellowship with His Church. We will be diligent and balanced in our work habits, and we will be obedient in giving.

Jesus teaches us how to pray in Matthew 6:1-13. Almost immediately thereafter, (Matthew 6:19-33), Jesus teaches us how to live on praying ground. Take time to look up these verses and read them now.

After reading these verses, ask yourself: "Has God's kingdom permeated my money, my work, my pleasure, my spiritual life, my social life, and my toys? Am I living presumptuously, or am I seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness?" If the answer to these questions is according to the Word, you can depend on God supplying all your needs.

B. BELIEVE IT IS GOD'S WILL TO PROSPER YOU

You cannot have a poverty mentality and receive God's best.

If you waver in faith, you should not expect to receive anything from the Lord (James 1:6, 7).

Are you fully convinced that it is God's will to prosper you? Look up Deuteronomy 28:1-4 and read it carefully.

God promises that if we are in His will, multitudes of blessings will overtake us.

There is copious evidence in God's Word that it is His will to bless His people. Luke 6:38 promises that if we give, it shall be given to us.

Mark 10:29, 30 pledges a hundred-fold return to those who make sacrifices for the sake of Christ and the gospel.

Philippians 4:19 promises, *"But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

John believed it is God's will for His people to prosper (III John 2).

To summarize thus far, to appropriate God's provision you must first be in the will of God. Second, you must believe God wants you to be blessed. This belief will then give you the confidence to come daily before the Lord with your specific requests.

3. BE SPECIFIC

A third aspect of praying in God's provision is making specific requests. Do you bring specific needs before God each day, or do you just expect the answers to come in?

Jesus instructed us to pray, *"Give us this day our daily bread "* (Matthew 6:11). By this, we know we are to pray daily over our specific needs.

Paul exhorts, *"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God"* (Philippians 4:6).

Remember, you are to seek first the kingdom of God; then your personal needs will be met.

Pray specific prayers daily over the needs of the house of God, your church. Then pray specifically for the needs of your own house.

When you have sown your finances into His kingdom and been faithful to Him and to your church, you can confidently ask for your specific needs.

4. BE TENACIOUS

Luke 18:1-8

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus related the parable of the unjust judge and the widow who repeatedly, persistently begged, "*Avenge me of mine adversary.*"

Because of the woman's tenacity, the judge granted her request (Luke 18:5). Jesus emphasized the point to His disciples when He said: "*And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?*" (Luke 18:7).

It takes tenacity to recover what Satan, our adversary, has stolen from us. Proverbs 6:30, 31 reveals that if the thief is discovered, he must restore seven-fold.

Jesus said, "*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly*" (John 10:10).

John said, "... *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil*"(1 John 3:8).

God promises to restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten (Joel 2:25).

How do we repossess lost ground?

How do we recover that which has been stolen from us?

The steps are listed in James 4:7.

First, submit yourself to God.

Second, resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Third, draw nigh to God. Then He will draw nigh to you.

We try to resist the devil and he doesn't flee so we get confused and begin to doubt God's Word.

But notice that it doesn't say "*resist the devil and he will flee,*"

It says "*Submit yourselves, therefore unto God,*" then and only then can you resist the devil and see him flee.

James 4:8

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Remember the words of Jesus in Luke 18:7: "*And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?*"

Though your answer may be long in coming, be tenacious.

God hears your prayer of faith and the answer is conceived at that moment.

If God's response is delayed, continue to carry the petition in your heart. Do not allow yourself to grow weary as you bear the burden.

It is possible to lose heart and give up and, by doing so, miss the answer God had prepared. There can be miscarriages in prayer. That thing conceived in the Spirit can be lost if we cast away our confidence and refuse to wait on the Lord.

When tempted to give up, remember the angel's words to Daniel when an answer to prayer was delayed.

Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

Now am I come... (Daniel 10:12-14).

The Amplified Bible translates Matthew 7:7: *"Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you."*

We must be tenacious in praying for our needs.

The purpose of the parable we studied in Luke 18 is *"... that men ought always to pray, and not to faint"* (Luke 18:1).

Paul admonishes, *"Pray without ceasing"* (I Thessalonians 5:17).

When we are tempted to quit, may we hear the words of Jesus ringing in our spirits: *"men ought always to pray, and not to faint!"*

Do not give up!

Remember the message of Hebrews 11:6: *"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."*

To appropriate God's provision, you must first make sure you are residing in the will of God and walking in the purposes of God. Next, believe it is God's will to prosper you. Daily begin to ask God specifically for what you need. And last, be tenacious.

This is how Jesus taught us to expect and experience God's provision.

TOPIC NUMBER FIVE

The Pardon Part

“And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors”

How to get along with everybody all the time

God does not want us to remain children in Him, but we must grow into maturity. We are measured by the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Eph. 4:13)

We now come to Topic number four on our prayer track: *“And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”*

As a Christian, you are in the process of coming to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ — of becoming full-grown in God (Ephesians 4:13).

Part of that growth process is learning how to forgive one another.

In marriage, if husbands and wives learn to say, "I'm sorry. Please forgive me," the marriage keeps growing. If not, the marriage dies. This is true of any relationship; learning to forgive is an essential element of growth.

If something rises up on the inside when you think of some people, you need to understand that God uses those who sin against us to teach us how to forgive.

We could never do this apart from knowing that we ourselves have been forgiven.

If the blood of Jesus has forgiven us, we must also forgive those who sin against us.

Because we are forgiven, for Jesus' sake we forgive others. Forgiveness is an important key to spiritual liberty, victory, and joy.

HOW DOES GOD'S PRINCIPLE OF FORGIVENESS WORK?

In His model prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray, *"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"* (Matthew 6:12).

Then immediately in Matthew 6:14, 15, Jesus gives an addendum to His teaching on prayer, reemphasizing and underscoring the tremendous importance of forgiveness.

Matthew 6:14-15

*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:
But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your
trespasses.*

Unforgiveness is the reason why many people's prayers are not answered.

Forgive us as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

HOW DO I APPLY IT?

A. Ask God to Forgive You (1 John 1:9).

As we approach this fourth topic on our prayer track, we may have already dealt with our sins. Often in the first part of our prayer, as we thank God for the blood of Jesus, the Holy Spirit puts a finger on some sin needing to be confessed, forgiven, and forsaken.

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in your life that are not pleasing to God.

If unconfessed sin surfaces at this point, confess that sin to God claiming this promise: *"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).

The word “*confess*” used in I John 1:9 means "to speak the same thing."

In other words, we must agree with what God says about our sin and be willing to turn away from it.

Psalm 66:18

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

2. Confess your sin.

Agree with God and say what He says about your sin.

Ask Him to help you hate the sin with perfect hatred and to deliver you from its dominion.

Praise His name, JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH: "Jehovah who sanctifies."

Psalm 32:5 *I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.*

3. Refuse to accept condemnation.

Beware that Satan sometimes doubles back, seeking to remind us of past failures.

Do not allow his condemnation, but resist Satan's tactic by internalizing:

"There is therefore now no condemnation to (judgment against) them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1).

4. Remember: You are the righteousness of God in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

5. You are complete in Him.

Colossians 2:10

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

B. How often should we forgive?

1. We know that forgiveness is essential in both directions!

Matthew 6:14-15

*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:
But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your
trespasses.*

But how often should we forgive? The disciples wondered the same thing in:

Matthew 18:21, 22

*"Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?"
Peter asked.*

*Jesus answered, "I say not unto thee, until seven times: but until seventy times
seven".*

What was Jesus saying? He was telling Peter to forgive as many times as he was offended. Why would Jesus make such a statement?

It was because, that is how many times He is ready and willing to forgive us.

Take a moment later to look up Matthew 18:23-35 and read the parable Jesus relates to Peter; a parable of forgiveness.

In the parable, Jesus reveals truths that are tremendously important to us.

First, Jesus uses the parable to teach us God has forgiven our great debt of sin — a debt so huge it would have been impossible for us ever to repay it.

The servant owed the king ten thousand talents (verse 23), an amount of approximately \$10,000,000 in today's terms.

The king knew the servant was struggling beneath a debt so enormous that he could never repay it.

When Jesus reveals a fellow-servant owed the forgiven servant a debt of a hundred pence (about twenty dollars), He is saying to us: "Your debt of sin against God is greater than any debt anyone will ever owe you."

Next, Jesus relates how the forgiven servant made a moral decision not to forgive his fellow servant. Instead, he had him thrown into prison. When we refuse to forgive another person, we place ourselves in bondage.

Jesus shares what the king asked the forgiven servant when he discovered the servant's lack of compassion for his fellow-servant.

The question is one of the most pivotal in the New Testament, for it is God's question to each one of us:

"Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee?" (Matthew 18:33).

We are to forgive at the same level we are forgiven by God.

Once we realize how much we have been forgiven by God, we can freely forgive others.

If you have trouble forgiving, ask God to give you a revelation of Calvary and the price He paid for your forgiveness.

The Prophet Isaiah gave us a glimpse of this incomparable price tag when he penned these words in:

Isaiah 53:4-6:

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes, we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Calvary gives us a glimpse of our Father's great, forgiving heart.

In Psalm 103:8-12, David tells us God is gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

He does not deal with us according to our sins but removes our transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west.

This is the level of forgiveness we experience from God our Father; therefore, we must forgive others at that same level of forgiveness.

The last picture Jesus portrays is the king's anger toward the unforgiving servant which resulted in the deliverance of the servant to the tormentors.

If we do not forgive, God will deliver us to tormentors until we choose to forgive others.

Who do you imagine those tormentors are? Could they be the powers of darkness?

When we sin—our hedge of protection comes down and it's open season for demonic activity in our lives!

Again, Forgive as Often as You Want to be Forgiven.

1. Meditate upon the great debt of sin God has forgiven you.

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

See your sin actually causing Jesus' suffering on the Cross. Get a mental picture of the bloodshed for your forgiveness.

By an act of your will, forgive those who have sinned against you and release them to God. Pray for those who have wronged you.

Matthew 5:43-45

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Maintain a Right Attitude toward Others-- Set your will to forgive anyone who sins against you this day.

We have seen how important it is to have a forgiving attitude.

But how do we have a right attitude toward everybody all the time when some people are hovering around, waiting for us to fail?

The meaning of the Hebrew word translated enemy in the Old Testament is "observer" — someone who is critically watching.

There are always people waiting to point out your faults — watching for you to fail. So, how do you maintain a right attitude?

Each of us has been sinned against, lied about, used, and misused. We have all been abused by this life.

The key to a right attitude is preparation.

Do not wait until you are in the heat of emotional conflict to decide how you will react.

If you have already willed on your knees to forgive, it is not so hard to forgive when you are standing eyeball to eyeball, toe to toe.

You can then be gentle and loving.

Be more concerned about the other person than about yourself.

The offender needs love and forgiveness, and you need to forgive him. Do not allow your spirit to be robbed.

Unforgiveness binds you with tormenting cords of bitterness and then steals your victory, joy, and peace. Is it any wonder that the writer of Proverbs warns:

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

Make a decision in your will every morning on your knees that you will forgive.

Live in the spirit of forgiveness.

This will keep you free from the tormentors.

If you choose to keep a record of the wrongs and bear a grudge, you will live with the tormenting memories and demonic oppression until you release the person and forgive.

If you are tired of being tormented, release your offenders. Forgive those who have sinned against you. Make the decision to treat others as God treats you.

Luke 6:27

But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

Romans 12:17-21

Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Pray you will begin to experience the fruit of the Spirit in your life in greater measure: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

When you forgive, you become a candidate for the supernatural. Choose to forgive. Understand this: Forgiveness is not an emotion. It is an act of the will.

The spirit of anger, resentment, and unforgiveness that has often ruled your life are being defied right now by the Spirit of God.

Remember, forgiveness is an act of the will, not an emotion.

When you set your will to forgive and pray for your offenders, your emotions will submit to the Spirit of God in you.

Refuse to let self-pity crawl back into your heart.

Jesus never asks us to do anything He does not give us grace and power to do, and He gives the following command to believers:

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you (Matthew 5:44).

Claim the help of the Holy Spirit and obey His command. Your heart will be enlarged with His love and forgiveness, and you will experience His grace that is greater than anyone's offenses toward you.

How can you have the right attitude toward everybody all the time?

It is a matter of timing.

Do not wait until you get into some type of confrontation and then try to get your flesh to forgive.

Make a decision in your will at the beginning of every day to forgive others as God has forgiven you.

Make up your mind you **will** forgive. Set that firmly, in your spirit.

If you want to live free from the tormentors, you will walk that way. You will pray daily, "Forgive me my debts as I forgive my debtors."

TOPIC NUMBER SIX

The Power Part

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”

How to consistently defeat the devil

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

Paul writes to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:12 *“Fight the Good fight of faith”*.

It is a good fight because we win! We already have victory through Jesus Christ who gives us the strength.

Temptation does not come from God:

James 1:13

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

Beware of wrong thoughts (James 1:13).

The devil is the tempter (Matthew 4:3 and 1 Thess 3:5).

Temptations are used to cause us to do wrong. (Luke 4:13, 8:13 and 1 Timothy 6:9).

Even mature Christians can fall into temptation (Galatians 6:1).

Temptations come in a variety of ways: internally and externally.

Although temptation comes from Satan and not from God, James says: *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”* (James 1:2-4).

Sin, disobedience, unfaithfulness, and carelessness make you a target for the devil. (Psalm 119:11 and 1 John 2:3)

Obedience to the Word brings protection from God.

DELIVER US FROM EVIL:

Put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-13).

Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For 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. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God; that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God " (Eph. 6:11-17).

Putting on the whole armor of God, mentioned here in Ephesians, is the application of Jesus in our daily lives. Paul instructs us to put on the armor of light and commands, *"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ"* (Romans 13:12, 14).

Here is how it works:

The armor Paul is talking about here is, in reality, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus wants to be our defense and to clothe us with Himself.

Paul was well acquainted with the armor of a Roman soldier. When he wrote the letter to the Ephesians, he was imprisoned in Rome. He knew firsthand the armor's purpose and effectiveness.

Thus, Paul instructed, "*Wherefore, take unto you the whole armour of God...*" (Ephesians 6:13), and went on to define that armor, piece by piece.

Loins girded with truth (John 8:32; John 14:6; Psalm 51:6; John 17:17).

The loins are that part of the body between the ribs and the hipbones. This is regarded as the seat of physical strength and generative power.

The digestive system, reproductive organs, and the bowels (which eliminate waste) are contained here.

The Psalmist said, "*Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom*" (Psalm 51:6).

In His covenant with Israel, God declared: "... *I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people*" (Jeremiah 31:33).

We are to be full of the Word of God.

"Lord put a love of the truth in my heart. Gird me about with truth. Spirit of Truth, wrap yourself around me. Let truth keep me from all lies and all error and every false way. For your Word speaks of those who '*with all deceivableness of unrighteousness*

...perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved” (II Thess. 2:10).

So let us love the truth, not just in word, but in deed.

Breastplate of righteousness (Isaiah 59:17; Isaiah 61:10; Isaiah 64:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

The breastplate was a piece of armor worn over the chest. Organs vital to life itself were protected by the breastplate: the esophagus (the passage for food from the mouth to the stomach), the trachea or windpipe, the heart, and the lungs.

Paul instructed the Thessalonians: *“...be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation”* (I Thessalonians 5:8).

"Lord, keep my heart right. Filter everything that comes into or out of my heart through your righteousness. Lead me in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake. (Ps.23:3) Come and rain your righteousness upon us." (Hos. 10:12)

"Let me be easily impressed by your Spirit. Let me recognize the unction and guidance of your righteousness in my life. Let me be led by your Holy Spirit in all I say and do."

Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of Peace (Philippians 4:7; 1 Peter 3:15).

In hand-to-hand combat, the ability to stand, sidestep, walk, run, etc., is absolutely essential. Notice that Paul says, *"And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace"* (Ephesians 6:15).

The word preparation means "readiness."

The Amplified Bible translates this verse: "And having shod your feet in preparation (to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness and the readiness produced by the good news) of the Gospel of peace."

David said, "*O bless our God, ye people... Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved*" (Psalm 66:8,9). Hannah said, "*He will keep the feet of his saints ...*" (I Samuel 2:9).

The Amplified Bible translates Psalm 18:33, "He makes my feet like hinds' feet (able to stand firmly or make progress on the dangerous heights of testing and trouble); He sets me securely upon my high places."

"Lord, everywhere I go let me bring peace. Grant to me a willingness to be peaceful and to bring peace, a willingness to '*Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.*'" (Heb. 12:14). Let me be a peacemaker.

"*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace...*" (Isa. 52:7). Let me be a person who publishes and spreads your peace."

"Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1:79). Set my feet in a large place safe from the pit. Send your angels to keep me from dashing my feet against a stone." (Ps. 91:12).

Shield of faith (Ephesians 2:8; 1 John 5:4-5).

The shield was a piece of the armor carried on the arm or in the hand to protect the entire body in battle. Proverbs 30:5 states, "*Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*"

"Lord, quench all the fiery darts of the enemy. For you are the author and the finisher of my faith. Let me be able to truly say with Paul, *'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.'*" (Gal. 2:20).

"Your Word declares that, *'He shall cover thee with his feathers and under his wings shall thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.'*" (Ps. 91:4). Grant it, Lord! My prayer is that my *"faith should not stand in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."* (I Cor. 2:5). Protect us from the enemy's attacks, Lord!"

The Helmet of Salvation (Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 1:18).

The helmet was worn to protect the head. The Psalmist said, *"O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle "* (Psalm 140:7).

Up to this point, note that each piece of armor has been defensive, for protection. However, the next piece of equipment, the sword, is also offensive.

"Lord, protect my mind. Keep my mind and eyes focused on you. Let me think right. Let me view things through your eyes. Let me not be conformed to this world's way of thinking. Let me be transformed by the renewing of my mind, that I may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Rom. 12:2)

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." (Isa. 26:3)

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." (Rom. 8:6). *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."* (Phil. 2:5).

Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 1:16).

The sword was a weapon with a long, sharp blade fixed in a handle or hilt. Used to wound or kill, usually wielded with the right arm, the sword was a symbol of power or authority, especially to judge and impose sentence. Our sword — our power and authority — is the Word of God.

"Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand," urged David (Psalm 149:6).

We read in Hebrews 4:12, *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

"I come on the offensive, with your Word as my weapon, against the gates of hell. Anoint your Word in my heart, mind, and mouth. Let your Word do a work in me and through me. Let me be a channel through which your living Word can flow powerfully and effectively."

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb.4:12).

"The righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart: that is the word of faith, which we preach." (Rom 10:6-8).

Jesus taught us to pray, *"Deliver us from evil."* Ephesians 6:11,13 instructs us to put on the whole armor of God in order that we can stand against the wiles of the devil, and

to take unto us the whole armor of God that we might be able to withstand in the evil day.

What is the obvious reverse of this teaching? If we do not put on the whole armor of God, we cannot stand against the wiles of the devil, and we will not be able to withstand in the evil day. We will not stand!

Praying Always in the Spirit

“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself...” (1 Corinthians 14:4)

“But ye, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” (Jude 20, 21)

“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.” (1 Corinthians 14:2)

“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my mind is unfruitful.” (1 Corinthians 14:14)

The Garment of Vengeance and Cloak of Zeal

“For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.” (Isa. 59: 17).

"Lord, as a member of the body of Christ under your headship; I put on the garments of the vengeance of Christ and the cloak of the zeal of Christ to combat the enemy. Use me mightily in your work, Lord!"

Build a Hedge of Protection (Job 1:10).

Build a hedge of protection about yourself and your loved ones daily by your faith declaration from Psalm 91:2: *"I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."*

In the Amplified Bible, the next verse states: "For THEN he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler ..." (Psalm 91:3).

There are three reasons — or "because" — in Psalm 91:9, 14 why you can claim God's protection:

Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation,

Because He hath set his love upon Me, and

Because He hath known My name."

Let's look at these three "Because"

(a) Because you have made the Lord your habitation (Psalm 91:9)

"But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest (to sit down or dwell) the praises (the residing song of the Spirit) of Israel" (Psalm 22:3).

As we sing praises to the Lord, He dwells among us, enthroned upon our praises. He inhabits our praise.

Paul said he sang with the spirit and he sang with the understanding also (I Corinthians 14:15).

Sing to the Lord in praise and worship. Make the Lord your habitation. Walk with Him in the Spirit, and He will be your refuge.

(b) Because you have set your love on God (Psalm 91:14)

Jesus said to the rich young ruler, "*Yet lackest thou one thing ...*" (Luke 18:22).

He said to Martha: "*... Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful...*" (Luke 10:41, 42).

Paul said, "*... this one thing I do...*" (Philippians 3:13).

We, like Martha, are anxious and troubled about many things, but we lack one important thing.

The Holy Spirit would be pleased to focus our energies and attention — to set our love upon Him. Then we will cling to Him in absolute trust, and He will be our protection.

Remember what Jesus declared- "*. . . Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment*" (Matthew 22:37, 38).

(c) Because you have acknowledged God's name (Psalm 91:14)

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe " (Proverbs 18:10).

From an earlier session, you already know the name of the Lord.

You also know His name signified not only who He is, but also what He wants to be in your life: righteousness, sanctifier, peace, presence, healer, provider, banner, shepherd, and savior.

Know His name.

Submit to what He wants to do and be in your life, and acknowledge that His name is a strong tower.

Inspect your spirit and make certain that you are living in these three "becausees."

Then you can stand in your armor and declare: "You are my refuge, my fortress, my God. In You do I trust. I know Your name. You are my righteousness, sanctifier, peace, healer, provider, banner, and shepherd, and Your presence dwells within me."

This is the way to pray a hedge of protection about yourself and your loved ones. God's circle of protection forms around you like a bird in its nest, or a butterfly in a cocoon. Declare this protection!

You have prayed, *"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from sin."* Now the Lord answers: *"There shall no EVIL befall thee"* (Psalm 91:10) *"because you have set your love upon Me, I will DELIVER you"* (Psalm 91:14).

Clothed in the armor of light — the Lord Jesus Christ — and encircled by God's hedge of protection, stand secure in the victory that Christ has won for you!

Declare: *"He is my refuge, my fortress, my God; in Him I will trust"* (Psalm 91:2).

TOPIC NUMBER SEVEN

The Praise Part

“For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, forever”

How to obey the Word’s most dynamic commandment

The Lord's Prayer opens and ends with praise.

We have brought our petitions to the Throne of Grace.

We do not take God's blessings for granted, but with gratitude.

Here, at Topic number seven: *"For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever,"* we return to praise.

Praise is to express warm approbation of God, to glorify Him and to extol the attributes of God or to praise.

In the Old Testament, we find seven types of praise which are described by seven Hebrew words, namely:

HALLAL

To glory, to be powerfully excited, to lift up and to glorify. The implication is we can get excited about our salvation and God’s provision in our lives.

YADAH

It is praise expressed in thanksgiving. Yadah means to throw the hands in the air / to lift up the hands and to enjoy God.

BARAK

To kneel, to salute, to praise and to bless. Barak also means to be humble and be quiet before God and to wait upon Him.

TEHILLA

To sing and to glory in the Lord. David says God inhabits the praises of His people.

ZAMAR

To praise God with music.

TODAH

To bring a sacrifice of praise and the lifting up of hands.

SHABACH

A loud shout of praise.

When we worship, God is glorified and the worshipper also receives a blessing from God.

WHEN ARE WE TO PRAISE GOD?

We are to praise the Lord continually and in all things.

We are to praise in times of rest and peace, in the midst of trials, and when the trials are over.

In fact, some battles are to be won by praise rather than by warfare; for example, Judah's battle with her enemies that is described in II Chronicles 20:1-30. Take a moment to look it up and read the inspiring account.

PRAISE CONTINUALLY

We are to praise the Lord continually and in all things.

The writer of Hebrews informs us that Jesus suffered for us that He might sanctify us with His own blood (Hebrews 13:12).

Then the writer urges: *"By him, therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name "* (Hebrews 13:15).

PRAISE WHEN OUR SOULS ARE AT REST

We are to praise the Lord when there are no storms or tests, and our souls are at rest.

David knew this secret and wrote: *"Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance"* (Psalm 32:7).

PRAISE IN THE MIDST OF THE TRIAL

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thessalonians 5:18).

We are to praise in the midst of the trial.

In prison at midnight when Paul and Silas sang praises unto God, their bands were loosed by an earthquake, the keeper of the prison was saved along with his entire

household, and Paul and Silas were released from prison the next day. The account can be read in Acts 16:25-34.

In the midst of a trial brought about by his own disobedience, Jonah repented, began to praise the Lord, and was delivered (Jonah 2:7-10).

PRAISE WHEN THE TRIAL IS OVER

The Psalmist David was a man of war. He was also a man of praise and penned these beautiful words in Psalm 40:1-4:

I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust the Lord.

Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

The Psalmist David knew the importance of praising the Lord when God had granted him victory and the battle was over. We must not forget to praise the Lord for His deliverance and faithfulness to us.

RETURN TO PRAISE

The model prayer Jesus gave us opens and closes with praise. It also opens and closes with references to God's kingdom.

After we have brought our petitions to God our Father, Jesus instructs us to return to praise.

The words, "*For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever,*" are idle words to most people. Why did Jesus include them?

As we study the scriptures, we learn that God our Father has lovingly invited us to be participants in His kingdom, His power, and His glory.

A. THE KINGDOM

"For the kingdom is the Lord's," states Psalm 22:28.

Jesus said, "*Thine is the kingdom*" (Matthew 6:13).

But Jesus also said, "*Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom*" (Luke 12:32).

And consider Paul's words in Colossians 1:12-14:

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

Paul also said to Timothy: "*And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen*" (II Timothy 4:18).

When you pray, "*For thine is the kingdom,*" praise God your Father who has delivered you from the power of darkness and translated you into the kingdom of love and light.

Make the faith declaration: "The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work and preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom."

Give Him praise because He has invited you to be a participant in His kingdom. To YOU, Father, be glory forever and ever.

B. POWER

David wrote, "... *in thy hand is power and might*" (I Chronicles 29:12).

"Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength; so will we sing and praise thy power" (Psalm 21:13).

God rules by His power forever (Psalm 66:7).

He made the earth by His power (Jeremiah 10:12).

Consider these words David wrote in Psalm 145:10-13 of God's immense power revealed in His glorious kingdom.

All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

God our Father has made us participants in His kingdom and in His power.

He gives strength and power to His people (Psalm 68:35).

He gives us power to get wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18).

He gives power to the faint (Isaiah 40:29).

We are kept by the power of God (I Peter 1:5).

And God will raise us up by His mighty power (I Corinthians 6:14).

Isaiah 40:29

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

1 Peter 1:5

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Corinthians 6:14

And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Jesus said, "*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you*"(Luke 10:19).

The Lord said to the disciples: *"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high"* (Luke 24:49).

Paul instructs us to *"be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might"* (Ephesians 6:10).

And I Corinthians 4:20 affirms: *"... the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power."*

Give praise to God your Father because He has invited you to be a participant in His power, making His power available to you.

Meditate upon the power of God, your Father. Measure your problem against His mighty, miraculous works and His great love for you. (1 Corinthians 1:25; Jeremiah 32:27; Romans 8:32).

Make this faith declaration: "I am strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. I have been endued with power from on high. Greater is He that is in me than he who is in the world. My Father gives me strength and power to get wealth. He gives power to the faint. As my day so shall my strength be. He keeps me by His power. He has given me power to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing shall by any means hurt me." (Ephesians 6:10; Luke 24:49; 1 John 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:18; Isaiah 40:29; Deuteronomy 33:25; 1 Peter 1:5; Luke 10:19).

C. THE GLORY

"Who is the king of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle " (Psalm 24:8).

"Glory and honour are in his presence..." (II Chronicles 16:27).

"I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will not give to another, neither my praise to graven images " (Isaiah 42:8).

All men fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23).

God's glory is the manifested perfection of His character, especially His righteousness.

We can take nothing from God's glory, and yet He has invited us to be participants in His glory.

Jesus made this possible, as we see in Hebrews 2:9, 10 that in bringing many sons unto glory, Jesus suffered for the sins of mankind:

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

As believers behold the glory of the Lord — the character and ways of God exhibited through Christ — they are changed into the same image (II Corinthians 3:18), and the character and ways of the Father and Son are formed within them.

Through being brought unto Christ's likeness, believers will enter eternal blessedness, for God our Father has called us unto His eternal glory (I Peter 5:10).

Is it any wonder Paul charged believers to *"... walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory"* (I Thessalonians 2:11,12)?

Give praise to God because He has invited you to be a participant in His glory.

We see the Psalmist's deep insight into God's kingdom and power and glory when we read I Chronicles 29:10-14:

Wherefore David blessed the Lord before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all

Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

All things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

When this fact is revealed to our spirits, it is no longer a difficult thing to give our time, talents, money, and ourselves back to God and to live for His glory.

If we do not understand this principle, we will desire vain glory, becoming envious and competitive.

This is revealed in Galatians 5:26: *"Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."*

The word provoking in Galatians 5:26 means "to call forth, as to a contest, stirring up what is evil in another."

The Apostle Paul certainly understood this concept. He asked the Corinthians questions along this very line: *"For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what*

hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?" (I Corinthians 4:7).

Paul said, *"Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours"*(I Corinthians 3:21).

Reflect upon what Paul was saying in I Corinthians 1:25-29:

"... The foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence."

Paul said: *"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death"* (Philippians 3:10).

Reflect for a moment upon Paul's words: *"That I may know Him"* To know Jesus Christ is to know the kingdom of God. *"... and the power of his resurrection"*

The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in the believer (Romans 8:11). Paul writes of this mighty power in Ephesians.

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, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 1:19, 20).

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1).

"... and the fellowship of his sufferings." The man who wrote those words also said, "If so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (Romans 8:17).

What does it mean to suffer with Christ? Jesus suffered that mankind might be saved. Luke 19:41 gives us a glimpse into the suffering heart of Jesus:

"And when He was come near, he beheld the city (Jerusalem), and wept over it..."
The word wept means "to weep audibly, to break forth, to wail."

Paul knew what it was to suffer with Christ for the salvation of others. He confessed, *"... I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh .."* (Romans 9:2, 3).

Paul urged the Philippians: *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves"* (Philippians 2:3).

Paul said to the Corinthians: *"He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord"* (I Corinthians 1:31).

When we study the Scriptures, we see a definite connection between suffering and glory. Jesus, our example, suffered before He was exalted and glorified.

*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name. (Philippians 2:5-9).

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings (Hebrews 10:1).

Peter understood the link between glory and suffering.

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. (1 Peter 4:12-14).

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. (1 Peter 5:10).

What does it mean to know the fellowship of Jesus' sufferings? It is to see with the eyes of God, hear with the ears of God, and feel with the heart of God.

It is to see churches, or denominations, or institutions from which the glory of God has departed, as God Himself sees those: boneyards, whitewashed sepulchers.

It is to hear the heart cry of the wandering, perishing souls of the walking dead. It is to put your ear to the door of hell. It is to feel God's grief and to mourn with Him for the twisted, deformed race so unlike its Maker in Whose image it was originally created.

It is to weep, and pray, and fast, and travail for those who have been robbed and plundered by Satan and to say, "Restore!" This is what it means to know the fellowship of His sufferings.

If we suffer with Him, we shall also be glorified together with Him. (Romans 8:17). How do we experience the glory of God? Reflect upon these words written by Paul in II Corinthians 3:17, 18:

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

A better translation of verse 17 would read, "And where the Spirit is Lord, there is liberty."

There will never be unity until there is mighty glory. There will never be mighty glory until the Spirit is Lord.

Jesus shared His glory with us, and now as we look into His face and behold His glory, we are changed into the same image from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord.

By His Spirit, God releases His kingdom, His power, and His glory. It is all His, yet He shares it with us. God has made provision for us to share in His kingdom, power, and glory. That provision is His dear Son.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. (Revelation 4:11).

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of

every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. (Revelation 5:9, 10).

"... Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." (Revelation 5:13).

Thine is the kingdom! Thine is the power! Thine is the glory! May we never enter or leave His presence without humbly bowing before Him and offering a sacrifice of praise.

D. FOR EVER AND EVER

Genesis 17:7

And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Genesis 21:33

And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the Lord, the everlasting God.

Matthew 19:29

And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Revelation 1:8

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

God is always ready to answer us.

He is always capable of answering us.

He will always act according to His Word and will towards us.

Make this faith declaration: "I am strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. I have been endued with power from on high. Greater is He that is in me than he who is in the world.

My Father gives me strength and power to get wealth. He gives power to the faint. As my day so shall my strength be. He keeps me by His power. He has given me power to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing shall by any means hurt me." (Ephesians 6:10; Luke 24:49; 1 John 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:18; Isaiah 40:29; Deuteronomy 33:25; 1 Peter 1:5; Luke 10:19).

Now, Rest in the Lord for a season, right where you are.

The lifeblood of Jesus made all blessing possible. Because of Jesus, we have been made participants in God's kingdom, power and glory.

Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory! With these words, we pass topic number seven on our prayer track, signaling the completion of our run.
