

*I receive it NOW! It's mine, I have it NOW*" – and then faith begins acting towards the goal. Thus, when you pray, learn to thank God in faith that it's yours NOW. Ask God for wisdom (Jm 1:1-8). Let Him give you a plan of action to "walk it out" and see the manifestation of what your heart already possesses by faith (Heb 11:1).

**6. Realize that you are the righteousness of God in Christ.** 2 Corinthians 5:21 makes an amazing declaration – *"For he made him (Christ) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* As amazing as it seems, God has made you righteous! How? Christ died for your sins. Christ, who knew no sin, took the sins of the whole world (1 Jn 2:2). He paid the price of "death" that sin requires. Thus, through your faith in His work, you are now righteous before God. Why is this important to your prayer life? Because condemnation will cripple your ability to pray effectively. You must renew your mind to the fact that you are righteous, not by "your" works but by the work of Christ. Do not allow Satan to hinder your faith with condemnation over past mistakes and sins. You must thank God for His forgiveness and learn to move on. If you have addictions, then ask God to help you. He is merciful and will help you find the freedom that you long for (Heb 4:15,16).

**7. Realize that you are involved in spiritual warfare.** I'm shocked at how many Christians think that everything that happens is God's will. I guess they never read Ephesians 6:10-18 that informs us that we are involved in a spiritual war between good and evil. Why are your answers sometimes delayed? Very often, the reason is spiritual warfare. Most miracles involve three phases: a) **the Claiming phase** (when you begin praying), b) **the Waiting phase**, and c) **the Receiving phase**. Don't give up during the Waiting Phase if you want to receive your answers (Heb 6:12).

**8. Realize that you can pray with the Spirit according to the will of God.** There are times that your mind simply does not know how to pray. During those times, ask the Holy Spirit to help you. Let me encourage you to study the following passages: a) Romans 8:26-28 and b) 1 Corinthians 14:15. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit will reveal what you

should focus on in prayer. At other times, He will direct you to pray a certain passage from the Bible. Learn to pray by the Spirit and not just your reason or intellect.

**9. Get rid of all unforgiveness, strife, and sin. These are enemies to miracle working prayer.** I cannot emphasize this one enough. In fact, it should be an entire study on its own. The Bible is crystal clear that if we harbor unforgiveness in our hearts, it will hinder our prayers (Mt 6:14,15). Why? Well, I think it's because God feels that if he has forgiven YOU of all your sins, then why wouldn't you forgive those who sin against you? Read the story of the wicked servant who did not forgive. In the end, he lost everything and was turned over to the tormentors (Mt 18:21-35).

**10. Learn to praise and thank God for the answer before it comes.** Thanksgiving is the language of faith. Philippians 4:6 says to pray WITH THANKSGIVING. This goes back to point #5 above. The time to start "thanking God for the answer" is when you first pray. Anyone can thank God once the answer shows up. Learn to release your faith by thanking God ahead of time for the answers you are requesting. This expresses your confidence that God has heard you and that He is acting on your behalf. If you'll develop this habit, it will produce *"peace that passes understanding"* (Phil 4:6,7).

Dear friend, I encourage you to pray more. Pray throughout the day – as you work, travel and rest. Pray! ■ -- **Jason Peebles**



## Key Memory Verse:

*"Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*  
*Philippians 4:6,7*

## Father, Teach Me to Pray

*"Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I accept His sacrifice and commit my life to Him. Thank you for the great privilege of prayer. Draw me by your Spirit into the dimension of miracle working prayer. Thank you for your great love. In Jesus Name – Amen."*

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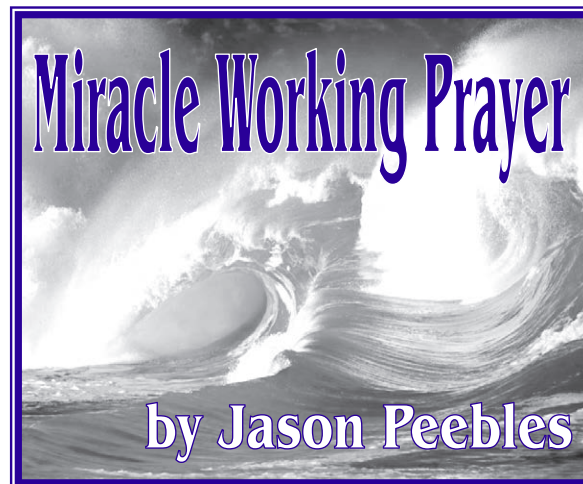
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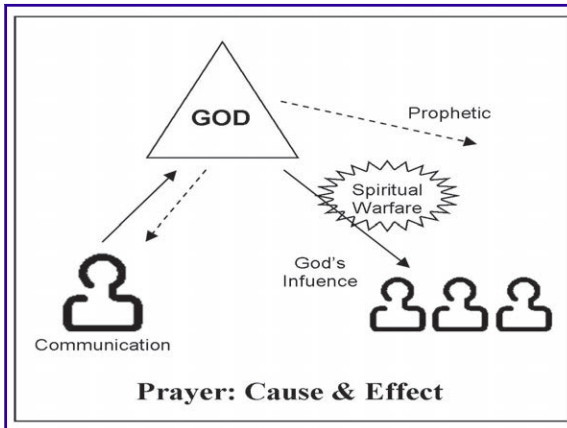
Prayer is a multi-faceted tool. It's similar to the Swiss Army knife – it can serve you in many different ways! For example, prayer can be a vehicle for COMMUNICATION. There are accounts all through the Bible where God spoke to people during prayer. He guided them, impressed them, and influenced their decisions. Prayer can also be a vehicle for exercising your God-given DOMINION over Satan. Prayer is an important part of your spiritual armor (Eph 6:12,18). Additionally, prayer can extend God's INFLUENCE over people and situations. Prayer can also release MIRACLES (Acts 4:29-37) and PROPHETIC power (Acts 13:1-3). It would take many books to explore all the dimensions and benefits of prayer.

## Cause & Effect Nature of Prayer

**My primary desire is that this brief study will reinforce the truth within your heart that there is a definite "cause and effect" nature to prayer – and thus, rekindle your desire to pray more!** You see, when you pray in faith, spiritual forces are set in motion. This thought is very different than the secular view. The secular view is that the only value to prayer is that it can be a psychological aid to make you feel better. Compare this idea to what James 5:16 says: *"The earnest, heartfelt, continued prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous POWER available, dynamic in its working"* *Amplified Version*. When you study this passage, you learn that Elijah's prayers affected the weather, the crops, and the politics of his day. It

also says that prayer can help sick people recover.

**God's view is that our prayers are a critical part of helping release His power and influence in the earth.** You need to make up your mind once and for all that when you pray forces are set in motion! There were times that Jesus spent all night in prayer (Lk 6:12). Why? Obviously, Jesus understood the "cause and effect" nature of prayer. Dear friend, if Jesus felt the need to pray, then shouldn't you likewise attach a great priority to the privilege of prayer? In fact, even now in his resurrected state, the Bible declares that Jesus "ever lives to make intercession" (Heb 7:25). Wow! If Jesus "ever lives" to pray, then one can only conclude that prayer is of paramount importance. He is praying for you to win your battles and succeed in life.



## The Great Privilege of Prayer

It would be a great honor if you were invited to visit with the President of the United States. Whether you voted for him or not would not matter. The mere fact that you had an opportunity to talk to a person of worldwide influence would make it worth your time. Why? Well, for starters, you could take the opportunity to intercede for things that are important to you.

Dear friend, what GREATER privilege you have in that God has invited you to meet with Him 24/7, day and night! Ephesians 2:18 says, "For through him (Christ) we have access by one Spirit unto the Father." Let this truth sink in! When Jesus died, his blood removed the very thing that hindered our fellowship with God -- our sins. In Christ, your sins are cleansed! Thus, you now

have unhindered access to the greatest person of influence in the universe -- God Himself! What a great privilege you have! You can pray, ask for wisdom in your decisions, intercede for your loved ones, and participate in bringing about God's will in the earth.

Consider this -- if there truly is a "cause and effect" nature to prayer (and the Bible certainly reveals this) -- then no wonder Jesus said that men "ought always to pray and not faint" (Lk 18:1). Even the apostle Paul said to "pray without ceasing" (2 Thess 5:18). **Once you become convinced of the truth that prayer sets forces in motion, you will WANT to pray. It will no longer be a burden or religious duty.** No, it will become the great privilege that it truly is. Yes, I admit, there is a mystery to prayer. No one fully understands all that is involved. Yet, the Bible gives us enough information to know that: a) Christ has given us direct access to the Father, b) prayer releases God's influence and power, and c) prayer should become as natural to you throughout the day as breathing.

## Keys for Miracle Results

Let's examine how you can get miracle results in prayer. Call them divine coincidences, being in the right place at the right time, or whatever -- God wants to be active in your life. Sadly, many people do not pray simply because they rarely see answers. They either they do not know how to pray effectively, or, they pray amiss (that is, outside the will of God -- Rom 8:26, Jm 4:3). **Yet, Jesus speaks of an exciting dimension where your prayers can produce miracle results!** John 15:7,8 says, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit." Wow! MUCH FRUIT! It SHALL be done! That's where the action is and where you need to be. Here are "Ten Keys for Miracle Working Prayer" to help your prayer life .

**1. Come boldly and confidently before the throne of grace.** Most people feel unworthy or ashamed in God's presence, therefore they do not pray. Yet the Bible tells us that we should approach God with confidence. You can have confidence, not because "you" deserve it, but because Jesus paid

the price for it. You see, prior to Christ, your sins stood in the way of your fellowship with the Father. But Hebrews 10:19 says, "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus." Thus, God no longer sees your sins! God accepts you in Christ (Eph 1:6)! Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Therefore, dear friend, learn to stand in the forgiveness that is yours because of the sacrifice of your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Remind yourself that the blood of Christ has qualified you to stand in the Father's very presence.

**2. Pray to the Father in Jesus' Name.** It is vital that you understand the "why" behind this. John 16:23,24 says, "Verily, verily I say unto you, whatsoever you shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have you asked nothing in my name; ask, and you shall receive, that your joy may be full." Praying in the name of Jesus is not some kind of magical spell that guarantees results. No, we pray "in Jesus' Name" because: a) it reminds us, and all spiritual powers, that the basis of our praying is the sacrifice of Christ and not "our" good works. This follows closely with Key #1 above. You can be confident in the Father's presence because the blood of Christ has removed your sins. b) Jesus has instructed us to pray in His name because He has given us the "power of attorney." When someone has the power of attorney for another, they are authorized to act on their behalf in legal transactions. c) Jesus has given you the authority to use His name within the parameters of God's will. When a person has the power of attorney for another, they should act only in the best interests of the person they represent. Thus, when we pray in the name of Jesus, it should be a declaration that the requests you are making are in line with God's Word and His will (those things that He has revealed to you from the Word and by the Holy Spirit).

**3. Base your prayers on the Word of God.** Did you know that the promises in the Bible ARE God's will for your life? So learn to claim them as you pray! You don't have to waste time wondering if something is God's will or not, if it's already promised in the Bible. When the Bible says that you can overcome all things (1 Jn 5:4,5), then what is God's will? When the Bible says that God can meet all

your needs (Phil 4:19), then what is God's will? When the Bible says that you can be healed (Ps 103:21-3), then what is God's will? Do you see the point? Folks, this isn't rocket science! Thus, learn to lace your prayers with the promises of God's Word. If your prayers are squarely based on the promises in God's Word, then your prayers will have authority. Also, learn to pray the prayers of the apostle Paul. Here are several prayers that Paul prayed for the believers of his day. Thus, we know that these prayers ARE the will of God: a) Ephesians 1:15-23, b) Ephesians 3:14-21, and c) Colossians 1:9-18. Remember, Jesus said, "If you abide in me and MY WORDS abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you." Learn to base your prayers on the Word of God.

**4. Develop an image in your heart of the answer and not the problem.** The Word of God and the Holy Spirit will help you "dream" and "see" things. I'm referring to your heart and imagination. God told Abraham to look at the stars (Gen 15:5,6). God was endeavoring to paint a picture on the inside of Abraham regarding his seed and his future. When you pray, learn to envision the fulfillment of what you are praying for. See your business blessed! See your loved ones changed! See your children walking with God! Be warned though. Most of the time, what you "see" by faith will be totally contrary (for a time) to what you see with your natural eyes. You must learn to see with the eye of faith as you pray and persevere (2 Cor 4:16-18).

**5. Believe that you receive when you pray.** In Mark 11:24 Jesus said, "Therefore I say unto you, whatever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them." The original language actually says "believe you received them" when you pray. **In other words, you should receive it at the time of praying** -- then (in the future) you will "see" the manifestation of the answer. True faith reaches out and says, "It's mine, I have it NOW!" True faith does not wait until the answer arrives before it believes. That's not faith at all. True faith begins thanking God for the answers ahead of time. Hope and faith are friends. Both have their role. Hope says, "I wish I could start a business." Hope is the goal-setter. But faith goes further. Faith says, "OK hope, I'll take it from here. I receive it NOW! It's mine, I have it NOW" -- and