

The Prevailing Power of Prayer

Study Guide

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For use with the *Life's Answers* tape series entitled
The Prevailing Power of Prayer

Life's Answers Teaching Series
(Audio Cassettes with Study Guides)

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THY KINGDOM COME

TEXT: Luke 11:2

INTRODUCTION

Many people identify prayer as a tool of faith used by man to get God to bring help to man's dilemmas. Some see prayer as a reaction resulting from life's crises and a last ditch effort to see if God can and will come and help. But Jesus taught that prayer was the vehicle of God through man to bring His kingdom and His will to affect this earth. For us to experience God's prevailing power through prayer, we must examine the following:

I. WHAT KINGDOMS ARE THERE?

Four kingdoms explained

A. Kingdoms of this world owned by Satan; run by man.

1. Kingdoms run by Satan

Mat. 4:8-9

2. Prophecy about kingdoms

Isa. 14:15-18

3. Jesus will overthrow all kingdoms at the sound of the seventh angelic trumpet.

Rev. 11:15

B. Kingdom of darkness, or Satan

Satan's kingdom operates with demonic spirits or fallen angels that carry out specific orders.

Luke 11:17-22

Eph. 6:11-13

- C. Kingdom of God

The kingdom where God reigns as Lord in the affairs and life of the born again man in earth and his position in eternal life with God

John 3:5

- D. Kingdom of heaven

The kingdom where God reigns in the 3rd heaven, which is supreme over all the heavens and whose principles, word, and promises rule all affairs in heaven, earth and under the earth

Mat. 13:33, 44

II. HOW TO PRAY "THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN."

- A. You are a citizen of heaven and have rights to heaven on earth.

Phi. 3:20

Rom. 8:15-17

1 Pet. 1:3-4

- B. The will of God is done in heaven

Luke 11:2b

Eph 2:10

Isa. 46:9b-11

- C. The Word of God is the will of God in heaven.

Psa. 119:89

Isa. 55:8-11

D. Recognize what the kingdom of God is not.

1. Not with observation

Luke 17:20-21

Not with visible signs (Taylor trans.)

Does not so come that you can watch closely for it
(Weymouth trans.)

Jesus removed the sense identification of the kingdom of God.

2. Not divided

Luke 11:14-19

3. Flesh and blood does not inherit.

1 Cor. 15:50

4. No Christian, while operating in his flesh, can also inherit the kingdom of God.

Gal. 5:19-21

5. Not religious practices or rituals

Rom. 14:17

E. Recognize what the kingdom of God is.

1. Not in word but power

1 Cor. 4:20

2. The kingdom of God is within you!

Luke 17:21

3. Your spirit sees the kingdom of God.

John 3:3

4. Enter by born again experience

John 3:5

5. Your spirit perceives the kingdom of God!

1 Cor. 2:9-13

6. The kingdom of God must be sought.

Mat. 6:33

7. When the enemy's kingdom is removed, the kingdom of God remains.

Luke 11:20-22

8. The kingdom of God was manifested at an appointed time on earth and heaven.
 - a. Earth

Mark 1:14-15

- b. Heaven

Rev. 12:10

- F. Pray the righteous prayer of Elijah

Jam. 5:16b-18

Ahab account

1 Kin. 17:1

1 Kin. 18:41-46

- G. Pray the Word, the promises, or the revelation of God's specific will done, which is emanating from your spirit, in Jesus' name!

FINDING THE RIGHT KIND OF PRAYER

TEXT: Eph. 6:18

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is like using tools to accomplish a specific task. This session will examine the several kinds of prayer found in God's Word. Once you become familiar with the right and wrong use of these prayers, you will be proficient in handling most of life's challenges through prayer.

I INTRODUCTION TO THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF PRAYER

Eph. 6:18

A. Prayer and supplication

Prayer = the general prayer to God; not definite in the specific kind of prayer employed

God's major prayer burden is for the church, believers, and saints.

The motive of prayer is to connect people with what God wants them to do.

Supplication = prayer request asking, entreating; or requests addressed from man to God imploring God's aid on some issue or matter

Watching with perseverance = being awake in a sharp state of mind in ever-present, persistent steadfastness

B. **Requests and petitions** = what is asked for, or things asked for

Phi. 4:6

Mat. 6:11

Phil. 1:4

1 John 5:15

II APPLICATION OF SPECIFIC KINDS OF PRAYER

- A. **Intercede** = to entreat or petition in favor of or against someone or thing; i.e., to fall in with or meet with in favor of or against; generally refers to enjoining with the pre-determined mind or will of God, where the Holy Spirit, or Jesus with man, agrees and stands in the gap or makes up the hedge.

Rom. 8:26-27

Isa. 43:26

Eze. 22:30

Giving of thanks = thanking God for His blessings

1 Tim. 2:1

- B. **Pray** = beseech; the fervent heart longing need to be met, directly relating to the text in the Word.

Mat. 9:38

Rom. 1:10

- C. Commanding prayers, in the name of Jesus

John 16:23

Ask = 1) request for one's self or others to the Father
 2) demand something due or payable, as a demand note

John 14:12-14

Isa. 45:11

- D. Prayer of committal

Committing to the Lord all our plans and future objectives; plus worries, anxious thoughts, and reasons.

1 Pet. 5:7

Psa. 37:4-5

- E. Prayer of agreement

Mat. 18:18-19

Agree = be harmonious, like a symphony sounding together; implies no division or disunity

1. Find out what is believable to both parties.
2. Find out what is receivable to both parties.
3. Find out what is doable with both parties.

HOW TO FIND THE WILL OF GOD IN PRAYER

TEXT: Luke 11:2

INTRODUCTION

"Thy will be done" has many believers confused. The challenge facing us is simply, "what is God's will?"

First, we must address this question on a general plane; then specifically. In this session, we will examine the following:

I. GENERALLY, HOW CAN YOU KNOW GOD'S WILL IN PRAYER?

A. First, know that your will is not His will.

1. Our ways are not His.

Isa. 55:8-9

2. Know that as a believer you have divine restraint.

Mal. 3:11

Acts 16:6-7

3. You do not want God to bless your will anyway.

Pro. 16:2

Pro. 16:25

B. God's Word is His will

1. Know that God's Word has been settled as His will

Psa. 119:89

2. Always affirm a truth in Scripture with other similar Scriptures.

Heb. 6:13-18

3. Always look to Jesus' life and words to find God's will

John 1:1

John 6:38

Mat. 8:1-3

4. If God's Word is abiding in you, then you know God's will

John 15:7

1 John 5:14-15

- C. Always begin with a prayer of committal, so that your will is not mixed in.

1. God will establish your thoughts once you are free from your plans.

Pro. 16:3

2. God will direct your paths.

Pro. 3:5-6

3. God will not only free you from anxiety and worry, but also His intimate concern will be released towards you as you commit your cares unto Him. Then, look for His peace to be a shield of protection.

1 Pet. 5:7

Phi. 4:6-7

D. Stand daily praying for yourself first, then others, the following Scriptures:

1. To have revelation of Jesus and His call on your life and the church

Eph. 1:16-23

2. To have the love of God flowing out of you

Eph. 3:14-21

3. To know the will of God

Col. 1:9-13

SPECIFICALLY KNOWING GOD'S WILL THROUGH PRAYER

TEXT: Luke 11:2

INTRODUCTION

Last session dealt with the general knowledge of God's will through His Word, and that while praying God's Word, you will see answers. In this session, we are going to examine the specific call of God to know His will.

Yes, the Holy Spirit will reveal specifics to you, but you must know the dynamics of how prayer integrates with God's Will.

I THE THREE WITNESSES THAT AFFIRM GOD'S WILL

Always go with three witnesses to affirm you are praying God's will. They are the Word, the Spirit and the Blood.

1 John 5:7-8

A. The Word - Witness #1

Psa. 119:89

B. The Holy Spirit - Witness #2

Note: The Holy Spirit always has a joint testimony with your human spirit.

Rom. 8:16

Let us plead together.

Isa. 43:26

John 14:26

John 15:26

John 16:13

1 John 2:27

- C. The Blood of Jesus - Witness #3

Heb. 12:24-29

II. PRAYING IN TONGUES AND INTERPRETING BACK THE WILL OF GOD

- A. Praying in the Spirit

1. Speaking in tongues--the language of revelation

1 Cor. 14:2

2. The Holy Spirit's intercession is the will of God.

Rom. 8:24-27

3. The hope of Heaven's will is prayed through the Spirit.

Rom 15:13

1 Pet. 1:3-4

- B. Praying for interpretation

1 Cor. 14:13-15

INTERCESSION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT: Rom. 8:26-27

INTRODUCTION

Today as we are studying prayer, there is one who is praying on our behalf in the most excellent prayer that exists, INTERCESSION.

Jesus, according to **Heb. 7:25**, releases His saving ability toward us through His intercession.

Heb. 7:25

Likewise, through intercession, there is salvation and a great revival fire sweeping through the land.

I WHAT IS TRUE SCRIPTURAL INTERCESSION?

Intercession = to entreat or petition in favor of or against someone or something; to fall in with or to meet with

To intercede means that you are going to fall in with someone, and you are going to petition on behalf or against someone else, based on with whom you are in agreement. There must be an agreement realm and a position realm of for or against.

True Biblical intercession is a meeting in agreement with God on behalf of or against someone or something.

A. Jesus' intercession

Heb. 7:25

Jesus is in agreement with God, the Word, the Blood, and with the Holy Spirit on our behalf. Jesus is our intercessor for the fullness of God to be manifested to us. The focus of His intercession is to save

us to the uttermost.

B. The Holy Spirit's intercession

Rom. 8:26

Infirmity = inability to produce results

Cannot be uttered = cannot be spoken in articulate speech; thus, spoken in other tongues

The words of the Holy Spirit cannot be spoken in understandable words. Jesus in heaven and the Holy Spirit on earth are in agreement in intercession's operation. The Holy Spirit's intercession is infallibly, invariably the plan of God for us.

II. HOW DO WE INTERCEDE?

A. Our intercession with Him

Isa. 43:26

Plead = to judge; to pronounce sentence; rule; defend

Together = to be one, united

Declare thou = set forth your cause like a lawyer

Picture prayer as a court case.

The Advocate = Jesus

The Bench Lawyer = The Holy Spirit

The Accuser = Satan

The Jury, without authority to decide = The world at large

The Judge

=

God, our Father

We need to understand that true Biblical intercession is with God on earth, Who is the Holy Spirit, cooperating with God, Jesus, in heaven. We become the third agent. We, the flesh of the body of Christ, are able to, with our voice, decree and release the will of God into manifestation on earth through the Holy Spirit's intercession.

B. The power of hope's deliverance

1. All creation is vain.

Vanity

=

without aim and purpose

Rom. 8:19-23

2. Supernatural hope from the Holy Spirit is the power of salvation.

Rom. 8:24-28

3. Hope has spiritual revelation and definition of your inheritance.

Eph 1:17-18

1 Pet. 1:3-4

4. From the unknown to the known

- a. Pray in the Spirit

- b. Begin to see by revelation

- c. Proclaim what you see into the current vain environment.

THE REVELATION OF SPIRITUAL HOPE

TEXT: Col. 1:3-6

INTRODUCTION

Prayer that comes from the revelation of God's will must be deeply moved with a spiritual force called Hope! This session will explore the realm of spiritual Hope and see how to pray from Hope's revelation.

Let's take a journey in prayer.

I NATURAL HOPE VERSUS SPIRITUAL HOPE

- A. Only Hope that comes from Heaven can and will manifest God's promise.

1. Natural Hope can produce an Ishmael even after revelation.

Gen. 15:1-16:4

2. God's Hope still keeps speaking and calls him Abraham and his son Isaac.

Gen. 17:1-8, 15-18, 21; Gen. 18:9-19; Gen. 21:1-3

- B. Only spiritual Hope will anchor your faith and keep you from wavering.

1. Spiritual Hope supplied Abraham's faith as he stood against natural Hope.

Rom. 4:17-21

2. Hope is found in Heaven, anchors the soul, and keeps you from distraction in the spirit.

Heb. 6:17-20

II. THE PROGRESSIVE REVELATION OF HOPE

- A. Hope goes from revelation, definition, and expectation to further revelation, definition, and expectation.

Example: Abraham's Hope was progressive and became more defined.

Note: As this was happening, Abraham had no more Ishmaels.

- B. Keep all distraction down, and learn the principles of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.
1. Prayer is like driving down a freeway and looking for road signs to assist in reaching your destination. There are many distractions along the way--billboards, other cars, etc. If you attend to the distractions, you may easily miss the road signs and consequently miss the turn.

2 Cor. 10:3-6

Col. 1:9-12

2. Trust the Holy Spirit's leading through you to reveal Hope.
 - a. Hope saves

Rom. 8:24-27

- b. The Holy Spirit leads through intercession.

John 16:12-15

- c. Once truth is experienced, freedom results.

John 8:31-32