

We Will Pray

Volume 1 Issue 3 Winter 2022

Ignite The Fire Movement
Summit Ministries Newnan Magazine

Giving Back with a Grateful Heart

Candid moments from
our Thanksgiving
Community Outreach

Six Reasons Why We Don't Pray

Have you become
stagnant in your
prayer life? See more
inside.

The Who, How, and What of Prayer

Have questions about
prayer? We have the
answers.

What is the Point of Praying?

Unsure about why you
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Apostle Debra & Elder Kenneth Harris

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Giving back with a grateful heart!



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THE POWER OF PRAYER

Apostle Debra Harris

When we communicate to our Heavenly Father, it is powerful and supernatural. He has given the believer an open line of communication to access His help, and we love it. Matthew writes, "Ask, and it shall be given you, seek, and you shall find, knock, and it shall be opened to you. For every one that asks receives, and he that seeks finds, and to him that knocks it shall be opened (Matthew 18:19-20)." Our Heavenly Father wants to communicate with us for all our needs. Our position and status in Him give us an open line of communication. Oh, what a wonderful Savior we have!

Prayer is powerful and also is a reverent act of worship. We are told how to come before God in Luke's writings, "So He said to them, when you pray, say, 'Our Father which are in heaven, Hallowed be your name... (Luke 11:2).'" Our communication with a holy GOD must be done in a respectful and honorable way. We reverence Him by coming before Him with sinless behavior. We are to be holy as He is holy. John writes, "Now we know that God does not hear sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does His will, He hears Him (John 9:31)." Our Worship gives us access and empowers our faith and trust in our Heavenly Father to hear and answer our prayers.

The power of prayer increases when we invite others to pray with us. Two or more prayer partners are always better than one. The scriptures encourage us in so many ways to invite others to pray with us, which gives more power than our individualistic ways. Moses wrote to the children of Israel to join in agreement with prayer. He wrote, "How could one chase a thousand to flight, unless their rock had sold them, and the Lord had surrendered them (Deuteronomy 32:30)?" Matthew writes in the New Testament, "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in Heaven (Matthew 18:19)." These scriptures are reminders to invite others into our prayers for immediate and powerful demonstrations of answers on behalf of God our Father.

What should we ask in prayer? Everything ... anything! Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, encouraging them to always communicate to the Father about all their needs and concerns. He wrote, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God (Philippians 4:6)." Believers are admonished to bring all our prayers and concerns to God. This is powerful within itself to know you can take all cares and concerns to God and not worry about any of them. We have a powerful mode of communication with our Father!

God breathes into us, and we become filled with His life, power, and faith to excel. Therefore, we are invited to embed ourselves in the word of God to nurture a healthy relationship.

Our communication with the Father is powerful, and yet it carries supernatural authority. I love the way this is quoted from the Christian publication, Crosswalk.com: "God's purpose may be thwarted, or it may be accomplished, depending, to one degree or another, on the obedience of His people and their willingness to use the weapons of spiritual warfare that He has provided. God is powerful enough to win any battle, but He has designed things so that the release of His power at a given moment of time often is contingent upon the decisions and the actions of His people. A principle weapon of spiritual warfare is prayer. Not just routine or mediocre prayer, but prayer powerful enough to move God's hand to determine the destiny of a whole nation," (C. Peter Wagner).

Oh, what wonderful communication and power we have with the Father in prayer! We can access answers, comfort, help, and love from the Father through prayer. Let us not hesitate or doubt the power of prayer given to us as believers.

Father, we come now with much thanksgiving in our hearts for our available communication you have given to us, we come as you have admonished us, boldly, to obtain favor in a time of need. I am praying for the people of God to know You, in the last hours of this age. Father, help to understand the power of prayer available to them. In Jesus name, amen!

Citation: Debbie Przybyski, "The Power of Prayer for Supernatural Strength"; Crosswalk.com; March 3, 2021



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YOU MAKE THE CALL

Rev. Chip Gordon



Let's face it, most of us have cell phones, and if you're like me - you're on it a lot. Prayer is a lot like a phone call - God wants so much for us to have the kind of relationship with Him like we do with so many people - in constant communication on our phones. God really wants even more than that. He desires to have fellowship with us and in that fellowship do some incredible things in our lives.

As Christians, we value prayer, and as people of faith, we can never pray too much. Many great things happen when God's people "call Him up" when they pray. People are saved, burdens are lifted, power comes, revivals start, sickness is healed. Prayer changes things, and prayer changes people.

The Bible has some awesome prayers - times when individuals or groups of people poured their hearts out to God. In Acts 4 we find one such prayer. Peter and John had been before the Sanhedrin, the most powerful religious and political body of the Jewish people. Peter and John were arrested for no other reason than teaching something that contradicted this group's beliefs.

Act 4:23-33 (NIV)

23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.

27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. 32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all.

What happened when the people prayed?

They were filled with the Holy Spirit.

They had a great task before them, and the opposition was fierce. They needed greater power than their own. They needed the power that only the Holy Spirit could give them. That's also our need today. Some people say they "have gotten" the Holy Spirit. It's not a matter of our getting the Holy Spirit; it's rather a matter of Him getting us! We shouldn't strive to get more of Him, but let Him have more of us.

They found new courage.

In Acts 4:18 they were told "...not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus." But Acts 4:31 says, "they spoke the word of God boldly." Peter, the night Jesus was arrested, didn't have the courage to say "Yes, I know Jesus," yet on the day of Pentecost, Peter spoke boldly and three thousand were saved. Peter's courage came after spending ten days in prayer and being filled with the Holy Spirit.

They became united people.

We talk about the fact that we as Christians value unity. It's a byproduct of prayer. Verse 32 says, "all." When people get together and pray, they are brought closer together. In our community, in our nation, we are in desperate need of unity!

They had a true sense of stewardship.

(Verse 32) These people knew they had been bought with a price; they had been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus. They knew that both they and all they owned belonged to God. This is a big lesson for Christians today. God has given us all we have, but He asks that at least a tenth should be returned to Him to be used to spread the Gospel. The remaining 9/10 is to be used wisely - in such a way that God is glorified. When we pray, God teaches us how to manage our money.

And finally, when they prayed... The place was shaken.

(Verse 31) Prayer shakes things up. Enough said!

Is your heart burdened? Is life hard? Are the responsibilities too heavy to carry alone? Then maybe it's time for you to "make the call." Call to the Lord in prayer.

In closing his book, James wrote, "Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray... The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

Lord Jesus may our prayer be today - "I need You. I want to live for You. I'm ready and willing to make the call. Lord, have Your way in my life. Amen!"

Author Spotlight



Pastor Chip, as he is often called, was born and raised in Newnan. He has been at Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA Atlanta) since opening day, nine years ago, as a Chaplain. Pastor Chip also is the main instructor for the Our Journey of Hope Cancer Care Leadership Training at CTCA (a free training for churches: www.OurJourneyOfHope.com). Chip and his wife, Jo Ellen, have two daughters - Katie (Hunter) and Abbie (Andrew) and are the proud "Pops and Elle" to Hannah and Oliver.

WHAT IS THE POINT OF PRAYING?

Pastor Drew Archer

More than once, I've been asked the question: "What is the point of praying?" Behind this question, there's often a line of thinking that goes something like: If God is all-powerful, and all-knowing, if he already knows everything that he is going to do, and if he knows me and my needs better than I know myself, then why should I pray? Why ask God for something if he has already decided whether or not he's going to give it to me?

If the purpose of prayer is truly just to petition God with our needs, then why pray if he already knows my needs? Questions like this can wreck a person's prayer life. I remember hearing a pastor describe going through years of difficulty with prayer as he wrestled through this kind of thinking.

But is this the right way to think about prayer? Is it only about going to God with what we need? A look at Scripture reveals that prayer is much more than asking God for something: prayer is about celebrating and experiencing relationship with God.

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul is pleading with his brothers and sisters to not be led astray by a false gospel. Outsiders have come in and tried to discredit what they heard from Paul saying that to really follow Jesus you must be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses. To Paul, keeping the Law means acting like a slave. And at the heart of his letter are these beautiful words clearly stating that because of Jesus, we are not slaves, we are God's children:

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:4-7 ESV)

Because of the redemption that we have in Christ, we are no longer slaves. We have been adopted into God's family as His children. That is our identity right now if we are trusting in Christ.

Paul says that our adoption is not just a declaration. God has given us His Spirit, enabling us not just to know we are God's child, but to begin acting like His child. And what is the natural response of a child? To cry out to his or her parent!

Some of the most intimate terms small children can call their parents are "Mommy" and "Daddy." Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we have that level of intimacy with our Heavenly Father, calling Him "Abba," the Aramaic equivalent of saying "Daddy."

Paul is saying that the Spirit of adoption, that our identity as God's child drives us to prayer. Children want to talk to their parents, and parents want to hear from their children. Our relationship with God in Christ is a call for celebration. We are able to experience the relationship we were created to experience that has been broken by sin.

I have three kids, and especially when they were younger, I could often anticipate their needs before they could ask me for something. But just because I knew what they needed did not mean that I didn't want to hear from them. A way I love my kids is listening to them. When we go to God with our requests, it's an opportunity to share with our Father what's on our heart, knowing that he wants to hear from us!

Is this the way we think about prayer? God has demonstrated his love and faithfulness towards His people in Christ. Christ gave himself for us to redeem us out of death and bring us to the life and blessing he now has as the risen Lord of the universe. We have been reconciled to God and are His children. Shouldn't our prayer life be less about what we need and more about what we already have in Christ?

That's not to say we shouldn't bring our requests to God. He is our Father, and he wants to hear from us. There's also a call to pray for one another as brothers and sisters. God loves us in times of ease and times of difficulty, a beautiful way to reflect our family dynamic in the body of Christ is to pray for one another and together as His children.

So, to answer our question, the point of prayer is about talking to the One we belong to and being able to talk to Him about everything going on in our lives. Prayer is a privilege, a celebration of our identity as God's children in Christ.

Will you thank God with me in prayer? *Father, what a blessing it is to come to you at all times as your child! Thank you for adopting me and the knowledge that because of Christ, nothing will separate me from your love as your child. Help me, by the power of the Spirit, show the love, grace, and freedom of Christ to those around me, that they may know your love, too. In Christ's name, amen!*

Author Spotlight



Drew Archer has served as pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Newnan, Georgia, since 2019. Before coming to Newnan, he graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary in Atlanta and served as assistant pastor at Ponce Presbyterian Church in Midtown Atlanta. He is blessed to be husband to Lindsey and father to Celia, Joel, and Audrey.

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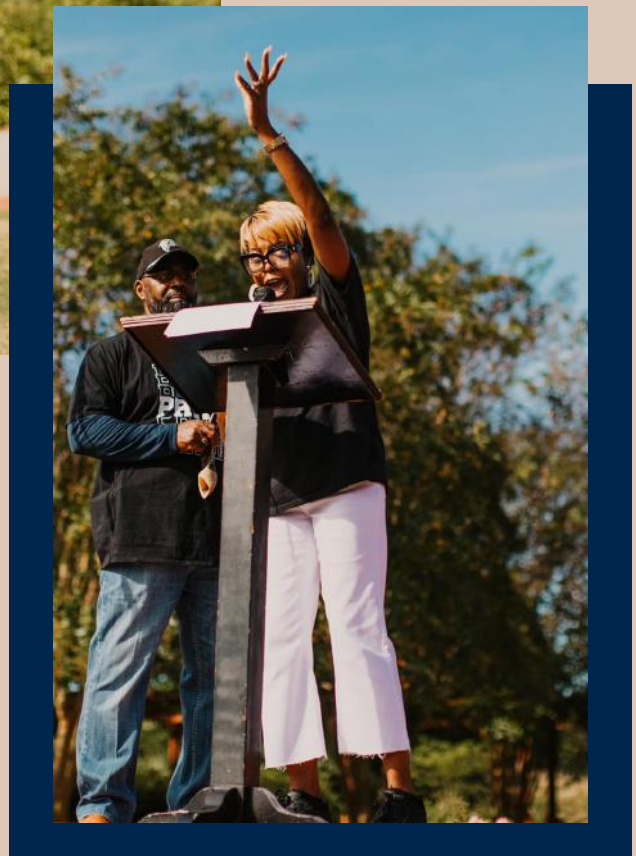
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CONTINUING IN PRAYER





Special thanks to the Newnan Police Department for volunteering to help us with our Thanksgiving Community Outreach.

THE WHO, HOW, AND WHAT OF PRAYER

Dr. Pam Thompson

My earliest introduction to prayer came in the form of morning devotions as my kindergarten classmates and I sang, "Yes Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me, for the Bible tells me so." It was as routine as brushing my teeth. My next lessons in communing with God constrained my prayer life for the next three decades because I was taught to recite memorized prayers repetitively--sometimes as penance for known or unknown sins committed or as part of a to-do list that I could check off as completed and therefore feel relieved. It was akin to the feeling I have when I've cleaned out the fridge and run my Saturday errands. Nevertheless, the silver lining was prayer being placed on my radar along with the opportunity to become disciplined in the practice of prayer. Yet I always knew there was more to the story. This was certainly confirmed as I grew in my exposure to the practices of other denominations.

Today, I think of prayer as a transformative gift given to us by God. It provides the power to transcend our tangible world and limited circumstances in order to align with God and His plans—which are ALWAYS for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). Regardless of what circumstances look like today for the believer, God listens to the prayers of His children and says "yes" to that which is the greatest good in light of His eternal perspective. That last phrasing is ultra-important because we don't have the same perspective He has and will therefore not always understand the ways in which answers arrive or the timing of those answers.

The pathway to obtaining blessed assurance in divine-right outcomes hinges on one of the most important questions in the Bible which Jesus posed to His disciples, "Who do you say I am?" (Matthew 16: 13-16; Mark 8:27-29; Luke 9:18-20). The answer Jesus is looking for is simple and foundational as revealed when Peter responds, "You are the Christ." All power in prayer stems from this baseline understanding of who Jesus is and why His name is meaningful in prayer. Sadly, I frequently observe in my work as a Christian psychologist that many of my clients who identify as Christians are simply speaking out-loud to the air when they pray (with no real expectation of answers) or to "the universe," (which has no power), or they're expressing a wish or fantasy to a god they've made up in their heads with no resemblance to the God of the Bible. Hence, they become easily disappointed with God and/or downright angry with Him when answers aren't provided according to their plans. So as Christians, the first fundamental principle of effective prayer is to take stock of who do we REALLY say He (Jesus) is with our mouths, hearts, and actions in everyday life and not just on Sunday. Is He the one we credit with saving us from self-centered desires, worry, exhaustion, anger, poor stewardship of money, combative relationships, addictive behaviors, and a life of condemnation here on earth and beyond? Is He the one credited with lording over our decision-making and problem-solving when it comes to spending money, time, and, energy. This means turning to Him first to praise and thank Him or as soon as a need/problem/dilemma arises rather than turning to Him as a last resort, saying things like "I even prayed about it" or "all I have is prayer" as though it's an exercise of least importance or minimal value. Being clear on who He is gives access to the power inherent in praying in His name.





Now that I've covered the "who" in prayer, let's take a look at the "how" of prayer. To begin with, Jesus taught us how to pray in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4 in the Lord's prayer. It's usually the first prayer of any length introduced to children or new believers, and it's often just recited from memory in ways that cause oversight of important principles embedded in this simple prayer. The prayer represents how we approach God—who is not of this world—in a posture of reverence, humility, repentance, forgiveness and as one of His offspring conveyed by the intimacy of the first words "Our Father." It reminds us that the motive of our heart in prayer is to submit to the will of Father God, to petition Him for daily provision (not fretting and wringing hands about tomorrow), to guard us from the plots and plans of Satan, and to deliver us from the darkness that thrives around and within us. The power is His, and we are not to get ahead of God with our "great" ideas and execution of "good" plans and pursuit of "fantastic" dreams that "surely" please God—EXCEPT we never asked Him. We expected Him to back-up our plans and dreams after we executed them as though He's here to follow us when in fact He is our lead (whether we recognize it or not), and we are here to follow Him. Either He's God all by Himself in our prayer life, or we're gods...all by ourselves...with disastrous results. He does not compete, and the Lord's prayer helps us remember this essential belief in our hearts before a holy, blameless, sinless, matchless God if we want to see Him move in our lives. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).

So what kind of prayer moves the heart of God? With limited space to expound upon this, my studies and experience with prayer have led me to pray with 3 necessary component parts. For starters, the "what" of prayer must begin with praise of God for who He is and gratitude for what He's already done. For illustration's sake, let's think of experiences with an ungrateful child, sibling, parent, spouse, friend, or co-worker who rarely, if ever, says thank you and yet still asks for more favors and gifts without repentance. We're not inclined to keep giving when appreciation is absent, and the quality of a relationship declines without gratitude. Conversely, when heart-felt gratitude is obvious, we're encouraged to do more for the good of someone who cherishes our efforts and grows accordingly. Well, so it is with God. Psalm 100:4 instructs us to "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise." Therefore, praise and thanksgiving (not complaints and expressions of anger) become passwords to open the gate to the heart of God.

Secondly, the "what" of prayer pertains to the aim of the believer's intention in prayer requests. The content needs to reflect a desire for God to be known, glorified, worshipped, served, and loved just to name a few. In short, the idea is to attach the prayer to the building of God's kingdom. If it's a health issue as the main subject, or a heavy burden or problem to be solved or a material object needed, or a need for strengthened faith, a steadfast prayer life can change the circumstances and the one who prays. The transformation inside the one praying happens as a byproduct of growing intimacy with God—time with Him, conversation with Him, watching for Him, growing in trust of Him—so that one becomes more closely aligned with His purposes.

In other words, the prayer requests shift and change such that the one praying begins to desire only what God wants and does not want what God does not want to happen. For example, various ways to align specific prayer requests with His plans might sound something like asking God to show Himself mighty and strong in the circumstances or to be glorified in the victory over sickness and disease by our lips. It may mean asking Him to be put on display in this or that endeavor for the world to see and know who He is, or to show ways to use the material object to minister to the needs of others such as hospitality in the home prayed for or a new(er) car to commute to work safely for continued provision that helps meet the needs of the church. In short, the “what” of prayer makes God central to the prayer so that “others may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12). And by the way, centering on God and being aware of His answers will not happen with clarity and confidence outside of studying the Bible, both alone and with others. This is how we learn His voice by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lastly, the believer’s heart seals the prayer with the name of Jesus, which declares agreement with the God of heaven and earth on the outcome. In so doing, the believer is equipped to “be anxious for nothing” and to live in the promise that “the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

Father God, thank you for being who you are and for ordering my steps as you so delight in doing. You are the one I seek to please and to praise, and I desire to know you better and love you more. Make your presence known and felt in all that I am and all that I do as you open my mind, heart, body, and soul to receive you, to be led of you, and to trust you. Do this for your glory that others will see your face in my face and hear your voice in my voice...in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Author Spotlight



Since 2004, Dr. Pamela Thompson has owned and operated her practice, Building Bridges to Better Lives, where she serves as a psychologist, professional life coach, and speaker. She has provided mental health services for individuals, couples, women's groups, and inmates since 1996. She also is the author of *Surviving Mama*, an adult daughter’s guide to overcoming strained mother-daughter relationships.



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THE PERSONALITIES OF PRAYER

Pastor Addison Wright

Saints of Christ are the main reason for prayer. In Luke 18:1 [KJV], "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." The Greek word for faint in this scripture is swoon, collapse, or blackout. When you faint, you lose control of your environment. Prayer keeps you in control of your surroundings. The admonition is to stay in control, as God takes charge of your request. When you sense you are about to faint, then it is time to humble yourself and talk to God about the burden you are under.

God the Father wants to answer our prayer. Look at 1 Peter 3:12, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." God looks out for his saints. We are the righteousness of God, so now we are partners together with Christ. Our Heavenly Father tells us He is open to hearing our prayers. He looks at those who do evil, and He is against them. 1 John 5:15 states, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." God the Father hears us when we pray. Jesus said in John 15:16, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you." According to these scriptures, God the Father hears and will answer our prayers.

Jesus, our advocate, is at the throne of God, according to 1 John 2:1, and is there to ensure our prayers are answered. "My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father, He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous." The Greek word for advocate is counselor, spokesperson or apologist. Our High Priest in Heaven is in counsel with God the Father to ensure our prayers are answered. Why would Jesus do this? He is the one that redeemed us from our unrighteous ways. Remember, God the Father hears the prayers of the righteous, but his face is against the evil. Jesus our advocate speaks up for us and assures the Father that the prayer we pray is okay and worthy to answer.

The Holy Spirit helps us pray when we don't know how to get a breakthrough in prayer. Romans 8:26 reminds us, "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words." And in Jude 1:20, "But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, and pray in the power of the Holy Spirit."

**"Our High Priest in Heaven is
in counsel with God the
Father to ensure our prayers
are answered."**





Other protagonists for getting our prayers answered are the Holy Angels of God who bring answers to our prayers. Hebrews 1:14 explains, "Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation." There were only one third of the angels that rebelled in heaven, so two thirds of the holy angels remained loyal to God's will in heaven. God's angels are throughout the bible carrying out God's purpose. Angels were at the closing of Noah's ark. They were there when Abraham bargained to save Lot from Sodom. They met with Joshua before taking the promised land. In the book of Hebrews, it is written that we have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2 warns, "Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it." Angels of God ensured Daniel had his prayers answered. It took 21 days for the angel Gabriel to deliver Daniel's answer to his prayer. Angels even comforted Jesus before his crucifixion at Golgotha's hill. Be aware that God is working on your behalf to stop the Devil from blocking and hindering your prayers.

Often accompanied by demons, the Devil is our number one antagonist who wants to block our prayers. Thessalonians 2:18 explains, "We wanted very much to come to you, and I, Paul, tried again and again, but Satan prevented us." We know if the Apostle Paul was prevented from doing anything in ministry, then God gave permission to let the hinderance come about. God allowed Satan to hinder Job, but it was for the will of God to work out a far greater purpose. The principality of Persia was allowed to hinder the angel Gabriel for 21 days, but Michael, the archangel of God, blocked him. Daniel received great revelation and prophecy concerning the last days. Satan has an agenda: it is to steal, kill and destroy mankind.

Then finally, evil men are used by The Devil to hinder our prayers. The Apostle Paul prayed that God would deliver him from unreasonable and wicked men. 2 Thessalonians 3:2, "And pray that we be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men. This type of human being is teamed up with Satan to antagonize and block your prayers from being answered. Beware of them."

Father God we thank you for teaching us to pray. Thank you for the antagonist and protagonist in prayer. We will pray and not give up. We trust you in Christ name. Amen.

Author Spotlight



Addison Wright Jr has been in ministry for 45 years. He is founder of Word of Truth Ministries, Inc. For 22 years he served as a bible teacher while serving in the military at churches in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. Eight of those years he served in overseas countries of Germany and Korea. He is a graduate of Liberty University. He currently serves as overseer of the weekly prayer ministry at Grace Baptist Church, Stockbridge, Georgia where he and his wife Oma are members. They have nine children and 17 grandchildren.

WHAT A FRIEND

Rewa Presley

This was going to be quick. In and out. I pulled into the grocery store parking lot. As I searched for a spot, an elderly gentleman shuffled across the lot, causing me to wait as he passed. Ugh, I thought. He's walking so slowly. Immediately piercing my impatience and haste, was the voice of God saying, "You want to get old one day."

When I finally parked, I noticed that the gentleman had moved a few rows over. He looked lost. Humbled, I prayed for him and walked on into the store.

When I came out with my few items in hand, I noticed that he was now standing right outside the front doors of the store. Time, I noted, was etched in the wrinkles of his face. Seeing his hearing aid, I asked him if he needed something, if he had a ride. He was fine he said, just looking for his wife. He chuckled, saying that she had probably left him. He resisted my offer to call her, saying there was no need, that he'd call her himself. He thanked me and I walked on to my car.

As I drove away, the old man was once again approaching the lot. Swinging from one hand was a single grocery bag. And this time, in the other, was his phone.

So often we wander, too.

We walk and walk, wandering through the lanes of this life: relationships, ministries, careers. Days slip into months, months into years as we seek connection with our communities and our callings. We look for family and familiarity, for being and belonging, for purpose and placement.

We may feel lonely. We may feel lost.

We walk and we walk, trying to find our Ride.

We walk and we walk, and we don't call the Driver.

And so we keep wandering.

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Psalm 145:18 [NIV]

When I first came to Christ, I prayed all the time. I didn't know if there was a right way to do it, I just did it. I didn't know how long it should take, I just did it. I didn't know if there was a particular, more effective strategy, I just did it. I just wanted to talk to Jesus, my new friend. I wanted to get to know Him. I wanted to share my life with Him. So...I talked to Him all of the time.

Time ... As it passed, though, I started to pray less. Somewhere along my walk with my new friend, I had started to think that there were some things that we didn't have to talk about anymore. Life didn't feel too heavy; I was just carrying a few things. Choosing pride over privilege, little by little, I started to carry life, with all its sins and griefs, on my own.





But then, the more that I forfeited this newly-found peace for pain, trouble started to show up everywhere. Increasingly discouraged, I then began to think, "Where is Jesus? He must've left me." Lonely and lost, I wandered, for far too long. As I approached each lane of my life, I wondered if this one was mine. I walked past so many vehicles, praying about some and wondering about all, if that was the ride that would take me to acceptance, destiny, and success.

Maybe you've been there, too.

I don't have it all figured out yet, but as I mature, there's one thing that I'm learning for sure: prayer isn't about me imposing my will or my watch on God. It's not about me trying to manipulate Him with my silence if He doesn't do what I want. Prayer is about our friendship.

"A friend loves at all times..." Proverbs 17:17 [NKJV]

Prayer is relationship. When Jesus Himself taught the disciples to pray, He started with "Our Father..." He started with relationship. The importance of prayer is in not only learning the voice of God, but in also understanding the heart of God. Because when we do, we won't misunderstand Him so easily or question His intentions so often. We'll trust Him. We'll know that He's coming and that He's coming right on time.

"...But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24

When we know God and are known by Him, He can trust us too. In Jeremiah 33:3, He tells us, "Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." God invites us to boldly petition Him for the manifestation of Heaven's storehouse here on earth. Knowing that our affections and motives are pure, it's His good pleasure to give us the Kingdom and the desires of our hearts. Can we find a friend so faithful?!

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." John 15:13

Through prayer, we have unlimited access to God's power, provision and promise. But most importantly, through prayer, we have unlimited access to God's person. Oh, what a friend we have in Jesus!

Father, we thank You that we are no longer called servants, but friends. And because we're friends, You'll never leave us or forsake us. Help us walk in that truth. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Author Spotlight



Rewa Pressley is a Christian communicator who is passionate about using stories to proclaim the Good News. Her blog, The RED PRESSpective, is designed to encourage and empower women on their journey of faith. She loves meeting new people, sharing new experiences, and traveling to new places. You can find her at theredpresspective.com or on Instagram @theredpresspective.

HOW WE GOT OUR NEW TESTAMENT BIBLES Part Two


Pastor Joel Dover

After writing the gospel accounts and the Book of Acts, the next letters to circulate were the epistles to the churches to encourage their young faith. The apostles began to write letters that were intended to be read by a particular local church, and then circulated to other churches in the region. For example, in his letter to the Colossians, Paul admonished them to read the letter at Colossae, and then to take it to Laodicea to read in the church there, too. Likewise, the letter that Paul had sent to the Laodiceans was to be brought to Colossae and read there. Each time that an epistle would be received, it would be read in the church and the believers would rejoice. This is how they received their doctrine, correction, admonition, training, and so on. Remember that the apostles did not set out to write the New Testament. For them, the Lord was simply leading them in the Spirit to write a certain letter to encourage the believers in a particular church or network of churches.

Believers in both Jerusalem and Gentile nations were both blessed and cursed by the Roman occupation. While it is true that much of the persecution against Christians and Jews came at the hands of the Romans, it is also true that their widespread power and rule afforded Christians unrestricted travel throughout the entire empire, and on a great system of modern roads! This aided both the spread of Christianity through Christian missions, and also the distribution of the letters that would become the New Testament. Missionaries and couriers alike were free to travel unhindered throughout the empire. This meant that letters from the apostles could easily be delivered to the churches, and without government interference.

The churches also helped in distributing the apostolic letters, and in a huge way. Whenever one church received a letter from an apostle, it became common practice to mass duplicate the letter. The churches would meet as an assembly and the bishop would read the letter one line at a time. Those listening would write their own copy on papyrus. These duplicate copies were distributed to other churches, and so one-by-one, the churches slowly accumulated their own collection of the apostolic letters. At first, any local church might have only two or three letters, but the assembly of the letters grew over time as more papyrus copies were made and shared among the churches.





"... the intent of God in giving us these scriptures was not simply to inform, but to transform."

Bishops in the churches taught them to the congregations, not realizing at the time that the collection of apostolic writings would later be officially canonized by the early councils of the church. Over time, letters written to a church in the East would find their way to the West and vice versa. By the middle of the second century, the majority of the New Testament was being used in most of the churches, fully recognized as authoritative scripture, but no one saw the need to codify the testament. Codification of the canon was to be a reaction to the rise of certain heretics and heresies that emerged in the second century, and none was more prevalent than the Gnostic heretic, Marcion.

Near the middle of the second century, about 40 years or so after the death of the last apostle, a Gnostic heretic named Marcion developed and published the first list of accepted Christian scriptures. The only problem was that Marcion wasn't a Christian. Gnosticism took a little from this religion and a little from that, and so Marcion only accepted the Christian writings that he liked, and then mixed the teachings of Christianity with a number of other religions. It was a real mess. You can imagine the kind of confusion that something like this could cause among the churches. Marcion's doctrine was a distortion of the Christian faith. At the same time, pseudo gospels and false writings were becoming more and more prominent, claiming falsely to be letters from an apostle, or from a person of importance in the early church. Unscrupulous people were writing heretical letters and signing them with the names of the apostles in order to give their false writings an undeserved sense of authority. The Apostle Paul actually addressed this in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2 and warned the Thessalonian believers about such fakes. As these letters began to come into the churches, pastors had to hold each one up to the historical faith that had been handed down to them by the apostles, and to make determinations for their congregations about which letters were valid, and which ones were frauds. Each letter was tested against the historical gospel that had been taught by Jesus and the apostles. Just as a counterfeit bill is determined to be a counterfeit by comparing it to the genuine, so bishops were able to compare the teachings of the pseudo gospels to the teaching that they had received from the Lord, and from the apostolic fathers. Finally, while all of this was happening, the Montanist heresy was rapidly rising, which elevated spoken prophecies above any previously written scriptures. The teachings of the Montanists often contradicted the written word of scripture, and it has always been the understanding of Christians that no rhema (uttered) word from God will ever contradict the logos.

For the sake of doctrinal purity, and for the sake of the saints, the bishops had to act. From church to church, the bishops began to make such judgments about which letters were authentic, and which ones were fraudulent, and the bishops were coming to very similar conclusions across the landscape of the church. Regional lists gave way to larger assemblies of the bishops, which eventually led to the Synod of Laodicea, and the Councils of Hippo and Carthage, which affirmed the 27 books that presently comprise the New Testament Bible, and officially closed the canon. There were five specific criteria used to determine whether a book should be included in the New Testament canon. First, each included book had to agree with the teaching of Jesus and the apostles in substance and content. The apostles determined that any writings to be included in the canon must agree in doctrine with the teachings of the Lord and His apostles. If a writing contained doctrine that contradicted what Jesus had taught, it was rejected as an impostor. Second, each book had to pass an authorship test. Only books that were credibly known to be written by an apostle, or by the scribe of an apostle writing under apostolic authority, could be considered for inclusion. The early church believed that the most pure witness to the life, ministry, and teachings of Jesus would come from those who were eyewitnesses themselves.

Third, for a book to be included in the canon, it needed to pass the test of acceptance by the churches. For decades, local bishops had been making local determinations about individual writings. Those that were included in the canon were already being used in the churches, and already had the endorsement of use by the broad agreement of the Christian bishops. Fourth, all of the books that were included were required to have a scriptural tone. Writings that took the tone of folklore, legend, or that read like an epic hero saga were rejected. Because of the Holy Spirit's work in inspiration, genuine scripture has a tone of authority that other writings simply do not possess. Finally, the councils determined that canonical books must have a transformative property...having such a spiritual quality that reading them would transform the lives of men. They recognized that the intent of God in giving us these scriptures was not simply to inform, but to transform.

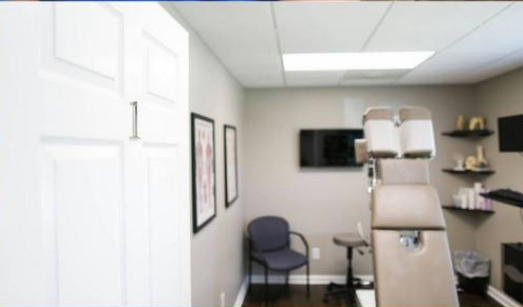
And so it is that we have received such a marvelous testimony of life and ministry of Jesus, the birth and formation of the early church, and doctrinal teaching that has guided the church for two millenia. The Bible is alive...it is living, active, and sharp! By way of the Bible, God challenges sinners to repent, encourages believers to press on, binds up the those with broken hearts, brings freedom to the oppressed, levels inequalities, sets free the captives, brings peace to the hearts of men, restores the lost and the wanderer to fellowship with Himself, shows us the things which are to pass in the days ahead, and declares the favor of God to men in the person of Jesus Christ.

Author Spotlight



Joel Dover is the pastor of the Calvary Chapel Church in Newnan, which he started from a small Bible study in 2014. He is the former Dean of Biblical Studies at Calvary Chapel University where he taught Old & New Testament, Hermeneutics, and Theology. Joel earned a Doctor of Ministry with honors from Luther Rice Seminary in 2010, and holds two Master's degrees from Liberty University and a Bachelor's degree from UNC Wilmington.

Joel married his college sweetheart and they have three amazing children. Joel is also a musician and songwriter, and enjoys leading worship, reading, and the great outdoors.



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SIX REASONS WHY WE DON'T PRAY

Pastor Tim Riordan

Martin Luther said, "I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." This quote becomes more profound to me every day. We're all busy, and many of us struggle with having an effective prayer life. Maybe your prayer life is everything it should be, but many would say their needs improvement. A Crossway study revealed that only two percent of the respondents were very satisfied with their prayer lives.

We know prayer is important. The Scripture tells us to "pray without ceasing. Jesus commanded us to ask, seek, and knock through prayer. The verb tense of Jesus' command means to keep on asking, keep on seeking, and keep on knocking. It's the tense of continuous action.

Since prayer is so important, why don't we pray as we should? Consider six barriers to an effective prayer life.

We're too busy.

No one wants to say it out loud, but many would say they're too busy to pray. Martin Luther would say we're too busy not to pray. The reality is that we all have the same amount of time, so it's more of a priority issue than a schedule issue. I recently read the average person spends 145 minutes per day on social media. If we want to improve our prayer life, maybe we should consider alleviating something that's not as important.

We don't believe prayer works.

Some people don't pray because they're disappointed with previous experiences. They may have prayed about a matter in the past and felt God was silent. You must ask yourself what prayer is supposed to do? If prayer working means we always get what we ask for, we're viewing prayer from the wrong perspective. The main purpose of prayer is to align us with God and strengthen our relationship with Him. It's not like a Make a Wish program or a Christmas list.

It's also important to remember God doesn't always say yes to our prayers. No is just as legitimate an answer as yes. Sometimes He says wait. One reason God commands us to persist in prayer is because prayer puts us in a posture of change. We may be praying for the wrong thing, and as we persist, God helps us to change our prayers. Our lives may need a spiritual adjustment. Prayer makes us pliable to the touch of God.

We are self-sufficient.

Another word for self-sufficiency is pride. If we don't pray because we don't believe we need God, our view is skewed. If pride is our barrier, we need an honest meeting with ourselves before God and repent.

It's possible we believe we should only take the big issues to God and try to solve the smaller ones by ourselves. In this case, we need to be reminded of passages like Philippians 4:6-7 where we're told to bring everything to God in prayer. God wants to be involved in every aspect of our lives. We will often find it's the little things that open our minds to understanding some aspect of God's nature or that reveal an opportunity for us to praise God.





We don't know how to pray.

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. You can ask for the same thing. Remember that at its most basic definition, prayer is simply conversation with God. We can certainly learn to pray more effectively, but begin by talking to God about what's going on in your life. I wrote about learning to pray in my newest book, *Following Jesus*. I suggested you review Jesus' teaching in *The Lord's Prayer*. You can also pattern your prayers by using an acrostic with the word PRAY: P - Praise, R - Repent, A - Ask, Y - Yield.

You can find many excellent books about learning how to pray. My church just completed a spiritual growth emphasis where we used Rick Warren's *40 Days of Prayer*. Every video lesson is on YouTube.

We are harboring sin.

Sin is one of the greatest barriers to an effective prayer life. Psalm 66:18 says, "If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (NASV). When we hold onto sin without repentance, God is not open to answering our prayers. God demands first place, and harboring sin is like practicing idolatry. Go before God and repent. Consider Psalm 139:23-24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way" (NASV).

We see prayer as a compartment and not a lifestyle.

We tend to make prayer an activity, an event on our calendar. Prayer is not just something we do but the life we live. We should imagine ourselves starting our prayer time in the morning before we get out of bed and saying "amen" as we drift off to sleep. In other words, talk to God all day long about what you are doing together.

Prayer is important! What barriers are keeping you from a meaningful prayer life, and what will you do today to overcome those barriers?

Father, thank you for the privilege of entering your throne room through prayer. Forgive us when we allow other things to be a barrier to our sweet communion with you. Please ignite in us a passion and a priority for prayer. Amen.

Author Spotlight



Dr. Tim Riordan serves as the Lead Pastor of SonRise Baptist Church in Newnan, Georgia, and has received degrees from the University of Georgia, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Tim is an award-winning, bestselling author and has written several books including *Songs from the Heart: Meeting with God in the Psalms* and *Wisdom Speaks: Life Lessons from Proverbs*. He and his wife Sandra have six children and four grandchildren.

OVERCOMING & RECEIVING RESULTS THROUGH PRAYER

Leslie Vaughn



Do you often feel you can't pray? Are there people who take you there? (Needs reworking/clarification. I don't understand this question.) If so, it's time to pray. I would like to help you reach your brightest life ever by sharing what God has given me for you.

Many think of me as a prayer warrior. I didn't start out that way. I struggled with it a lot at first. I guess back in the day, people would see something in me and ask me to pray. At first I would forget. Now, almost every time that people ask me to pray, I write it down and stick it in my pocket.

People continued to ask me to pray, so I would write the name of the person and give it to Mom. See, I knew she was a prayer warrior, but I didn't see that in myself. Eventually, I both gave the name to Mom and also prayed myself. I still do that today, but now I take a more active role in prayer for others. I'm still growing in it. I really love praying for people and hearing the results. It makes me happy because I know my prayers avail much. I'm the righteousness of God, and my prayers get results. God is listening to me. I know He hears me when I pray.

God wants to hear our voices. He wants us to wait on Him and be expectant. Some Christians may not pray because they think it is not their thing, or they think they won't get an answer.

You may have to start like I did. Regardless, I encourage you to get started in developing your prayer life. Connect with God. Become a person of prayer, for it's time to pray. Prayer is important to our spiritual growth and our lives.

Often I've felt condemned regarding my personal prayer time. People teach to do it like this or say it like that. It can cause you to feel that you don't know what to do. Through practice and experience, I've learned a few helpful things, and my prayers have evolved.

Matthew 11:28 (KJV) says, "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." God's Word says come to Him. Come as you are. If you are weary, come weary. If you are heavy laden, come heavy laden. Come as you are. He will give you rest. God wants to hear from the real you.

Hebrews 4:16 reminds us, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Another aspect of prayer is to come boldly. Come to God as if you have a right to pray to Him. Ask for help to pray. Also come believing. If we want to receive answers, it's important to come boldly.

Hebrews 11:6 states, "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." We come to God believing He is, and He rewards those who diligently seek Him. As we pray, we are seeking Him. We believe He is God.

Matthew 6:33 tells us to, "Seek first the kingdom of God and all things will be added unto you." It's not the thing we seek, it's a relationship with God. Prayer is a way to cultivate that relationship. Therefore, it is important to pray.

There once was a job situation that had me down. I sought God because I didn't know what to do. Since I needed wisdom, I boldly asked for it and God gave it to me. He also did more than I could ever think of and gave more than I deserved. I received mercy and help in my time of need.

Sometimes we get stuck in life situations. We wonder, *What is the use of prayer?* Then we neglect it. Because of prayerlessness, we stay stuck. But you don't have to stay stuck anymore. You can pray. Are you willing? Are you ready to get free of prayerlessness? You can do it. God will answer your prayers.

Philippians 4:6-7 comforts, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." I was anxious, worried and stressed about \$500. The Word of God told me not to be anxious about the money, so I prayed about it. I began thanking God for the many opportunities He had given me that got me to this point. I thanked Him in advance for meeting my needs exceedingly, abundantly above all that I could ask, think, or imagine. Then peace came. I got an idea from God to cover that \$500 need. Thank You Lord.

Many of us sit in worry over our problems. We don't pray, and we feel stuck. You don't have to stay stuck another day. Pray and thank God for what He is doing in your life.

Heavenly Father, thank you for how you have helped me in the past. Thank you for showing me the way in whatever I go through. In Jesus' name, amen.

Author Spotlight



Leslie V, founder of Finding Your Sweet Spot, is committed to helping people understand how to fulfill their God-given destiny and unlock hope, clarity, and confidence. Leslie has hosted online summits on this topic with over twenty-one influencers, as well as hosting her own podcast, Motivation Meditation with Leslie V. Along with her mom, Mattie, Leslie is part of the praise and worship team of her church, helping people hear the words that can help them move through life to find their sweet spot.

REJOICE ALWAYS, REALLY?

Clare Schade Whitlock

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:17 NAS).


How is it possible to rejoice when everything seems to be falling apart? Why should we pray? What good will it do? Is God really listening? Why should we give thanks when nothing is going our way? Does God really will for these things to be happening?

It took a few humbling experiences to learn that I have little to no control over the circumstances of my life. I need strength I do not possess on my own. And the cold, hard reality is that I am a selfish, prideful person who wants things my way. I realized my need for someone more powerful than myself. Finally, I turned to my Savior. God, are You listening? I feel my world is falling apart around me. HELP me! Then in the quietness of the moment, a still small voice, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). I realized that I've been too busy to listen. I've been trying to fix problems too big for me to handle by myself. God, I'm ready for You to give me rest. Taking a deep breath, I say to myself: rest I have needed.

How did I get so overwhelmed? What can I do to keep myself in a place of spiritual and mental rest? In my life, three disciplines have kept me grounded: First, stay in the Word. One cannot identify the truth from a lie without reading God's holy inspired love letter to us. God's Word is there for our benefit. "All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). Second, have an eternal perspective of this life, with a focus on others more than yourself. This life is temporary, and so are the challenges that come our way. Third, spend time with other believers. When we spend too much time in the world without refreshing ourselves through Christian fellowship, we slowly turn from the truth and begin to buy a lie. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another," (Proverbs 27:17).

God's Word is the very lifeline to discerning the truth from a lie. God is most interested in having a relationship with each of His children, so He has left us with His all-inspired words to lead us through life. The study of the Bible is God's Word packed full of encouraging words, convicting words, and loving words to guide us. Everyday I open the Book, I never leave disappointed.





Putting everything in perspective is key to living life with an attitude of gratefulness. A friend calls it perspective therapy. After a most difficult loss in my life, I began to think of eternity. I might live eighty or ninety years here on earth, but eternity is forever. Knowing that my separation from my loved one is just temporary helps get me through. Another thought is to compare my cushy life to one lived in a third-world country. So many people exist without the basics of life; who am I to complain? Helping someone less fortunate will provide you with a healthy appreciation for all that God has done for you. God has been so good, and His grace is sufficient.

The fellowship of believers gives us strength to carry on. Whether going to church and worshipping or just having a cup of coffee together, spending time with people you love fills you up. Being with like-minded people encourages the soul. A few godly women have taught me, listened to me, and loved me throughout my life. I have lived many miles away from my biological mother and sister for most of my life, but God blessed me with “chosen sisters” who have filled that family void and enriched my life beyond words. Find Christian people who also will encourage you in your walk.

The opening scripture found in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 reminds us that we can rejoice over the blessings God has provided through His Son, Jesus, even in the light of hardship. In Romans 8:38-39 we read this comforting promise and rejoice, “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

We are also told to pray without ceasing. Having an active, loving relationship with anyone requires talking, sharing, and trusting that person. It is God’s desire to help you along life’s journey, so talk to Him and listen for His response.

And finally, we are to give thanks in everything. God allows circumstances, hardships, and blessings into our lives to mold and make us more like Jesus; therefore, give Him thanks for all He is doing in your life, for He loves you.

Father, Your ways are higher than our ways, and Your thoughts higher than our thoughts. Help us to have the faith to trust You in the blessings, and in the hardships of life. We are choosing to trust You today, for we know You always mean good! In Jesus’ name, amen!

Author Spotlight



Clare Schade Whitlock graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (Leavell College) with a Christian Ministry degree and Minors in Women’s Ministry and Psychology. For a combined seven years she was employed as a Chaplain at The Cancer Treatment Centers of America and Serenity Hospice. She has served as Minister to Women and Member Assimilation since 1998 at First Baptist Church of Newnan, her home church. Married for 42 years to Jimmy Whitlock, together they have three sons: James, III, Nicholas (Died in service in 2012), and Robert. She’s also known as “CiCi” to four beloved grandchildren: Kaitlyn, IlaClare, Wen and Hunter. Quiet time with Jesus, spending time with family and friends, walking and gardening are her passions.

BOOK REVIEW: THE ONLY ANSWER IS PRAYER

An Intimate Walk with God into the Miraculous
Authors: William McDowell, Jason McMullen, Caleb Grant

Edwina Cowgill

Down through the years, many books have been written about prayer and all the aspects of it. *The Only Answer to Prayer* is one of the latest. But it is different. Non-traditional. Dare I say “radical?”

It is obvious that the authors spent much time in research and prayer about the book. They substantiate every point they make with scriptures that give the reader a better understanding of the topic.

The book flows from chapter to chapter due to the style of the gentlemen’s writing. They write with an open and communicative voice and from a place of knowledge and experience.

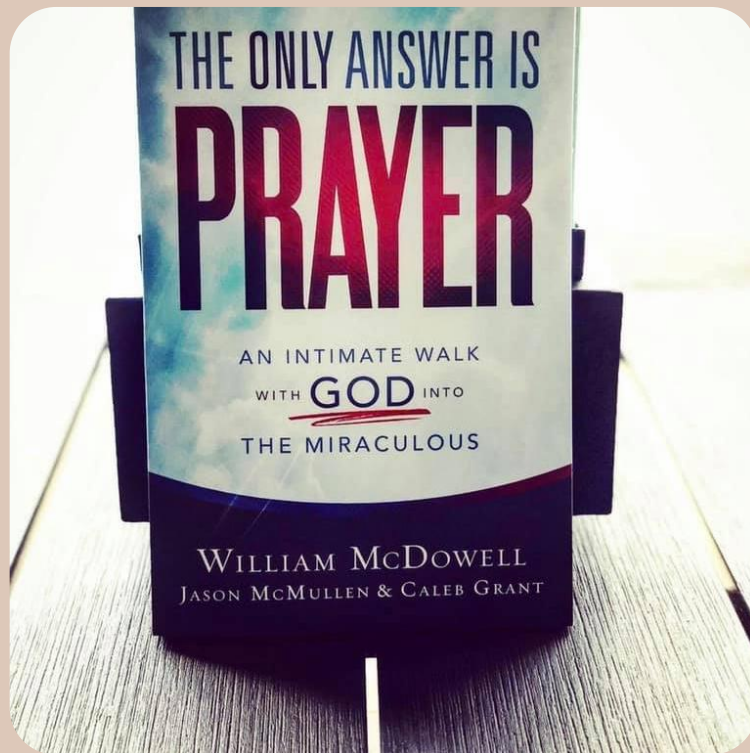
The authors discuss some of the traditional aspects of prayer as we’ve been taught in Sunday school and church. One such aspect is that we live here on earth, but we are citizens in heaven. I was taught we would be citizens in heaven when we arrived there. But they have a non-traditional viewpoint: we live here on earth but we are also citizens in heaven simultaneously. They further state that because we are citizens of heaven now, we sit on the Divine Council (heavenly court) and when we pray here on earth, we are also praying with the Divine Council. Thus, we are praying in two places at one time. A second, non-traditional viewpoint (regarding Matthew 6:10) is based on “Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven,” with their emphasis on “on earth as it is in heaven.” They purport that everything is already accomplished in heaven. Whatever we pray and believe for is ready in heaven to be manifested here on earth. Some readers may find these less traditional views enlightening, and some may find the views controversial. This reviewer was not familiar with some of these views; however, backed by scripture, my mind was open to the reality of the points made.





Because of the information within the book, and the way it was shared, I was immediately drawn into the book and found it hard to put down. I was challenged to re-examine my thoughts and beliefs on prayer and to look at prayer in a different light. I've realized there is a wealth of information in the book, and I plan to read it again.

I encourage readers of this review to purchase this book and read it. Pray before you read, asking God to give you an open heart and mind to receive and understand the information. I believe you will find it intriguing. It may even change your prayer life.



Author Spotlight



Edwina Cowgill received her Bachelor of Religious Arts (Christian Counseling) from Logos Christian University. She has written numerous articles, many of which have been published on various websites, including The Houston Examiner, The Midsouth Diocese of the Charismatic Episcopal Church, and several church newsletters. She has published two short stories. Her article, "God Is All We Need," is slated to be published in Calming the Storms Within by Lighthouse Bible Studies. Her book, *Abandoned Into the Heart of God*, was published under the pen name of Alexandria Bagnell.

CAROLYN'S SAUSAGE CHEESE BISCUITS

Recipe's from the Heart



Ingredients

1 lb. mild sausage - cooked, drained, cooled

4 cups self-rising, White Lily flour

3 cups buttermilk

12 oz grated, sharp cheddar cheese

4 Tbsps. Mayonnaise

Mix flour, mayonnaise and milk.

Add sausage and cheese.

Spoon into greased muffin tins.

Bake at 350 degrees for 35-45 minutes, depending upon how browned you prefer the biscuits.



Tilt the biscuits slightly in the tins to cool; transfer to a bowl lined with a tea towel or paper towels.

TASTY HEALTHY CABBAGE



Ingredients

1 Green cabbage

1 Onion

1-2 tablespoons of Country Crock plant butter,
or the healthy butter or butter substitute of your choice

½ Teaspoon of sugar

1 Cup of water

½ Teaspoon of salt

Directions

Cut away the green leaves and cut away
the stem of each leaf and cut it into shredded pieces.

Cut your onion up in round slices and
boil the green leaf and onion first to get it tender to eating.

Cut the cabbage in a shredded style completely without the core.
Add the cabbage to the boiler, add lid, and allow it to steam cook for
about 10 minutes.

Remove the lid, add butter, sugar, and salt and allow it the simmer
without the lid.

Do not overcook the cabbage and deplete it of its nutrients!

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To inquire about advertising with us, contact us via email: thesummitnewnan@gmail.com & dharris387@gmail.com



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WE WILL PRAY MAGAZINE is available at various locations throughout Newnan, GA. You can also send us an email to request a copy. thesummitnewnan@gmail.com

STAND & PRAY WITH US!



Community Prayer Walk: March 26th (Time & Place TBD)

Community Prayer Rally: April 16 (Location TBD)

Community Outreach: May 7th (Lynch Park)

Community Prayer Rally: June 4th (Greenville Street Park)

Community Prayer Rally: October 15th
(Greenville Street Park)

Community Thanksgiving Outreach:
November 22nd (Howard Warner Community Center)



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30117

SUNDAY
MORNING
WORSHIP
11:00 AM

COME AND WORSHIP
WITH US!

PSALMS 127:1

"EXCEPT THE LORD
BUILD THE HOUSE,
THEY LABOUR IN VAIN
THAT BUILD IT."

WEEKLY SERVICES:
MONDAY NIGHT
PRAYER
5:30-6:30
THURSDAY NIGHT
YOUTH & ADULT
BIBLE STUDY
7:00-8:00 PM

Special Thanks!

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