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The Power of Prayer

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This last month I have been impressed of the Lord to read through the book of Psalms. What a pleasure it has been! The fire of my heart has been rekindled anew as I have read and meditated with the psalmist. God's Word fills my heart with praise and carries my spirit to His throne in prayer. Consistently, I have found verses of inspiration and verses that can be used as a platform of prayer. God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light on our path, and what glorious light it shines on us as we pray.

For many years, I have prayed the prayers of Paul from the books of Ephesians and Colossians. There is no better way to grow in knowledge than

*Prayer opens my heart
to hear from heaven.*

to ask for the Spirit of wisdom, revelation, and understanding as the apostle Paul did in Ephesians. In a moment of time, often unexpected, we have a thought, an explanation, or an idea that comes to us. We wonder how that happened, and of course, the Word of God has blown across our hearts in answer to our prayer.

It makes me wonder if godly solutions would surface more often if I consistently prayed using the promises of God's Word. Would I find the wisdom to assist a family member or rescue a friend if I held fast to God's promise of wisdom in James 1:5? Would I select a better repairman, doctor, or financier if I sought the leadership of God's Spirit as written in Romans 8:14? Could my schedule be amazingly successful if I asked God to help me "redeem the time?"¹ Would I have enough light in my heart to correct a mistake, apologize, and forgive if my words echoed Ephesians 4:32? Could the fog that clouds my mind be eliminated if I asked for the mind of Christ as promised in God's Word?² Could I face the most difficult challenge with perfect peace if I embraced the words of Jesus, "My peace I give unto you?"³ Is the answer to my need prayer, prayer that is based on the promises of God's Word? Yes, I think so!

Prayer opens my heart to hear from heaven. Often, as I pray, the Spirit of God reminds me of a strong principle written in the Word of God. A Scripture rises in my thinking that is the perfect solution to my dilemma. Instead of searching for words and trying to say the right thing, I can stand on the Scripture that has been revealed to me. Over and over again, I thank God that His Word is working mightily—this specific word is dealing with hearts, orchestrating lives, and marching us toward victory.

Prayer can be so much more than, "Do something God, please." I believe in the prayer, "Help, Oh Lord, Help." I do! But there is such great peace when I can stand on God's Word, knowing

Scriptures for Our Nation

Then at last the people will look to their Creator and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel. (Is 17:7)

Then everyone who has eyes will be able to see the truth, and everyone who has ears will be able to hear it. Even the hotheads will be full of sense and understanding. Those who stammer will speak out plainly. (Is 32:3-4)

Until at last the Spirit is poured out on us from heaven. Then the wilderness will become a fertile field, and the fertile field will yield bountiful crops. (Is 32:15)

This is what the Lord says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow.” (Is 48:17)

In the west, people will respect the name of the Lord; in the east, they will glorify him. For he will come like a raging flood tide driven by the breath of the Lord. (Is 59:19)

I will make peace your leader and righteousness your ruler. (Is 60:17)

*NLT

(Continued from “The Power of Prayer”)

that He watches over His Word to perform it. When my neighbor is especially annoying, it is comforting to ask God to work in me so that I will “love my neighbor as myself.” If bitterness spirals to a critical level, I can expect heaven’s helping hand when I ask that all bitterness, wrath, and anger be put away.⁴ Further, I say, “Help me to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving.”⁵

The Holy Spirit is our helper. He teaches us the Word, brings it to our remembrance, and guides us into truth. We can lean on Him as we pray. He is God, the Holy Spirit, and He will reveal to us the strategies of heaven.

Years ago, I was asked to pray for a friend’s son who was in trouble with the law. I was new to prayer, but I thought I could pray correctly until I found out that he was guilty. I was completely baffled. So, I began praying in the spirit, in other tongues, until suddenly my heart was filled with God’s Word on mercy. I took that Word to the Father, and every time I thought of him, I thanked the Lord for mercy.

Now, I am aware that most people who break the law do not need mercy, and it’s not a prayer I would pray without divine unction. I usually ask for justice with the amount of mercy God sees is appropriate. But, in this situation, I was divinely led to ask for mercy. The Scripture says that God is

plenteous in mercy, and by the Spirit, I knew that mercy was His will in this particular situation.⁶ Therefore, I prayed His word on mercy!

Can I give you another example? When I pray for someone who is despondent or depressed, I often use Psalm 23. I ask God to lead them to green pastures and still waters. I further ask that He restore their soul and anoint them with the oil of healing until their cup runs over.

The use of the Scripture in prayer is a marvelous tool because the Word of God is alive and full of power. It is not merely words on a printed page. It is the voice of God speaking to us. It is the eternal Word of God working mightily on our behalf.

Of course, there are other ways to pray. I can pray by inspiration of the Spirit in English or in tongues. Both of these are very effective, God-given arms of prayer. But I also love to pray using the Scripture. A word of Scripture uttered in prayer anchors my faith and holds me steady. If the winds of difficulty continue to blow, my faith is steadfast. I know God has heard my prayer, and He will fulfill His Word.

Today, I encourage you to pray! Pray as God leads! Pray! Pray! Pray! Effectual, fervent prayer makes much power available!⁷

¹Eph 5:16 ²1Co 2:16 ³Jn 14:27 ⁴Eph 4:31 ⁵Eph 4:32 ⁶Ps 103:8 ⁷Jas 5:16