



# THE PRAYER CLOSET

*Transforming Lives Through Intercessory  
Prayer And Fasting*

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRAYER CLOSET MINISTRIES, INC.

VOLUME II

SEPTEMBER, 1999

ISSUE 8

## DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP

A.W. Tozer once wrote, "If you will not worship God seven days a week, you do not worship Him one day a week." The Christian is to develop a lifestyle of worship. It is not to be a once-a-week event. God is always God and He is always worthy of worship. Worship then is to be the daily pursuit of the child of God. You cannot expect worship to flow from your lips on Sunday if you keep it dammed up in your heart throughout the week.

The Lord Jesus Christ emphasized and obeyed the Old Testament command to "worship the Lord your God" (**Matthew 4:10**). It is therefore the duty and the privilege of all believers to worship the God who has created them, sustained them, and delivered them from sin, Satan, and eternal damnation. The Word of God declares clearly that God expects His people to worship Him. **Psalms 95:6-7** says, "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand." Worshipping God is the purpose of our lives! This is to be the main pursuit of our lives!

### The Basics of Worship

In order to develop a life of worship, you need to understand what the Bible reveals about worship. The Bible teaches four basic truths

concerning worship. *The first truth that the Bible teaches about worship is that it is focusing on and responding to God.* Worship is being preoccupied with God. It is the grateful and adoring response to who God is and to what God has done.

In **Revelation 4:8**, we are told that four creatures around the throne worship God day and night without ceasing. Their continual cry is "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." In **verse 11**, the twenty-four elders around the throne of God in heaven are said to worship Him by casting down their crowns at His feet, falling down before Him, and saying, "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created." In the next chapter (**Revelation 5**), thousands and thousands of angels, elders, and living creatures around the heavenly throne of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, cry with a loud voice in worship, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" (**Revelation 5:12**). Immediately after this comes worship from every created thing saying, "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb forever and ever!" (**Revelation 5:13**).

As you observe these scenes of worship in heaven, you notice that God is the focus of the

worship. Everything revolves around who He is and what He has done. Worshipping God is focusing on God with praise and adoration. The word "worship" comes from the Saxon word "weorthscype" which later became "worthship" and evolved to "worship". To worship God then is to ascribe proper worth to God, to praise Him because of His worthiness.

As you focus on God, you respond to Him with praise, wonder, awe, surrender, faith, obedience, and repentance. True worship brings a response from the one who is worshipping. Your focus on God leads you to respond to God. It deepens your relationship to God. It changes you as you focus on God in praise.

Worship often includes words and actions. Yet, it goes beyond them to the focus of the mind and heart. It is the God-centered focus and response of the inner man to God. A person is not worshipping if he or she is not focusing on God and responding to Him. You can pray, sing, clap, or shout, yet if you are not thinking of God and responding to Him, you are not worshipping.

*The Bible also teaches that worship is to be done in spirit and in truth.* The most profound passage on worship in the New Testament is **John 4:23-24**. The Lord Jesus Christ declares, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth." According to Jesus Christ, worship, if it is true and genuine, is to be done in spirit and truth.

Genuine worship is to be done in spirit. To worship God in spirit is to worship God from the inside out. It means to be sincere in your acts of worship. Jesus Christ wants you to realize that worship is an inner spiritual response, not just an outward form of expression. It must come from the spirit, the innermost essence of our personality. Worship is not dependent on the externals--a prescribed place, beautiful surroundings, familiar rituals, inspiring music, or specific body movements. Externals are not wrong. They can be powerful aids to worship. Yet, worship is an inward spiritual response to God. Now matter how spiritual the song you are singing, no matter how poetic the prayer you are praying, no matter how emotional the service is, if it is not a sincere and

deep response to God from the inner man, it is not worship. It is actually hypocrisy.

Genuine worship is not only to be done in spirit, but, it is also to be done in truth. We are to worship according to the truth of the Word of God. We are to worship God as He is revealed in the Word of God. Your worship of God is to be based on God's Word and is to be in response to the Word of God. Our worship is to focus on what God has revealed about Himself and His works.

You must worship in spirit and in truth. There must be a balance between these two principles. Your worship is to focus on God with both your heart and your mind. If you worship too much just by the spirit, you will be mushy and soft on the truth, worshipping according to feelings and sentimentality. This can lead anywhere from a sleepy tolerance of anything in worship at one extreme to uncontrollable spiritual wildfire on the other. But, if your worship by truth without the spirit, then your worship will be cold, ritualistic, and icily predictable. It will be lifeless, empty, and boring.

*Another truth that the Bible reveals about worship is that the believer is expected to worship privately and publicly.* Believers are expected to participate regularly in public worship. The Word of God states, "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling or ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (**Hebrews 10:24-25**). Believers are to be faithful to join other believers to be faithful to join other believers for the purpose of worshipping God.

On the other hand, no matter how faithfully or sufficient your regular public worship is, there are experiences with God that He gives only in private worship. The Lord Jesus Christ sets the example for the believer. He worshipped in both public and private. He participated faithfully in the public worship of God at the synagogue each Sabbath and at the stated assemblies of Israel at the Temple in Jerusalem. In addition to this, Jesus had times of private worship. Luke records this about the private worship of Jesus, "So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed" (**Luke 5:16**). Public worship does not excuse you from private worship. Public worship is not a substitute

for private worship. A lifestyle of worship consists of both public and private worship.

*The Bible reveals that worship is a discipline to be cultivated.* The Lord Jesus Christ declares in **Matthew 4:10**, "You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only you shall serve." This is a command of Christ and it refers to a continual action. The believer is to consistently worship the Lord God. In order to worship God consistently, a believer must exercise discipline in this area. Without this discipline, your worship of God will be weak and inconsistent. This is not to say that worship should become an empty ritual in which you go through the motions simply because you are to worship. Worship is the response of the heart in love with God. Yet, your worship is something that is to be cultivated. In all relationships, you have to cultivate the relationship if you want it to remain healthy and to grow stronger. The same is true with your relationship to God.

Describing modern man, one has written, "He worships his work, works at his play, and plays at his worship." You cannot grow and mature as you ought to as a Christian if you play at worship. You will not develop a powerful and effective prayer life if you are inconsistent in your worship. You must pursue a lifestyle of worship.

## Why Should I Pursue A Lifestyle of Worship?

In order to develop a lifestyle of worship, you will need to practice both private and public worship. This will require a commitment on your part. Why should you make this commitment? *The first reason to make this commitment is because God is worthy to be worshipped.* He is the eternal God, holy, unchangeable, sovereign, and righteous. He has created you, sustained you, and saved you. All things are by Him, through Him, and for Him (**Romans 11:33-36**). You owe everything to Him. Because of who He is and what He has done, God is worthy to receive your worship both public and private. It is right and good for you to praise Him (**Psalms 147:1**). This great and mighty God is worthy of all the praise that you can offer. Since He is worthy to be praised, you need to make the commitment to pursue a lifestyle of worship.

*You should make this commitment because it enables you to fulfill God's expectation for your life.* It is the will of God that you worship Him (**Deuteronomy 6:13, 10:20; Matthew 4:4**). God desires that His people worship Him in spirit and in truth (**John 4:24**). He rightfully commands us to give Him worship. Because He is the true and living God, He can expect our worship. When you daily worship Him, you are fulfilling His will for your life.

*Developing a lifestyle of worship will strengthen your faith in God.* As you praise God, it shows you how great and mighty He is. You are daily fixing your focus on Him. As you do this, you become convinced more and more of His greatness and His majesty. This will enable you to grow in the ability to trust Him. The more that you get to know God, the more you are going to worship Him. The more that you worship Him, the stronger your faith will be.

*When you consistently praise God, it sets the tone for your prayers.* It reminds you that you are coming into the presence of a holy God. Praise causes the one praying to enter into God's presence with a sober and serious spirit. It is a reminder to slow down and focus your attention on God because you are on holy ground.

*A lifestyle of worship reminds you of God's identity and greatness.* As you praise God, you are reminded that He is the holy and the sovereign God. You come to realize that you are praying to the powerful and awesome God of heaven and earth. You come to recognize that He can do exceedingly above all that you can ask or think. This will enable you to have confidence when you pray. It will grant you the assurance that God can bless you and answer your prayers. As you focus on God's greatness and power through worship, it strengthens your prayer life. It shows you that God can powerfully move in a person's life and that He can grant your requests for others.

*A lifestyle of worship will make you willing to listen to God.* As you enter God's presence, you go with requests that you desire to give to God. These requests may not be in line with the will of God. Yet, as you praise God, it reveals how holy, wise, and good that God is. This shows you that God's will has to be the priority. This can make your agenda less important. After all, He is the all-powerful and all-wise God. He is infinite and

you are finite. As you worship God, you come to realize this and it enables you to release your plans in order to receive what God has willed to give and to do.

*Developing a lifestyle of worship opens the door for the power of God to flow into your life.* In **Psalm 22:3**, the Bible reveals that God “inhabits” the praises of His people. The Bible says, “But You are holy, who inhabits the praises of people.” The word “inhabits” can be translated “enthroned.” God is present in power when His people praise Him. **When the praise goes up from God’s people, the power comes down from heaven.** As you worship God, His power will be released into your life. This is especially true concerning your prayer life. Praise will empower your prayer life. The power that is released through praise sustains you and enables you to pray for others. It also releases the power of God into the circumstances of those for whom you are praying.

*A lifestyle of worship will cause you to pursue holiness.* When Isaiah was in the presence of God in **Isaiah 6**, he received a glimpse of the holiness of God. When this happened, he realized how sinful he was. This moved him to confess His sins. As you praise God, you behold Him through the eyes of faith. Through the eyes of faith, His holiness and greatness will become clearer. This will begin to humble you and cause you to see your sinfulness. When this happens, it will move you to confess your sins and pursue a life pleasing to God. It will cause you to be diligent to get rid of those things in your life that are not pleasing in His sight. These steps are crucial to the pursuit of holiness. Yet, one begins to pursue these things after he or she worships God consistently.

*A lifestyle of worship can enable you to overcome worrying.* As you praise God, you focus on Him, His greatness, His power, and His faithfulness. This should give you the confidence in Him. It should create within you the confidence that He can take care of you and your circumstances. It is a sin to worry (**Matthew 6:25-34**). The believer is not to worry, but to worship. Worshipping God consistently can help you overcome worry because it reminds you of how powerful, faithful, and great God is.

Will you make the commitment to worship God? Will you pursue Him in both public and

private worship? Won’t you cry out to God now and tell Him of your desire and commitment to worship Him? The following prayer is offered to help you do this. You can use this prayer or develop your own.

*“ O God, my Life and my Refuge, You are the living God. You are the holy and sovereign God of heaven and earth. I love You and want to please You. I ask You to teach me how to worship You in spirit and in truth. Give me a heart to worship You. It is the longing of my heart to worship You. This is Your desire for me and Your will for me. Grant me the discipline to worship You in private and in public with other believers. I will praise You forever. Amen.”*

## Practical Helps For Developing A Lifestyle of Worship

The following are some suggestions to help you in developing a lifestyle of praise:

(1) *Determine to have a daily time where you worship God in private.* Your worship of God must be intentional. You need to set aside time in your day when you worship God. This could be a part of your quiet time. You could also set another time in the day when you focus specifically on praising God.

(2) *Discipline yourself to worship God throughout the day and night.* As you go through your day, use certain sights, events, or blessings to move you to praise God. Labor to be aware of God’s presence in your life. As you notice His blessing and working in your life, use these things to offer spontaneous praise to God. Strive to fill your day with spontaneous praise. You might want to consider spending a night praising God. There have been times when I could not sleep and other times when I determined to spend the night praising God. Simply tell God, “Father, I love You. I want to spend this night adoring You and giving You praise. I want to minister to You and glorify You.” Use the night to worship God.

(3) *Take every advantage to worship with God's people.* Do everything that you can to be in the place of worship with God's people. Before you attend worship services, prepare yourself. Ask God to prepare your mind and heart for worship. Go to worship services with your heart and mind focused on God. As you sing, sing to the Lord. As you give, give to the Lord. As you listen to the sermon, "What is God saying to me through this sermon?" Focus on God throughout the worship service.

(4) *Spend time memorizing the Word of God, particularly those passages that deal with praise.* The Holy Spirit can more readily orchestrate heavenly praises through you if your mind is filled with memorized biblical praises.

(5) *Study what the Bible teaches about praise.* Record what you learn in your journal or in a "worship" notebook. Work to implement what you learn into your private and public worship.

(6) *Use a hymnbook in your personal worship.* You could purchase hymnals or song books. During your personal worship, sing to the Lord. Use music on tapes and CD's to enable you to worship Him. Write out praises to God from these materials by adding pronouns. An example of this is taking "Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word; just to rest upon His promise, just to know 'Thus saith the Lord'" and change it to "Tis so sweet to trust in *You*, Jesus, just to take *You* at *Your* word; just to rest upon *Your* promise, just to know, 'Thus saith *You*, O Lord.'"

(7) *Use the name and attributes of God for your worship.* Take the names and attributes of God and praise Him on the basis of these things. You can gain information concerning the names and attributes of God from study Bibles, reference works, and books on these subjects. You might consider using past issues of *The Prayer Closet* that deals with the names and attributes of God (August, September, October, November, and December of 1998).

(8) *Worship God even during times of spiritual dryness.* Praise God even when you do not feel like it. God will always be God and He will always be

worthy of worship. This is true even when you have times of doubt and spiritual dryness. A believer often breaks out of these times during private and personal worship. Worship God through all the circumstances of life.

## Praying For A Lifestyle of Worship

The Lord Jesus Christ teaches that the believer is to ask and seek God concerning the desires of his or her heart (**Matthew 7:7**). If you desire to develop a lifestyle of worship, ask God for this. The following prayer requests have been developed to help you seek God in this matter. These prayer requests are based on the Word of God. Since you know that it is God's will for you to worship Him and you are asking in accordance with His will, you can pray with confidence and expectancy (**1 John 5:14**). You can use these prayers for yourself or for other believers. You might also consider using these prayers to intercede for your church. You could use these prayers to plead with God to create a spirit of worship among the believers. These requests can be used to call on God to turn your church into a worshipping church.

I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will praise You with uprightness of heart when I/he/she learns about You from Your Word (**Psalms 119:7**).

I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will worship You, the living and the true God, in spirit and in truth (**John 4:24**).

O Lord my God, I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will praise You with all my/his/her heart and that \_\_\_\_\_ will glorify Your name forevermore (**Psalms 86:12**).

Father, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will bless You. I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will bless you with all that is in me/him/her. Do not let \_\_\_\_\_ forget Your benefits that You grant to me/him/her on a daily basis (**Psalms 103:1-2**).

Father, I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will develop a lifestyle of praise. It is good to sing praises to You, our mighty God. It is pleasant and it is beautiful. Create in me/him/her a desire to praise You daily (**Psalm 147:1-2**).

I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will speak of the might of Your awesome acts and that \_\_\_\_\_ will declare Your greatness. I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will utter the memory of Your great goodness and that \_\_\_\_\_ will sing of Your righteousness (**Psalm 145:1-2**).

Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_'s lips would praise You. As long as I/he/she lives, I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will bless You and praise You (**Psalm 63:4-5**).

Father, it is good to give thanks to You and to sing praises to Your name. It is good to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning and Your faithfulness every night. For this reason, I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ would give thanks to You and sing praises to Your name. Cause \_\_\_\_\_ to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning and Your faithfulness every night (**Psalm 92:1-2**).

I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will praise You with my/his/her whole heart. As people worship and pursue all kinds of gods, I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will sing praise to You, the living and the true God (**Psalm 138:1**).

I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will praise You, O Lord, for You are good; I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will sing praises to You for it is pleasant to do this (**Psalm 135:3**).

I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will not simply go through the motions of worship. Never let \_\_\_\_\_ be content with the outward appearances of worship. I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will worship You from the heart and that my/his/her worship will be acceptable to You (**Matthew 15:8**).

I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will give to You, the

LORD, the glory due to Your name. I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will worship You in the beauty of holiness. I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will tremble before You (**Psalm 29:2**).

I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will worship You in the beauty of holiness. I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will tremble before You (**Psalm 96:9**).

I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ would not forsake the assembling of believers for worship but that I/he/she would be diligent to attend and participate in the worship with other believers (**Hebrews 10:25**).

## Praying For The Worship Services of Your Church

The Word of God teaches that true believers are to join with others believers for the purpose of worshipping God (**Hebrews 10:25**). Believers should take advantage of every opportunity that they have to worship God with their brothers and sisters in Christ. Joining with other believers to worship God should be an essential priority and the joy of every believer. It is a glorious time to enter God's presence with other believers for the purpose of worshipping God. It is a vital time in your life and in the life of the church.

Since public worship is so vital, you must prepare for it. You need to prepare yourself through the week for this time. You need to pray for the worship services of your church. The following are some suggested prayer requests that you can pray to prepare yourself for public worship. These requests also focus on the preparation of other believers for worship. You can use these requests or develop your own. The key issue is to prepare yourself and other believers for worship through prayer. Plead with God to make the public worship of believers vital, awesome, and life-changing.

(1) **Pray that the worship time will glorify God.** Ask Him to enable the believers to make Him the focus on the worship service. Call on Him to cause the attention of believers to be drawn to Himself (**Psalm 115:1**). Ask God to remove any distractions

that might hinder the believers from focusing on God.

(2) **Plead that God will remove any hindrances from the lives of believers that could prevent them from worshipping God (1 John 1:9).** Ask God to remove anything that might hinder the worship of the believers.

(3) **Pray that peoples' hearts would be prepared to hear from God both in the music and the preaching of the Word (Matthew 13:3-9).** Ask God to create within the people an anticipation and an expectation that they will hear from God--that God will deal with them.

(4) **Pray that the pastor will be sensitive to the leading of the Lord both as he prepares and as he speaks, resulting in the Holy Spirit speaking to people during the message (Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 2:15).** Pray for your pastor throughout the week that God will prepare him and his message. Pray for him before the worship service that the Holy Spirit will speak and minister through him.

(5) **Pray that the musicians will be used of God and that they show forth the joy of the Lord (Psalm 149:1).**

(6) **Pray that God will give wisdom and guidance for those choosing the music, that each song will deepen the worship experience of the believers and will prepare the believers for the message (Psalm 150:3-5).**

(7) **Plead that God would transform lives through the worship service:**

-Sinners would be saved: **John 3:16; Acts 4:12**

-Believers would be edified: **Hebrews 10:25**

-Backsliders would repent: **Hosea 14:4**

-Physical bodies would be healed: **Exodus 15:26**

-Broken hearts would be mended: **Psalm 147:3** (You are going to have people who attend the worship services with broken hearts--damaged emotions. Pray for God to deal with and heal these.)

(8) **Plead that people will truly worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).** Pray that the people will hear and understand the truth of God's Word. Ask God to enable them to respond to God with deep and genuine repentance and commitment.

(9) **Pray that all who attend will feel the love of God in God's people and sense a spirit of peace and unity and that they are important to this body of Christ (John 13:34-35; Philippians 2:1-5).**

(10) **Ask that visitors will feel welcomed, be ministered to, and will desire to be saved and become a member of the church or if they are saved, to join this church and serve Jesus Christ through the ministry of this church (Acts 2:42).**

(11) **Pray that the power of God would be revealed and felt by each person (Psalm 22:3).** Call on God to send His power into the midst of His people. Plead with the Holy Spirit to manifest His presence and power among the worshipers. We know that Christ is in the midst where two are three are gathered together (**Matthew 18:20**). Yet, our desire and prayer should be for the "manifest" presence of God--when God invades a church and transforms lives. It is when God's presence and power flow into a body of believers bringing change. Plead that this power will be released in your worship services.

## **Dealing With The Hindrances To Revival: PRIDE**

In the last issue of *The Prayer Closet* (August, 1999), we examined the subject of revival. In that issue, many suggestions were made on how one can seek God for revival. In this issue, we are going to start examining the hindrances to revival. There are obstacles that can stand in the way of His

people seeking Him for revival. Revival is a sovereign work of God. We do not work up excitement and then call it revival. Revival must be sent from heaven. It is an invasion of the presence and the power of God that transforms believers, saves sinners, and establishes righteousness and ministry in this world. Yet, we must seek God for revival (**2 Chronicles 7:14**). We must cry out to Him for revival. Sometimes there are things that can stand in the way of our seeking God for revival.

One of the key hindrances to revival is pride. It is the attitude that "I really don't need revival." Pride is amnesia of the soul. It is forgetting God. **Hosea 13:6** reveals the attitude of God's people when pride gets a foothold in our lives, "When they had pasture, they were filled; they were filled and their heart was exalted; therefore they forgot Me." Pride is a spirit of self-sufficiency that does not realize that one needs a fresh and powerful working of God in his or her life. Believers are content with their present condition and blessings and do not feel a need to cry out to God for a vital change in their walk with Him.

As an evangelist, this is something that I see continually. When I preach a series of worship services where the purpose is to seek God for revival, the majority of the people are content in their condition. They see no pressing need to cry out to God or to repent. I fear that "revival" in the minds of many church members has degenerated to a series of worship services where there is entertaining music and preaching. When God is ready to do a fresh and new work among His people, His people will begin to repent of pride and humble themselves before Him (**Luke 4:3-6**). If revival is going to come to God's people, there must be an earnest and serious dealing with pride. God's people must humble themselves before God and cry out for His mercy, grace, and power.

In order to seek God for revival, the obstacle of pride must be removed. Dealing with pride begins with prayer. The following are some Scripture prayers that you can use to deal with the pride in your life. Ask God to show you your pride. Deal immediately and harshly with the pride in your life. Ask God to grant you a brokenness that will lead you to seek Him for revival. Then, you can pray these Scripture prayers for your church. Plead with God to deal with the pride that is hindering your church from receiving revival. You will need

to be committed to this task over a period of time. You may not see answers right away, but, continue in intercession concerning this. Plead with God according to these Scriptures. You might want to consider praying these Scriptures for the church in America. The entire body of Christ in this nation needs revival. Yet, pride is a key hindrance to this revival. Pray that God would give His people a brokenness that can receive revival.

Father, You have declared in Your Word that, though You are on high, You look upon the lowly. You also declare that You know the proud from afar. I plead that You will create with \_\_\_\_\_ a lowly and humble spirit so that You will look on me/us and bless me/us. Deliver me/us from pride because You will withdraw Your presence and power from those who are proud (**Psalms 138:6**).

Lord, You have declared in Your Word that You esteem those who are humble and contrite in spirit. You bless and revive the one who trembles at Your Word. Father, create within \_\_\_\_\_ a humble and contrite spirit. Cause \_\_\_\_\_ to tremble at Your Word so that You will revive me/us (**Isaiah 66:2**).

Father, Your Word says that You oppose the proud but give grace to the humble. I plead that You would humble me/us. Enable me/us to destroy pride from my life/our lives. Enable me/us to humble myself/ourselves before You so that You through Your grace can grant me/us revival (**James 4:6**).

God, show \_\_\_\_\_ my/our great need of You, Your presence and power. You have said in Your Word that You sustain the humble. Humble \_\_\_\_\_ so that he/she/we will cry out to You for Your reviving and sustaining power (**Psalms 147:6**).

Lord, I/we need You to teach and guide me/us. Enable me/us to confess and repent of pride and humble myself/ourselves before You. I/we need You to teach and guide me/us. In Your Word, You have declared that You will teach and guide the humble in the right and good way. Deal with



my/our pride so that You can lead and guide me/us in the right and good way (**Psalm 25:9**).

Father, Your Word says that You are with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit. You have also declared that You revive the hearts of the contrite. O God, give me/us the kind of brokenness that You can bless! I/We humble myself/ourselves before You and ask that You would create a greater humility in me/us so that You can revive me/us and so that You can grant me/us the extraordinary sense of Your presence and power (**Isaiah 57:15**).

Father, Your Word says that You do not forget the cry of the humble. Forgive me/us of my/our pride so that You will not forget, but hear and answer my/our cry for revival (**Psalm 9:12**).

God, You have said that You hear the desire of the humble. You prepare the heart of the humble to receive Your blessings. You cause Your ear to hear the humble. These are the blessings that You give to those who are broken and repentant. O God, create within me/us a humble, broken heart. I confess my/our pride. I desire revival in my life/in the life of the church. Father, I humble myself before You so that You will hear my cry for revival, so that You will prepare the church and me for revival, and so that You will cause Your ear to hear my cry for revival (**Psalm 10:17**).

Lord Jesus, You have said that pride flows out of my/our sinful nature. Pride defiles me/us. Pride is displeasing in Your sight. Forgive me/us of the sin of pride. Enable me/us to root this sin out of my life/our lives (**Mark 7:22**).

Father, You are the great and mighty God of heaven and earth. You are able to humble those who walk in pride. I ask You to humble me/us. Through Your mercy and love, deal with my/our pride. Bring me/us to the place where I/we walk before You in humility (**Daniel 4:37; Micah 6:6-8**).

Lord Jesus, deliver me/us from the attitude that the Laodicean church had. Never let me/us believe that I/we can do anything apart from You. Do not allow me/us to be content with past blessings and my/our present condition. Open my/our eyes to my/our true condition. Cause me/us to realize that You are

my/our greatest need. Cause me/us to seek You with all my/our heart in complete dependence on You (**Revelation 3:17; John 15:1-7**).

Father, You have blessed me/us abundantly. Never let me/us forget that You are the God who has blessed me/us. You are the God that I/we need. Do not allow me/us to forget that I/we need You more than anything or anyone else in this world. Forgive me/us of focusing more on my/our blessings than the One who has blessed me/us. Remove from me/us the pride that would allow me/us to forget You, the almighty and good God (**Deuteronomy 6:12; 8:11-17**).

## Prayer Buster #3: Lack of Faith

A lack of faith is a major contributor to failure in prayer. It is a powerful prayer buster. The Bible is clear that the one who expects to receive answers to prayer from God must have faith in Him. The Word of God says in **James 1:6-7**, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally, and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."

Prayer is an act of faith in God. It is the confidence that He will hear and answer you when you pray to Him. When you do not have this confidence in Him, He is not pleased to answer you. God has determined that to receive answers from your prayers, you must believe Him for those answers. He will not bless unbelief (**Matthew 13:58**). One cannot receive from God if he or she does not believe that God can grant what is being requested.

In order to receive answers to your prayers, you must "have faith in God" (**Mark 11:22**). What kind of faith receives answers from God? First, you must believe that God is willing to answer your request. When you come to God, you must believe that He is willing to answer you. He is your loving

heavenly Father. He wants you to bring your requests to Him (**Matthew 7:7-11**). Your God is a

heavenly Father who wants to bestow good gifts on His children (**James 1:17**). No one's voice sounds sweeter to God than yours. There is nothing more important in the world to God than hearing from you. He is willing to hear you. He is willing to answer you. You must trust that He is willing to hear and answer you.

Not only must you believe that God is willing, you must also believe that God is able to answer you. It is important to believe that God is willing to help you and answer your prayers. Yet, if you are not convinced that God is able to answer you, it is not going to do you much good to make requests of God. Do you believe from your heart that God has the power to do what you are asking of Him? It is easy to fall into the trap of saying that you believe God is able without believing this from your heart. You must be convicted that God is able to answer your requests.

God is capable of handling any prayer requests that you have. He can handle any problem that you have. Creating the world isn't much of a problem to Him. He has never had any trouble raising anyone from the dead. Nothing is too difficult for God (**Jeremiah 32:17**). Yet, He wants you and is waiting for you to recognize his power and ability. He wants you to pray with the confidence that He can answer your prayer requests.

The principle that you need to understand and put into practice is this: the more you are convinced of God's ability, the more He demonstrates His ability to you. When you pray, plan on seeing a mighty demonstration of God's power. Trust God for answers to your prayers! If your prayers have the clouds of doubt hanging over them, they won't get anywhere. God will not be pleased to answer them. Someone has wrote, "Blessed is he who expecteth nothing, for he shall not be disappointed."

How can you deal with this prayer buster? The following are some practical suggestions that you might consider using to help you build your faith and deal with this powerful prayer buster:

(1) *Be diligent to deal with your sin* (**Psalm 139:23-24**). It is impossible to grow a crop in a field where weeds are allowed grow. If a farmer is

going to grow a crop, he must root out the weeds and then grow his crop. You cannot expect faith to grow in your life if you allow the weeds of sin to stay.

(2) *Ask God to create a deeper and stronger faith in you* (**Luke 17:5**). Call on God to create in you the faith that can receive answers to prayer. It is His will that you believe Him for answers (**Hebrews 11:6**). Plead with Him to create this kind of faith in your life.

(3) *Saturate your life with the Word of God* (**Romans 10:17**). God creates faith in a person by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. As you hear, read, study, memorize and meditate on the Word of God, God will deepen your faith in Him.

(4) *Confess your lack faith to God* (**1 John 1:9**). Tell God about your struggle to trust Him. Confess that you are having difficulty believing that He is willing and able to answer your prayers. Plead with Him to deal with this unbelief.

(5) *Labor to gain a more intimate relationship to God* (**John 15:7**). One reason that many Christians lack faith is because they do not have a growing, intimate knowledge of God. They lack faith because they do not know God very well. It is like talking to a stranger. It is very difficult to talk with a stranger--to open up to a stranger. When you do not have a growing and intimate relationship to God, it is very difficult to pour your heart out to Him and to expect Him for answers.

(6) *Concentrate on how God has blessed you and answered your prayers in the past*. Past mercies and blessings are anchors for believing God for the future.

(7) *Read the biographies of others whose prayers have been answered*. Many biographies of great Christians are real faith builders. Read what God has done for others in answer to prayer and build your confidence so that He will do the same for you. You can start by reading **Hebrews 11**. Then read the stories of Abraham, Moses, Caleb, David, Jabez, Daniel, Peter, and Paul. Then you might consider reading the biographies of George Mueller, Praying

John Hyde, C.T. Studd, David Livingstone, and others.

(8) *End your prayers with anticipation.* When you pray, is your final “amen” really a “hello” to doubt? End your prayers with the certain anticipation of God’s response and you will build your faith.

(9) *Pray the promises of God.* Demonstrate to God that you take His Word seriously by quoting His promises to Him while you pray. Read the promises from God in His Word. Pray the promises of God in response.

(10) *Don’t require faithless confirmations from the Lord.* So often when people pray they ask God to give them some kind of sign that will confirm His will. Requiring a sign from the Lord when you pray is not praying in faith. There are times when you need confirmation and there are times when God is pleased to grant these. Gideon wanted God to give him a sign to confirm His will (**Judges 6:36-40**). God was gracious and patient with Gideon’s feeble faith and granted him a sign. Yet, this is not to be considered the norm for prayer. Either you have faith in God or you do not. Do not badger God for external signs to supplement your faith.

## Learning To Pray Through The Psalms

The Psalms are a collection of inspired prayers. The Psalms are the Christian’s prayer manual. In these inspired prayers the believer can learn much about how to pray and communicate with God. As you read and study the Psalms, you need to pay attention to how the writers prayed. You can learn much from how they approached and addressed God.

In **Psalm 1**, David is contrasting two lifestyles: the lifestyle of the godly and the lifestyle of the wicked. There are only two lifestyles. This psalm teaches us three basic facts about prayer:

- *When you pray, you need to express your commitments to the Lord.* In verse 1-2, David

expresses his commitment to separate himself from the ungodly and to saturate his life with the Word of God. He boldly confesses his commitment to God in these areas. Why does He do this? First, this is a way of asking God for the grace and power to carry out your commitments. Second, it strengthens your commitment to do these things. You are declaring this to the God who knows your heart and life. When you declare your commitments to Him, it establishes a powerful accountability. By declaring your commitments to the Lord, it can enable you to plead for the grace and power to carry out these commitments and it should cause you to strive to live up to these commitments because you have made these commitments to the Lord.

- *When you pray, you need to express your confidence in the Lord.* In **verses 4-6**, David declares his confidence in the Lord to deal sustain him, to bless him, and to deal with the wicked who persecute him. When you pray, you need to declare your confidence in the Lord. God wants you to bring your doubts and fears (**1 Peter 5:7**). It is good and right to bring all your concerns to God. Yet, you need to balance this with the expression of the confidence that God can deal with these doubts and fears. Even though you are powerless and helpless to deal with these fears and problems, you need to express confidence that God can deal with them.
- *When you pray, you need to adore the character of God.* Although David never mentions God’s righteousness, this psalm exalts this attribute of God. David is adoring God’s righteousness by declaring that God will take care of those who believe in Him and will judge and punish those who reject Him and spurn His Word (**Psalm 1:6**). When you pray, adore God. Exalt His holy character.

**NEW ITEM!!!** A new manual has just been printed entitled, “Praying for Believers”. This is an approximate 40 page manual that has been developed to help individuals pray for other believers. Should you desire one or more, please contact Dr. Meador at the address on the front or email him at the addresses listed on the front cover.

The Beloved Unbeliever Network is a network of intercessors who pray for believers who have spouses that are not Christians. This network of intercessors pray daily for believers who are in this situation. These intercessors have been trained and are committed to praying for believers who find themselves in this type of marriage. If you would like to be added to this prayer list or if you know of someone who is in this situation and would like to place them on this prayer list, please contact Dr. Kevin Meador. Please provide the following information:

Name of the family members  
Church affiliation  
Any special requests

Any information that is submitted will be kept in strict confidence and the privacy of the individuals will be protected. Name codes will be given to each name submitted. The person sending in the name and myself will be the only ones who know the real name of the person being submitted.



**THE PRAYER CLOSET MINISTRIES, INC.**  
Dr. Kevin Meador  
595 Stratton Road  
Decatur, MS 39327

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Hickory, MS  
Permit #2

Steve & Ann Mayes  
1111 Pleasant Valley Road  
Decatur, MS 39327

