

THE PRAYER CLOSET

Encouraging & Equipping Believers in Prayer

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FIVE DANGEROUS PRAYERS

Have you ever thought of prayer as dangerous? It sounds unusual, but it is true. Prayer does provide many benefits for the child of God. Through prayer, God communicates with you. He listens to you. He answers you. He encourages you. He reveals His love for you. He meets your needs. He blesses your life.

However, prayer involves danger because it ushers you into a vivid encounter with the living God. You approach and enter the presence of the mighty God. You interact with the Sovereign of the universe. You have the privilege of spending time with and fellowshiping with your heavenly Father, the holy God.

During this vivid encounter with God, He unleashes His transforming power into your life. You submit to God and experience His change in all aspects of your life. God works to mold you and shape you according to His purpose during your times of prayer.

Because of these things, danger exists when you pray. When you pray, God works to transform your life, requiring adjustments in your attitudes and actions. He will speak to you – sometimes things that you might not want to hear. He will lead you to places – places you've never been before in your life. He will call you out of your routine, your comfort zone. He will teach you lessons that will involve sacrifice and adversity in your life.

If you want to want to grow and be used of God, you have to pray some dangerous prayers. I want to challenge you to pray five dangerous prayers. These prayers can totally transform your relationship to God and your usefulness for Him. They will make a difference in you and your walk with Him. The five dangerous prayers are:

Search Me (Psalm 139:23-24)

In **Psalm 139**, the psalmist emphasizes God's intimate knowledge of His life. He declares that God knows everything about Him. He even knows what he will say before he says it, "For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether" (**Psalm 139:4**).

In **Psalm 139:7-12**, the psalmist marvels at the omnipresence of God. The omnipresence of God means that God is everywhere at all times. Nothing escapes His holy gaze. For the psalmist, God's omnipresence was no cold, abstract doctrinal truth. He recognized that his whole life played out before God's intense view.

The psalmist also confesses that God made Him, "For You have formed my inward parts; You have covered me in my mother's womb" (**Psalm 139:13**). He created him and understands his life completely. His life is open before the eyes of God. He sees and knows all about the psalmist.

Dr. Kevin Meador, P. O. Box 278, Hickory, MS 39332 (601) 646-2295

EMAIL: prayercloset_1998@yahoo.com

WEB PAGES: www.prayerclosetministries.org - www.kingdompraying.com

God's knowledge, God's omnipresence, and God's creation drove him to pray. What did the psalmist pray? How did these particular truths direct him to pray? The Bible records his heartfelt plea, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (**Psalm 139:23-24**). Because of those three truths, the psalmist realized that God knew Him intimately. He asks God to reveal to him anything in his life that did not please Him. He cries out to God to show him what had to be confessed, repented of, and changed.

The psalmist understood that God knew him and could reveal to him any sin or flaw. He confesses that he needed God to show him these things. The truth is we often don't see those things in our lives that are not pleasing to God. This may be due to sin or self-righteousness. We often bury our sins and flaws under our religiosity and pride. We often see the sins of others much quicker and more clearly than our own. God has to reveal these things to us. This is why we must regularly pray, "Search me!"

If you will ask God to reveal to you what is not pleasing to Him, He will do it. This is a dangerous prayer because God will answer clearly. He will show you the truth. Do you want to know the truth about yourself? Ask God to search you. Plead with God to show you what He has to do in your life to grow you and mature you. Call on Him to open your eyes to the sins and the flaws that He wants to deal with by His grace and mercy. It's a dangerous prayer but it will help you to grow in holiness and usefulness for God and His kingdom.

Teach Me(Psalm 25:4)

In **Psalm 25:4**, the psalmist calls on God to teach him, "Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths." He longs to know God and His ways. He pleads with God to show him His will. The psalmist has a heart to pursue the knowledge of God. He therefore prays for God to teach him.

This seems to be a simple prayer. Yet, it is a dangerous prayer. It is a prayer to know God as He is. It is a prayer to grow in your

understanding of His character and ways. This means that you may have to adjust your thinking about God. You will have to conform your understanding about God to the Word of God.

I remember the first time I put my glasses on. When I put them on, I saw a completely new world. Before I wore glasses, everything appeared fuzzy and unclear. When I slid those glasses on, it enhanced my vision. I began to see everything differently. The glasses clarified my vision.

This is what this prayer will do. It will enhance your vision of God. It will clarify your view of God's character. Don't be surprised if this means that you will have to change some ideas that you have about God and the way He works. Don't be surprised if you have to let go of some false notions about His character and His will. When you pray this prayer, you will gain greater perspective on God – His character and His ways. Yet, it will demand that you conform your knowledge of Him to His unchanging Word. It's a dangerous prayer but it will deepen and strengthen Your knowledge of our glorious God and His ways.

Lead Me(Psalm 119:133)

In **Psalm 119:133**, the psalmist prays that God will lead him, "Direct my steps by Your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me." He wants God to guide him. He desires that God's hand direct him in God's will. He passionately seeks God for His gracious guidance.

Again, this seems to be a simple prayer. Yet, it is a dangerous prayer. When you ask God to lead you, He will do it. He will guide your life. He will direct your paths. Yet, keep in mind He may lead you in ways that you've never gone before in your life.

This prayer calls for the destruction of your comfort zone. It means that you can't stay in your convenient routine. It demands that you step out of the ordinary and yield to God's leading regardless of how He leads.

Yet, it also means that you will walk in the way that is best for you. It will take you to places of usefulness and effectiveness that you've never known before in your life. Yes, it's a dangerous prayer. Nevertheless, it will take

you to places of intimacy with God and blessing for you and for others as never before in your life.

Bless Me (1 Chronicles 4:10)

The prayer of Jabez provides a model for the believer praying for blessing. God encourages the believer to pray, "Bless me indeed!" The New Testament equivalent is **Matthew 7:7**. Jesus tells us to ask, seek, and knock. We serve the God who desires to bless. We belong to the God who will bless when we ask Him (**Matthew 7:11**).

When you pray for God's blessing, you pray a dangerous prayer. God will bless you. Yet, He will then want you to bless others out of the overflow. God does not want you to be a reservoir but a conduit. He desires to send blessing into your life that you might bless others.

God's blessings in your life come with the opportunity to bless others. When you pray for Him to pour out His merciful gifts on you, He desires that you share with others out of His blessing. When you call on Him to minister to your needs, He expects you to minister to the needs of others. The prayer for blessing means praying for the opportunity to bless others. It's a dangerous prayer but it can lead to blessing in your life and the lives of countless others.

Use Me(Matthew 26:39)

In **Matthew 26:39**, Jesus prays these familiar words, "Not as I will but as You will." These words are His prayer for God to use Him. He accepted the Father's will and asks God to use Him in His purpose. In other words, Jesus says to the Father, "I give Myself to You; use me."

The prayer "God, use me" seems simple and direct. However, it is a powerful and dangerous prayer. When you ask God to use you, you have to die to yourself and your plans. There must be a willingness say "No!" to your desires and dreams. You have to place yourself in God's hands and say, "Not as I will but as You will; use me, O God." This prayer leads you to surrender to God's purpose for your life.

As dangerous as this prayer is, this prayer leads you to the greatest effectiveness for God. The prayer "Use me" takes you down

the path of making a difference for the kingdom now and for eternity. You may have to die to yourself. You may have to experience adversity. God will have to shape and mold you. Yet, this prayer pleases God and will result in much fruit and blessing in your life and the lives of countless others.

As this year ends and you begin the new year, I want to challenge and encourage you to pray faithfully these five prayers. Plead with God to do His work in your life through these five petitions. You might even consider starting a prayer journal for the new year with these five prayers as the different sections of your journal. As you pray these five prayers throughout the new year, you can record the insights, the leadings, and the changes that God works into your life. These are dangerous prayers but they will transform your relationship with God and make you a more effective vessel for God to use.

Praying Over Your Pocketbook

God desires that you commit your finances to Him. He is Your Provider and your God. Because of this, He calls for you to trust Him and follow His will for how You use the money He provides. Prayer will assist you in doing this. The following Scripture prayers can guide you in praying about your finances:

Father, thank You for all the ways that You provide for me. Teach me to have a thankful spirit. Deliver me from being ungrateful toward You (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**).

Lord Jesus, You are my Lord and Master. Deliver me from trusting in wealth or letting it master me (**Matthew 6:24**).

Father, help me to be a good steward of the money You grant me. I surrender my "ownership mentality" and ask You to empower me to use money wisely and faithfully (**Matthew 25:14-30**).

Father, I commit to work hard. I refuse to pursue any form of dishonest gain. Grant me the opportunities to earn more finances for Your glory and my own benefit (**Colossians 3:22-24**).

Father, forgive me for worrying about whether or not You will provide for me. I choose now to stop worrying and to trust in You. I need tell God what

you need) and I trust in You to provide this (**Matthew 6:30-32**).

Father, I adore You and thank You for providing for me with what I need when I need it. You have revealed Yourself to me as my good and loving Father and I will walk in dependence on You (**Philippians 4:6, 19**).

Father, I pray for a spirit of self-control in my life. Deliver me from spending unwisely. Help me to deal with any outstanding debts that I have accumulated (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

Father, empower me to give to You the first and best of all my income and not my leftovers (**Malachi 1:6-8, 3:10**).

Father, I ask that I will give willingly and cheerfully as You have. I want to give in the way that pleases You (**2 Corinthians 9:7**).

Father, I trust in You enough to give sacrificially. Enable me to give beyond my apparent ability (**2 Corinthians 8:1-4**).

Father, I pray that You will enable me to meet the ~~needs of the poor~~. ~~Open my eyes to the opportunities for this~~ (**Matthew 25:31-46**).

Father, because of Your wisdom, I commit to consult You about my financial decisions. I will seek You about how to give, save, and spend (**Proverbs 3:6**).

Father, I plead that my financial decisions will glorify and honor You. I ask that my giving will result in praise and thanksgiving to You (**2 Corinthians 9:11**).

Father, show me how to invest worldly wealth in the way that will spread the gospel and advance Your kingdom (**Luke 16:9**).

Father, grant me the wisdom and grace to support ministries that they might serve You more fully and effectively (**1 Corinthians 9:11-14**).

Father, I plead that You will bless me with the ability and means to supply what my family needs (**1 Timothy 5:8**).

Father, I pray that I will seek first Your kingdom and righteousness. I will trust in You to provide all that I need (**Matthew 6:33**).

Father, give me wisdom that I need to save money. ~~Enable me to set aside money for the things that~~ need to save for (**Proverbs 6:6-8**).



The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.
Dr. Kevin Meador
P.O. Box 278
Hickory, MS 39332

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

Steve & Ann Mayes
P. O. Box 525
Pelahatchie MS 39145

The Beginning Prayerwalking Packet

The Prayer Closet is offering a special packet to assist you in prayerwalking. The Beginning Prayerwalking Packet contains a CD, prayerwalking key ring, bookmark, and prayer cards. It is a great way to introduce believers to prayerwalking and to help believers hit the streets with prayer. It is ideal for small groups or evangelistic outreach. This packet is \$2.00. Order yours today!