

2605 Dan Augsburger’s Background

2606
2607 Dan has degrees in religion and communication from Andrews University
2608 and a Masters in Religious Education from Andrews Theological
2609 Seminary. Dan’s varied background includes work as a pastor, chaplain,
2610 hospital and nursing home administrator, executive—he owned his own
2611 firm, and teaching church history. Having an acute need for answers to
2612 prayer at a time of change, Dan began carefully studying the science of
2613 prayer. As a result of putting what he was learning into practice, he began
2614 obtaining wonderful answers to prayer. He accordingly began sharing
2615 what God was doing with others. Invitations began coming to speak and
2616 teach on prayer. What began as an occasional weekend retreat, has now
2617 become a ministry that takes him to churches and organizations
2618 throughout the world. Dan also teaches the History of Christian
2619 Spirituality at the Andrews Theological Seminary. He also recently
2620 developed a series of television programs on the secrets of great
2621 Christians.

2622
2623 Path2Prayer Ministries

2624
2625 Path2Prayer Ministries was developed to support Dan’s seminar and web
2626 efforts. A faith effort, Path2Prayer Ministries depends on the blessings of
2627 God and the financial support of God’s friends who value the ministry.
2628 Dan lives a dependent life, which he speaks of in his seminars. Almost
2629 everything provided through the ministry is offered at no cost, enabling
2630 individuals throughout the world to have hard to find ministry resources.

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PREVAILING PRAYER

A SEVEN PART SERIES ON PRAYER

*“Ask and it SHALL be given
unto you.”*

By
DAN AUGSBURGER

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“The proof that we have prayed aright is the answer. If we ask and receive not, it is because we have not learned to pray aright.... (God) would tell us that we are not to rest without an answer because it is the will of God, the rule in the Father’s family: every childlike believing petition is granted.... If no answer comes, we are not to sit down in the sloth that calls itself resignation, and suppose that it is not God’s will to give an answer. There must be something in the prayer that is not as God would have it.... We must seek for grace to pray so that the answer may come. It is far easier to the flesh to submit without the answer than to yield itself to be searched and purified by the Spirit, until it has learnt to pray the prayer of faith.”

Andrew Murray,
With Christ in the School of Prayer, pp. 32, 33, 34

2564

2565 Some Experiences

2566 Red Sea Adventures

2567 Daniel’s “Thanksgiving”

2568 Peter’s Emancipation

2569 George Muller and Delays

2570 North Atlantic Crossings

2571 God’s Perfect Timing When Moving

2572 God’s Perfect Timing with Power Point.

2573 God’s Perfect Timing With a Computer

2574 God’s Perfect Timing When Traveling

2575 God Providing funds for Trips

2576 Meeting Pastor and wife and O’Hare Airport

2577

MAKING IT PERSONAL

2579 1. To what degree are you persisting and praising at ALL times?

2580 2. Make a list of reasons for praising God at this time, especially the
2581 negative things going on.

2582

2583

CONTINUING RESULTS

2584

2585

1. Be intentional in your prayers.

2586

- Regular time

2587

- Use prayer lists.

2588

- Maintain a journal for answers.

2589

2. Maintain a life-changing devotional experience.

2590

3. Keep Studying.

2591

4. Pray with others.

2592

- Prayer Partner

2593

- Prayer Group

2594

- Midweek Prayer Services.

2595

2596

2597

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2520 *Praying Hyde
2521 “Mr. Hyde used to say that at any time when he noticed few souls
2522 being led by him to Christ, he invariably found it was all due to his
2523 lack of the spirit of praise. He would then confess his sin, ask pardon,
2524 and take the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. His
2525 experience then invariably was that Christ would again draw souls to
2526 Himself through him.” *Praying Hyde*, p. 143, 144.

2527 *George Muller
2528 “I have been a believer in the Lord Jesus for forty-four years, but I
2529 have invariably found that my greatest trials have proved my greatest
2530 blessings; they have worked for my good.” *Jehovah Magnified*, p. 50

2531 F. B. Meyer
2532 “I have a beloved friend, who has made it the habit of her life to obey
2533 this injunction literally. When her husband’s factory was in flames,
2534 when her children were pronounced to be seriously ill, and when
2535 other apparent disasters befell her, she went alone into her chamber,
2536 and knelt down to thank God for all, because she knew that He was a
2537 Father still; that He loved her too well to give her anything but the
2538 best; and that He must love her very much to be willing to bless her
2539 at the cost of so much pain. We may not always feel like thanking
2540 God for all things; but let us always will and dare to do it. Let us not
2541 look at the providence, but at the Father behind it. Let us not examine
2542 the crate, but let us search within for the gift of love. Though at first
2543 sight we may be disappointed and sad, whatever the Father sends
2544 must be the very best. Dare to believe it, and you will come to find it
2545 so.” *Ephesians*. p. 14

2546 Mary Winslow
2547 "Beloved fellow traveler in the kingdom of God, it is through much
2548 tribulation we are to enter into His kingdom of glory above. I have
2549 heard of the severe trial your Father has sent in much love. When we
2550 arrive at home, and trace our steps through this wilderness, we shall
2551 see that every trial, cross, and disappointment was needful, and that
2552 the work would not have been complete without all, even the least.
2553 Our loving God and Father takes no pleasure in afflicting us; but it is
2554 by these things we are brought to be better acquainted with ourselves
2555 and with Him. He does it all. Can anything happen to us but what
2556 God does in love to our souls? Are we not in His heart, and can
2557 anything happen to us but what He designs? Cast all your cares on
2558 Him, for He cares for you. He is better able to bear the burden than
2559 you are. Lie contented in His loving hands, and let Him take His own
2560 way with you.” *Her Letters*

1 PREVAILING PRAYER
2
3 *PREVAILING PROMISES*
4 (1 of 7)
5
6 “Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for His wife....” *Gen. 25:21*
7
8 Memory Items: Mark 11:24; Matthew 7:7,8; John 16:23,24; 1 John
9 5:14,15; Luke 1:37; GC 525
10
11 Introduction
12 1. Encouragements to Pray
13
14 *1 John 5: 14,15
15 “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything
16 according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us,
17 whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked
18 of Him.”
19
20 *E. M Bounds (1835 - 1913)
21 In prayer, “God turns Himself over to the will of His people. When Christ
22 becomes our all in all, prayer lays God’s treasures at our feet.” *Prayer*, p.
23 177.
24
25 Christ Object Lessons, p. 173
26 “If we surrender our lives to His service, we can never be placed in a
27 position for which God has not made provision. Whatever may be our
28 situation, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexities,
29 we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or
30 loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend. If in our ignorance we make
31 missteps, Christ does not leave us. His voice, clear and distinct, is heard
32 saying, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." John 14:6. "He shall
33 deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no
34 helper." Psalm 72:12. The Lord declares that He will be honored by those
35 who draw nigh to Him, who faithfully do His service. "Thou wilt keep him
36 in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in
37 Thee." Isaiah 26:3. The arm of Omnipotence is outstretched to lead us
38 onward and still onward. Go forward, the Lord says; I will send you help.
39 It is for My name's glory that you ask, and you shall receive. I will be
40 honored before those who are watching for your failure. They shall see
41 My word triumph gloriously. "All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in
42 prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:22.
43
44

45 2. Necessary Bible Conditions & Expectations
 46
 47 *Charles Finney (1792-1875)
 48 “On one occasion, when I was in one of the prayer-meetings, I was asked
 49 if I did not desire that they should pray for me. I told them, ‘No!’ because
 50 I did not see that God answered their prayers. I suppose I need to be
 51 prayed for, for I am conscious that I am a sinner; but I do not see that it
 52 will do any good for you to pray for me; for you are continually asking,
 53 but you do not receive.... You have prayed enough...to have prayed the
 54 devil out of (this town) if there (were) any virtue in your prayers.’ On
 55 further reading of my Bible, it struck me that the reason their prayers were
 56 not answered was because they did not comply with the revealed
 57 conditions upon which God had promised to answer prayer; that they did
 58 not pray in faith, in the sense of expecting God to give them the things
 59 they asked for.” *Memoires*
 60
 61 3. Sharing Together
 62
 63 • What has been your experience with prayer?
 64 • What do you hope to gain by this study of prayer?
 65
 66 4. Singing Together
 67 Sweet hour of prayer. (2x)
 68 That calls me from a world of care;
 69 And bids me at my Father’s throne.
 70 Make all my wants and wishes known.
 71 In seasons of distress and grief,
 72 My soul has often found relief;
 73 And oft escaped the tempter’s snare,
 74 By thy return sweet hour of prayer.
 75
 76 God’s Prevailing Promises
 77 *Mark 11: 24
 78 “Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them
 79 and you will have them.”
 80
 81 *Matthew 7: 7,8,11
 82 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will
 83 be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks
 84 finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”
 85
 86 *Matthew 18: 20
 87 “If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be
 88 done for them by My Father in heaven.”

2476 “ All trials that are received as educators will produce joy. The whole
 2477 religious life will be uplifting, elevating, ennobling, fragrant with
 2478 good words and works.”
 2479
 2480 *Youth Instructor, January 10, 1901
 2481 “Let us educate our tongues to speak forth his praise, not only when
 2482 we feel gladness, but at all times.”
 2483
 2484 *It enables God’s miracles.
 2485 *Testimonies Vol. 5, p. 317
 2486 “We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving
 2487 thanks. If the loving kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving
 2488 and praise, we would have far more power in prayer. We would
 2489 abound more and more in the love of God and have more bestowed to
 2490 praise Him for. You who complain that God does not hear your
 2491 prayers, change your present order and mingle praise with your
 2492 petitions. When you consider His goodness and mercies, you will
 2493 find that He will consider your wants.”
 2494
 2495 Charles Spurgeon
 2496 “The kind of prayer that kills care is a prayer that asks cheerfully,
 2497 joyfully, thankfully. ‘Lord, I am poor. Let me bless You for my
 2498 poverty,’ and then, ‘O Lord, will You not supply all my needs?’ That
 2499 is the way to pray.... ‘Supplication with thanksgiving.’ Mix these two
 2500 things, rub them well together, and they will make a blessed cure for
 2501 care.” *Prayer in the Believer’s Life*, p. 174, 175.
 2502
 2503 *Unknown Christian
 2504 “Nothing so pleases God as our praises, and nothing so blesses the
 2505 man who prays as the praises he offers! “Delight thyself also in the
 2506 Lord; and he shall give thee the petitions of thine heart. Do we praise
 2507 enough to get our prayers answered? If we truly trust Him, we shall
 2508 always praise Him.” *Kneeling Christian*, p. 117
 2509
 2510 Charles Spurgeon
 2511 “Sweeten your lips with the pleasant confection of praise. If anyone
 2512 should confess to me that he has sinned by going too far in blessing
 2513 God, I would for once become a priest and give him absolution.
 2514 Praise God extravagantly if you can. Try it. Say to yourself, ‘I will
 2515 go beyond all boundaries in this matter,’ for there are no limits to
 2516 what God deserves, for He ever blesses.” *Prayer & Spiritual*
 2517 *Warfare*, p. 405
 2518
 2519

2432 “And we know that all things work together for good to those who
2433 are the called according to His purpose.”
2434
2435 Romans 5:3
2436 “We rejoice in tribulations.”
2437
2438 *We are commanded to praise.
2439 *Ephesians 5:20
2440 “Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of
2441 our Lord Jesus Christ.”
2442
2443 *1 Thess. 5:18
2444 “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
2445 for you.”
2446
2447 *Philippians 4: 6,7
2448 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and
2449 supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to
2450 God.”
2451
2452 Prov. 17:22
2453 “A merry heart does good like a medicine, but a broken spirit dries
2454 the bones.”
2455
2456 Prov. 16:24
2457 “Pleasant words are like honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health
2458 to the bones.”
2459
2460 *Review & Herald Vol. 3, p. 139
2461 “Those who follow inclination and judge from appearances, are not
2462 good judges of what God is doing. They are filled with discontent.
2463 They see failure where there is indeed triumph, a great loss where
2464 there is only gain.”
2465
2466 Review & Herald Vol. 3, p. 125
2467 “I testify to those who love and serve God, that we miss very much
2468 because we do not grasp the blessings that may be ours in afflictions.
2469 All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our
2470 sadness and grief, all our persecutions and privations, and in short all
2471 things, work together for our good. All experiences and
2472 circumstances are God’s workmen whereby good is brought to us.”
2473
2474
2475 Review & Herald May 7, 1908

89
90 Psalm 81: 10
91 “Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.”—was key promise of George
92 Muller.
93
94 James 4: 2
95 “You do not have because you do not ask.”
96
97 2 Cor. 9:8
98 “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you always
99 having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good
100 work.”—was key promise claimed by August Francke.
101
102 *Luke 1: 37
103 “With God, nothing is impossible.”
104
105 John 14: 12-14
106 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do
107 he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to
108 My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the
109 Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will
110 do it.”
111
112 Matthew 17: 20
113 “If you have faith as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible for you.”
114
115 Other Testimonies
116 *Unknown Christian (1868-1951)
117 “Prayer is the key that unlocks the door of God’s treasure-house. It is not
118 too much to say that all real growth in the spiritual life — all victory over
119 temptation, all confidence and peace in the presence of difficulties and
120 dangers, all repose of spirit in times of great disappointment or loss, all
121 habitual communion with God — depends upon the practice of secret
122 prayer. It can easily be shown that all want of success (and all failure in
123 the spiritual life and in Christian work) is due to defective or insufficient
124 prayer.... The greatest thing we can do for God or for man is to pray. For
125 we can accomplish far more by our prayers than by our work. Prayer is
126 omnipotent; it can do anything that God can do! When we pray God
127 works.” *Kneeling Christian*, p. 9, 18.
128
129 *Great Controversy p. 525
130 “It is part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that
131 which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.”
132

133 George Muller
134 “Go for yourself, with all your temporal and spiritual wants, to the Lord.
135 Bring also the necessities of your friends and relatives to the Lord. Only
136 make the trial, and you will perceive how able and willing He is to help
137 you. Should you, however, not at once obtain answers to your prayers, be
138 not discouraged; but continue patiently, believingly, perseveringly to wait
139 upon God...” A. T. Pierson, *Muller of Bristol*

141 *E. M Bounds
142 “How vast are the possibilities of prayer! How wide is its reach! What
143 great things are accomplished by this divinely appointed means of grace!
144 It lays its hand on Almighty God and moves Him to do what He would not
145 otherwise do if prayer was not offered. It brings things to pass which
146 would never otherwise occur. The story of prayer is the story of great
147 achievements. Prayer is a wonderful power placed by Almighty God in the
148 hands of His saints, which may be used to accomplish great purposes and
149 to achieve unusual results...The only limits to prayer are the promises of
150 God and His ability to fulfill those promises.” *Possibilities of Prayer*.

152 Charles Spurgeon
153 “I have never failed because I have cast myself upon the Lord. I have not
154 hesitated to challenge our church with large ideas of what we might do for
155 God, and we have accomplished all that we purposed. I have sought God’s
156 help in all my manifold undertakings, and though I cannot tell here the
157 story of my private life in God’s work, yet if it were written, it would be a
158 standing proof that there is a God that answers prayer. He has heard my
159 prayers—not now and then—so many times that it has grown into a habit
160 with me to spread my case before God with the absolute certainty that
161 whatsoever I ask of God He will give to me. It is not now a perhaps or a
162 possibility. I know that my Lord answers me, and it would be folly to
163 doubt it. I am sure of this, for I have reaped it.” *Prayer in the Life of the*
164 *Believer*

166 Making It Simple
167 • Miracle Answers of the Past
168 • My Journey With Prayer

Prevailing Certainties

171 *Mark 11: 24
172 “Whatever things you ask, when you pray, believe that you have received
173 them, and you will have them.”

2389 neglect the prayers of His people. The danger is that in temptation and trial
2390 they will become discouraged, and fail to persevere in prayer.”

2391
2392 *George Müller
2393 “The great point is never to give up until the answer comes. I have been
2394 praying for fifty-two years, every day, for two men, sons of a friend of my
2395 youth. They are not converted yet, but they will be! The great fault of the
2396 children of God is ... they do not go on praying; they do not persevere. If
2397 they desire anything for God’s glory, they should pray until they get it.”
2398 *Delighted in God*, p. 186

2399
2400 *Letter 8, 1850 (see 1 Kings 17:20)
2401 “I saw we must be constantly rising and keep the ascendancy above the
2402 powers of darkness. I saw singing to the glory of God often drove the
2403 enemy, and shouting would beat him back and give us the victory. I saw
2404 there was too little glorifying God in Israel and too little childlike
2405 simplicity. I asked the angel why there was not more power in Israel. Said
2406 he, “Ye let go of the promises of God too quickly; press your petitions to
2407 the throne and hold on by faith. Believe ye receive the things ye ask for,
2408 and ye shall have them.”

Praise

2411 *Andrew Murray
2412 “Between the ‘have received’ in heaven, and the ‘shall have’ of earth,
2413 believe—believing praise and prayer is the link.” *With Christ in the School*
2414 *of Prayer*, p. 64

2415
2416 *Why Praise?
2417 It’s our natural response to God
2418 Psalm 34: 1
2419 “I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in
2420 my mouth.”

2421
2422 *It’s our response to His keeping!
2423 Ps 118: 5, 6, 14, 21, 29
2424 “I called upon the Lord in distress; the Lord answered me, and set me
2425 in a large place. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can
2426 man do to me? The Lord is my strength and song and He has become
2427 my salvation.”

2430
2431 *Romans 8: 28

2346 We (would) become careless and fail to realize our dependence was
2347 on Him.”

2348

2349 *Joseph: Needed to die to self (Gen. 45:7,8)

2350

2351 *Israel: Needed deliverance (Ex. 2:23,24)

2352

2353 *Daniel: A battle was waging (Daniel 10:12)

2354

2355 Daniel: “Do not fear Daniel, for from the first day that you set your
2356 heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your
2357 words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the
2358 prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days....”

2359

2360 *Paul: Deliverance wasn't for his good (2 Cor. 12:7)

2361

2362 Heavenly Places, p. 83
2363 “When Paul prayed that the thorn in his flesh might be removed, the
2364 Lord answered his prayer, not by removing the thorn, but by giving
2365 him grace to bear the trial. ‘My grace,’ He said, ‘is sufficient for
2366 thee.’ Paul rejoiced at this answer to his prayer, declaring, ‘Most
2367 gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of
2368 Christ may rest upon me.’”

2369

2370

Why Persist?

2371 *Andrew Murray

2372 “When, after persevering supplication, our prayer remains unanswered, it
2373 is often easiest for our slothful flesh, and it has all the appearance of pious
2374 submission, to think that we must now cease praying, that God may have
2375 His secret reason for withholding His answer to our request. It is by faith
2376 alone that the difficulty is overcome. When once faith has taken its stand
2377 upon God's word and the Name of Jesus, and has yielded itself to the
2378 leading of the Spirit to seek God's will and honor alone in its prayer, it
2379 need not be discouraged by delay. It knows from Scripture that the power
2380 of believing prayer is simply irresistible; real faith can never be
2381 disappointed.” *With Christ in the School of Answered Prayer*, p. 87

2382

2383 *Christ Object Lessons, p. 175

2384 “Christ desires nothing so much as to redeem His heritage from the
2385 dominion of Satan. But before we are delivered from Satan's power
2386 without, we must be delivered from his power within. The Lord permits
2387 trials in order that we may be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness,
2388 from harsh, unchristlike traits of character. He suffers the deep waters of
affliction to go over our souls. There is no danger that the Lord will

177 That I May Know Him, p. 230

178 “We should believe that God will answer our prayers, and not trust to
179 feeling. We should say, ‘My gloomy feelings are not evidence that God
180 has not heard me....’ We are to trust to the promise of God. We are to go
181 about our business believing that God will do just what He has said He
182 would do, and that the blessings we have prayed for will come to us when
183 we most need them. Every petition enters into the heart of God when we
184 come believing.”

185

186

Delayed & “No” Answers

187 Ministry of Healing, p. 474

188 “In the future life the mysteries that here have annoyed and disappointed
189 us will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly unanswered
190 prayers and disappointed hopes have been among our greatest blessings.”

191

192 Counsels on Health, p. 380,381

193 “We all desire an immediate answer to our prayers and are tempted to
194 become discouraged if our prayer is not immediately answered. Now, my
195 experience has taught me that this is a great mistake. The delay is for our
196 special benefit. We have a chance to see whether our faith is true and
197 sincere or changeable like the waves of the sea. We must bind ourselves
198 upon the altar with the strong cords of faith and love, and let patience have
199 her perfect work.”

200

201 *Unknown Christian

202 “God means every prayer to have an answer. Not a single real prayer can
203 fail of its effect in heaven.... God's answer to prayer may be ‘Yes,’ or it
204 may be ‘No.’ It may be ‘Wait,’ for it may be that He plans a much larger
205 blessing than we imagined, and one that involves other lives as well as our
206 own.” *Kneeling Christian*, p. 87.

207

208 Andrew Murray

209 “He wants to impress deep on our minds this one truth, that we may and
210 must most confidently expect an answer to our prayer. Next to the
211 revelation of the Father's love, there is in the whole course of the school
212 of prayer, not a more important lesson than this: ‘Everyone that asketh,
213 receiveth.’” *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, p. 21.

214

215 *Andrew Murray

216 “It is one of the terrible marks of the diseased state of the Christian life in
217 these days, that there are so many who rest content without the distinct
218 experience of answer to prayer. They pray daily, they ask many things,
219 and trust that some of them will be heard, but know little of direct definite
220 answer to prayer as the rule of daily life.”

221
222 *"The proof that we have prayed aright is the answer. If we ask and
223 receive not, it is because we have not learned to pray aright. (God) would
224 tell us that we are not to rest without an answer because it is the will of
225 God, the rule in the Father's family: every childlike believing petition is
226 granted. If no answer comes, we are not to sit down ... and suppose that it
227 is not God's will to give an answer. There must be something in the prayer
228 that is not as God would have it. We must seek for grace to pray so that
229 the answer may come. It is far easier ... to submit without the answer than
230 to yield to be searched and purified by the Spirit, until it has learnt to pray
231 the prayer of faith." *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, pp. 32, 33, 34

232
233 **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

234 1. Make a list of requests and associated promises.
235

2303 Luke 11: 5-9
2304 "And He said to them, 'Which of you shall have a friend, and go to
2305 him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend lend me three loaves; for a
2306 friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to
2307 set before him'; and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not
2308 trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in
2309 bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? I say to you, though he will not
2310 rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his
2311 persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. So I say to
2312 you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock,
2313 and it will be opened to you."

2314
2315 *It was requested by Paul

2316
2317 1 Thessalonians 5: 17

2318 "Pray without ceasing."

2319
2320 Romans 12: 12

2321 "Steadfastly continuing in prayer."

2322
2323 Ephesians 6: 18

2324 "...praying always...with all perseverance and supplication for all the
2325 saints."

2326
2327 Colossians 4: 2

2328 "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with
2329 thanksgiving..."

2330
2331 **Biblical Examples**

2332 *Hannah: God needed prophet (1 Sam. 1:11)

2333
2334 *Elijah: Needed heart work: (1 Kings 18:43)

2335
2336 SDABC Vol. 2, pp, 1034,1035

2337 "When upon Mt. Carmel he offered the prayer for rain, his faith was
2338 tested, but he persevered in making known his request unto God. Six
2339 times he prayed earnestly, and yet there was no sign that his petition
2340 was granted, but with a strong faith he urged his plea to the throne of
2341 grace. Had he given up in discouragement at the sixth time, his prayer
2342 would not have been answered, but he persevered till the answer
2343 came.... God does not always answer our prayer the first time we call
2344 upon Him; for should He do this, we might take it for granted that we
2345 have a right to all the blessings and favors He bestowed upon us..."

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PREVAILING PRAYER

PREVAILING RESULTS

(7 of 7)

“Giving thanks always, for all things....” Eph. 5:20

Introduction

*The Mystery of Delayed Answers

Continuing to pray in spite of limited results is one of the major challenges of the prayer life. Many an individual has struggled over the lack of answers and wondered, “Why isn’t God responding?” This is also the most challenging part of putting on seminars. This session we want to look at the all important connection between perseverance and praise.

*Andrew Murray

“Of all the mysteries of the prayer world, the need of persevering prayer is one of the greatest. That the Lord, who is so loving and longing to bless, should have to be supplicated time after time, sometimes year after year, before the answer comes, we cannot easily understand. It is also one of the greatest practical difficulties in the exercise of believing prayer.”

Persevering Prayer is Necessary

*It was practiced by Elijah

1 Kings 18:42,43

“... And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, ‘Go up now, look toward the sea.’ So he went up and looked, and said, ‘There is nothing.’ And seven times he said, ‘go again.’”

*It was instructed by Jesus!

Luke 18: 1-5

“That men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: ‘There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her lest by her continual coming she weary me.’”

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PREVAILING PRAYER

PREVAILING AUTHORITY

(2 of 7)

“You do not have because you do not ask.” James 4:2

Introduction

*A. Ask!

*Matthew 7:7,8; James 4:2

“Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened unto you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

*Andrew Murray

“It is one of the terrible marks of the diseased state of the Christian life in these days, that there are so many who rest content without the distinct experience of answer to prayer. They pray daily, they ask many things, and trust that some of them will be heard, but know little of direct definite answer to prayer as the rule of daily life. The proof that we have prayed aright is the answer. If we ask and receive not, it is because we have not learned to pray aright.... (God) would tell us that we are not to rest without an answer because it is the will of God, the rule in the Father’s family: every childlike believing petition is granted. If no answer comes, we are not to sit down in the sloth that calls itself resignation, and suppose that it is not God’s will to give an answer. There must be something in the prayer that is not as God would have it.... We must seek for grace to pray so that the answer may come. It is far easier to the flesh to submit without the answer than to yield itself to be searched and purified by the Spirit, until it has learnt to pray the prayer of faith.” *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, pp. 32, 33, 34

B. Sharing Together

- Share a little of what you have learned so far.
- Pray together asking God for blessing.

Prevailing Authority

What authority do we find in the Bible relative to prayer? What does it mean to pray correctly?

279 *A. The Authority To *Ask Specifically*
 280
 281 Matthew 7: 7,8,11
 282 “Ask and it will be given unto you; seek and you will find; knock, and it
 283 will be opened to you. For everyone that asks, receives; and he who
 284 seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.”
 285
 286 John 15:7
 287 “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you
 288 desire, and it shall be done for you.”
 289
 290 Hebrews 4:18
 291 “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain
 292 mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
 293
 294 Psalms 34:17
 295 “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all
 296 their troubles.”
 297
 298 *Great Controversy, p. 525
 299 “It is part of God’s great plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith,
 300 that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.”
 301
 302 Andrew Murray
 303 “God wills a great deal of blessing to His people, which never comes to
 304 them. He wills it most earnestly, but they do not will it, and it cannot come
 305 to them. This is the great mystery of man’s creation with a free will, and
 306 also of the renewal of his will in redemption, that God has made the
 307 execution of His will, in many things, dependent on the will of man.
 308 Prayer is the power by which things come to pass which otherwise would
 309 not take place. (God) has left it to prayer to say where the blessing is to
 310 bring the living water to the desert places; the will of God to bless is
 311 dependent upon the will of man to say where the blessing must descend.”
 312 *WCSP* p. 167, 168
 313
 314 *Youth Instructor, October 1, 1855
 315 “To pray aright, is to ask God in faith for the very things you need....”
 316
 317 Unknown Christian
 318 “We want every Christian to ask, ‘Have I ever fairly tested prayer?’ How
 319 long is it since you last offered up definite prayer? Most Christians do not
 320 give God a chance to show His delight in granting His children’s petitions,
 321 for their requests are vague and indefinite.” *Kneeling Christian*, p. 43
 322

2225 1. Is it always necessary to do a laying on of hands?
 2226 In the book of Acts there are instances recorded where the mere
 2227 shadow of the Apostles falling on the person brought healing. At
 2228 other times, a piece of clothing seemed to be sufficient.
 2229
 2230 2. Should oil be used?
 2231 Oil wasn’t always used, but one should remember that the oil
 2232 represents the work of the Holy Spirit that brings about the healing.
 2233
 2234 3. Should elders be present?
 2235 Healing isn’t a solo sport. To safeguard against this danger, I believe
 2236 God has directed the calling of the “elders.” However, I have seen
 2237 people other than elders used to bring healing to another person.
 2238
 2239 4. Should unbelievers be present? (note 1 Kings 17:19)
 2240 “Some, I saw, had erred in praying for the sick to be healed before
 2241 unbelievers.... We should follow the example of Jesus. He put
 2242 unbelievers out of the room, then healed the sick; So we should seek
 2243 to be separated from the unbelief of those who have not faith....”
 2244 (*Present Truth*, November 1850)
 2245
 2246 Books: *Ministry of Healing, Counsels on Diet and Foods*
 2247 *The China Study*, T. Collin Campbell
 2248
 2249 MAKING IT PERSONAL
 2250 1. Make a list of people to pray for. Find specific promises to claim for
 2251 them.
 2252
 2253
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 2255
 2256 2. To what degree are you living in a manner that will allow you to enjoy
 2257 good health? Make a list of changes you need to make.
 2258
 2259

2181 Ps. 34:12-13; Prov. 6:12-19; 1 Cor. 10:9,10; Num. 12:1,2,10,13-15; 1
2182 Kings 13:4-6; 2 Kings 5:26-27; Acts 5:1-5
2183
2184 *11. Too much healing might lead to ungodly pride. (2 Chron. 26:16)
2185 “God desires us to trust implicitly in Him, and if it is for our good
2186 and His name’s glory to do the work, it will be done. We are to wait.
2187 The power of the Lord is limitless. We poor mortals need to purify
2188 our souls, that when the Lord works for us, it will not ruin us. This is
2189 the reason that so few of the sick are healed. If they were [healed],
2190 men would be elevated in self-esteem. We must learn from Jesus to
2191 be meek and lowly of heart, and we shall find rest unto our souls.”
2192 *The Upward Look*, p. 375
2193
2194 *12. Sickness can serve as a major wakeup call to the church. (1 Cor.
2195 11:28-30)
2196
2197 Faith & Setting Affairs in Order; Making Use of Remedies
2198
2199 *Ministry of Healing, p. 231
2200 “Often there is danger of error here. Believing that they will be healed in
2201 answer to prayer, some fear to do anything that might seem to indicate a
2202 lack of faith. But they should not neglect to set their affairs in order as
2203 they would desire to do if they expected to be removed by death. Nor
2204 should they fear to utter words of encouragement or counsel which at the
2205 parting hour they wish to speak to their loved ones.”
2206
2207 *Manuscript Releases, p. 387
2208 “In regard to the matter of prayer for the sick, many confusing ideas are
2209 advanced. One says, ‘He who has been prayed for must walk out in faith,
2210 giving God the glory, and making use of no remedies. If he is at a health
2211 institute he should leave it at once.’ The path of faith lies close beside
2212 the path of presumption. Satan is ever seeking to lead us into false paths.
2213 He sees that a misunderstanding of what constitutes faith will confuse and
2214 disappoint. He is pleased when he can persuade men and women to reason
2215 from false premises.... It is no denial of faith to use rational remedies
2216 judiciously.”
2217
2218 *Rosalind Goforth
2219 “In all cases of divine healing cited in this record it will be noted that God
2220 healed in answer to prayer either when the doctors had done all in their
2221 power and hope had been abandoned, or when we were out of reach of
2222 medical aid.” *How I Know God Answers Prayer* p. 31
2223
2224 *Methods...

323 F. B. Meyer (1847-1929)
324 “(Elijah’s) prayer was definite. This is where so many prayers fail. They
325 are shot like arrows into the air. They are like letters which require no
326 answer, because they ask for nothing. They are like the firing by artillery
327 in a mimic fight, when only gunpowder is employed. This is why they are
328 so wanting in power and interest. We do not pray with any expectation of
329 attaining definite and practical results. Let us keep a list of petitions,
330 which we shall plead before God. ... Be definite!” *Elijah*, p. 95.
331
332 Andrew Murray
333 “Our prayers must not be a vague appeal to His mercy, an indefinite cry
334 for blessing, but the distinct expression of definite need. Some cry for
335 mercy, but take not the trouble to know what mercy must do for them.
336 Others ask, perhaps to be delivered from sin, but do not begin by naming
337 any sin from which deliverance may be claimed. Still others pray for
338 God’s blessing on those around them or on their land, and yet have no
339 distinct situation where they wait and expect to see the answer. To all the
340 Lord says: ‘And what is it now you really want and expect me to do?’”
341 *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, p. 56.
342
343 Mary Slessor
344 “My life is one long, daily, hourly record of answered prayer for physical
345 health, for mental overstrain, for guidance given marvelously, for errors
346 and dangers averted, for enmity to the Gospel subdued, for food provided
347 at the exact hour needed, for everything that goes to make up life and my
348 poor service. I can testify with a full and often wonder-stricken awe that I
349 believe God answers prayer. I know God answers prayer” *Kneeling*
350 *Christian* p 94.
351
352 Rosalind Goforth
353 “I learned that prayer was the secret which overcame every obstacle, the
354 key that unlocked every closed door. I felt like a child learning a new and
355 wonderful lesson—as I saw benches, tables, chairs, stove, fuel, lamps, oil,
356 even an organ coming in answer to definite prayer for these things. But the
357 best sight of all was when men and women, deep in sin, were converted in
358 answer to prayer....” *How I Know God Answers Prayer*, p. 21.
359
360 Some Specific Answers to Prayer
361
362 On Your Own
363 *Ask God what He would like you to be praying about?
364
365
366

367 *B. Authority to Ask in *Jesus Name!*
368
369 *John 16:23, 24 (also John 14:13,14)
370 “Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now
371 you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your
372 joy may be full.”
373
374 Philippians. 4:19
375 “My God shall supply all your need, according to his riches in glory by
376 Christ Jesus.”
377
378 Romans 5:2
379 “By whom also we have access.”
380
381 Ephesians 3:12
382 “In whom we have boldness and access.”
383
384 Luke 10:17
385 “Even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”
386
387 Proverbs 18: 10
388 “The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run to it and are
389 safe.”
390
391 Acts 16:18
392 “But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you
393 in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And he came out that
394 very hour.”
395
396 *Signs of the Times, June 18, 1902
397 “Christ has opened the way for us to approach God. He says, ‘Make use of
398 My name. It will be your passport to the heart of My Father and to all the
399 riches of His grace....’”
400
401 *Desire of Ages, p. 667
402 “He explained that the secret of their success would be in asking for
403 strength and grace in His name. He would be present before the Father to
404 make request for them. The prayer of the humble (petitioner) He presents
405 as His own desire in that soul’s behalf.”
406
407 Selected Messages, Vol. 1, 344
408 “The religious services, the prayers, the praise, the penitent confession of
409 sin ascend from true believers as incense to the heavenly sanctuary, but
410 passing through the corrupt channels of humanity, they are so defiled that

2138 dissolute in life, causing sorrow and anguish to parents and friends.
2139 They lived not to honor and glorify God, but to curse him with their
2140 life of vice, and a shame to those who feared to pray. If their life can
2141 glorify Thee, let them live, nevertheless not as we will, but as Thou
2142 wilt. We no longer mark out a way, nor seek to bring the Lord to our
2143 wishes. Our faith can be just as firm, and more reliable, by
2144 committing the desire to the all-wise God, and trusting, with
2145 unfeverish anxiety, all in perfect confidence with him. We have the
2146 promise. We know that he hears us if we ask according to his will.”
2147 *Testimony for Battle Creek Church, p. 64*
2148
2149 **“I repeatedly prayed with sick believers until they were restored. I*
2150 *asked...for the blessing of bodily health unconditionally (which I*
2151 *could not do now), and almost always had the petition answered.”*
2152 *George Müller*
2153
2154 *8. Failure to follow a natural law prevents a supernatural remedy. (Ex.
2155 15:25,26; 1 Cor. 6:19,20; mind cure: Prov. 15:13; 12:25; 17:22).
2156 “It is labor lost to teach people to look to God as a healer of their
2157 infirmities, unless they are taught also to lay aside unhealthful
2158 practices. In order to receive His blessing in answer to prayer, they
2159 must cease to do evil and learn to do well.” *Ministry of Healing, p.*
2160 *226*
2161
2162 Eight elements contribute to good health: diet, exercise, water,
2163 sunlight, temperance, fresh air, rest, trust in God’s power.
2164
2165 *9. Failure to confess sin stands in the way. (James 5:15,16)
2166 “In order for the child of God to receive divine healing, the following
2167 usually must take place: sin must be confessed and renounced, one
2168 must completely surrender to the Lord, self must be yielded up to be
2169 wholly in His hands, and that Jesus desires to take charge of the body
2170 must be firmly believed. Then, the healing becomes the
2171 commencement of a new life of intimate communion with the Lord.”
2172 *Andrew Murray Divine Healing, p. 52*
2173
2174 “To those who desire prayer for their restoration to health, it should
2175 be made plain that the violation of God’s law, either natural or
2176 spiritual, is sin, and that in order for them to receive His blessing, sin
2177 must be confessed and forsaken.” *Ministry of Healing, p. 226*
2178
2179 *10. Trouble making or withholding God’s due is preventing healing. (Ps.
2180 34:12-13)

2094 result, hoping to better understand the subject, but was never satisfied with
 2095 the answers give by the various authors. According the following list is
 2096 shared to explain some of the variability when praying for healing. It
 2097 should also be noted that longevity and spirituality are not related (Gen.
 2098 5:23,24).

2099

2100 *1. Sometimes the Great Controversy is being played out in the person's
 2101 life. (Job 2:4-6)

2102

2103 *2. Sickness can be a disguised blessing and teach ongoing dependence. (2
 2104 Cor. 12:7)

2105

2106 *3. Sickness can be for God's glory (John 9:1-3).

2107

2108 *4. Sickness can bring a knowledge of God that would not otherwise be
 2109 possible (2 Kings 5:14,15)

2110

2111 *5. Sickness allows a person to experience and promote God's power in a
 2112 personal way. (Daniel 4:33,34)

2113

2114 *6. Lack of answers can be due to a failure to believe. (Matt. 8:13)

2115 "Our Lord has given us definite instruction, through the apostle
 2116 James, as to our duty in case of sickness. When human help fails,
 2117 God will be the helper of His people. If the professed followers of
 2118 Christ would, with purity of heart exercise as much faith in the
 2119 promises of God as they repose in satanic agencies, they would
 2120 realize, in soul and body, the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit...."
 2121 *Counsels on Health*, p. 457

2122

2123 *7. Healing is not always in the person's best interest. (Hezekiah, 2 Kings
 2124 20:15-18)

2125 "All that can be done in praying for the sick is to earnestly importune
 2126 God in their behalf, and rest their case in his hands, in perfect
 2127 confidence.... When we come to him we should pray that we might
 2128 enter into, and accomplish, his purpose, and that our desires and
 2129 interests might be lost in his.... We have united in earnest prayer
 2130 around the sick bed of men, women and children, and have felt in
 2131 regard to our earnest prayers, they were given us back from the dead.
 2132 In these prayers we thought we must be positive, and if we exercised
 2133 faith, we must ask for nothing less than life. We dared not say, If it
 2134 would glorify God, fearing it would admit a semblance of doubt. We
 2135 have interestedly and anxiously watched these cases, which have
 2136 been given back, as it were, from the dead. We have seen some of
 2137 these, especially youth, raised to health, and forget God, become

411 unless purified by blood, they can never be of value with God. They
 412 ascend not in spotless purity, and unless the Intercessor, who is at God's
 413 right hand, presents and purifies all by His righteousness, it is not
 414 acceptable to God. All incense from earthly tabernacles must be moist
 415 with the cleansing drops of the blood of Christ. He holds before the Father
 416 the censer of His own merits, in which there is no taint of earthly
 417 corruption. He gathers into this censer the prayers, the praise, and the
 418 confessions of His people, and with these He puts His own spotless
 419 righteousness. Then, perfumed with the merits of Christ's propitiation, the
 420 incense comes up before God wholly and entirely acceptable. Then
 421 gracious answers are returned...."

422

423 Manuscript Releases, Vol. 8, p. 195.

424 "Prayer is acceptable to God only when offered in humility... and in the
 425 name of Christ. He who hears and answers prayer knows those who pray
 426 in humbleness of heart. The true Christian asks for nothing except in the
 427 name of Christ, and he expects nothing except through His mediation. He
 428 desires that Christ shall have the glory of presenting his prayers to the
 429 Father, and he is willing to receive the blessing from God through Christ."

430

431 Andrew Murray

432 "Jesus solemnly gives to all His disciples a general and unlimited power of
 433 the free use of His Name at all times for all they desire. He could not do
 434 this if He did not know He could trust us with His interests, that His honor
 435 would be safe in our hands." *With Christ in the School of Prayer* p. 135

436

437 George Müller

438 "On the ground of our own goodness we cannot expect to have our prayers
 439 answered. But Jesus is worthy, and for His sake we have our prayers
 440 answered.... If we trust in Him, if we hide in Him, if we put Him forward
 441 and ourselves in the background, depend on Him and plead in His name,
 442 we may expect to have our prayers answered." *Narratives*

443

444 In 1874 Muller fed 2,100 people, supported 189 missionaries, sent
 445 £10,000, supported 9,000 day students, and printed 4 million tracts and
 446 thousands of Bibles.

447

448 An Example from Daily life

449

450

451

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453

454

455 *C. Authority to Ask *Expectantly!*
 456
 457 As we plead in His name, we may expect to have our prayers answered!
 458
 459 *Mark 11: 24
 460 "...Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive
 461 them, and you will have them."
 462
 463 James 1:6
 464 "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a
 465 wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man
 466 suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-
 467 minded man, unstable in all his ways."
 468
 469 *Mark 9: 23
 470 "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."
 471
 472 Matthew 17: 20 (also note James 5:15 and the "prayer of faith")
 473 "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move
 474 from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for
 475 you."
 476
 477 *Our High Calling, p. 134
 478 We must not pray and then run away as though afraid we should receive
 479 an answer. God will not mock us. He will answer if we watch unto prayer,
 480 if we believe we receive the things we ask for, and keep believing and
 481 never lose patience in believing. This is watching unto prayer. We guard
 482 the prayer of faith with expectancy and hope. We must wall it in with
 483 assurance and be not faithless, but believing. The fervent prayer of the
 484 righteous is never lost. The answer may not come according as we
 485 expected, but it will come, because God's word is pledged.
 486
 487 Testimonies, Vol 7, p. 274.
 488 "Pray in faith. And be sure to bring your lives into harmony with your
 489 petitions, that you may receive the blessings for which you pray. Let not
 490 your faith weaken, for the blessings received are proportionate to the faith
 491 exercised. Pray, believe, rejoice. Sing praises to God because He has
 492 answered your prayers. Take Him at His word. "He is faithful that
 493 promised." Hebrews 10:23. Not one sincere supplication is lost. The
 494 channel is open; the stream is flowing."
 495
 496 Pray Fact (*Based on Word*)
 497 Believe Faith (*Resting on facts*)
 498 Rejoice Feeling (*Receiving results*)

2050 *Medical Ministry, p. 195
 2051 "When you neglect to pray for the sick, you deprive them of great
 2052 blessings; for angels of God are waiting to minister to these souls in
 2053 response to your petitions...."
 2054
 2055 *Matthew 10: 1,7,8
 2056 "...He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal
 2057 all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease." "As you go, preach saying,
 2058 'the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers raise
 2059 the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."
 2060
 2061 *Counsels for the Church, p. 303
 2062 "His disciples in this time are to pray for the sick as verily as the disciples
 2063 of old prayed. And recoveries will follow; for "the prayer of faith shall
 2064 save the sick." We have the Holy Spirit's power, the calm assurance of
 2065 faith, that can claim God's promises. The Lord's promise, "They shall lay
 2066 hands on the sick, and they shall recover" Mark 16:18, is just as
 2067 trustworthy now as in the days of the apostles. It presents the privilege of
 2068 God's children, and our faith should lay hold of all that it embraces.
 2069 Christ's servants are the channel of His working, and through them He
 2070 desires to exercise His healing power. It is our work to present the sick
 2071 and suffering to God in the arms of our faith. We should teach them to
 2072 believe in the Great Healer. The Saviour would have us encourage the
 2073 sick, the hopeless, the afflicted, to take hold upon His strength."
 2074
 2075 Some Experiences
 2076 • Dad
 2077 • Aaron Prayer Group
 2078 • Seminar Healings
 2079 • HOP Healing
 2080 • Lance in South Pacific
 2081 • Pastor S.
 2082 • Ben L and his healings
 2083 • Lance's healing
 2084 • Buddhist woman who was healed after the Buddhist stuff was
 2085 removed and burned.
 2086
 2087 Why Doesn't God Always Answer?
 2088
 2089 God's response to our prayers, or lack thereof, is sometimes a frustrating
 2090 mystery. Charles Spurgeon, famed London preacher, found some
 2091 individuals were immediately healed in response to his prayers, others
 2092 were healed after a time; while other individuals immediately became
 2093 more sick and died. He carefully studied the subject of healing prayer as a

Prevailing Remedies: Healing Prayer

Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52)

*Mark 16: 15-18

“These signs will follow the believers: In My name they will ...lay hands on the sick and they will recover.”

Matt. 10:1,8

“He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease... Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received freely give.”

*James 5: 13-16

“... Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

*Psalms 103:3

“Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases....”

Jeremiah 17:14

“Heal, O Lord, and I shall be healed; Save me, and I shall be saved.”

*Jeremiah 30:17

“For I will restore health to you, and heal you of your wounds, says the Lord....”

*3 John 1:2

“Beloved. I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”

*Selected Messages, Vol 3, 295

“It has often been my privilege to pray with the sick. We should do this much more often than we do. If more prayer were offered in our sanitariums for the healing of the sick, the mighty power of the Healer would be seen. Many more would be strengthened and blessed, and many more acute sicknesses would be healed.”

499

500 James Fraser

501 “I have been impressed lately with the thought...that people fail in praying
502 the prayer of faith because they do not believe that God has answered,
503 only that He will answer their petitions. They rise from their knees feeling
504 that God will answer some time, but not that He has answered already.
505 (The) full outworking is often in the future, but God’s word is as good as
506 His bond and we need have no anxiety. Sometimes He gives at once what
507 we ask, but more often He just gives His promise.” E. Crossman,
508 *Mountain Rain, p. 75*

509
510 D. L. Moody

511 “Many people would be greatly surprised if God did answer their prayers.”

512
513 *Charles Finney

514 "You must expect to obtain the things for which you ask. You need not
515 look for an answer to prayer, if you pray without any expectation of
516 obtaining it... If you pray without an expectation of receiving the
517 blessings, you just make God a liar.” *Lectures on Revival*

518
519 D. L. Moody

520 “Unbelief sees something in God’s hand, and says, ‘I cannot get it.’ Faith
521 sees it, and says, ‘I will have it.’” *Prevailing Prayer, p. 61*

522
523 Examples From History

524 Modern Day Examples

525
526 IV. Conclusion & Appeal

527
528 *Morning Talks, Nov. 1883, p. 14.

529 “If (we) have complied with the conditions upon which these promises
530 (Eph. 3:20) are based, God’s word is pledged that He will do for (us) more
531 than (we) ask.” (Note Eph. 3:20)

532
533 Sharing and Praying

534
535 What does it mean to pray in Christ’s name?

536 To what degree do you want to place yourself under Christ’s authority so
537 far as your prayers go?

538 With these thoughts in mind, pray about the things God put on your heart
539 earlier in the session.

540

541

542

543 A Final Thought
 544
 545 Gospel Workers, p. 113
 546 “I saw that the servants of God and the church were too easily
 547 discouraged. When they asked their Father in heaven for things which they
 548 thought they needed, and these did not immediately come, their faith
 549 wavered, their courage fled, and a murmuring feeling took possession of
 550 them. This, I saw, displeased God. Every saint who comes to God with a
 551 true heart, and sends his honest petitions to him in faith, will have his
 552 prayers answered. Your faith must not let go of the promises of God, if
 553 you do not see or feel the immediate answer to your prayers. Be not afraid
 554 to trust God. Rely upon his sure promise, “Ask, and ye shall receive.”
 555 [John 16:24.] God is too wise to err, and too good to withhold any good
 556 thing from his saints that walk uprightly. Man is erring, and although his
 557 petitions are sent up from an honest heart, he does not always ask for the
 558 things that are good for himself, or that will glorify God. When this is so,
 559 our wise and good Father hears our prayers, and will answer, but he gives
 560 us the things that are for our best good and his own glory. God gives us
 561 blessings; if we could look into his plan, we would clearly see that he
 562 knows what is best for us, and that our prayers are answered. Nothing
 563 hurtful is given, but the blessing we need, in the place of something we
 564 asked for, that would not be good for us, but to our hurt. I saw that if we
 565 do not feel immediate answers to our prayers, we should hold fast our
 566 faith, not allowing distrust to come in, for that will separate us from God.
 567 If our faith wavers, we shall receive nothing from him. Our confidence in
 568 God should be strong; and when we need it most, the blessing will come.”

569
 570 MAKING IT PERSONAL

- 571 1. Ask God what He wants to say to you?
 572 2. Ask God what He wants on your prayer list?
 573

1964 “All that Christ was to do in heaven was to be in fellowship with His
 1965 people on earth.” Andrew Murray *Secret of Intercession*
 1966

1967 *9. Be prepared to live out your prayers.
 1968 “Do not mark out some particular way that the Lord must work for
 1969 you before you believe you receive the things you ask of Him; but
 1970 trust His word, and leave the whole matter in the hands of the Lord,
 1971 with full faith that your prayer will be honored, and the answer will
 1972 come at the very time and in the very way your heavenly Father sees
 1973 is for your good; and then live out your prayers. Walk humbly and
 1974 keep moving forward.” *God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 289

1975
 1976 “Dr. J. G. KI. McClure tells of an invalid woman residing in
 1977 Springfield, Illinois, who had been bedridden for seventeen years,
 1978 and was almost helpless. For many years, she had been praying to
 1979 God in a general way to save souls. One day, she asked for pen and
 1980 paper. She wrote down the names of fifty-seven acquaintances. She
 1981 prayed for each of them by name three times a day. She wrote them
 1982 letters of her interest in them. She also wrote to Christian friends in
 1983 whom she knew these person had confidence, and urged them to
 1984 speak to these person about their soul’s welfare, and do their best to
 1985 persuade them to repent and believe. She had unquestioning faith in
 1986 God. In her humble, earnest dependence upon Him, she thus
 1987 interceded for the unsaved. In time, every one of these fifty-seven
 1988 persons avowed faith in Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour.”
 1989 Matilda Andross, *Alone With God*, p. 100

1990
 1991 *10. Join others in interceding.
 1992 “I remember in Battle Creek when there were those who felt the
 1993 burden for the unconverted and saw no light; then prayer meetings
 1994 were appointed that they might make the strength of God their
 1995 strength. In every case the heavenly intelligences worked with these
 1996 efforts, and souls were saved.” *Maranatha*, p. 38.

- 1997
 1998 *11. Overcome the varied results (Ex. 2:23-25)
 1999 • Complacent “Bless Me in Egypt” Prayers
 2000 • Self-Centered “Survive in the Wilderness” Prayers
 2001 • Conquering “Take Canaanite Strongholds” Prayers
 2002

2003 MAKING IT PERSONAL

- 2004 1. Make a list and begin praying for the people daily. Join others praying
 2005
 2006

1921 to become sickly. But Christ and true godliness are health to the
 1922 body and strength to the soul.” *Testimonies, Vol. 1*, p. 556
 1923
 1924 *f. Other thoughts on fasting
 1925
 1926 “Whenever it is necessary for the advancement of the cause of
 1927 truth and the glory of God, that an opponent be met, how
 1928 carefully, and with what humility, should they [The advocates of
 1929 truth] go into the conflict. With heart searching, confession of
 1930 sin, and earnest prayer, and often fasting for a time, they should
 1931 entreat that God would especially help them, and give His
 1932 saving, precious truth a glorious victory, that error might appear
 1933 in its true deformity, and its advocates be completely
 1934 discomfited.” *Testimonies, vol. 1*, p. 624
 1935
 1936 *7. Expect an answer.
 1937 Acts 12:5,15-16
 1938 “...constant prayer was offered to God for (Peter) by the church. ...
 1939 But they said to her, ‘You are beside yourself!’ Yet she kept insisting
 1940 that it was so. So they said, ‘It is his angel.’ Now Peter continued
 1941 knocking and when they opened the door and saw him, they were
 1942 astonished.”
 1943
 1944 "I desire that all the children of God, who may read these details, may
 1945 thereby be lead to increased and more simple confidence in God for
 1946 everything which they may need under any circumstances, and that
 1947 these many answers to prayer may encourage them to pray,
 1948 particularly as it regards the conversion of their friends and relatives,
 1949 their own progress in grace and knowledge, the state of the saints
 1950 who they may know personally, the state of the church of God at
 1951 large, and the success of the preaching of the Gospel. Especially I
 1952 affectionately warn them against being led away by the device of
 1953 Satan, to think that these things are peculiar to me, and cannot be
 1954 enjoyed by all the children of God; for though, as has been stated
 1955 before, every believer is not called upon to establish Orphan-Houses,
 1956 Charity Schools, etc., and trust in the Lord for means, yet all
 1957 believers are called upon, in the simple confidence of faith, to cast all
 1958 their burdens upon Him, to trust in Him for everything, and not only
 1959 to make every thing a subject of prayer, but to expect answers to their
 1960 petitions which they have asked according to His will, and in the
 1961 name of the Lord Jesus.” George Muller
 1962
 1963 *8. Unite your efforts with Christ.

573 PREVAILING PRAYER
 574
 575 *PREVAILING OBJECTIVES*
 576 (3 of 7)
 577
 578 “Let it be that the young woman to whom I say....” *Gen. 24:14*
 579
 580 Introduction
 581 Hudson Taylor
 582 “Not only was the poor woman’s life saved, but I realized that my life was
 583 saved too! It might have been a wreck — would have been a wreck
 584 probably, as a Christian— had not grace at that time conquered, and the
 585 striving of God’s Spirit been obeyed. I well remember how that night, as I
 586 went home to my lodgings, my heart was as light as my pocket. The
 587 lonely, deserted streets resounded with a hymn of praise which I could not
 588 restrain. When I took my basis of gruel before retiring, I would not have
 589 exchanged it for a prince’s feast.” *Retrospect*, p. 18
 590
 591 Aldous Huxley
 592 "The third petition of the Lord's Prayer is repeated daily by millions who
 593 have not the slightest intention of letting anyone's will be done but their
 594 own."
 595
 596 Genesis 24:1-67
 597 A Bride for Isaac
 598
 599 A Biblical Foundation
 600 *Numbers 9: 18
 601 “At the command of the Lord the children of Israel would journey, and at
 602 the command of the Lord they would camp; as long as the cloud stayed
 603 above the tabernacle they remained encamped.”
 604
 605 *Matthew 7:21
 606 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of
 607 heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."
 608
 609 *John 7:17
 610 “If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine,
 611 whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.”
 612
 613 *1 John 5: 14,15
 614 “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything
 615 according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us,

616 whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked
617 of Him.”
618
619 *Romans 8:27
620 “Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is,
621 because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of
622 God.”
623
624 *James 4: 3
625 “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it
626 on your pleasures.”
627
628

What Others Have Said

629 *Education, p. 257,258
630 “Christ... makes it plain that our asking must be according to God’s will;
631 we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive
632 must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is
633 unequivocal.”
634
635 E. M. Bounds
636 “What is obedience? It is doing God's will: it is keeping His
637 commandments. How many of the commandments constitute obedience?
638 To keep half of them, and to break the other half -- is that real obedience?
639 ... On this point, James the Apostle is most explicit: "Whosoever shall
640 keep the whole law," he declares, "and yet offend in one point, he is guilty
641 of all.”
642
643 *E.M. Bounds
644 “Prayer is obedience. It is founded on the adamant rock of obedience to
645 God. Only those who obey have the right to pray. Behind the praying must
646 be the doing; and it is the constant doing of God's will in daily life which
647 gives prayer its potency, as our Lord plainly taught: "Not every one which
648 saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he
649 that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.” *The Necessity of*
650 *Prayer*
651
652 E. M. Bounds
653 “The will must be surrendered to God as a primary condition of all
654 successful praying. Everything about us gets its colouring from our inmost
655 character. The secret will makes character and controls conduct. The will,
656 therefore, plays an important part in all successful praying. There can be
657 no praying in its richest implication and truest sense, where the will is not
658 wholly and fully surrendered to God. This unswerving loyalty to God is an

1877 And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, did not ye eat for
1878 yourselves, and drink for yourselves?”
1879
1880 “Prayer and fasting, that laborers may be sent into the harvest-
1881 field, will avail nothing, while the spirit of evil surmising and
1882 criticism exists in the hearts of those to whom laborers are to be
1883 sent. We are to be doers of the words of Christ; then our fasts
1884 and prayers will be effectual in bringing upon the church the
1885 Holy Spirit.” *Review & Herald, October 31, 1893*
1886
1887 “Fasting and prayer will accomplish nothing while the heart is
1888 estranged from God by a wrong course of action. Read Isaiah
1889 58:6, 7, 9-11.” *Counsels on Diet & Foods, p. 377.*
1890
1891 “Fasting or prayer that is actuated by a self-justifying spirit is an
1892 abomination in the sight of God. The solemn assembly for
1893 worship, the round of religious ceremonies, the external
1894 humiliation, the imposing sacrifice, proclaim that the doer of
1895 these things regards himself as righteous, and as entitled to
1896 heaven; but it is all a deception. Our own works can never
1897 purchase salvation.” *Desire of Ages, p. 280*
1898
1899 *e. Fasting can be practiced in an unhealthy way.
1900
1901 “I have been informed that you have taken but one meal a day
1902 for a period of time; but I know it to be wrong in your case, for I
1903 have been shown that you needed a nutritious diet, and that you
1904 were in danger of being too abstemious. Your strength would
1905 not admit of your severe discipline. . . . I think that you have
1906 erred in fasting two days. God did not require it of you. I beg of
1907 you to be cautious and eat freely good, wholesome food twice a
1908 day. You will surely decrease in strength and your mind become
1909 unbalanced unless you change your course of abstemious diet.”
1910 *Counsels on Diet & Foods, p. 191*
1911
1912 “It is true that there are unbalanced minds that impose upon
1913 themselves fasting which the Scriptures do not teach, and
1914 prayers and privation of rest and sleep which God has never
1915 required. Such are not prospered and sustained in their voluntary
1916 acts of righteousness. They have a pharisaical religion which is
1917 not of Christ, but of themselves. They trust in their good works
1918 for salvation, vainly hoping to earn heaven by their meritorious
1919 works instead of relying, as every sinner should, upon the merits
1920 of a crucified, risen, and exalted Saviour. These are almost sure

1834 “God would have all the bearings and positions of truth
1835 thoroughly and perseveringly searched, with prayer and
1836 fasting.” *Colporteur Workers*, p. 40

1837
1838 **“If you cannot all see alike on every subject, do not allow
1839 hard feelings to arise. When the cause was young, if there
1840 was one who did not view some point of truth as the body
1841 viewed it, a day of fasting and prayer was observed. We did
1842 not then try to see how far apart we could get; but we
1843 prayed, and searched the Scriptures until the light of truth
1844 illuminated the darkened mind, and all could see eye to
1845 eye.”* *Historical Sketches of Foreign Missions*, p. 125

1846
1847 “The Scriptures were opened with a sense of awe. Often we
1848 fasted, that we might be better fitted to understand the
1849 truth.” *Counsels on Diet & Foods*, p. 187

- 1850
- 1851 • When seeking blessings. (Acts 14:23)
- 1852 • When seeking healing (2 Sam. 12:13-20; Mark 9:29)
- 1853 • When seeking deliverance. (Jonah 3:5; Esther 4:16)
- 1854 • When repenting (1 Sam. 7:6)
- 1855

1856 *c. Fasting takes different forms.

- 1857
- 1858 ▪ To be combined with prayer. (Matt. 17:21)
- 1859 ▪ Often it meant going without food. (Acts 27:33)
- 1860

1861 “Our brethren would receive a blessing in dispensing with or
1862 deferring one meal of the day, if necessary, in order that an hour
1863 or more might be devoted to testimony meeting. We used often
1864 to make the Sabbath a day of fasting and prayer, and we were
1865 greatly blessed in our worship.” *Manuscript Releases*, p. 96

- 1866
- 1867 ▪ Sometimes it meant temporarily giving up marital relationships
1868 (1 Cor. 7:5)
- 1869 ▪ Sometimes it meant doing something for others. (Isaiah 58:5,6)
- 1870

1871 *d. Fasting doesn't automatically bring blessings.

1872
1873 Zechariah 7:5-7
1874 “Speak to all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying,
1875 When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months,
1876 even those seventy years, did you truly fast to Me, *even to Me?*”

659 utterly indispensable condition of the best, the truest, the most effectual
660 praying.” *The Necessity of Prayer*

661
662 *Thomas Payne
663 “Daniel’s loyalty to the will of God in everything explains more than
664 anything else the secret of his prevailing power in prayer.” *Power of
665 Intensified Prayer*

666
667 *Andrew Murray
668 “Do understand that there is no surer way, rather, that there is no other
669 possible way, of getting into God’s love and blessing in prayer, than by
670 getting into His will. In prayer, give up yourself most absolutely to the
671 blessed will of God; this will avail more than much asking.” *School of
672 Obedience*.

673
674 Andrew Murray
675 “It is to be feared that often our efforts to believe have been unavailing
676 because we have not taken up the only position in which a large faith is
677 legitimate or possible — that of entire surrender to the honor and the will
678 of God. It is the man who is entirely consecrated to God and His will (to
679 whom) the power will come to claim everything that His God has
680 promised to be for him.” *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, pp. 129,130.

681
682 *George Müller
683 “In reading about all these answers to prayer, the believing reader may be
684 led to think that I am spiritually minded above most of the children of
685 God, and that therefore the Lord favors (me) thus. The true reason is this.
686 Just in as many points as (I am) acting according to the mind of God, in so
687 many (am I) blessed and made a blessing.” *Narratives*

688
689 George Muller
690 “I never remember, in all my Christian course, a period now (in March
691 1895) of sixty-nine years and four months, that I ever SINCERELY and
692 PATIENTLY sought to know the will of God by the teaching of the Holy
693 Ghost, through the instrumentality of the word of God, but I have been
694 ALWAYS directed rightly. But if honesty of heart and uprightness before
695 God were lacking, or if I did not patiently wait upon God for instruction,
696 or if I preferred the counsel of my fellow men to the declarations of the
697 word of the living God, I made great mistakes.”

698
699 “*Prevailing prayer is always answered along the pathway of God’s will.*”

700

700 **Determining God's Will**
701
702 **A Biblical Foundation**
703 *Luke 9:23
704 "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his
705 cross daily, and follow me."
706
707 *Isaiah 8: 20 (Acts 17:11; 2Tim. 3:15-17)
708 "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this
709 word, it is because there is no light in them."
710
711 *Proverbs 3: 5,6 (Ps. 34:24; Ps. 32:8; Isaiah 30:31; 48:17,18; Jer. 10:23;
712 Ps. 23:3; James 1:5)
713 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not to your own
714 understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct
715 your paths."
716
717 *Colossians 3: 15
718 "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts."
719
720 *Proverbs 24:6
721 "In a multitude of counselors there is safety."
722
723 **What Others Have Said**
724
725 *Ministry of Healing, p. 480
726 "Many who profess to be Christ's followers have an anxious, troubled
727 heart, because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not
728 make a complete surrender to Him; for they shrink from the consequences
729 that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender,
730 they cannot find peace.... Worry is blind, and cannot discern the future;
731 but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His
732 way prepared to bring relief. Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to
733 provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one
734 principle of making the service (and honor—DA 330) of God supreme,
735 will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet."
736
737 *George Müller
738 1. 90% of knowing God's will is choosing to have no will of our own.
739 2. Anything that is God's will, will be in harmony with the Scriptures.
740 3. Anything that is God's will, will be accompanied by His opening
741 providences.
742 4. Anything that is God's will, will be accompanied by His peace.
743 5. He then shared his plans with a mature Christian.

1791
1792
1793
1794
1795
1796
1797
1798
1799
1800
1801
1802
1803
1804 *6. Add fasting as directed by God.
1805
1806 Matthew 17: 21
1807 "This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."
1808
1809 *a. Examples of people who fasted
1810
1811 • Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20:3)
1812 • Esther (Esther 4:16)
1813 • David (2 Sam. 12:13-20)
1814 • Daniel (Daniel 9:3)
1815 • Jehoiakim (Jeremiah 36:9)
1816 • Early Church: (Acts 14:23; 27:33)
1817
1818 *b. Fasting has varied objectives
1819
1820 • When seeking conversions (Ezra 9:4,5)
1821
1822 "A wonderful blessing was represented to me as falling
1823 upon a congregation who were seeking the Lord with
1824 fasting and prayer. Their countenances were lighted up
1825 with the glory of God, and angels were passing from one to
1826 another, ministering to them. That is what we wish to see
1827 here in Mountain View." Manuscript Releases, p.75
1828
1829 • When seeking revival. (Nehemiah 9:1; Joel 2:12)
1830
1831
1832 • When seeking wisdom. (Daniel 9:3; Acts 10:30)
1833

1747 to. At the sound of fervent prayer, the hosts of darkness tremble.
1748 Fearing their captive will escape, they form a wall around him, that
1749 heaven's light may not reach his soul. But if in his distress and
1750 helplessness the sinner looks to Jesus, pleading the merits of His
1751 blood, our compassionate Redeemer listens to the earnest,
1752 persevering prayer of faith, and sends to his deliverance a re-
1753 enforcement of angels that excel in strength. And when these angels,
1754 all-powerful, clothed with the armor of Heaven, come to the help of
1755 the fainting, pursued soul, the angels of darkness fall back, well
1756 knowing that their battle is lost, and that one more soul is escaping
1757 from the power of their influence." *Signs of the Times*, November 18,
1758 1886

1759
1760 "There is a mighty power in prayer. Our great adversary is
1761 constantly seeking to keep the troubled soul away from God. An
1762 appeal to heaven by the humblest saint is more to be dreaded by
1763 Satan than the decrees of cabinets or the mandates of kings." *Signs of*
1764 *the Times*, October 27, 1881

1765
1766 "Every soul that refuses to give himself to God is under the control of
1767 another power. He is not his own. He may talk of freedom, but he is
1768 in the most abject slavery. He is not allowed to see the beauty of
1769 truth, for his mind is under the control of Satan While he flatters
1770 himself that he is following the dictates of his own judgment, he
1771 obeys the will of the prince of darkness. Christ came to free the
1772 shackles of sin-slavery from the soul. 'If the Son therefore shall make
1773 you free, you shall be free indeed.'" *Desire of Ages*, p. 466

1774
1775 *"Have you stood with Christ on the mount of transfiguration? Down
1776 in the plain there are souls enslaved by Satan; they are waiting for the
1777 word of faith and prayer to set them free." *Mount of Blessing*, p. 43

1778
1779 *4. Don't be afraid to disagree with God.

1780 "Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against
1781 them, that I may consume them." Exodus 32: 10

- 1782
1783
 - Golden Calf (Exod. 32: 31-34)
 - Korah's Rebellion (Num. 16: 20-22)
 - Miriam (Num. 12: 9-14)
 - Marah (Exod. 15: 23-25)

1784
1785
1786
1787
1788 *5. Plead the promises of God (2 Pet. 1:4; 2 Cor. 1:20)

1789 "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye
1790 will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15: 7

744

745 F. B. Meyer

746 "God's impressions within and His Word without are always corroborated
747 by His providence around, and we should quietly wait until these three
748 focus into one point."

749

750 *Some Practical Examples

751

752 Encouragement to Trust God

753 Psalms 34: 8,9

754 "O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in
755 Him. O fear the Lord, you His saints, for there is no want to those who
756 fear Him"

757

758 Psalms 37: 3,4

759 "Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and feed on His
760 faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the
761 desires of your heart."

762

763 Desire of Ages, p. 208

764 "The Son of God was surrendered to the Father's will, and dependent
765 upon His power. So utterly was Christ emptied of self that He made no
766 plans for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the
767 Father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God, that our lives
768 may be the simple outworking of His will."

769

770 *Sons and Daughters of God, p. 17

771 We must not study to have our own way, but God's way and God's will. . .
772 . Human beings suffer much because they step out of the path that God has
773 chosen for them to follow. They walk in the sparks of the fire they
774 themselves have kindled, and the sure result is affliction, unrest, and
775 sorrow, which they might have avoided if they had submitted their will to
776 God. . . . Whatever path God chooses for us, whatever way He ordains for
777 our feet, that is the only path of safety. . . . With the eye of faith, with
778 childlike submission as obedient children, we must look to God, to follow
779 His guidance, and difficulties will clear away. The promise is, "I will
780 instruct thee and teach thee."

781

782 The "Surrender" Challenge

783 *James McConkey

784 "Not only are we to commit our lives to God, but we must also allow Him
785 to have His way with them. The committal of all things must be
786 accompanied by the submission in all things. When we yield our lives, we
787 yield our plans concerning our lives, and accept God's dealings with them.

788 Not only “commit your way unto the Lord,” but “trust also in Him.” Not
789 only take your hands off, but let Him put His hands on, however He may
790 see fit.” *The Surrendered Life*

791 Practical Examples

792 C.T. Studd

793 C. T. Studd

794 “Either (I) had to be a thief and keep what wasn’t mine, or else I had
795 to give up everything to God.”

796 Hannah Whithall Smith

797 “When you have surrendered all to God, you have given Him all the
798 responsibility, as well as everything else. It is God who is
800 responsible to look after you and all you have to do is to trust. Put
801 your hand in His and the Lord will lead you.” *Christian’s Secret of a*
802 *Happy Life*

803 *Rosalind Goforth

804 Rosalind Goforth

805 “We therefore prayed that God would make the new house a means
806 of reaching the people -- a blessing, and not a hindrance. The answer
807 to this prayer, as is often the case, depended largely upon ourselves.
808 We had to be made willing to pay the price that the answer
809 demanded. We came to see that in order that our prayer could be
810 answered we would have to keep open house every day and all day,
811 which was by no means easy. ...The climax in numbers was reached
812 in the spring of 1899, when 1,835 men and several hundred women
813 were received by us in one day.”

814 Rosalind Goforth

815 “My eyes seemed suddenly opened to what I had been doing — I had
816 dared to fight against Almighty God. In the moments that followed
817 God revealed Himself to me in such love and majesty and glory that I
818 gave myself up to Him with unspeakable joy. Then I knew that I had
819 been making an awful mistake, and that I could indeed safely trust
820 my children to Him wherever He might lead. One thing only seemed
821 plain, that I must follow where God should lead. I saw at last that
822 God must come first. Was God faithful to the vision He had given
823 me? Or did He allow the children to suffer in the years that
824 followed.... As I write this, eighteen years have passed since we
825 started on that first trip, and none of our children have died. Never
826 had we as little sickness as during that life. Never had we so much
827 evidence of God’s favor and blessing in a hundred ways....” *How I*
828 *Know God Answers Prayer*, p. 73.

1703

1704 Other Examples

- 1705 • Hudson Taylor’s mother interceding through the afternoon for her
- 1706 son.
- 1707 • Daniel Nash praying for Charles Finney
- 1708 • The invalid woman praying for Moody
- 1709 • The Students at Knox College interceding for Jonathan Goforth
- 1710 • Praying Hyde & revival in India
- 1711 • Fraser praying for 100 Lisu Families
- 1712 • The Work in Vietnam
- 1713 • Catherine praying for her family.
- 1714 • Kenny’s wife asking God to get his attention.
- 1715 • My Experience

1716 How does intercessory prayer work?

1717 *1. Take up your God-given role.

1718 1 Samuel 7:8 “Do not cease to cry out to the Lord....”

1719 “God is waiting for those whom He can trust and use, who will have
1720 the discernment to foresee His steppings and the faith to command
1721 His power. Authoritative intercessors are men and women, whose
1722 eyes have been opened to the full knowledge of their place in Christ.
1723 To them the Word of God has become a battle chart on which is
1724 detailed the plan of campaign of the hosts of the Lord. They realize
1725 that they have been appointed by Him for the oversight of certain
1726 sections of the advance, and they have humbly accepted His
1727 commission. ...” J. A. MacMillan

1728 *2. Make up a prayer list.

1729 “Nash had remarkable power in prayer and was in the habit of
1730 making a ‘praying list’ of persons for whose conversion he daily
1731 prayed in secret. The answers to his prayers sometimes seemed
1732 almost miraculous, for he did not confine his ‘list’ to those whom he
1733 thought might be reached by the revival, but the most (challenging)
1734 and unlikely cases were made the subjects of prayer, with results that
1735 were truly astounding.... He prayed more and more; he used to take
1736 the map of the world before him, and pray, and look over the
1737 different countries and pray for them, till he expired in his room,
1738 praying.” Daniel Nash

1739 *3. Seek to understand the battle.

1740 “Satan is ever ready to insinuate that prayer is a mere form, and
1741 avails us nothing. He cannot bear to have his powerful rival appealed

1659 “The Lord Jesus is as powerful today as ever before. The Lord Jesus is as
 1660 anxious for men to be saved as ever before. His arm is not shortened, but
 1661 He cannot stretch forth His arm unless we pray more and more.” *The*
 1662 *Kneeling Christian* p. 35
 1663
 1664 *Sidlow Baxter
 1665 “Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments,
 1666 despise our person — but they are helpless against our prayers.”
 1667
 1668 E. M. Bounds
 1669 “If men would pray as they ought to pray, the marvels of the past would be
 1670 more than reproduced. The Gospel would advance with a facility and
 1671 power it has never known. Doors would be thrown open to the Gospel,
 1672 and the Word of God would have a conquering force rarely if ever known
 1673 before.”
 1674
 1675 *James Fraser
 1676 “Can it be that a great work for God involving thousands of souls devolves
 1677 upon our prayer life, half a world away? I am feeling more and more that
 1678 it is, after all, just the prayers of God’s people that call down blessing
 1679 upon the work, whether they are directly engaged in it or not. Paul may
 1680 plant and Apollos water, but it is God who gives the increase; and this
 1681 increase can be brought down from heaven by believing prayer, whether
 1682 offered in China or in England.” *Mountain Rain*, p. 35.
 1683
 1684 *Andrew Murray
 1685 “Oh, when will Christians learn the great truth, that what God in heaven
 1686 desires to do needs prayer on earth as its indispensable condition. It is as
 1687 we realize this that we shall see that intercession is the chief element in the
 1688 conversion of souls.” *The Secret of Intercession*, p. 53.
 1689
 1690 *Some Bible Examples
 1691 • Abraham: Genesis 18:20-33
 1692 • Moses: Exodus 17:10-12
 1693 • Solomon: 2 Chronicles 6:13-42)
 1694 • Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20:3-13)
 1695 • Hezekiah (2 Kings 19:14-20)
 1696 • Daniel (Daniel 9:1-21)
 1697 • Ezra (Ezra 9;5-10:4)
 1698 • Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:4-11)
 1699 • Zechariah (Luke 1:13)
 1700 • Jesus (John 17:1-26)
 1701 • The Early Church (Acts 12:5)
 1702 • Paul (Ephesians 3:14-21)

832 Practical Considerations
 833
 834 *1. The “Next Step” Pathway
 835
 836 Psalms 119: 105
 837 (Go to the prophet Elisha...”)
 838 “Your word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”
 839
 840 C. T. Studd
 841 “God does not deal with you until you are wholly given up to Him,
 842 and then He will tell you what He would have you do.” *The*
 843 *Cambridge Seven*
 844
 845 *2. Fleeces
 846 Judges 6:36-40
 847 “...look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is
 848 dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall
 849 know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.”
 850 a. Can be misused, and result in misleading.
 851 b. They encourage and confirm.
 852
 853 3. Don’t Assume
 854
 855 Counsels on Health, p. 503
 856 “I have been surprised at being asked by physicians if I did not think it
 857 would be more pleasing to God for them to give up their medical
 858 practice and enter the ministry. I am prepared to answer such an
 859 inquirer: If you are a Christian and a competent physician, you are
 860 qualified to do tenfold more good as a missionary for God than if you
 861 were to go forth merely as a preacher of the word.”
 862
 863 3. Be Patient
 864 Hebrews 10: 36
 865
 866 MAKING IT PERSONAL
 867 1. Commit to seeking to know and do God’s will!
 868 2. Make a list of the things that need changing.
 869
 870
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 872
 873 3. What changes can you begin praying and working on immediately?
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PREVAILING PRAYER

PREVAILING PEOPLE

(4 of 7)

“Run in such a way that you may obtain it.” 1 Cor. 9:24

Introduction

*My Hitchhiking Friend

Only a little bit won't matter!

*Reasons Given For Lack of Answers

- It's not God's will.
- It's not God's time.
- God is sovereign
- We don't know how to pray
- The person we are praying for has a problem that delays God.

*Frequently overlooked or minimized reasons:

- Sin
- Failure to consider the poor and the needy
- Inconsistent Christianity
- Ungodly relational fractures
- Failure to forgive and ask forgiveness

A Biblical Foundation

What was hindering prayer in the days of Isaiah?

Isaiah 1:15-18

“When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood. ‘Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.’”

What were the people of Israel complaining about in Isaiah 58 and how did God respond?

*Isaiah 58:3

“‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls and You take no notice?’”

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Ex. 17:11

“When Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed....”

*Isaiah 62: 1

“For Zion’s sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest until her righteousness goes forth as brightness and her salvation as a lamp that burns.”

Joel 2:17

“Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar; let them say, ‘Spare Your people, O Lord, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them....”

*Matthew 17: 21

“This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

*2 Thessalonians 3: 1

“Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men, for not all have faith.”

Prevailing Remedies: Intercession

*Maranatha, p. 38.

“I remember in Battle Creek when there were those who felt the burden for the unconverted, and those who were in darkness and saw no light; then prayer meetings were appointed that they might make the strength of God their strength. In every case the heavenly intelligences worked with these efforts, and souls were saved.”

Testimonies to Ministers, p. 19.

“Jesus sees His true church on the earth, whose greatest ambition is to cooperate with Him in the grand work of saving souls. He hears their prayers, presented in contrition and power, and Omnipotence cannot resist their plea for the salvation of any tried, tempted member of Christ’s body.”

*Samuel Zwemer

"The history of missions is the history of answered prayer. From Pentecost to the Haystack meeting in New England and from the days when Robert Morrison landed in China to the martyrdom of John and Betty Stam, prayer has been the source of power and the secret of spiritual triumph."

*Unknown Christian

PREVAILING PRAYER

PREVAILING REMEDIES

(6 of 7)

“Now When Ezra prayed....” Ezra 10:1

Introduction

Biblical Examples of Intercessors

*Abraham: Genesis 18:20-33

Isaac: Genesis 25:21

Moses: Exodus 17:10-12

Jesus: Luke 22:31,32

Early Church: Acts 12:5

Paul: Ephesians 6:18,19

God’s Intentions

*Isaiah 62: 6

“I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night; ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence.”

*Isaiah 59: 16

“And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor....”

*Lamentations 2:19

“Arise cry out in the night. At the beginning of the watches; pour out your heart like water before the Lord. Lift your hands towards Him for the life of your young children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street.”

Ezek. 22:30

“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.”

Psalm 106:23

“Therefore He said that He would destroy them, had not Moses His chosen on stood before Him in the breach, to turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them.”

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Note God’s response in Isaiah 59:1,2

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920

*Isaiah 59: 1,2

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“Behold the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”

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What specific iniquities were being referred to?

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Isaiah 58:3b

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“...in the day of your fast you find pleasure, and exploit all your laborers. Indeed you fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness....”

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Isaiah 58:6,7

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“To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?”

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Isaiah 58:13 (Gen. 2:3; Ex. 16:22-30; 20:8-11; Ezek. 20:12,20; Isa. 66:23; Matt. 12:8; Luke 4:15; 23:56; Acts 13:14; 17:2)

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“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor find your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words....”

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What special promise follows?

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Isaiah 58:8

950

“Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’”

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What was hindering prayer in the days of Micah?

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Micah 3:4-6

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“Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who make my people stray; who chant ‘Peace’ while they chew with their teeth, but who

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961

962 prepare war against him who puts nothing into their mouths:
963 therefore you shall have night without vision, and you shall have
964 darkness without divination; the sun shall go down on the prophets,
965 and the day shall be dark for them. So the seers shall be ashamed,
966 and the diviners abashed; indeed they shall all cover their lips;
967 for there is no answer from God.”

968
969 What was hindering prayer in the days of Zechariah?

970
971 Zechariah 7: 8-13

972 Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah, saying, ‘Thus says the
973 LORD of hosts: “Execute true justice, show mercy and compassion
974 everyone to his brother. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless,
975 The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against
976 his brother.” But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and
977 stopped their ears so that they could not hear. Yes, they made their
978 hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the
979 LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets.
980 Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts. Therefore it
981 happened, that just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so
982 they called out and I would not listen,” says the LORD of hosts.

983
984 What was hindering prayer in the days of Malachi?

985
986 Malachi 1:6b-8

987 “...you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your name?’ You offer
988 defiled food on My altar.... “You offer defiled food on My altar, but
989 say, ‘In what way have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the
990 LORD is contemptible.’ And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice,
991 Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil?
992 Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you?
993 Would he accept you favorably?’ Says the LORD of hosts.”

994
995 Malachi 2:13,14

996 “And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD
997 with tears, with weeping and crying; so He does not regard the
998 offering anymore, nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. Yet
999 you say, ‘For what reason?’ Because the LORD has been witness
1000 between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt
1001 treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by
1002 covenant.”

1003
1004 Malachi 3:7-10

1005 “Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My
1006 ordinances and have not kept them. ‘Return to Me, and I will return

1528 Acts 2: 42,43

1529 “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, in
1530 the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul and
1531 many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”

1532
1533 Mount of Blessing p. 128

1534 Not until you feel that you could sacrifice your own self-dignity, and even
1535 lay down your life in order to save an erring brother, have you cast the
1536 beam out of your own eye so that you are prepared to help your brother.
1537 Then you can approach him and touch his heart. No one has ever been
1538 reclaimed from a wrong position by censure and reproach; but many have
1539 thus been driven from Christ and led to seal their hearts against
1540 conviction. A tender spirit, a gentle, winning deportment, may save the
1541 erring and hide a multitude of sins. The revelation of Christ in your own
1542 character will have a transforming power upon all with whom you come in
1543 contact. Let Christ be daily made manifest in you, and He will reveal
1544 through you the creative energy of His word--a gentle, persuasive, yet
1545 mighty influence to re-create other souls in the beauty of the Lord our
1546 God.

1547
1548 What is your response to the need to have good relationships?

1549
1550 Do you want your way; do you want to follow God’s way, like the
1551 Moravians?

- 1552 • Unity
- 1553 • A passion for prayer
- 1554 • Amazing love
- 1555 • Abundant power

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1558 MAKING IT PERSONAL

- 1559 1. Make yourself a committee of one to promote unity in your setting.
- 1560 2. Make a list of people you need to forgive.

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- 1565 3. Make a list of people that you need to ask forgiveness of.

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- 1569 4. Commit to attending prayer meeting (2 Chron. 7:15).

1570
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1484
 1485 Making It Simple: Forgiveness can bring wonderful spiritual and physical
 1486 results!
 1487
 1488 What will result?
 1489 Testimonies Vol. 6, p. 129
 1490 “A few converted souls, uniting for one grand purpose under one head,
 1491 will achieve victories in every encounter.”
 1492
 1493 *D. L. Moody
 1494 “Where there is union, I do not believe any power, earthly or infernal, can
 1495 stand before the work. When the church, the pulpit and the pew, get
 1496 united, and God’s people are all of one mind, Christianity is like a red hot
 1497 ball rolling over the earth, and all the hosts of death and hell cannot stand
 1498 before it.”
 1499
 1500 *Testimonies Vol. 9, p. 187
 1501 “We have a character to maintain, but it is the character of Christ. Having
 1502 the character of Christ, we can carry on the work of God together. The
 1503 Christ in us will meet the Christ in our brethren, and the Holy Spirit will
 1504 give that unity of heart and action which testifies to the world that we are
 1505 children of God.”
 1506
 1507 *Signs of the Times, February 7, 1900
 1508 “He in whose heart Christ abides recognizes Christ abiding in the heart of
 1509 his brother. Christ never wars against Christ. Christ never exerts an
 1510 influence against Christ. Christians are to do their work, whatever it may
 1511 be, in the unity of the Spirit, for the perfection of the whole body. There is
 1512 a vast power in the church when the energies of the members are under the
 1513 control of the Spirit, gathering good from every source, educating,
 1514 training, and disciplining self. Thus is presented to God a powerful
 1515 organization through which He can work for the conversion of sinners....”
 1516
 1517 Making it Simple
 1518 • Spiritual Healing
 1519 • Physical Healing
 1520
 1521 How Shall We Proceed?
 1522 Acts 1: 14
 1523 “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication....”
 1524
 1525
 1526
 1527

1007 to you,’ says the LORD of hosts. “But you said, ‘In what way shall we
 1008 return?’ Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say,
 1009 ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are
 1010 cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation.
 1011 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My
 1012 house, and try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not
 1013 open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such
 1014 blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.”
 1015
 1016 *Psalms 66: 16-20 (especially 18)
 1017 “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.”
 1018
 1019 Proverbs 1:28,29
 1020 “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me
 1021 diligently, but they will not find me. Because they hated knowledge
 1022 and did not choose the fear of the LORD, they would have none of my
 1023 counsel *and* despised my every rebuke.”
 1024
 1025 *1 John 3: 22 (also note 1John 2:3, Jer. 15:1, Prov. 28:9)
 1026 “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His
 1027 commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.”
 1028
 1029 *James 5:16
 1030 “The prayer of a righteous man avails much.”
 1031
 1032 The Testimony of Others
 1033 *Steps to Christ, p. 95
 1034 “There are certain conditions upon which we may expect that God will
 1035 hear and answer our prayers.... If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we
 1036 cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the
 1037 penitent, contrite soul is always accepted. When all known wrongs are
 1038 righted, we may believe that God will answer our petitions.”
 1039
 1040 *Testimonies, Vol 2, p. 146
 1041 “Fasting and prayer will accomplish nothing while the heart is estranged
 1042 from God by a wrong course of action.”
 1043
 1044 Signs of the Times, May 15, 1884
 1045 “If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cherish any darling sin, we may
 1046 be assured that no blessing will be given in response to our prayers.”
 1047
 1048 *D. L. Moody
 1049 “If we are regarding iniquity in our hearts, or living on a mere empty
 1050 profession, we have no claim to expect that our prayers will be answered.

1051 There is not one solitary promise for us. I sometimes tremble when I hear
1052 people quote promises, and say that God is bound to fulfill those promises
1053 to them, when all the time there is something in their own lives which they
1054 are not willing to give up. It is well for us to search our hearts, and find
1055 out why it is that our prayers are not answered." *Prevailing Prayer*

1056
1057 *S. D. Gordon
1058 "If I am holding something in my life that the Master does not like, if I am
1059 failing to obey when His voice has spoken, that to me is sin. It may be
1060 wrong in itself. It may not be wrong in itself. It may not be wrong for
1061 another. If that faithful quiet inner voice has spoken and I know what the
1062 Master would prefer and I fail to keep in line, that to me is sin. Then
1063 prayer is useless; sheer waste of breath." (James 4:17)

1064
1065 *E. M. Bounds
1066 "What is obedience? It is doing God's will: it is keeping His
1067 commandments. How many of the commandments constitute obedience?
1068 To keep half of them, and to break the other half -- is that real obedience?
1069 To keep all the commandments but one -- is that obedience? On this point,
1070 James the Apostle is most explicit: 'Whosoever shall keep the whole law,'
1071 he declares, "and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.' Our Lord
1072 Jesus Christ was preeminent in praying, because He was preeminent in
1073 saintliness. An entire dedication to God, a full surrender, which carries
1074 with it the whole being, in a flame of holy consecration -- all this gives
1075 wings to faith and energy to prayer. It opens the door to the throne of
1076 grace, and brings strong influence to bear on Almighty God.... True
1077 praying, be it remembered, is not mere sentiment, nor poetry, nor eloquent
1078 utterance. Nor does it consist of saying in honeyed cadences, "Lord,
1079 Lord." Prayer is not a mere form of words; it is not just calling upon a
1080 Name. Prayer is obedience. It is founded on the adamant rock of
1081 obedience to God. Only those who obey have the right to pray. Behind the
1082 praying must be the doing; and it is the constant doing of God's will in
1083 daily life which gives prayer its potency, as our Lord plainly taught."

1084 1085 MAKING IT PERSONAL

- 1086 1. Seek to live in a manner that will allow God to answer your prayers.
- 1087 2. Ask Him to show you what is hindering answers to prayer in your life.
- 1088 3. Make a list of those things and find someone to hold you accountable as
- 1089 you seek to overcome them.

1090
1091

1440
1441 Mark 11:25,26
1442 "Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone,
1443 forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you.... If you
1444 will not forgive, neither will your Father...forgive your trespasses.

1445
1446 Ephesians 4:32
1447 "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as
1448 God in Christ forgave you."

1449
1450 Matthew 18:35
1451 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart,
1452 does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

1453
1454 *Testimonies, Vol. 3, p. 95
1455 "In the prayer Christ taught his disciples was the request, "Forgive us our
1456 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We cannot repeat
1457 this prayer from the heart and dare to be unforgiving, for we ask the Lord
1458 to forgive our trespasses against him in the same manner we forgive those
1459 who trespass against us. But few realize the true import of this prayer. If
1460 those who are unforgiving did comprehend the depth of its meaning, they
1461 would not dare to repeat it, and ask God to deal with them as they deal
1462 with their fellow-mortals. And yet this spirit of hardness and lack of
1463 forgiveness exists, even among brethren, to a fearful extent. Brother is
1464 exacting with brother."

1465
1466 *Sons and Daughters of God, p. 144
1467 "Let us not think that unless those who have injured us confess their
1468 wrongs, we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. We
1469 should not accumulate our grievances, holding them to our hearts until the
1470 one we think guilty has humbled his heart by repentance and confession. .
1471 . . However sorely they may have wounded us, we are not to cherish our
1472 grievances and sympathize with ourselves over our injuries."

1473
1474 *D. L. Moody
1475 "(Lack of forgiveness)...is keeping more people from having power with
1476 God than any other thing —they are not willing to cultivate the spirit of
1477 forgiveness. If we allow the root of bitterness to spring up in our hearts
1478 against someone, our prayer will not be answered." *Prevailing Prayer*

1479
1480 Thom Rainer
1481 "A lack of unconditional forgiveness is perhaps Satan's greatest weapon.
1482 Many churches have divided over members not willing to forgive one
1483 another."

1396
 1397 Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians
 1398
 1399 *The Moravian's Condition:
 1400 • They lived close together on the Count's Herrnhut estate.
 1401 • Included Lutheran, Reformed and Baptist members.
 1402 • Were deeply divided and unhappy.
 1403 • Argued about predestination, holiness and baptism.
 1404
 1405 Count Zinzendorf's Plea:
 1406 • Seek unity.
 1407 • Set aside personal differences.
 1408 • Focus on areas of agreement.
 1409 • Pursue love.
 1410 • Repent
 1411
 1412 *The Immediate Outcome
 1413 • A group covenanted to pour out their hearts in prayer.
 1414 • The Holy Spirit was sent down on them August 13, 1727.
 1415
 1416 *Continuing Efforts
 1417 On August 26, 48 members covenanted to continue praying at one hour
 1418 intervals; 77 more joined them later. Moravian children soon started their
 1419 own groups.
 1420
 1421 "They had quit judging each other because they had become convinced,
 1422 each one, of his lack of worth in the sight of God and each felt himself at
 1423 this communion to be in view of the noble countenance of the Saviour. In
 1424 this view of the man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, their hearts told
 1425 them that He would be their patron and their priest who was at once
 1426 changing their tears into the oil of gladness and their misery into
 1427 happiness. This firm confidence changed them in a single moment into a
 1428 happy people...." (written of the August 13, 1727 experience)
 1429
 1430 The Long-term Outcome:
 1431 • Became marvelously united.
 1432 • Became a world-changing, mission-driven, community.
 1433 • Began a 100-year continuous prayer meeting!
 1434 • Sent out one hundred missionaries over the next twenty-five years!
 1435
 1436 Granting Forgiveness
 1437
 1438 *Matthew 6:12
 1439 "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."

1091 PREVAILING PRAYER
 1092
 1093 *PREVAILING RELATIONSHIPS*
 1094 (5 of 7)
 1095
 1096 "And the Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends.
 1097 Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before." Job 42:10
 1098
 1099 Introduction
 1100
 1101 Three Key Relationships
 1102
 *Three Key Relations: Christ Our Life: United to Christ
 Christ Our Head: United in the Church
 Christ Our Example: United to Each Other
 1103
 1104 1. Christ Our Life: United to Christ
 1105
 1106 *2 Corinthians 5: 17
 1107 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have
 1108 passed away; behold all things have become new."
 1109
 1110 Review & Herald, September 11, 1883
 1111 "When we are united to Christ, his mind is transferred to us. Purity and
 1112 love shine forth in the character; meekness and truth control the life. The
 1113 very expression of the countenance is changed. Christ abiding in the soul
 1114 exerts a transforming power, and the outward aspect bears witness to the
 1115 peace and joy that reign within."
 1116
 1117 *Gospel Workers, p. 414
 1118 "Some who come to God by repentance and confession, and even believe
 1119 that their sins are forgiven, still fail of claiming, as they should, the
 1120 promises of God. They do not see that Jesus is an ever-present Saviour;
 1121 and they are not ready to commit the keeping of their souls to him, relying
 1122 upon him, to perfect the work of grace begun in their hearts. While they
 1123 think they are committing themselves to God, there is a great deal of self-
 1124 dependence. There are conscientious souls that trust partly to God, and
 1125 partly to themselves. They do not look to God, to be kept by his power,
 1126 but depend upon watchfulness against temptation, and the performance of
 1127 certain duties for acceptance with him. There are no victories in this kind
 1128 of faith. Such persons toil to no purpose; their souls are in continual
 1129 bondage, and they find no rest until their burdens are laid at the feet of
 1130 Jesus."
 1131

1132 2. Christ Our Head: United in the Church
1133
1134 *Psalms 133:1-3
1135 “Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in
1136 unity! It is like precious oil upon the head running down the beard, the
1137 beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments.... For there
1138 the Lord commanded the blessing....”
1139
1140 *Ephesians 4: 15,16
1141 “...but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who
1142 is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together
1143 by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which
1144 every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of
1145 itself in love.”
1146
1147 1 Cor. 12:18
1148 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as
1149 He pleased.”
1150
1151 *Let’s think about this matter of the body for a moment.
1152
1153 Let’s consider our hands. Would you be willing to go without one of
1154 your hands? Would you be willing to go without both of your hands?
1155 What about one of the feet? That’s absurd you say. We need all of
1156 our limbs? Do we ever suggest that we can get by without one of our
1157 “limbs” so to speak in the church?
1158
1159 Then let’s consider the direction of the body. Does the hand try to
1160 convince the other limbs of the body to work in a particular way?
1161 Does the right leg try to convince the other limbs to do what it does?
1162 Of course not. Success comes as each limb looks to the head for
1163 direction. The head working in its amazing way coordinates the work
1164 of all the parts. Right? Of course. What do we learn about unity from
1165 this “looking to the head for direction” data?
1166
1167 What about this. When you were doing construction last time, and
1168 you hammered the end of your thumb instead of the nail, did you
1169 nonchalantly say, “That’s okay it’s just a tiny bit of my body.” Of
1170 course not. Your whole body reacted to the pain. In fact the whole
1171 body spent time protecting that injured limb in a special way for the
1172 time it took for it to heal, and took pains to make sure the injury
1173 wasn’t repeated.
1174
1175

1352
1353 *Review & Herald, April 15, 1880 (also note Prov. 14:30; Job 5:2)
1354 “One great reason why our brethren and sisters have no more confidence
1355 toward God in prayer, is, that nearly all neglect to follow the words of
1356 Jesus in preserving harmony between brethren. They allow various wrongs
1357 to exist with members of the church, which create bitter envy and strife;
1358 and while these differences exist, God neither hears nor answers their
1359 prayers....”
1360
1361 *Acts of the Apostles, p. 549
1362 “It is not the opposition of the world, that most endangers the church of
1363 Christ. It is the evils cherished in the hearts of believers that works their
1364 most grievous disaster and most surely retards the progress of God’s
1365 cause. There is no surer way of weakening spirituality than by cherishing
1366 envy, suspicion, faultfinding, and evil surmising. On the other hand, the
1367 strongest witness that God has sent His Son into the world is the existence
1368 of harmony and union among men of varied dispositions.”
1369
1370 *Roy Hession
1371 “The work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross was not only to bring men
1372 back into fellowship with God, but also into fellowship with their fellow
1373 men. Indeed it cannot do one without the other. Everything that comes as
1374 a barrier between us and another, be it ever so small, comes as a barrier
1375 between us and God.” *The Calvary Road*, p. 35.
1376
1377 *Charles Spurgeon
1378 “If in the church of God there is a lack of love, we cannot expect prayer to
1379 be heard, for God will say, ‘You ask for success. What for? To add more
1380 to a community that does not already love itself? You ask for conversions.
1381 What? To bring in others to join an unloving community?’ Do you
1382 expect God to save sinners who you do not love and to convert souls
1383 whom you do not care a bit about?” *PILB*, p. 118
1384
1385 Charles Spurgeon
1386 “Selfishness cannot be trusted with power in prayer. (Individuals) that
1387 love neither God nor men cannot be trusted with great broad, unlimited
1388 promises. If God is to hear us, we must love God and love our fellow
1389 men.” *Prayer in the Life of the Believer*, p. 112
1390
1391 What will result?
1392
1393 Testimonies Vol. 6, p. 129
1394 “A few converted souls, uniting for one grand purpose under one head,
1395 will achieve victories in every encounter.”

1308 *Augustine
1309 “In necessary things, unity; in doubtful things, liberty; in all things,
1310 charity.”
1311
1312 Making it simple
1313 • Pray specifically.
1314 • Pray with a list.
1315 • Pray with a prayer partner
1316 • Pray in a small group.
1317
1318 Making It Personal
1319 1. Talk to God about finding a prayer partner or prayer group to join.
1320
1321 Resolving Relational Differences &
1322 Asking Forgiveness
1323
1324 *Matthew 5: 23, 24
1325 “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your
1326 brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar,
1327 and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and
1328 offer your gift.”
1329
1330 Matt: 5:43,44
1331 “Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who
1332 hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use and persecute you.”
1333
1334 *1 Peter 3: 7
1335 “Husbands, likewise, dwell with (your wives) with understanding, giving
1336 honor to the wife...that your prayers may not be hindered.”
1337
1338 Review & Herald, January 27, 1903
1339 “Perfect oneness—a union as close as the union existing between the
1340 Father and the Son—this is what will give success to the efforts of God's
1341 workers.... It is this union that convinces the world that God has indeed
1342 sent his Son to save sinners.”
1343
1344 *My Experience
1345
1346 *Unknown Christian
1347 “It would be an immense gain to our spiritual life if we would resolve not
1348 to attempt to pray until we had done all in our power to make peace and
1349 harmony between ourselves and any with whom we have quarreled. Until
1350 we do this as far as lies in our power, our prayers are just wasted breath.”
1351 Kneeling Christian

1176 *Ephesians 4: 30
1177 “For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.”
1178
1179 Review & Herald, December 11, 1888
1180 “(Christ) engages to come into the midst of his church, and to honor their
1181 prayers and decision by the manifestation of his grace and power. They
1182 are members of his mystical body. Christ expects that man will be partaker
1183 of his divine nature while in the world, and thus convey a large amount of
1184 glory from earth to heaven.”
1185
1186 *3. Christ Our Example: United to Each Other
1187
1188 *John 17: 21
1189 “...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that
1190 they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”
1191
1192 John 17: 23
1193 “I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that
1194 the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You
1195 have loved Me.”
1196
1197 *Colossians 4:13
1198 “But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection...
1199 called in one body.”
1200
1201 *1 John 2: 10
1202 “Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him
1203 to make him stumble.”
1204
1205 *Sons & Daughters of God, p. 286
1206 “Unity in diversity among God’s children—the manifestation of love and
1207 forbearance in spite of differences of disposition—this is the testimony
1208 that God sent His son into the world to save sinners. This unity is the most
1209 convincing proof to the world of the majesty and virtue of Christ.
1210
1211 Gospel Workers, p. 483
1212 “True religion unites hearts, not only with Christ, but with one another, in
1213 a most tender union. When we know what it means to be thus united with
1214 Christ, and with our brethren, a fragrant influence will attend our work
1215 wherever we go.”
1216
1217 *1 Selected Messages, p. 386
1218 “As living branches of the True Vine, all will be united to Christ, the
1219 living head. Christ will abide in every heart, guiding, comforting,

1220 sanctifying, and presenting to the world the unity of the followers of Jesus,
1221 thus bearing testimony that the heavenly credentials are supplied to the
1222 remnant church. In the oneness of Christ's church it will be proven that
1223 God sent His only-begotten Son into the world.... Satan is determined
1224 that...oneness shall not be; for it is the strongest witness that can be borne
1225 that God gave his Son to reconcile the world to heaven. But the union for
1226 which Christ prayed must exist among God's people before he can bestow
1227 on the church the enlargement and power that he longs to bestow on it.”

1228
1229 Ms 44, 1900
1230 “The bonds of unity which unite member with member of the church are
1231 to be as firm and harmonious in their operation as are the different parts of
1232 the natural body. The hands, head, and feet are so closely united, and so
1233 mutually dependent, that one member cannot live and act independently of
1234 the other members. ...”

1235
1236 Testimonies Vol. 7, p. 16
1237 “The world will be convinced, not by what the pulpit teaches, but by what
1238 the church lives. The minister in the desk announces the theory of the
1239 gospel; the practical piety of the church demonstrates its power.”

1240
1241 Review & Herald January 27, 1903
1242 Perfect oneness,—a union as close as the union existing between the Father
1243 and the Son,—this is what will give success to the efforts of God's workers.
1244 "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that
1245 they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent
1246 me," to bring about this union, this sanctified harmony. "I in them, and
1247 thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may
1248 know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."
1249 It is this union that convinces the world that God has indeed sent his Son
1250 to save sinners. Christ gives to his true disciples the glory of his character,
1251 that his prayer may be answered. Through the impartation of his Spirit, he
1252 appears in their lives. {RH, January 27, 1903

1253
1254 *Selected Messages Vol. 1, p. 175
1255 “When the laborers have an abiding Christ in their own souls, when all
1256 selfishness is dead, when there is no rivalry, no strife for the supremacy,
1257 when oneness exists, when they sanctify themselves, so that love for one
1258 another is seen and felt, then the showers of the grace of the Holy Spirit
1259 will just as surely come upon them as that God's promise will never fail in
1260 one jot or tittle. But when the work of others is discounted, that the
1261 workers may show their own superiority, they prove that their own work
1262 does not bear the signature it should. God cannot bless them.”

1263

1264 *Sharing Together
1265 Is such unity even possible?
1266 To what degree do we experience such a unity?
1267
1268 Notice the following thoughts
1269
1270 *Adventist Home, p. 179
1271 “The cause of division and discord in families and in the church is
1272 separation from Christ. To come near to Christ is to come near to one
1273 another. The secret of true unity in the church and in the family is not
1274 diplomacy, not management, not a superhuman effort to overcome
1275 difficulties—though there will be much of this to do—but union with
1276 Christ.”

1277
1278 Paulsen Collection, p. 153
1279 The cause of divisions or discord in the church is separation from Christ.
1280 The secret of unity is union with Christ. Christ is the great center. We shall
1281 approach one another just in proportion as we approach the center. United
1282 with Christ, we shall surely be united with our brethren in the faith.

1283
1284 *Charles Finney
1285 “Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying
1286 together. Never do they love one another so well as when they witness the
1287 outpouring of each other's hearts in prayer. Their spirituality begets a
1288 feeling of union and confidence, highly important to the prosperity of the
1289 Church. ...It can be doubtful whether Christians can ever be otherwise
1290 than united, if they are in the habit of really praying together. And where
1291 they have had hard feelings and differences among themselves, these are
1292 all done away by uniting in prayer.” *Lectures on Revival*

1293
1294 A. W. Tozer
1295 “Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same
1296 fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by
1297 being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one
1298 must individually bow. So one hundred worshippers meeting together,
1299 each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than
1300 they could possibly be were they to become "unity" conscious and turn
1301 their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship. Social religion is
1302 perfected when private religion is purified.”

1303
1304 Robert Chapman
1305 “Humility is the secret of fellowship, and pride the secret of division.”

1306
1307