

All Kinds of Prayers

- ▶ We pray because we are in continual need of God's grace- His power at work in us who believe. Communicating with God as we have just covered is pretty much just speaking from your heart to God. Fellowshiping with God is at the heart of prayer. Now we turn our attention to another side of prayer that addresses getting things done or accomplishing things in this life through the power of prayer. We are going to be looking at 'All kinds of Prayers' in the Bible.

Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

1) The Prayer of Petition

By far the most frequent prayer of Christians is the prayer of petition. We should only be asking the Father for something when the Scriptures direct us to- consider James 1:5-8. When we pray the prayer of petition, always ask the Father in the name of Jesus- going to the throne of grace. The prayer of petition primarily concerns an individual's desires, needs, and problems. It is you praying for yourself, not someone else praying for you or agreeing with you in prayer.

Yet there are Scriptures that in the Greek, the word for "ask" is actually rendered as "strictly a demand for something due." Not that we demand of God, rather we are placing a withdrawal on the provisions of the Covenant or demanding the Devil to back off.

Matthew 21:22 "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

The prayer of petition must be a prayer of faith. When you pray the prayer of petition, believe that you receive. If you will do that, you will have what you ask for. God is concerned about our needs and He wants to meet them for us, so He gave us all those precious promises to for us to claim.

Jesus said in John 16:23, "*In that day you will no longer ask (make a claim for what has already been provided) me anything*". At that time Jesus was talking in reference to His resurrection, when He had purchased our eternal redemption. As children of God, we can go directly to the Father through Jesus- Ephesians 2:18 "*For through Jesus we both have access to the Father by one Spirit*".

John 15:16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit- fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

John 16:23-24

In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

2) The Prayer of Consecration

In the Garden of Gethsemane Christ prayed the prayer of submission, consecration, and dedication- *Luke 22:42*, “*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.*” Jesus wanted to do what the Father had called Him to do. It was not a prayer of petition. It was not a prayer to get something or to change something. It was a prayer of consecration.

When we consecrate our lives for God’s use, to go anywhere and do anything He wants us to do, we pray this kind of prayer. In a prayer of consecration and dedication we pray, “If it be your will...” When it comes to changing things or getting something from God however, we do not pray, “If it be your will,” because we already have God’s Word concerning it. We know it is His will that our needs be met.

3) The Prayer of Worship

The prayer of worship is about spending time in fellowship with God. We are not asking for anything in particular. Consider Mary, the sister of Lazarus who sat at the feet of Jesus, who just spent quality time with Him. This is time where we minister to the Lord and just tell Him how much we love and appreciate Him. Not only do we need to minister to the Lord in our individual prayer lives, but we also need to do it as a group **Acts 13:1-4**.

The prayer of worship is also conducted by taking time to wait on God in His presence. Not saying anything, but just sitting before Him in reverence and awe. Notice, that in Acts 13:3 that they fasted, abstained in order to focus on the Lord and quiet their body and mind. Jesus said that the Father is looking for those who would worship Him in spirit and in truth- **John 4:23-24**.

Then there is praising and worshiping God in the spirit, speaking in other tongues- **Ephesians 5:19**

1 Corinthians 14:15-18

So what shall I do? **I will pray with my spirit**, but I will also pray with my mind; **I will sing with my spirit**, but I will also sing with my mind. If you are **praising God with your spirit**, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? You may **be giving thanks** well enough, but the other man is not edified. **I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.**

God made man so He would have someone to have fellowship with. He made man for His own pleasure. It is true that God is concerned about us and wants to meet our every need, but even more than that, He wants our love, worship, and fellowship. We are born of God. He is our Father. No earthly parent ever enjoyed the fellowship of his children more than God enjoys the fellowship of His sons and daughters.

Sometimes there are services where we are not going to petition God to do anything. We are coming as a group to wait on the Lord- to minister to Him and to worship Him- remember that this is a type of prayer. We are not just talking about ten minutes, perhaps an hour or more. This is so foreign to our western way of thinking, we get so antsy and fidgety that we miss one of the greatest privileges and blessings available to us as Christians. This time is to minister to the Lord, praise Him, tell Him how much we love Him, and thank Him for His goodness and mercy.

With hearts full of love and praise, yielded to the Lord, the Holy Spirit can manifest Himself and make known God’s will and leading for His children’s lives. There are times in our lives and ministry that only the prayer of worship will get the job done.

4) United Prayer

This kind of prayer taps into the awesome resources of the corporate anointing. All through the early Church, they continually joined together in prayer with dramatic results.

Acts 4:23-31

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God... “Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

United prayer is everyone praying at once in a Holy Spirit orchestrated melody of prayer unto God. No where in the New Testament will you find a reference to someone leading in prayer; however, the Bible says that they lifted their voices. They all prayed at once, and they all prayed out loud. Yet their praying was for something specific. They were definite in their praying. They were not praying some generalized prayer; they were praying about the need that faced them, and they all prayed at once.

Did you notice that after Peter and John returned from being threatened by the religious leaders that they did not ask the Lord to remove the persecution or to strike down their enemies. They had not asked the Lord to make their way easy. Instead they had prayed that in the midst of persecution they might preach the Word with boldness, and the Lord had answered their prayer.

Acts 1:14

They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

If we would learn to get together and pray “with one accord,” then we will see the power of God released to bless many. Let it be said of us as it was said of the Apostle Paul, and his company in Acts 17:6, (KJV) *“These that have turned the world upside down are come here also...”*

Remember, at the day of Pentecost, Acts 2:1, *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.”*

How about Paul and Silas who had been thrown in jail in Philippi after being severely flogged and placed in stocks for preaching the gospel. Instead of having a pity party and complaining to the lord about what had happened to them, they lifted their voices to the Lord in songs of praise. They were obviously praying out loud because the prisoners heard them. They were not off in some corner mumbling quiet, forlorn pleas to God. The prisoners heard them as they sang praises unto God.

When Paul and Silas joined forces in prayer and praise to God, the very foundations of the prison were shaken! The stocks came off their feet, and the prison doors flung open wide.

Acts 16:25-26

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.

5) The Prayer of Commitment

Do you sometimes pray about a problem with seemingly no results? Unanswered prayers usually are due to us not praying in line with God's Word. Often there are times when we need to pray the prayer of commitment. Peter talked about this kind of prayer when he said in 1 Peter 5:7, "*Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*" The Amplified translation of the Bible states, "*Casting the whole of your care- all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all- on Him; for He cares for you affectionately, and cares about you watchfully.*"

What a privilege that we can cast our cares upon the Lord in prayer!

If people would just pray this prayer of commitment, it would eliminate some of the things they are praying about! Some people's prayers are not answered because they are not doing what God said to do about cares, anxieties, worries, and concerns. Other Christians seem satisfied to think that God knows and understands all about their problems- but they still cling to these cares. Therefore, they don't get their prayers answered. It is not enough to know that God understands and is concerned. We must do what He said to do if we want to be delivered from our problems. Cast all your cares, all your anxieties, all your worries upon Him, for He cares for you. This is the prayer of commitment- the prayer of casting or rolling our cares and burdens upon Him.

Psalm 37:5

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this.

Some may request, "Pray that the Lord will lighten this load." He's not going to do that. He does not want to just lighten your load; He wants to carry it all. But there is a vital part that we must play in this. It is the prayer of commitment. Once we turn our problems over to Him, it is out of our hands- so don't take them back! Worry is like a rocking chair, it will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere!

6) The Prayer of Agreement

Of the many prayer promises in the Bible, perhaps none is more significant than Matthew 18:19. To get the full impact of what Jesus is saying, let's look at the verses preceding and following it.

Matthew 18:18-20

"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

P.C. Nelson, a Greek scholar said the literal Greek rendering of Jesus' statement is, "If you shall ask anything in my name and I don't have it, I will make it for you."

Matthew 18:20 says, "*For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.*" We usually apply this Scripture to a Church service. Of course, it can refer to this, but what Jesus really was saying here is wherever these two people are who agree, He is right there with them to make their prayer good. Jesus was bringing out the fact that whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever we loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Heaven will back us in what we do on earth. We have the authority to loose and to bind in Jesus name. God is waiting on us, when we make our move, God will then move!

Here is another angle to Matthew 18:18, whatever is already bound in heaven you can bind on earth or whatever is loosed in heaven you can loose on earth. For example, there is no sickness, poverty or depression in heaven, so we can bind those things from operating on the earth. There is joy, peace and love in heaven, so we can loose those spiritual forces on the earth. So whatever exists in heaven we can loose in the earth and whatever is not allowed in heaven we have authority to bind on the earth. That is just what the Lord's prayer was doing while Jesus was on earth in Matthew 6:9-11, "*This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread...'*"

Deuteronomy 32:30

How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, unless the LORD had given them up?

We may be mighty in prayer alone, but we can be mightier with someone joining us. Through the prayer of agreement with others, we can do ten times as much as we can do by ourselves

7) Prayer of Intercession

Romans 8:26

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

The Greek translation of the last phrase of this verse reads, "with groanings which cannot be uttered in articulate speech." Therefore, this verse includes groanings and praying in tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:14 in the amplified, "...my spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays..."

Notice in Romans 8:26 that we don't know what we should pray for. We can't possibly know in our natural mind how to pray as we should because there are so many things known only to God, but "*the Spirit helps us in our weakness.*" The Holy spirit will help us and will make intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered in articulate speech. In other words it can be a combination of tongues and groaning sounds.

This does not mean it is something the Holy Spirit does apart from you. That would make the Holy Spirit responsible for your prayer life, and He is not. You are responsible for your prayer life. Notice that this verse says that He "helps us". He is not sent to do your praying for you. He is sent to help you in every aspect of your life, and especially your prayer life. There are some things that come out of your heart that can not be expressed in words. It is the Holy Spirit helping you as these groanings come out of your spirit and escape your lips. It is the Holy Spirit in the ministry of intercession.

A prayer of intercession is praying for another person- not yourself. An intercessor takes the place of another.

We can pray in tongues for our own personal edification as long and as much as we want- 1 Corinthians 14:4, "*He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself.*" However, the Bible talks about a level of intercession that comes out as groanings or travail. The word travail speaks of labor and child birth in the natural. However, there is a spiritual travail that takes place for everyone who is born into the kingdom of God. Even though Jesus has purchased redemption for mankind, it is up to the Church to intercede and travail for the lost to bring them to Christ.

Isaiah 66:7-9

“Before she goes into labor, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children. Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery?” says the LORD. “Do I close up the womb when I bring to delivery?” says your God.

Unbelievers remain unbelievers because they are deceived by Satan through this world system. If the revelation of the light of the gospel shined in their hearts, they would see the truth, believe and receive the new birth. That is where intercession comes in, it removes the barriers that hinder and block sinners from coming to Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

This kind of travail and intercession does not stop after people are born again. The Apostle Paul was still travelling in Spirit-led intercession for the Christians at Galatia until they grew up in Christ and matured in their faith.

Galatians 4:19

My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.

Note: As Spirit filled Christians, we cannot push a button and begin to travail. Remember, it is the Holy Spirit within our spirit that gives the utterance. Devotional tongues we can turn on and off as we will, but travail is as the Spirit leads us. However, if we consecrate ourselves to God and make ourselves available, the Holy Spirit will not disappoint you and will use you often; especially since there aren't many believers in the Body of Christ who are in a position to be used in this fashion.

I tell the Lord I don't know how to pray for others as I ought to, but I am looking for the Holy Spirit to give me the utterance. As I begin to pray in faith, I believe the Holy Spirit is praying the perfect will for that person according to their needs and God's will for their life. If during the course of prayer, the Spirit takes me into deep travail and groaning in the Spirit, I just yield and give voice to that utterance until the burden to pray lifts. You will know when you are done praying, because travail carries a deeper anointing and authority. When it lifts there is usually a deep peace and quiet rest or joy and laughter- quite a contrast to the deep groanings in the Spirit. This kind of praying in the Spirit gets the job done when nothing else will. The Holy Spirit makes intercession through us to the throne of grace.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

1 John 5:16

If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life.

Romans 8:34

Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died- more than that, who was raised to life- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

8) Prayer of Forgiveness

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

This is a prayer that we should all be quite familiar with praying, most likely every day. Sin separates us from God and causes our heart to condemn us. The Holy Spirit convicts the sinner of his/her need for Jesus, but when a believer sins, his/her own re-created spirit makes it plain that we are out of fellowship with God. We are still children of God, it is just that sin breaks fellowship, and interrupts communication. With sin comes guilt, shame and condemnation; as a result, our faith is undermined. Our ability to function as Christians not to mention our prayer life is greatly hindered until we confess the sin and receive a cleansing in the blood of Jesus.

1 John 3:18-24

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

If your heart is not condemning you when *FEELING* condemnation, the Devil is trying to put false condemnation on you in order to place you in bondage. Resist those feelings and base your faith on the Word, having already confessed those sins you know of to God. Don't worry about the sins of omission that you are unaware of. I just use a blanket prayer of, "God if there is anything else that I am not aware of, I place those sins under the blood of Jesus also."

2 Corinthians 2:10

If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven- if there was anything to forgive- I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake,

We need to keep our hearts pure by acting on 1 John 1:9 as needed. When we walk in the light of God's Word that we have (Philippians 3:16), then we can have confidence before God. Remember, God's Grace is not a license for sin according to Jude 1:4.

Romans 8:1-2

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

9) The Prayer of Authority

Also known as the prayer of faith, this is a prayer that changes things. We are not talking to God or asking Him for anything. We are using the authority and power of Jesus name to speak to circumstances and mountains- commanding them to move.

Speak to the Mountain!

Mark 11:22-24

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

The MOUNTAIN HAS NO CHOICE! You are calling it the way you want it. The mountain of problem must obey. It has no other choice. You will notice in the ministry of Jesus, that he talked to trees, to the wind, sea, dead people, and demons, and they all obeyed him- Mark 4:35-39; Luke 5:24; Luke 6:10; Luke 17:12-14; John 5:8.

You may say, “But that was Jesus!” True, but let’s read Mark 11:22-24 again, and you will notice that He has given us the authority to walk in His foot steps according to: John 14:12-13; 1 John 2:6. Take the Word that is stored in your heart (the sword of your spirit), and destroy problem areas in your life- **SPEAK DIRECTLY TO THE PROBLEM!**

Remember, these words did not originate with you! They are not words you had dreamed up! We are speaking God’s Word to the mountain, not our own words. When we put Bible promises in our hearts and speak them out of our mouths, on the authority of God’s Word, the facts in your life have to obey, and conform to God’s eternal truths. However, if we venture out into presumption, outside the written Word of God, we are speaking after the traditions of men, and presumption- resulting in no power to move mountains!

Saying and believing brings results according to Mark 11:22-24. However, just speaking to the mountain for the sake of just speaking, won’t cut it- anyone can do that, even unbelievers. The ungodly do not have Bible faith to move mountains- *“And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, **for not everyone has faith.**”* 2 Thessalonians 3:2. You must believe that everything you say to the mountain *will come to pass.* Believing is a pre-requisite to moving the mountain. We must release faith from our hearts in every word we speak, that is, “The Spirit of Faith” that moves mountains out of our lives.

When you pray, believe that you receive the answer, that you have it, it’s mine, I take it now. Faith is the title deed, that it is your possession according to Hebrews 11:1. When Jesus rebuked the fig tree (Mark 11:13-14), notice that He spoke words. He did not pull out a machete in order to break it to pieces. Did you also notice that Jesus did not ask the Father God to zap it. It is true that sometimes our prayers are directed upward as petitions, requesting things from the Father. Other times we need to release our faith in the name of Jesus towards obstacles that stand in our way, like the Devil. When a believer casts out a demon, does he lift his/her eyes to heaven, and ask the Father to cast the Devil out? Is that how Jesus did it while on earth? No, Jesus operated as a man with authority, and he addressed the Devil, and told him what to do. Jesus has delegated that authority to us, so we can deal with the Devil the same way that He did- Matthew 10:1, 8; 28:18-20; Mark 16:17; Luke 10:18-20.

Demand it in Jesus Name!

John 14:13-14

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

The Greek definition for “ask” is actually rendered as “strictly a demand for something due”. Are we demanding from Jesus, No. We are demanding the devil to cease and desist from his operations; in other words, to get his filthy hands off God’s property.

I would like to present to you that it is not Scriptural to ask God for anything that He has already given us through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. Take the new birth for example, Romans 10:10 does not say to pray the prayer of petition in order to receive salvation. That passage simply says, “Confess Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead.” Often times the appropriate tact to take is to claim what already belongs to us in Jesus name- 2 Peter 1:4. Other times, a situation warrants that you use your God given authority in Jesus name, and demand the Devil to get out of the way- John 14:13. If you need wisdom, then ask God for it, because the Bible instructs you to do so- James 1:5

If you need healing, say “I claim healing for my body according to 1 Peter 2:24”. If you need strength, say “Body, be strengthened in Jesus Name according to Philippians 4:13.” Whatever God has promised us in His Word, we have the right to claim for our lives and say, “It’s mine, I receive it now!”

Too many of God’s children are laying around the pool of Bethesda waiting for the troubling of the waters- John 5:1-16. Waiting for some spiritual handout, all the while Jesus is standing there saying, “Come and dine, I have a glorious table of redemption for you to feast on, and to be satisfied. Oh, do you need some healing, here have a loaf of it. You must be thirsty, have a drink of the Holy Spirit. Make sure you have thirds on prosperity pie!” Unfortunately, many of God’s children are subjected to spiritual poverty by the lies of man’s religion. Groping around as beggars, the Devil and his crowd just stand around, and laugh at us, as we make feeble attempts at being spiritual- sincere but ignorant. If we go through life barely getting along, it is not God’s will or His fault. He has already made ample provision available for us to go through life in style, blessed to be a blessing- John 10:10; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Timothy 6:17; 3 John 2. It’s not automatic or easy it requires diligence- what a witness to the world!

Remember to use the right rules for the prayer of authority. This prayer is one to change circumstances. When you pray for something or to change circumstances, never pray “if it be your will”. If you do, you’re using the wrong rule and it won’t work. The only time Jesus prayed a prayer that had included an “if” was a prayer of consecration and dedication in the Garden of Gethsemane- *“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”* Luke 22:42.

When Jesus prayed at Lazarus’ tomb, He didn’t pray, “If it be your will.” He said, *“Father, I thank you that you have heard me”* John 11:41. He then commanded Lazarus to come forth, and Lazarus came forth.

Final Prayer Tips:

Praying Beyond God's Ability

When Jesus said in Mark 9:23, "Everything is possible to him who believes." Does that mean that God answers every prayer from every human being. This is a loaded question. We could talk about the power of life and death in the tongue- which applies to Christians and Unbelievers alike. Or the power of unity like the story of the tower of Babel, Genesis 11:6, "*The LORD said, 'If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.'*"

The Word of God and the spiritual laws within God's Word define the parameters from which the principles of prayer operate. No one has access to the Father except through Jesus, so until a person is born again, there is no prayer life until he/she is born again. Once a person receives the new birth, they need to be taught and become acquainted with the Kingdom of God and the spiritual laws that govern it.

● **RULE #1: Free Will**

Deuteronomy 30:19

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.

Our prayers cannot override another person's free will- we can't force the blessings of God on someone if they do not want it. Nor can we make someone like us. Any attempt to manipulate or force someone through prayer is witchcraft!

● **RULE #2: The Love Rule**

Galatians 5:6

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, **so that nothing will hinder your prayers.**

If we are not walking in love towards others then we can expect our prayers to be hindered!

● **RULE #3: The Obedience Rule**

James 4:17

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

1 John 3:21

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God

Unrepentant sin will result in condemnation in our life. Our own heart will testify against us that we are out of fellowship with God. Use 1 John 1:9 to purify your heart from all acts of sin.

● **RULE #4: The Repetitious Prayer Rule**

Matthew 6:7

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

The prayer of faith is prayed once, and then we thank the Father for answering our prayer thereafter.

● **RULE #5: The Will of God Rule**

1 John 5:14-15

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us- whatever we ask- we know that we have what we asked of him.

We all know that faith begins where the will of God is known. If the will of God is in doubt concerning a need, it is impossible to pray the prayer of faith until we find Scripture that covers the need. Too many Christians present their prayers to God too quickly without doing a little research in the Bible. We need to find promises in God's Word that cover the need we have. Next, does the Bible instruct us to ask God for it or to just claim it as a promise already provided: James 1:5 tells us to ask God for wisdom and Hebrews 4:16 tells us to come to the throne of Grace to receive mercy and find grace.

Many times, whatever we need, the Bible tells us that Jesus had already provided it for us; therefore, all we have to do is simply apply it in our lives through faith- personalizing the promise by confessing it over our lives. Other times we need to use the authority in the name of Jesus and put the Devil under our feet. Through the Word and the Spirit of God we can find the appropriate course of action to take in dealing with the issue.

The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 2:15 to study the Word of God. Hosea 4:6, "*my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.*" What you don't know, you can't have, even when it is part of your inheritance. So be diligent to find out through the Word of God who you are, what you have, and how you are to live in Christ Jesus!

● **RULE #6: The Right Motive Rule**

James 4:1-4

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, **you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.**

God wants to bless His children with good things (1 Timothy 6:17), but if our motive is to compete and compare ourselves with others, these covetous greedy prayers will not be answered. The promises of God are activated by our faith in God's Word. Faith comes from the heart, and faith works by love. If our heart is not right then no matter how pretty our words sound, they will just drop to the ground as dead seed.

● **RULE #7: The Law of the Harvest Rule**

According to Jesus in the parable of the sower, “*The seed is the Word of God*” Luke 8:11. In this manual we have already talked at length about this concept. Now I want to discuss how the seed gets into our hearts, and how it grows there in order to produce a harvest. The law of seed time and harvest goes back to Genesis 1:11-12; 8:20-22. God’s natural and spiritual creations operate on these eternal laws. Here is something that we should never forget. Words are seeds, but God’s Word is incorruptible seed (1 Peter 1:23). There is a big difference between the two.

Sometimes people think it’s going to happen just because they say it. Saying it is involved in planting it. The problem has been that people say a few things, they plant a few seeds, then go off and leave them. You must care for that seed, because it takes time for things to manifest. When we preach the gospel we are sowing seeds; by speaking words, in this case, gospel words. When you speak words, you are sowing seeds. If you don’t like the harvest you have been receiving, then you had better check on the seed you have been sowing- you could be sowing weeds (idle words). What we are today is a product of the words we spoke yesterday. What you say is what you will get, because if you keep saying it, you will eventually believe it in your heart. The things that you believe in your heart, will come to pass in time. God made your spirit to produce whatever (Indiscriminate) you plant in there. If you don’t like the harvest, simply check on the seeds (words) you have been sowing.

Remember it’s not going to happen just because you say it once. Generally speaking, you must say it over a period of time for it to be really planted in the soil of your heart. The following Scriptures are the seeds that move mountains. None of the circumstances that you start speaking to will appear to have changed, but it will if you hold fast to your confession of faith (Hebrews 4:14; 10:23). Jesus said that they would obey your faith filled words. Your faith filled words are the seeds that will move the mountains out of your life. **The sowing is in the saying:**

Mark 4:14, 20

“The farmer sows the Word. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop--thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.”

God’s Word is sowed in our hearts when we speak it through meditating on the promises of God. The seed contains the spirit life of God (John 6:63)! Yet until it is sowed into our spirit, it does not produce anything. Unless a farmer plants the seed He can’t expect a harvest. The act of sowing or planting is a pre-requisite for any kind of a harvest. The same is true for the believer, the harvest or manifestation of the promise comes after the word of promise has been sowed into our heart. Then God causes it to grow, and the harvest comes in a process of time.

Proverbs 20:4

A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.

Proverbs 18:20

From the fruit of his mouth a man’s stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied.

Isaiah 61:11

For as **the soil makes the sprout come up** and a **garden causes seeds to grow**, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

When a seed comes into contact with the soil, and water, the seed germinates. The creative life within that seed is released. God's Word is incorruptible seed, and the life within that seed is God's grace (His life, power and ability). Water is a type of the Holy Spirit (John 4:10-14; 7:37-39). He acts as a catalyst to the Word, releasing the grace of God within it in order to produce the life of God that results in a harvest of blessing, and provision for our lives.

In the natural, the soil will not argue with the farmer, and produce something contrary to what is planted. For example, if you were to plant wheat, but the soil decides to produce corn. Some people have gotten the idea that it does not matter what kind of seed they sow, and it does not matter what they say. People will often say, "Well, God knows what I meant." Maybe so, but the issue is, your heart doesn't. It is programmed by God to produce whatever you sow in it (your words, good or evil). The soil of your heart does not decide whether the words you plant (say) are right or wrong. It will simply produce a harvest according to the type of seed you have planted there.

Some people in an attempt in being honest will share with others how they feel. Even when they pray, they pray the problem instead of reminding God of the promise (Isaiah 43:46 KJV). Thus, they put a death sentence over themselves with their words (Proverbs 21:23). A believer can have faith in God through the Word of God or faith in the Devil by believing the words of the Devil. Let's be consistent, and work faith on the positive side! We exalt God when we proclaim His Word above the circumstances of life. We exalt the Devil when we yield to the circumstances of life and speak defeat, worry, and fear (Job 3:25). If we live by God's words, we would certainly die by embracing the Devil's words (Genesis chapter 3; Matthew 4:4)

Remember, we have said that words are seeds but God's Word is incorruptible seed. The Devil understands these principles, and he uses them to accomplish his purposes in people's lives. He will use whoever will yield to him to plant seeds (speak words) of doubt, fear, and failure into people. If people hear that long enough, that seed will get into their hearts, and they will believe, and receive a harvest of evil in their lives. As believers we have the right through Jesus Christ to sow God's Word in our lives, and into the lives of others in order to produce a harvest of righteousness, and blessing for God's glory. Read the story about Sennacherib threatening Jerusalem in Isaiah chapter 36 and story of the Israelites at Kadesh Barnea in Numbers chapters 13 & 14. These are vivid examples of seeds that the Devil planted in people's lives in order to destroy them (Matthew 13:37-42).

The Human Heart Is God's Production Center

Just think of it, you may not know how the kingdom of God operates to produce a harvest, but if you just know, and work the principles, you can receive God's provision for your life. I may not know how a brown cow eating green grass can produce white milk, but I can still drink it, and receive the benefits from it. However, as God gives us more understanding of the particular workings of these spiritual laws, we will be able to operate in them more fully- PRAISE THE LORD!

The Process of Growth

Mark 4:26-29

He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain- first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

We can't rush the harvest to the confession of our faith! Lets look at the process of the growing seed:

- A man scatters seed
- The seed sprouts and grows
- First the stalk
- Then the head
- Then the full kernel in the head
- When the grain becomes ripe- harvest time
- Seed of God's Word is sown by saying it
- Watered through thanksgiving/Word
- Reaped through prayer/led by the Spirit

2 Corinthians 1:20

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

Here Jesus is drawing a parallel between the natural process of seed time and harvest that operates in the natural world and the spiritual process of seed time and harvest that operates in the spiritual world. Jesus said, “*This is what the kingdom of God is like...*”. As believers if we do not learn to operate in this spiritual law, we are in a world of hurt. This law works whether we know all the little details or not, “*though he does not know how*”. If we will just work the Word, the Word will work for us. If it is not working, then we are not working the Word according to directions. The man just sowed the seed and the soil took care of everything else. While you are asleep, this principle is working. Your spirit never sleeps, and is producing the substance for the things you hope for.

1 Corinthians 3:6-9

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

Paul Planted the Seed: Paul preached the gospel and thus planted the seed.

Apollos watered it: Apollos was a teacher and taught that same word that Paul preached.

God made it grow: God is the one that causes his Word to grow and produce fruit- John 15

What a rest, no manipulation, striving, and straining required. Just sow the seed, water it with praise, and thanksgiving for what His Word is doing, and God will make it grow. There are some other elements that will determine the fruitfulness of your harvest- 30, 60 or 100 fold- like walking in love, holiness and integrity of heart.

When the Word of God is spoken, faith is released through the air. That same creative force of God that the Father spoke in the beginning when He created the heavens, and the earth. This Word which is spoken comes to the ears of the hearer. At this point, a decision is made to accept or reject it. The human will is the door to the human heart. Upon accepting the Word, it penetrates the human spirit and germinates in the soil of his/her heart (Ezekiel 17:5-8).

Everything that you receive from God enters first into the human spirit, where it is conceived by faith. It's in the womb of the spirit where the seed is conceived, and produces spirit life. This is the reception center of everything you receive from God. Faith in the heart gives the human spirit the ability to conceive what God has promised in His Word. It won't happen until it is conceived, just as a child is conceived in his mother's womb. Then after conception, eventually there will be a manifestation, harvest or birth. Sometimes you must say things over and over before you really believe them. Faith comes by hearing the Word, not by having heard.

The point is, what we say is what we sow. But it won't happen just because you say it once. It won't happen just because you say it a hundred times. Hearing the Word causes faith to come. Saying is involved in working the principle. It is conceived when you believe and doubt not in your heart. The kingdom within you, (Lk.17:20-21) has been sown with the seed you have been speaking. When your spirit conceives the promise you spoke, it will work night and day to produce and bring it to pass. The soil, the heart, the spirit of man, is designed by God to produce what is sown in it- good or bad. It is the seed that determines the type of harvest, not the soil. We are the ones who control the kind of seed that we sow into our own hearts- **Galatians 6:7-10**

Don't Dig up your Seed

We have seen that seeds are words, and the soil is the human spirit or heart. However, what instrument do we use to sow the seed- the tongue! The tongue has the potential to sow God's Word for a harvest of blessing, but it can also dig it up, and sow weeds that will produce a curse. In Genesis, after the fall of man, Adam caused certain curses to befall himself and this earth. One of those curses was the introduction of weeds which I believe is a type of evil words- the capacity to speak good and evil. Proverbs says that life and death are in the power of the tongue. Until the fall, I believe that Adam only used his tongue for life. When Adam sold out to Satan and committed high treason, man received Satan's sinful nature in his spirit, and with that the ability to speak death. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil also refers to the ability to speak life, and death with our tongues (Deuteronomy 30:19). When we speak God's word one moment, and then speak the doubt and fear (Devil's words) the next moment, we have just dug up our seed.

James 1:6-8

But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Faith in the heart gives it the ability to conceive God's promise. Once it is conceived, you will eventually have a manifestation of that promise. But it takes time. It is a process. As I have been saying, this is not a fad! This is a way of life! This is not something you try. If you are just going to try it, it won't work for you. We must have the attitude, "God said it, I believe it, and that settles it. As for me and my house, we are going to believe God's Word." Remember, you will not attain water walking faith over night. Just because you are tired of taking that medicine that keeps you alive, is no reason to just say, "Well bless God today I'm going to start living by faith." You will more than likely die by faith if you have not developed it, and have received a full manifestation of healing in your body. Just keep taking that medicine, and believing God at the same time until you don't have to take it any more.

Luke 8:15

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.