

# *The* **BATTLE PLAN for PRAYER**

FROM BASIC TRAINING TO TARGETED STRATEGIES

## **LESSON 3**



### **HOW: The KEYS of Prayer**

*“Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know”. (Jer. 33: 3)*

While the locks of prayer lead us to repent and deal with wrong attitudes in our heart, the keys of prayer launch us forward into vibrant and effective praying. They help us live victoriously and know God in richer and fuller ways. The keys make prayer more genuine, pleasing, and authentic. Let’s explore the ten keys of prayer.

**1. Praying persistently by asking, seeking, and knocking.** We’re accustomed to busy people who don’t have time to be interrupted. Unless, that is, the important person we’re wanting to see is someone who truly loves and cares for us, which is exactly what happens in prayer. Based on this relationship—Father to child—that’s why we’re told to “keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened” (Matt. 7:7–8 hcsb). One of the most astonishing keys of effective prayer is to not hold back in our asking—and to keep asking, persistently, day after day. He will answer when the time is right. But we will know it’s Him who’s giving if we haven’t given up in asking.

**2. Praying in faith.** People who don’t think they’ll get what they pray for will likely not get what they pray for. But it’s not supposed to be this way . . . God is pleased with faith. Jesus praised those who asked in faith. To fully trust Him and His Word appeals to the heart of God. Jesus said, “I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you” (Mark 11:24). Certainly we know prayer is not a magic genie lamp. But because it’s based on loving relationship—the more God’s Spirit communicates His will to us—we can more clearly come to know what He’s wanting to give us. To know where He’s wanting to take us. So we can pray with full belief that He can and will bring it to pass. That’s praying in faith. And that’s praying with effectiveness.

**3. Praying in secret.** Jesus said in Matthew 6:6, “But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.” One of the bedrock principles of Christian living is that “whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal

life” (Gal. 6:7–8). To pray for show is sowing to the flesh, but to pray in secret is to approach God with greater focus and humility. For He is in the secret place with us.

**4. Praying according to God’s will.** Our natural tendency is to think of God’s will as hidden and mysterious. However, that’s not what the Bible says. By presenting ourselves to God and not being “conformed to this age,” by being “transformed” with a renewed mind, we can “discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God” (Rom. 12:1–2 hcsb). So prayer waits on God to show us where He’s ready for us to go (or not go). And once we sense it, “this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him” (1 John 5:14–15). When we genuinely desire the knowledge of His will—and are committed to following it once we know it—He will inspire us with a new level of assurance in prayer.

**5. Praying in Jesus’ name.** Those words—“in Jesus’ name”—are not just the “Sincerely Yours” at the close of our prayer. Not just the “send” button. They are reflective of an unselfish, God-honoring heartbeat within ourselves. They are a statement of both worship and admitted need. They honor His power and authority while celebrating His willingness to apply them to our lives. “Whatever you ask in My name,” He tells us, “that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it” (John 14:13–14). Praying in His name means to pray as He would. To pray from within our relationship with Him. We don’t approach God based on our authority, our righteousness, or what we’ve done, but based upon Christ’s and what He’s done.

**6. Praying in agreement with other believers.** To really zoom your prayer experiences off the charts, develop the regular habit of praying with other believers. Jesus told His disciples, “If two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst” (Matt. 18:19–20). To agree means to make a harmonious symphony. Praying in unity with one another, asking for the same thing with one heart and mind, pleases God. He loves and honors the synergy that occurs when we gather with others to pray. We should pray with a ready “Yes” and “Amen” in our hearts as others pray. Approaching our Father together. Both formally and informally. Scheduled and impromptu. The power and beauty of united prayer is a gift we too often leave untouched and unopened. Who can you begin praying with? Start with the people in your family. Consider praying together often for every need.

**7. Praying while fasting.** Another overlooked key is the dedicated discipline of fasting—going without food (or some other sort of daily need) in order to focus more fully on the Lord for a concentrated period. Jesus fasted and prayed. Esther

fasted and prayed. Nehemiah fasted and prayed. Acts 14:23 describes how Paul and Barnabas, in their ministry travels, would appoint elders in the various churches they were planting. Choosing the right leadership was vital. So they didn't just hold a meeting to work on their plans. They "prayed with fasting." Fasting opens up your spirit to God when you would otherwise be feeding your flesh. It clears the air of distraction. It puts seeking Him above all your appetites.

**8. Praying from an obedient life.** "If our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight" (1 John 3:21–22). An obedient child gains great favor and freedom with his or her parent. The intimacy you desire with God travels through the connective bond of your obedience to Him. When praying from an obedient heart, we can freely make requests without shame. Working with Him instead of working against Him.

**9. Praying while abiding in Christ and His Word.** Jesus said, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (John 15:7). Abiding means staying in close fellowship with someone. It involves spending time in God's Word, allowing it to fill our hearts and guide our thinking, walking in obedience to what He tells us to do (John 15:10), receiving God's love, then pouring it back out on Him and the people around us. (John 15:9, 12). Lastly, abiding means staying clean before God (John 15:3; 1 John 1:9) by not allowing "ungodliness" or sin to build up or go unconfessed. It is within this context that our prayer lives are opened up into a fresh vibrancy, fruitfulness, and effectiveness before God (John 15:5). John 15:7 implies that abiding in this way opens up our prayers to also ask for good things that our hearts desire.

**10. Praying while delighting in the Lord.** When God becomes your greatest delight and first love above all else, then you are in a position for Him to bless you with your heart's desires. Only in receiving His salvation— replacing our hostility for righteousness with the purity of His own righteousness— do we become able to truly love Him. And in loving Him, we desire to obey Him (John 14:15), until we actually begin delighting in Him. "Delight yourself in the Lord," the Bible says, "and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Ps. 37:4). The Hebrew word for "desires" is the word for petitions. When your delight is in Him and in honoring His desires, then He takes delight in you and in honoring yours.

### **PRAYER:**

Lord, You are a good and loving God. You didn't need to allow us to know You and pray to You, but You did. I thank You that through Jesus we can boldly approach Your throne of grace in our time of need. Make me a strong and effective prayer warrior. Help me walk closely with You, to pray in faith, in Jesus' name and in agreement with other believers. May I delight in You above all else. Give us grace and faith to trust You for great things. And prompt us with

great requests so we can lift them back to You and watch You answer them for our delight and for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Kendrick, Stephen; Kendrick, Alex (2015-07-05). *The Battle Plan for Prayer: From Basic Training to Targeted Strategies* (Kindle Locations 954-960). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

## **HOMEWORK:**



1. What are 'in' the locks of prayer?
2. Those items in the locks of prayer lead you to what? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Also those items in the locks of prayer deal [correct-discipline] with your \_\_\_\_\_ attitude.
4. The keys of prayer launch you forward into what?
5. They [keys of prayer] help you live \_\_\_\_\_ and know God in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ways.
6. The keys make your prayer more \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

## **TEN KEYS OF PRAYER:**

7. **FIRST**  **:PRAYING** \_\_\_\_\_ **BY ASKING, SEEKING AND KNOCKING.**
  - ☞ **Y N NS:** Are you busy and don't have time to pray?
  - ☞ One of the most astonishing keys of effective prayer is to \_\_\_\_\_ in your asking—to \_\_\_\_\_ asking, persistently, day after day.
  - ☞ God will answer when the time is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☞ But you **WILL KNOW** it's God who's giving when you haven't \_\_\_\_\_ in asking.
8. **SECOND**  **:PRAYING IN** \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☞ **Y N NS:** God is pleasing with your faith?
  - ☞ **T F:** Jesus praised those who asked in doubt.

- ☞ You  $\frac{1}{4}$   $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  or **fully** TRUST Him and His Word appeals to the heart of God.
- ☞ Your prayer is based on what? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☞ What way can God’s Spirit communicate to you?
  
- ☞ Describe “*The more God’s Spirit communicates His will to you—you can more clearly come to know what God is wanting to give you*” means to you?
  
- ☞ Describe “*To know where God is wanting to take you. So you can pray with full belief that God can and will bring it to pass*” means to you?
  
- ☞ Describe “*That’s praying in faith. And that’s praying with effectiveness*” means to you?

9. **THIRD**  : PRAYING IN \_\_\_\_\_

- ☞ To pray for \_\_\_\_\_ is sowing to the \_\_\_\_\_,
  - What does this means to you?
- ☞ but to pray in \_\_\_\_\_ is to approach God with greater \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- ☞ **Y N NS:** For God is in the secret place with you?

10. **FOURTH**  : PRAYING ACCORDING TO \_\_\_\_\_

- ☞ Your natural tendency is to think of God’s will as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☞ By you presenting yourself to God and not being “conformed to this age”, by being ‘transformed’ with a \_\_\_\_\_ mind, you can ‘\_\_\_\_\_ what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God’.
- ✂ **Romans 12: 2 PHILLIPS** quotes: “Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re- mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity. ”

☞ So your prayer waits on God to show you where God is ready for you to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

✂ **1 John 5: 14- 15 TLB** quotes: “And we are sure of this [confidence], that He will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything in line with His will. And if we really know He is listening when we talk to Him and make our requests, then we can be sure that He will answer us.”

✂ **1 John 5: 14- 15 AMPC** quotes: “And this is the confidence (assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that if we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to and hears us. And if (since) we [positively] know that He listens to us in whatever we ask, we also know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted us as our present possessions] the requests made of Him.”

☞ Once you genuinely [truly] desire the knowledge of His will—and are committed [practiced] to following it [His Word] once you know it—God will inspire you with a \_\_\_\_\_ level assurance in prayer.

☞ Describe “*God will inspire you with a new level of assurance in prayer*” means to you?

## 11. **FIFTH** **PRAYING IN** \_\_\_\_\_

☞ **Y N NS:** Are you reflective of an unselfish, God- honoring heart-beating within yourself?

☞ **Y N NS:** Are you a statement of both worship and admitted need?

☞ **Y N NS:** Are you honor His power and authority while celebrating His willingness to apply them [His Word] in your life?

✂ **John 14: 14 AMPC** quotes “[YES] I will grant [I Myself will do for you] whatever you shall ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM].

☞ **T F:** You praying in His Name means to pray as He won’t.

☞ **T F:** You pray without your relationship with Jesus.

☞ You approach God based on:

- your righteousness
- Christ’s and what He’s done
- your authority
- what you have done

12. **SIXTH**  :PRAYING IN \_\_\_\_\_ WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

- ✂ **Matthew 18: 19- 20:** “If you of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered in My Name, I am there in their midst.”
- ☞ To **disagree** or **agree** means ‘*to make a harmonious symphony*’.
- ☞ Praying in \_\_\_\_\_ with one another, asking for the same thing with \_\_\_\_\_ heart and mind, PLEASES GOD.
- ☞ God loves and honors the \_\_\_\_\_ that occurs when we gather with others to pray.
- ☞ **Y N NS:** Should you pray with a ready “YES” and “AMEN” in your heart as others pray?
- ☞ We the church too often leave ‘*untouched and unopened*’ the gift of what?

13. **SEVENTH**  :PRAYING WHILE \_\_\_\_\_

- ☞ What was the overlooked key?
- ☞ “**Fasting**” is the key in order to \_\_\_\_\_ more fully on the Lord for a concentrated period.
- ☞ What is ‘*a concentrated period*’?
- ☞ “**Fasting**” opens up your \_\_\_\_\_ to God when you would otherwise be feeding your flesh. It clears the air of \_\_\_\_\_. It [fasting] puts seeking Him above all your appetites.

14. **EIGHTH**  : PRAYING FROM AN \_\_\_\_\_ LIFE

- ☞ **Y N NS:** Are you an obedient child gains great favor and freedom with your God the Father?
- ☞ **T F:** When you praying from an obedient heart, you can freely make requests with shame.
- ☞ Which one: you are
  - working against Him
  - working with Him

15. **NINTH**  :PRAYING WHILE \_\_\_\_\_ IN CHRIST AND HIS WORD.

✂ **John 15: 7 TPT** quotes: “But if you step into My life in union with Me and if My Words live powerfully within you—then you can ask whatever you desire and it will be done.”

☞ **‘Abiding’** means what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☞ **‘Abiding’** involves what? \_\_\_\_\_

☞ **‘Abiding’** allowing it [ God’s Word]

to \_\_\_\_\_ your heart

to \_\_\_\_\_ your thinking

to \_\_\_\_\_ in obedience to what God tells you to do

to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s love, then you pouring it back out to Him and the people around you.

☞ **‘Abiding’** also means what?

○ It [abiding] is within this context that our prayer lives are opened up into a fresh \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ before God.

○ John 15: 7 implies [strongly suggest the truth] that **‘abiding’** in this way open up your prayers to also ask for **bad** or **good** things that your heart desires.

## 16. TENTH :PRAYING WHILE \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE LORD

☞ **When** God becomes your greatest delight and first love above all else?

☞ **Y N NS:** Are you in a position for God to bless you with your heart’s desire?

☞ **Y N NS:** If you not receiving His salvation—your hostility for righteousness without the purity of His own righteousness—can you truly love Him?

☞ Until you actually begin \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord.

☞ The word **‘desires’** means ‘\_\_\_\_\_’.

☞ When you delight is in the Lord and in honoring His desires, then He takes \_\_\_\_\_ in you and in \_\_\_\_\_ yours.