

Prayer and Fasting

Introduction

Throughout the Bible, old and new testaments alike, prayer and fasting are not only mentioned but encouraged. Many biblical characters of faith have been recorded in scripture as praying great prayers along with fasting. While some prayers were long and/or quite short, the important issues are whether or not the prayers were effective. This study will address what is involved in prayer and fasting and how to use these spiritual tools to accomplish god's will in our lives.

Prayer

When we think of prayer, we often think of petitions, supplications, thanksgiving, praise, etc. However, prayer is much, much more than that. Prayer is a time of intimate fellowship and communion with God. You are in your secret place, prayer closet, isolated from the world. You are literally dwelling and abiding in the presence of the most High God. While many people take it for granted, it is a tremendous gift only afforded to christian believers who are in covenant with God the Father through Jesus Christ. Such a privilege should not be neglected or abused, but cherished, honored, and revered. Imagine the God of the universe having a two-way conversation with you. No interruptions, no distractions, totally focused

on you. When I think of the greatness of this gift, I am humbled that God's love for me is so great that I have twenty-four hour access to Him. With all these attributes, benefits and privileges, prayer is often neglected, misused, and abused.

While there are many different types of prayers as intimated by Paul in Ephesians 6:18, they all function with some degree or measure of faith.

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Eph 6:18 (KJV)

18 With prayers and deep desires, making requests at all times in the Spirit, and keeping watch, with strong purpose, in prayer for all the saints,

Eph 6:18 (BBE)

It is impossible to have a vibrant prayer life without a vibrant faith life to accompany it. There is a direct link between our levels of faith and the effectiveness of our prayers.

Fasting

Additionally, fasting is a tool that often accompanies prayer. All through the Bible, old and new testaments, fasting is mentioned

numerous times with prayer. It is a spiritual tool that benefits us in our spiritual lives as well as our prayer lives. It is a necessary part of our christian walk and our growth as disciples of the living God. In its strictest sense, fasting is the abstention from food and/or drink. However, there are other things that one can fast from to remove distractions, such as secular music, video games, television or certain television shows, social events, friends and family members, etc. Anything that distracts you from God must be alleviated when engaging in effective power praying. While fasting does not cause God to act or move, it does help the believer to subdue the flesh so the spirit will soar. This process is facilitated by the lack of physical nourishment, causing the body to weaken and the spirit to soar while being fed with prayer and scripture.

Reasons for Fasting

1.To prepare for ministry. Jesus spent forty days and nights in the wilderness fasting and praying before He began God's work on this earth. He needed time alone to prepare for what His Father had called Him to do ([Matthew 4:1-17](#); [Mark 1:12-13](#); [Luke 4:1-14](#)).

11 And there came a voice from heaven, *saying*, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **12** And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. **13** And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

Mark 1:11-13 (KJV)

2.To seek God’s wisdom. Paul and Barnabas prayed and fasted for the elders of the churches before committing them to the Lord for His service ([Acts 14:23](#)).

23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Acts 14:22-23 (KJV)

3.To show grief. Nehemiah mourned, fasted, and prayed when he learned Jerusalem’s walls had been broken down, leaving the Israelites vulnerable and disgraced ([Nehemiah 1:1-4](#)).

1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace, **2** That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and *certain* men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. **3** And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province *are* in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also *is* broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. **4** And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *certain* days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

Neh 1:1-4 (KJV)

4.To seek deliverance or protection. Ezra declared a corporate fast and prayed for a safe journey for the Israelites as they made the nine-hundred- mile trek to Jerusalem from Babylon ([Ezra 8:21-23](#)).

21 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our

little ones, and for all our substance. **22** For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God *is* upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath *is* against all them that forsake him. **23** So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.

Ezra 8:21-23 (KJV)

5.To repent. After Jonah pronounced judgment against the city of Nineveh, the king covered himself with sackcloth and sat in the dust. He then ordered the people to fast and pray. [Jonah 3:10](#) says, “When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He relented and did not bring on them the destruction He had threatened.”

7 And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: **8** But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that *is* in their hands. **9** Who can tell *if* God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? **10** And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did *it* not.

Jonah 3:6-10 (KJV)

6.To gain victory. After losing forty thousand men in battle in two days, the Israelites cried out to God for help. [Judges 20:26](#) says all the people

went up to Bethel and “sat weeping before the Lord.” They also “fasted that day until evening.” The next day the Lord gave them victory over the Benjamites

26 Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept, and sat there before the LORD, and fasted that day until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

27 And the children of Israel enquired of the LORD, (for the ark of the covenant of God *was* there in those days,

Judges 20:26-27 (KJV)

7.To worship God. Luke 2 tells the story of an eighty-four-year-old prophetess named Anna. Verse 37 says, “She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.” Anna was devoted to God, and fasting was one expression of her love for Him.

36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; **37** And she *was* a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day.

Luke 2:35-37 (KJV)

BENEFITS OF FASTING:

1. Helps us overcome the calamities of life.

Fasting is the Biblical way to humble ourselves (Psalm 35:13; 69:10). Esther fasted when faced with danger (Esther 4:16). Ezra fasted for

protection (Ezra 8:21-28). Jehoshaphat fasted in the time of the invasion of the confederated armies of Canaanites and Syrians (2 Chronicles 20:3).

2. Renews our connection with God.

Jesus said that His disciples will fast when He is gone (Mark 2:20). When we fast, we get our hunger back for the presence of God.

3. Empowers us to fulfill God's calling in our life.

Most of the people in the OT fasted in a crisis; Jesus fasted for His calling. We should not fast only during problems, but also for our purpose. Anna was fasting for the coming of the redemption of Israel. (Luke 2:37).

4. Defeats the devil.

Once, the disciples of Jesus could not cast out a demon. Jesus said, "This kind does not leave, but by prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:21). Fasting helps to break the bonds of wickedness, undo heavy burdens, and empower us to break every yoke (Isaiah 58:6).

Types of Fasts:

Regardless of the type of fast you choose, when you begin to crave that item, take time and pray, focus on scripture, seek God.

Absolute Fast: Completely abstain from all food and water. This type of fast is not recommended because it can be dangerous to your health.

Full Fast: Drink only liquids -especially water. On this type of fast you may also take in clear broth and 100 percent fruit and vegetable juices in order to maintain your strength.

Partial Fast: Restrict your diet (or activity) but not total abstention. This can be done in any number of different or combination of ways:

- Fast only on certain days of the week, once during a repeated time period (week, month, season or year) or on a certain date
- Fast only during daylight hours
- Fast from a single meal and contribute the money you would have spent to initiatives related to your fast
- Fast from meat and consume vegetables, water and juice only
- For those unable to fast from food for health reasons, find other things from which to abstain in a prayerful manner such as non-essential foods (a type of beverage or sweets) or activities (television or social media).

Corporate vs. Private Fast: The Lord speaks of both corporate and private fasts in scripture. A private fast is just that: your decision to fast for a particular reason and season.

A corporate fast involves an entire group of believers. For example, your entire church, small-group or other group may decide to fast together for a specific purpose. Esther called all of her people to fast for protection against danger (Esther 4:16). Samuel declared a fast for national revival (1 Samuel 7). The results can be quite powerful.

How to Get Started:

1. Be sure to consult your physician before beginning any fast, especially if you have any type of medical condition.

2.It is important to choose ahead of time what type of fast you will participate in. Choosing your fasting plan is a very personal decision. We are all at different places in our walk with God and our spirituality should never be a cause for comparison or competition. There is nothing more “inherently spiritual” about one type of fast as opposed to another. Your personal fast should present a level of challenge to it, but know your body, know your options, and most importantly, seek God in prayer about this and follow what the Holy Spirit leads you to do. Not only will this help with making the necessary preparations to implement your plan, but as you commit to a specific fast ahead of time, and know how you’re going to do it, you will position yourself to finish strong.

3.Select a place, an agenda (prayer and scripture reading), and a time to listen. Praise God for the opportunity and privilege to draw near to Him.

4.Begin with a time frame in mind, and end your fast when the time is up.

While Fasting:

- Include worship opportunities to keep your focus on God. Consider pondering a text appropriate to your reason for fasting(see suggested devotion related to food scarcity in Malawi). Take time throughout the fast to thank God for the chance to fast, and for the opportunity you will have to break it. Not everyone is so blessed. Make this a time of special attention to the poor and needy with whom you share this hunger.

- Consider keeping a journal, even if only during the times you are fasting. Devote the time you would have been eating to prayer, scripture and journaling.

- Drink two to three quarts of water per day, preferably at room temperature. Lemon juice might be added for taste. If something more is desired and appropriate to the fast, consider bouillon, vegetable or fruit juice, or unsweetened beverages. Avoid caffeinated beverages. Avoid all alcohol, and any drugs not prescribed by a doctor, including aspirin.
- Keep your body warm, as fasting can lead to chills because of a lowered blood pressure and metabolism. Recognize that you may experience lightheadedness, additional energy, feel more alert or over-stimulated.

Breaking the Fast:

- Do not overeat. Not only has your body slowed down, but your stomach has begun to shrink. Break the fast with liquids and a very light, low-calorie, plain, cooked foods. Avoid rich cuisines. Foods such as fruit, eggs, cheese, and meat should be reintroduced into your diet slowly.
- In celebration of what has been and what will be, break bread with your family, church community, or co-workers. Whether alone or with others, take time to lift up prayers of gratitude. Remember those people for whom the lack of food threatens their survival, particularly those whose sub-poverty wages make it difficult for them to nourish themselves adequately. Consider how the food you eat comes to be on your table and pray for justice throughout corporate supply chains.
- If you have kept a journal, review what you have written, and examine any insights you may have had during the fast. If your insights imply concrete changes in lifestyle or important actions, consider what resources you need to take the next step into faithful action/living.

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www.fccnapa.org/prayer-resources

Types of Prayers

Prayer of agreement

The prayer of agreement is a very powerful prayer. It requires a minimum of two people in total agreement in every detail praying about the same situation or circumstances. There has to be absolute agreement in every aspect of the prayer.

19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them

Matt 18:19-20 (KJV)

14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Acts 1:14 (KJV)

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. **3** And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4 (KJV)**23** And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. **24** And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou *art* God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: **25** Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? **26** The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. **27** For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, **28** For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. **29** And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, **30** By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. **31** And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:23-31 (KJV)

Corporate Prayer

Corporate prayer is very similar to the prayer of agreement in that it involves more than one person. It is not as stringent in its requirements as the prayer of agreement is, but is quite effective in its use. Let's look at a few scriptures involving corporate prayer.

21 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. **22** For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God *is* upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath *is* against all them that forsake him. **23** So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.

Ezra 8:21-23 (KJV)

12 And he stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands: **13** For Solomon had made a brasen scaffold, of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven,

14 And said, O LORD God of Israel, *there is* no God like thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keepest covenant, and *shewest* mercy unto thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts:

2 Chron 6:12-14 (KJV)

5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

Acts 12:5 (KJV)

Six

Reasons the Church Needs Corporate Prayer

1. Corporate prayer encourages.

Life is hard. On this side of heaven we face sickness, sin, death, and brokenness. As followers of Christ we can find ourselves at a loss for words—even at a loss for how to understand a calamity in light of God’s goodness and sovereignty. When we gather with other believers to pray we can “encourage one another and build one another up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

In corporate prayer we can remind our brothers and sisters that God will never forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:39), and that we have a Savior who sympathizes with our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15).

2. Corporate prayer disciplines.

When believers of varying ages and stages gather together to pray, we learn from one another. I remember well being taught by example to pray for God's glory and for his will to be done; and that this sort of prayer takes a biblical priority above that of praying for my own safety.

Just as Jesus taught the disciples to pray (Matthew 6:10), when young believers listen to the prayers of the mature and faithful, their faith grows. Corporate prayer moves us beyond simplistic requests for ease or health or blessing (though those are worthy requests too) and teaches us to ask instead that we might be conformed to the likeness of Jesus (Romans 8:29).

3. Corporate prayer forms in us the habit of prayer.

Scheduling times to pray with others makes us more consistent in acknowledging that we are weak and God is strong.

When I dedicate specific days and times to pray with others—prayer partners, elders' wives, ministry leaders, women's Bible study attendees, my friends and neighbors—I simply pray more. Like any discipline, doing it with others motivates and grows me. Setting aside time to pray together spurs us on in ways we wouldn't be if we chose to only pray alone (Hebrews 10:24-25). Corporate prayer teaches us that, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil" (Ecclesiastes 4:9).

4. Corporate prayer is needed for confession.

When we pray with others and confess our sin, we expose it to the light and Christ shines on us (Ephesians 5:11-14, 1 John 1:7-9). James exhorts us to "confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed" (James 5:16).

Individual prayer only makes use of part of our weapon of prayer to battle sin. There is strength in gathering with others. If we are serious about battling sin, we must put corporate prayer in our arsenal.

5. Corporate prayer builds unity.

It is nearly impossible to hold a grudge against someone when you join him or her in prayer. Jesus instructs us, in fact, that we cannot offer him a gift if we have something against our brother (Matthew 5:23-24). He says we must first go and be reconciled. Indeed, Peter reminds us that the Lord's ears are only open to the prayers of the righteous, and not those who are walking in unrepentant sin (1 Peter 3:12). As we regularly come together, we're reminded to "maintain the the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

6. Corporate prayer invests in evangelism.

Lastly, but not exhaustively, praying with others invests in God's work to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ. We see in Acts that "the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). As we pray, the Lord works to draw others to himself.

John says, "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us" (1 John 5:14). And Peter tells us, that the Lord does not wish "that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance (2 Peter 3:9). We know that when we pray for the salvation of others, it is the Lord's desire that all would repent, and his will that all will be saved. We can join him in his work of redemption as we pray for those who are lost.

May it not be said of the church today that, "You do not have, because you do not ask" (James 4:2).

An Example to Follow

God graciously gave us the example of the early church, as seen in Acts 2, to spur us on 2,000 years later. May we not forget the power and priority of corporate prayer. May our small groups, Bible studies, churches, communities, and friends be known for prioritizing prayer together.

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Prayer of Intercession

Intercessory Prayer:

God's Reconciliation and Deliverance System

Kenneth Hagin defines intercession as “standing in the gap in prayer between a person or persons, who have provoked judgement

upon themselves through their wrongdoing, and the actual judgement. Or to put it more simply, intercession is prayer to hold back judgement. To be effective, intercession needs to be made at the prompting of and under the direction of the Holy Spirit". (The Art of Prayer)

The Greek word for intercession is *entugchano* (Strong's concordance # 1793). It means to chance upon, that is, by implication, confer with; by extension, to entreat (in favor or against); deal with, make intercession.

Perhaps another way of looking at intercession is bringing the Light of Heaven to a dark situation. God has called all of His people of His Kingdom to be a light in the world: ...Thou kingdom come, thou will be done. In earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10). Intercession is waging spiritual warfare.

In light of these definitions, let us examine a few scriptures to see how they might relate to intercession:

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. 31 Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezek 22:29-31 (KJV)

23 Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.

Psalms 106:23 (KJV)

Jesus: The Great Intercessor

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: **2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2 (KJV)

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. **5** For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

1 Tim 2:4-5 (KJV)

34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Romans 8:34 (KJV)

Believers: Extensions of the Great Intercessor

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

John 14:12 (KJV)

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; **2** For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. **3** For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

1 Tim 2:1-3 (KJV)

17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. **18** And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

2 Cor 5:16-20 (KJV)

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **27** And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:26-27 (KJV)

Intercession is a form of spiritual warfare. It identifies who you are in the Lord and draws a line in the sand, so to speak. Intercession may involve people, situations, circumstances, or any combination of these things. The intercessor must put on the full armor of God in order in order to be effective in the fight. Perseverance and patience are necessary in order to be successful.

Loosing and Binding

Loosing and binding is a declarative type of prayer. It is exercising the authority that Jesus has given us. Jesus says “**whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

14 **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it ”** . John 14:13-14 (KJV) The Hebrew word translated ask means to demand something that is rightfully yours. The biblical basis for binding and loosing is found in Matt. 16:18-19: **18** **And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter,**

and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **19** And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Matt 16:18-19 (KJV)

The church of Jesus Christ consists of those who have been washed in the blood of Jesus. The redeemed; the born again. They come from all Christian denominations, nations and races of the world. In these last days the church of Jesus Christ is invisible. It cannot be seen with the human eye. We see only individual people and corporate bodies who are all part of God's church. The church also consists of those who have gone on before us and are now with the Lord in glory. In short, the church consists of all of us who have been, are, and will be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, past, present and future.

What Are The Gates of Hell?The Bible often speaks in metaphoric language. This is one of those occasions. For centuries before and up to the time of Christ significant cities were protected by high, strongly built walls. The walls had large gates that were closed at night and during times of danger. The city rulers, or elders, sat at the gates of the city. (See Lam 5:14). All discussions regarding the city's business and plans were held there. Hence, by the time of Jesus the term "gates" had become synonymous with the word "rulers." So, in today's language, Jesus is saying, "I will build my church, and through the centuries the rulers of hell will not overcome it." Thus, Jesus is declaring that not even the rulers of Hell will be able to defeat His church!

What does bind and Loose Mean? The dictionary defines binding and loosing as follows:

BIND - to hold or restrain as if tied down...to compel, as by oath, legal restraint or contract.

LOOSE - not confined or restrained; free;
unbound - to set free.

The dictionary defines "whatever" as an emphatic variant specifying a specific event, thing, or circumstance. In other words, Jesus is saying to us that whatever thing, event, or circumstance we bind is bound (restrained), and whatever thing, event, or circumstance we loose is loosed (set free).

What Are The "Keys" of The Kingdom of Heaven? When Jesus told Peter that He would give him the "keys" of the kingdom of heaven He was using another metaphor. Obviously Jesus did not give Peter any physical keys with which to lock and unlock an existing gate. Jesus was referring to "keys" in the spiritual realm. In the natural, keys are used to open doors and locks. Keys were not as common in Jesus' day as they are today. In Jesus' time those who had keys had authority. Their authority extended over whatever was locked. So what Jesus was really saying was, "I will give you authority ("keys") in the kingdom of heaven." Was Jesus speaking only to Peter? Absolutely not! It would be extremely short-sighted and narrow to give such authority only to one man, especially considering the fact that Peter was going to die long before the church was and is fully completed. To whom then was Jesus speaking when He said, "I will give you the keys (authority) of the kingdom of heaven..." I believe that He was speaking to His disciples who were spiritually mature...including those in the church of Jesus Christ today who are spiritually mature.

What Have The Keys to do With Binding and Loosing? In light of the above, the answer to this question comes clearly into focus. One who has authority in the spiritual realm may bind anything under his (or her) authority, and he may also loose anything under his authority. Thus, Jesus has given the spiritual power because He has given the "keys" (authority) to us! But, we ask, "How can that be? Will I always get what I ask for in this way? Why does this principle apply generally to the more spiritually mature?" Let's go back to the keys to answer

these questions. Keys have a unique quality. A key will only fit one specific, or, if it is a master key, it will fit a series of specific locks. How often have we tried to "loose" the wrong thing from the kingdom of heaven? How often have we tried to get God to supply things for us to consume on our own pleasures? James warns against this: "You want something but don't get it....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." (Jas 4:2-4 NIV). Obviously the more mature we are as believers, the more in line with God's will are our prayers. The more mature we are, the more we bind and loose in accordance with God's plans. Thus, it becomes clear that this binding and loosing only works when we exercise our authority in accordance with God's plans and purposes here on earth. However, there are certainly some things we are capable of binding and loosing from very early in our Christian walk. These are the things that are always in line with God's will and general purpose. These things include salvation for our loved ones, adequate provision for good and faithful missionaries, sanctification of ourselves and all believers, and so on. These kinds of things we all can pray for daily. When I say that the spiritually mature will have more success with this principle, I mean that, as we pray into each and every situation and circumstance, the more mature will more readily tune in to the Lord's plans in each of these circumstances. That is why it is often so very important to seek the Lord and act from directions as to how to pray.

How Do We Bind and Loose? We have no direct example in Scripture where this power is experienced so a certain amount of subjectivity must be allowed here. I will share with you how I have learned to bind and loose. First, let's deal with loosing:

a. Loosing

The Apostle Paul tells us that "...my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:19 NIV). Paul

didn't say that God will meet all our wants. To properly loose, it is important for us to know what our needs are from God's perspective. From our perspective we often say we "need" more money, more of this, or more of that. But God listens to our cries and responds, "No, what you truly need is more godliness, holiness and righteousness...if you had an abundance of these things, I could then freely give you "more than all we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us." (Eph 3:20 NIV). Of course, if we were amply possessed of godliness, holiness and righteousness, we would never think of asking for more money or this or that for our own pleasures. If this is the case, then what may I legitimately "loose" from that vast supply God has? I may "loose" 1) everything I need for my godliness, holiness and righteousness, and 2) everything I need to accomplish God's will in my life. The first applies to my inward being, the second applies to material things or physical provisions for my call as a bondservant of Christ. The key question we must always ask is, "What do I need in order to accomplish God's will in my life?" After we ask that question and wait upon the Lord for His answer, we are free to pray a loosing of those things and see them supplied.

b. Binding

Visualize an imaginary scene with me for a moment. A cleverly disguised, notorious bank robber intends to rob a bank. But to do so he must walk past a police officer directing traffic. Because of his disguise, he is able to pass the officer and walk from the bank teller, he calmly walks out of the bank into a crowd of people and disappears. Now, the police officer had full authority to arrest the robber, didn't he? Then why didn't he do so? The answer is simple. He was unaware that the man was a robber. Often we are in the same position as the policeman. We are unaware of the spiritual forces of darkness working in the circumstances of our lives because we don't see them. Paul said, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Eph 6:12

NIV). Scripture makes it plain that we fight invisible forces of darkness and evil. Spiritual forces of evil are often behind our struggles. Or, many times the enemy will come in and exploit difficult circumstances. Demonic schemes are often set against us to discourage, demoralize, defeat, and, in general, cause us to fail. Remember, Satan's "job description" is set forth plainly in John 10:10: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy...." Demonic forces have this power, and nothing in our humanness is able to overcome them. But Paul also said, "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds." (2 Cor 10: 3 NIV). How may we invoke this awesome spiritual weapon...this amazing power to demolish demonic strongholds? By exercising our authority to bind the power and plans of the world of darkness! Let me share with you what I do every day. I don't know if it's necessary to do every day, but it gives me comfort when I do it. Daily I go to God in prayer and "loose" everything I and my family members need for godliness, holiness, righteousness, and to fulfill God's will for our lives. Then I take a brief leave from my prayer to God and orally declare aloud into the spirit realm a solemn declaration to the spiritual forces of darkness. I announce to the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms that the Murphy household and ministry are off limits to them. I declare that they are bound from devising any plans against myself or any member of my household and ministry. I don't spend a long time doing this binding. I like to get back to prayer to and waiting on my Heavenly Father.

c. Another "Loosing"

The loosing spoken of above in subsection "a" is directed towards the loosing of God's supply. However, there are occasions when we must command the forces of darkness to loose things. The knowledge and understanding of such commands must come from the Lord through prayer. For example, I know of a situation in which God gave a Christian organization specific instructions for a project and promised

to supply every dollar needed for its completion. When it was finished not only was there no money left but there was a debt! Prayers of inquiry were lifted to the Lord. He answered, "I have supplied the money, but Satan is holding it back." With that answer, members and friends of the organization began to forcefully rebuke Satan and command him to loose the money God had supplied. Very shortly every dollar needed was provided! Spiritual forces of darkness will also bind people. Often under the leading of the Holy Spirit, a spiritually mature brother or sister may be directed to command the powers of darkness to loose the person. Please note: I am not suggesting here some magic formula of "binding and loosing." Our prayers and seeking God should never be reduced to a formula. As always we must prayerfully seek the Holy Spirit for direction in our binding and loosing. And each time we do so, it should be with awareness and authority, not some rote prayer.

Binding, Loosing and Personal Responsibility

Now let us examine our own role or responsibility in this process. Yes, we do have this power to bind and loose. Jesus gave it to His church. But there are also things which we must do as we pray. It is not enough in any given situation to pray a binding and loosing even when our prayer is in accordance with God's plans. In other words, we must do our part. God doesn't do it all. We must, in every instance, seek to understand what we must do, or what our responsibility is, and then do it as best we can. Then God is free to answer our prayers. For example, let us examine the raising of a child. A three year old may be very willful and try to rebel against our authority as the parent. Or it may be a rebellious teenager! In these instances, we must move in with our own authority as a parent and discipline that child. As we faithfully do our part as parents, we can also bind and loose in the spiritual realm on behalf of that child. Or, we can apply this principle to our own life and ministry. If you know you have been called by God to teach children about Jesus, you must do what you can to develop that gift. Begin by taking steps that will lead to that ministry. Get involved in a

children's ministry as an assistant or in some other role. As you do these things, you are free to pray the binding and loosing which will enable the full fulfilling of that call. Thus, as we are faithful to perform our human responsibilities, God will be faithful to perform His promises. God will not cross that line to do those things for which we are responsible. If we expect God to bind in heaven what we bind on earth, we must be obedient to His word and instructions in each and every matter.

Conclusion

In light of the above knowledge of the authority to bind and loose we have as believers we should began immediately exercising this binding and loosing power. Yes, the power will be somewhat limited in the initial stages of our spiritual growth but, as we mature, so will the power. This certainly is one of the spiritual weapons Paul spoke of to the church at Corinth as a means of demolishing strongholds of the enemy. (II Cor 10:4). I want to emphasize again that this is not and should not be used as a "magic formula." Binding and loosing is a powerful spiritual weapon to be used by every soldier in the army of the Living God.

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www.hundredfold.org Rev. Jim Murphy and his wife, Carolyn, of Blue Jay, California, United States, head Hundredfold Ministries, International. They write Christian teaching literature and travel to the Developing Nations of the world teaching Christian leaders. Hundredfold Ministries, Int'l is a cross-denominational Christian ministry dedicated to strengthening the church in the Developing Nations of the world. Hundredfold Ministries, Int'l provides in-country Bible school courses and leadership training seminars. The classes and seminars are taught by seasoned, anointed teachers. The subject matter is directed towards the development and maturing of Christian leaders. The goal of the Ministry is to produce leaders who

will be better equipped to lead and direct national churches. All of Hundredfold Ministries training material is charge by going on our web site and requesting it.

Prayer in the Spirit(Praying in Tongues)

Praying in the spirit involves two aspects, praying under the leading of the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues. Our emphasis, for this study, will be primarily focused on praying in tongues. While many believe tongues are no longer applicable or that there must always be an interpreter are confusing the Gift of Tongues(in a public setting) with personal prayer in tongues. Gift of tongues is initiated by the Holy Spirit along with the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues for the benefit of the Body of Christ. Personal prayer in tongues is initiated by the individual and benefits only the believer that is praying in tongues.

One of the arguments against speaking in tongues is that Jesus never spoke in tongues which is absolutely true, but those who would argue that point fail to consider the Great Commission as expressed in Mark 16:15-18.

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mark 16:14-18 (KJV)

¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in

new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Mark 16:15-18 (ESV)

15 And he said to them, Go into all the world, and give the good news to everyone. **16** He who has faith and is given baptism will get salvation; but he who has not faith will be judged. **17** And these signs will be with those who have faith: in my name they will send out evil spirits; and they will make use of new languages; **18** They will take up snakes, and if there is poison in their drink, it will do them no evil; they will put their hands on those who are ill, and they will get well.

Mark 16:15-18 (BBE)

Jesus is clear that one of the signs that should follow believers is speaking with new tongues. If you are a believer, you should be speaking(praying) in tongues.

According to 1Cor.14: 2, when you speak in an unknown tongue you are speaking to God; you are speaking mysteries in the spirit.

² For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries

1 Cor 14:1-2 (KJV)

When you pray in tongues your spirit is praying and except for interpretation, you have no idea what you are praying. Paul's example to us is that we should pray and sing in the spirit as well as pray and sing with understanding. In Romans 8:26-27, Paul recognizes that in our infirmity we don't always know what to pray as we should. The Holy Spirit makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will* of God.

Romans 8:26-27 (KJV)

Praying in tongues is one of the most powerful and accurate prayers that you can pray because the Holy Spirit, through you, is praying the perfect will of God. In addition to being the perfect prayer, praying in tongues builds up your faith, according to Jude, verse 20.

²⁰ But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, ²¹ Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jude 1:19-21 (KJV)

This is done because you are totally trusting the Holy Spirit and you have no conscious knowledge or input into this prayer. This is very difficult for many people because our human nature is to be in control. Praying in tongues releases control to the Holy Spirit. It is easier for children to receive the tool of speaking(praying) in tongues than adults because children are more trusting than adults. Jesus talks about receiving the kingdom of God as a child. You can only receive the kingdom of God as a child, fully trusting in God and His Word.

How Do We Receive the Gift of Tongues

In order to receive the gift of tongues one must be filled with Spirit, baptized in the Spirit, anointed by the Spirit, or empowered by the Spirit. All these terms are synonymous, but confusing unless we understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit operates with(upon) us(empowering)and in us(indwelling, sealing).

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:16-17 (KJV)

16 And I will make prayer to the Father and he will give you another Helper to be with you for ever, 17 *Even* the Spirit of true knowledge. That Spirit the world is not able to take to its heart because it sees him not and has no knowledge of him: but you have knowledge of him, because he is ever with you and will be in you.

John 14:16-17 (BBE)

The disciples already had the Holy Spirit with them when Jesus sent them out to minister.

1 And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Matt 10:1 (KJV)

1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come

Luke 10:1 (KJV)

17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

Luke 10:17 (KJV)

We see from the scriptures that the Holy Spirit is already operating in the disciples' ministry to cast out demons and to heal all manner of sickness and disease. This empowering of the Holy Spirit is with the disciples, just as the old Testament prophets, and is not permanent as in the case of Sampson and Saul.

20 And she said, The Philistines *be* upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him

Judges 16:20 (KJV)

14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

1 Sam 16:14 (KJV)

The Holy Spirit in the disciples(indwelling, sealed) did not occur until after the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. The indwelling Holy Spirit resides in the believer, providing a seal of identification, permanently.

13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Eph 1:12-13 (KJV)

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption

Eph 4:29-30 (KJV)

The indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit is to bring about christian character and Godly fruit.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Gal 5:21-23 (KJV)

The empowering ministry of the Holy Spirit is for ministering to and on behalf of the Body of Christ. Initial indwelling and empowering can occur separately or simultaneously. The disciples received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit when the resurrected Lord breathed on them.

And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: 23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained.

John 20:22-23 (KJV)

However, in Acts 1:5 Jesus tells them that they shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit, while in Acts 1:8 Jesus explains that they will receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon them.

4 And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he, ye have heard of me.* 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Acts 1:4-5 (KJV)

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8 (KJV)

On the day of Pentecost, the Apostles plus many other disciples , while in the upper room, were filled (baptized) with the Holy Spirit while all but the Apostles also received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as well. This was the initial infilling and indwelling as recorded in scripture.

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4 (KJV)

Other accounts in scripture record simultaneous as well as separate events of the indwelling and the infilling.

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:14-17 (KJV)

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was

poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, ⁴⁷ Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 10:44-48 (KJV)

As you read scripture, you see that some believers received the infilling of the Holy Spirit by prayer and the laying on of hands. However, it can be done by your praying individually.

¹¹ If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? ¹² Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Luke 11:11-13 (KJV)

The only time that you would ask to receive the Holy Spirit is for the infilling aspect of the Holy Spirit's ministry. The indwelling aspect of the Holy Spirit;s ministry is automatic at the moment you believe.

¹³ In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Eph 1:12-13 (KJV)

The empowering or infilling of the Holy Spirit can and does happen more than once. It is an ongoing process.

²⁹ And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, ³⁰ By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy

child Jesus. ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:29-31 (KJV)

While the Apostles had initially been filled(empowered)by the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost,as they were praying for boldness, once again they are filled with the Holy Spirit which empowers them to preach the Gospel with boldness.

How can we go about receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of tongues? We just simply need to ask God the Father in Jesus' name:

1. Find a quiet time and place to be alone with the Lord.
2. Pray and ask God to receive the baptism (empowering) of the Holy Spirit.
3. Thank Him for doing it, then speak in tongues. Do not speak in English and do not be concerned about what it sounds like, just speak.
4. Pray in tongues as often as you can so that it will become comfortable to you.

Praying the Model Prayer

PRAYER OUTLINE

by Larry Lea, annotated by Jack Garrott

Matthew 6:9-13

I Praise the Lord and Appropriate His Promises

A. Our Father Which Art in Heaven

1. Form a mental picture of the blood shed by Jesus on the Cross.
2. Thank God you can call Him "Father" by virtue of that blood.

Ephesians 2:13; 1 John 1:7

B. Hallowed Be Thy Name

1. Benefit #1: Forgiveness of sin and deliverance from sin's dominion: SIN

(a) Hallow His name

(1) JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU: "Jehovah our righteousness"

Jeremiah 23:6; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21

(2) JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH: "Jehovah who sanctifies"

Leviticus 22:32 1 Peter 2:9

(b) Make your faith declarations **2 Corinthians 4:13**

2. Benefit #2: Fullness of the Holy Spirit: SPIRIT

(a) Hallow His name

(1) JEHOVAH-SHALOM: "Jehovah is peace"

Judges 6:24; John 14:27

(2) JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH: "Jehovah is there"

Ezekiel 48:35; John 14:15-17; Matthew 18:20

(b) Make your faith declarations

3. Benefit #3: Health and Healing: SOUNDNESS

(a) Hallow His name JEHOVAH-ROPHE:
"Jehovah heals"

Exodus 15:26; 1 Peter 2:4

(b) Make your faith declarations

4. Benefit #4: Freedom from the curse: SUCCESS

(a) Hallow His name JEHOVAH-JIREH:
"God's provision shall be seen"

Genesis 22:14; Philippians 4:19

(b) Make your faith declarations

5. Benefit #5: Freedom from the fear of death and hell: SECURITY

(a) Hallow His name

(1) JEHOVAH-ROHI: "Jehovah my shepherd"

Psalms 23:1; 1 Peter 5:4; 1 Peter 2:25

(2) JEHOVAH-NISSI: "Jehovah my banner"

**Exodus 17:15; John 12:32; Isaiah 11:10; John
3:14-15**

(b) Make your faith declarations

C. Am I Taking the Lord's Name In Vain?

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in which you
may be taking the Lord's name in vain. **Exodus
20:7**

2. Submit yourself to the Lordship of Christ.

James 4:7

D. Pray in the Spirit, worshiping and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:19

II Establish and Live Out Your Priorities

A. Make this declaration of faith: "**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done**" - not simply willed - but done. **Philippians 2:13**

B. Four major areas to establish His kingdom:

1. Yourself

(a) Be sure you are right before God.

John 14:23; Luke 6:46

(b) See Jesus sitting on the throne of your life, ruling in every area.

Revelation 11:17

(c) Abide before the Lord until the course of your day is set and the Spirit of God is functioning in you. **1 Peter**

5:5

2. Your Family **1 Timothy 5:8**

(a) Mate **Ephesians 5:22-33**

(b) Children **Ephesians 6:1-4**

(c) Other family members

3. Your Church

(a) Pastor **Ephesians 6:19**

(b) Leadership of Church

(c) Faithfulness of the people

(d) The harvest **Matthew 9:35-38**

4. Nation Jeremiah 29:7

(a) City, state, and national political
leaders **1 Timothy 2:1-3**

(b) Spiritual leaders

(c) Revival

C. Ask the Spirit of God to implement your priorities and
help you live them out.

Philippians 2:12-13

III Appropriate God's Provision

Give us this day our daily bread.

A. How to Pray In What You Need

1. Be in the Will of God **Philippians 2:13; John
14:23**

(a) Ask the Holy Spirit to help you
develop a consistent, daily personal

prayer life and time in the Word
where you daily fellowship with Jesus.
(b) Pray the Lord will plant you in your
local church and make you a
contributing, functioning, healthy part
of that body.
(c) Examine your work habits. Are you
slothful? A workaholic? Ask the Lord
to give you ability, efficiency, might,
and balance.
(d) Examine your giving. Are you
obeying the Lord in bringing your
tithes and offerings into the
storehouse? Or are you greedy, stingy,
or a poor manager? Do you pay your
bills and have a reputation as a fair
and honest person who keeps his
word? Take time to pray along these
lines.

2. Believe it is God's Will to Prosper You **Joshua 1:8; 3 John 2**

(a) Memorize scriptures such as **Luke 6:38** and **Philippians 4:19** to use as
faith declarations as you pray in your
provision.
(b) Meditate upon the Word of God

until you truly believe it is God's will to bless you.

3. Be Specific **Matthew 7:7-11**

(a) Bring specific needs daily before God. **Matthew 8:9-11**

(b) Decide to pray instead of worry.
Philippians 4:6-7

4. Be Tenacious **Luke 18:1-8**

(a) Repossess lost ground the devil has stolen from you. Discouragement and unbelief have robbed you of answers to prayer. Take up those petitions again and persevere until the answer comes.

1 John 3:8b

(b) Praise the Lord because He is JEHOVAH-JIREH: He sees your need beforehand and makes provision for it. **Matthew 6:31-33**

IV Get Along With Everybody All the Time

And forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

A. Ask God to Forgive You **1 John 1:9**

1. Deal with your sins. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in your life that are not pleasing to God. **Psalm 66:18**

2. Confess your sin. Agree with God and say what He says about your sin. Ask Him to help you hate the sin with perfect hatred and to deliver you from its dominion. Praise His name, JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH: "Jehovah who sanctifies." **Psalm 32:5**

3. Do not allow condemnation. Remember: You are the righteousness of God in Christ. You are complete in Him. **2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:1**

B. Forgive as Often as You Want to be Forgiven Matthew 6:14-15

1. Meditate upon the great debt of sin God has forgiven you. **Romans 5:8**

2. See your sin actually causing Jesus' suffering on the Cross. Get a mental picture of the blood shed for your forgiveness. **Isaiah 53:4-5**

3. By an act of your will, forgive those who have sinned against you and release them to God. Pray for those who have wronged you.

Matthew 5:43-45

C. Set your will to forgive anyone who sins against you this day. Colossians 3:13

1. Make up your mind to return good for evil by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit within you.

Luke 6:27; Romans 12:17-21

2. Make this faith declaration: "I will love my enemies. I will bless them that curse me and do good to them that hate me. I will pray for them which despitefully use me, and persecute me."

Matthew 5:44

3. Pray you will begin to experience the fruit of the Spirit in you life in greater measure: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. **Galatians 5:22-23**

V Consistently Defeat the Devil

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

A. Put On the Whole Armor of God **Ephesians 6:10-18**

1. Loins girded with truth **John 8:32; John 14:6; Psalm 51:6**

2. Breastplate of righteousness **Isaiah 59:17; Isaiah 61:10; Isaiah 64:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21**

3. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace **Philippians 4:7; 1 Peter 3:15**

4. Shield of faith **Ephesians 2:8; 1 John 5:4-5**

5. Helmet of Salvation **Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 1:18**

6. Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God **Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 1:16**

B. Build a Hedge of Protection **Job 1:10**

1. Three "Because"

(a) Because you have made the Lord
your habitation **Psalms 91:9**

(b) Because you have set your love on
God **Psalms 91:14**

(c) Because you have acknowledged
God's name **Psalms 91:14**

2. Declare: "He is my refuge, my fortress, my
God; in Him I will trust **Psalms 91:2**

VI Obey the World's Most Dynamic Commandment

**For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever,
Amen**

A. The Kingdom

1. Praise the Lord because He has translated you
out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom
of love and light. **Colossians 1:13**

2. Make the faith declaration: "The Lord shall
preserve me from every evil work, and preserve
me unto his heavenly kingdom." **II Timothy 4:18**

3. Praise Him because He has invited you to be a
participant in His kingdom. **2 Peter 1:11**

B. The Power

1. Praise the Lord because He has invited you to be a participant in His power. **Matthew 28:18;**

Acts 1:8

2. Meditate upon the power of God, your Father. Measure your problem against His mighty, miraculous works and His great love for you. **1**

Corinthians 1:25; Jeremiah 32:27; Romans 8:32

3. Make this faith declaration: *"I am strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. I have been endued with power from on high. Greater is He that is in me than he who is in the world. My Father gives me strength and power to get wealth. He gives power to the faint. As my day so shall my strength be. He keeps me by His power. He has given me power to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing shall by any means hurt me."*

Ephesians 6:10; Luke 24:49; 1 John 4:4;

Deuteronomy 8:18; Isaiah 40:29; Deuteronomy 33:25; 1 Peter 1:5; Luke 10:19

C. The Glory

1. Behold the glory of the Lord - the character and ways of God exhibited through Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to change you into the same image by forming Christ in you. Ask that you be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 3:23; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18

2. Ask the Lord to help you walk worthy of Him and to help you serve Him as He deserves to be served. **Jude 24-25**

3. Praise Him and give Him glory. **Ephesians 3:20-21**

D. Forever. **Revelation 1:8**