

## Praying With Power

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### I. God Calling

### II. Putting God in a Box

#### A. An Inadequate Understanding of God

"A low view of God is the cause of a hundred lesser evils. A high view of God is the solution to ten thousand temporal problems." A.W. Tozer

#### B. Making Sense of Millie's Story—Four Attributes of God

(Psalm 34:18; II Peter 3:9; Proverbs 16:9; Isaiah 55:9)

### III. How God Uses and Responds to Prayer in Our Lives

#### A. Peter's Jailbreak (Acts 12:1-17)

#### B. God's Purpose for Prayer

"The purpose of prayer is to release the power of God to accomplish the purposes of God. The purpose of prayer is to discover God's will, not obligate Him to do mine; to reflect God's mind, not change it... Your prayers will never do anything except release God's power for God's purposes. On the other hand, your prayers will always release God's power for God's purposes."

Jennifer Kennedy Dean, Live a Praying

#### Life

#### C. God Moves In Response to the Prayers of His People (Luke 18:1)

#### D. Prayer Prepares/Positions Us for Divine Appointments (Prov. 16:9)

"Like a grandmaster who strategically positions chess pieces on a chessboard, God is always preparing us and positioning us for divine appointments. And prayer is the way we discern the next move. The plans of God are only revealed in the presence of God. We don't get our marching orders until we get on our knees! But if we hit our knees, God will take us places we never imagined going by paths we didn't even know existed."

Mark Batterson, Draw the Circle

#### E. Prayer is a Weapon in the Battle for Hearts and Minds (Eph.6:10-12)

"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ."

II Corinthians 10:3-5

"For thus says the Lord: Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued, for I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children."

Isaiah 49:25

### F. Prayer Meets Needs, Shows God's Favor, Brings Maturity (Phil. 4:19; Col. 1:9-11)

"God's giving is inseparably connected with our asking...Only by intercession can that power be brought down from heaven which will enable the church to conquer the world."

Andrew

Murray, Abiding in Christ

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."  
Philippians 4:19

"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience."  
Colossians 1:9-11

### IV. Practical Steps to Improve Our Prayer Lives

#### A. Eliminate Barriers to Answered Prayer

##### 1. Prayerlessness (James 4:2)

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

"The greatest tragedy in life is the prayers that go unanswered simply because they go unasked." Mark Batterson, Draw the Circle

##### 2. Ongoing patterns of sin disrupt our effectiveness in prayer

"If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;" Psalm 66:18

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9

##### 3. Putting God first in every area of our lives

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."  
Matthew 6:33

##### 4. Unforgiveness

"Unforgiveness is the number one reason prayers are not answered."  
Joyce Meyer, Simple Prayer

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."  
Ephesians 4:32

## Additional Resources on Prayer

### 5. Doubt and Worry

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

### 6. Inconsiderate behavior toward our spouse

“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.” I Pt. 3:7

### B. Learn to Pray

“This isn’t something we can start practicing automatically—it takes effort and time, like any relationship. The more you spend time with Him, the more you’ll come to understand His ways, His heart, and His will as you pray. There’s no substitute for taking time to study the Bible and for allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you how to pray in a way consistent with God’s will. Place His Word in your heart and mind...then the Holy Spirit will use those Scriptures as you pray to keep your life on track and consistent with God’s nature.”

Henry and Norman Blackaby, Experiencing

### Prayer With Jesus

### C. Schedule a Daily Time for Prayer

“In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.” Psalm 5:3

### D. Keep a Prayer Journal

“Journaling is one of the most overlooked and undervalued spiritual disciplines. In my estimation, it’s on a par with praying, fasting, and meditating. It’s the way we document what God is doing in our lives. In Habakkuk 2: 2, the Lord states, “Write down the revelation.” Why? Because we have a natural tendency to remember what we should forget and forget what we should remember. Journaling is the best antidote, maybe the only antidote, to spiritual amnesia.” Mark Batterson, Draw the Circle

### E. Spend Regular Time in/Pray Back the Word of God (John 15:7)

“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

### F. Pray With Others for More Power

“Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Matthew 18:19-20

Live a Praying Life, Jennifer Kennedy Dean

Breakthrough Prayer, Jim Cymbala

The Circle Maker, Mark Batterson

Draw the Circle, Mark Batterson

Simple Prayer, Joyce Meyer

Experiencing Prayer With Jesus, Henry and Norman Blackaby

Let Us Pray, Watchman Nee

The Prayer Ministry of the Church, Watchman Nee

The Prayer Saturated Church, Cheryl Sacks

31 Days of Praise, Ruth and Warren Myers

Unlimiting God, Richard Blackaby

Hearing God, Dallas Willard

Hearing God’s Voice, Henry and Richard Blackaby

Celebration of Discipline, Richard Foster

Spirit of the Disciplines, Dallas Willard

Experiencing God, Henry Blackaby

Transforming Prayer, Daniel Henderson

With Christ in the School of Prayer, Andrew Murray

The Pursuit of God, A.W. Tozer

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“Heaven is full of answers to prayer for which no one bothered to ask.” Billy Graham