

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5 LESSON 1

PRAYER: WHY DO WE PRAY?

THEME OF THE WEEK: Unless people understand that prayer is not a religious exercise but is a genuine, two-way communication between them and their Best Friend, God, and unless they understand that prayer really does make a difference, they will not pray. Why should they? This is basic, and this is where we will start.

MEMORY VERSE: “[Y]ou do not have because you do not ask [in prayer].”
James 4:2 (NKJV)

Over the next thirteen weeks, you are going to learn about prayer. Maybe you are wondering why we will take so much time to talk about prayer. Can someone here explain to the rest of us why anything can be so important that we will take one fourth of a whole year to talk about it? (Try to get your group involved here.) Prayer is one of the most important activities that God asks Christians to do. But why do we pray, and what kinds of things do we pray for? When do we pray, and how do we do it? We will learn the answers to those questions over the next three months. Many Christians, even some who have been born again or saved for many years, don't pray very much or very well.

Why would some people not pray very much? Well, maybe because they are too lazy or too busy or just don't think their prayers matter very much anyway. And why would some people not pray very well? Some people don't pray well because they have never taken the time to learn how to pray, and they probably don't get enough practice at praying right. You will find thirteen weeks is not too much time to spend on prayer. Perhaps it's not even enough time. Prayer is this important.

The very first thing you need to understand is that prayer is just talking with Someone Who wants to be your Best Friend. Our prayers won't be perfect when we start. Probably they won't ever be really perfect, although we can learn to pray better. The important thing to do is to start. A baby doesn't make perfect

sentences when he or she first starts talking, but parents love to hear their child's voice and they can figure out what the child wants. When a baby says "want juice" or "want crackers" or "hold me," the parents know what their baby wants. Does a parent say "I'll pick you up when you can ask in a whole sentence, complete with a please and a thank you?" No, of course not.

God is your Heavenly Father and your Best Friend. God wants you to talk to Him. Talk to Him like the Daddy and the Best Friend that He is (Romans 8:15-16; Galatians 4:6-7; John 15:13-15; Proverbs 18:24). Like a loving parent or a close friend, He will figure out what you mean even when you're not doing a good job of explaining yourself. Then He will teach you to pray better just as a parent teaches a child to talk. But don't be doing baby-talk prayer in ten years. Start talking to God every day, off and on throughout the day. And also keep your spiritual ears open all the time so you can hear from God any time He wants to speak to you about things. The dialogue of prayer works two ways: you talk to God and God talks to you. So we want to listen when God speaks to us.

Another big reason people don't pray is that they think God is going to do what He's going to do anyway, so why pray? But people who think this way need to study the Bible more carefully. Remember our Bible verse for this week?: "You do not have because you do not ask." Begin to talk to God today, and come back next week to find out how to pray better.

Was there anything we said today that has made you want to start praying more?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5 LESSON 2

DIFFERENT KINDS OF PRAYER: PRAY TO THE FATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS; PRAYER OF SALVATION

THEME OF THE WEEK: In order to pray efficiently we need to learn how to pray effectively. Learning that different needs (occasions) require different kinds of prayer is part of this.

MEMORY VERSE: “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.” Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)

Last week we learned why we should pray. This week we will begin to learn how to pray. **(Teacher: If you have not yet covered the memory verse and the theme of the week statement, please do so now.)** Some people explain our memory verse by saying there are different rules for different kinds of prayers. The Bible shows us this is true. Another way to think of this is to imagine the different kinds of wheels or tires that carry different kinds of vehicles. Car tires won't work on tractor trailer trucks, and train wheels won't work on bicycles. You can't interchange the tires on these vehicles if you want the vehicles to go anywhere, and if you want your prayers to move or go anywhere, you have to pray right. Over the next few weeks you will be taught which tires to use on your different prayer vehicles to get them moving.

The same key works on all your prayer vehicles. None of the vehicles will start up or move anywhere without this special key, so open up your ears and listen carefully. This key is to pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus. We do not pray to Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Mary, the Saints, angels, or anyone else because the Bible tells us we are to pray to Father God. We are to pray to our Heavenly Father but we are also to do this in the Name of Jesus. John 16:23-24 (NKJV) tells us about this important prayer key: “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” Answered prayer brings joy. In this Scripture, Jesus

Himself tells us that asking the Father in the Name of Jesus will bring us answered prayer.

But praying to the Father in the Name of Jesus only works if God really is your Father and if Jesus is your Savior and Lord. Anyone who has ever tried to use a wrong key to unlock a door or start a car knows it takes the right key and only the right key to make things work. A wrong key may look just like the right key, but the lock knows the difference. To get a genuine Jesus key that will turn on your prayer vehicle and get it rolling, you must first ask Jesus to be your Savior and Lord. Let's take a few minutes to make sure you have a genuine Jesus key.

There are four things we need to understand and a simple prayer we can pray to make sure our Jesus key is real:

1. God loves you! (John 3:16)
2. You have sinned and are separated from God. (Romans 3:23)
3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, died in your place for your sins. Father God raised Jesus from the dead after three days. (Romans 5:8; Acts 10:40)
4. You must repent of your sins and receive (ask) Jesus Christ into your heart to be your Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:9; Acts 3:19; Revelation 3:20)

If you want God's gift of salvation, pray this prayer from your heart: Heavenly Father, I thank you for sending Jesus to die for my sins. I believe that He died for me and that you raised Him from the dead after three days. I renounce Satan, the Devil. I turn from my sins and ask Jesus into my heart to be my Savior and Lord. Jesus, I love you and will live my life for you. Come into my life and make me pure and holy as you ask me to be. In Jesus' name. Amen.

(Teacher, make sure all of your people at this time have the opportunity to pray. You can pray and have them repeat after you.)

If you prayed this prayer from your heart, you can know for sure that you have a real Jesus key and it will start up your prayer vehicle when you pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus. Let's practice. **(Teacher, have the members of your group pray simple, short prayers. Don't be concerned too much about the content. Just make sure each one prays to the Father in the Name of Jesus.)**

Very good! Next week we will begin to see which kinds of tires or wheels work on which prayer vehicles. Bring your keys and we'll practice driving.

What did you learn this week?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5 LESSON 3

PRAYER: BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

THEME OF THE WEEK: To progress in our prayer journey, our next step is to learn the value of praying in the Spirit or in other tongues.

(Teacher: The next two lessons are condensed from Victorious Overcomers Series quarter three, lessons eight through eleven.)

MEMORY VERSE: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me.” Acts 1:8

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Matthew 3:11; 26:36-75; John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 2:1-41; 10:44-48; 19:1-7; Romans 8:14.

(Teacher, please go over Theme of the Week before going on to the rest of the lesson.)

Jesus said in Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me.” When we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, we receive the power to witness or tell other people about Jesus.

Remember that God is One God in Three Persons: The Father, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, Who is also known as the Holy Ghost. When you are born again, that is, when you invite Jesus to be your Savior and Lord, your human spirit is reborn or made alive to God, and, when you do that, the Holy Spirit of God Himself moves right into your body. This is why the Bible calls Christians temples for the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 6:16). This doesn't mean, however, that you have received all of the Holy Spirit that you are allowed to receive. If you ask God to baptize you with His Holy Spirit, He will fill you all the way up with the Holy Spirit until you are overflowing. This is what the word *baptize* means. It means to be immersed or covered. To be baptized in the Holy Spirit is to be covered with the Holy Spirit.

In John 20:19-22, after Christ had risen from the dead, He returned to His disciples. Even though He breathed on them, telling them to receive the Holy Spirit, He later told them to wait in Jerusalem (Acts 1:4-5) until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. Jesus knew they already had the Holy Spirit living in them when they were born again as He breathed on them, but He knew they needed all of the Holy Spirit they could get if they were going to be able to do the amazing things He was asking them to do. They needed to let Christ baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

All of the twelve apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). The people of the early churches also seem to have been filled with the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:18; Ephesians 5:18).

(Teacher, do a “glass with water” object lesson for your people. Explain as you do the object lesson.

The glass: a person.

The water: the Holy Spirit.

Empty glass: non Christian.

Half-full glass: born again Christian who has not been baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Full and overflowing glass: the Holy Spirit baptized Christian.)

Whenever we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, we receive power to live for God, which includes being able to tell other people about Jesus. We can learn a lesson about the power of the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost to give us boldness by reading about a man named Peter in our Bibles. Peter was one of Jesus’ twelve apostles who followed Jesus everywhere during His earthly ministry. After Jesus was arrested and was being questioned by Jewish religious leaders, Peter was asked if he were one of Jesus’ followers.

Frightened, Peter cursed, and then swore he didn’t even know Jesus. Later, Peter, ashamed of himself, had learned that he couldn’t serve God in Peter’s power alone. Peter needed God’s power to help him live for God. At this point in our story, Christ had not yet died and risen from the dead; therefore, people could not yet be born again. Even though Peter loved Jesus, he didn’t have the power within himself to live for Jesus. If we could live for God without God, we really wouldn’t need Him, would we? Right before Jesus was arrested, Peter had told the Lord he would gladly die fighting for Him, but, after Jesus was arrested, Peter said he didn’t even know the Lord. Peter thought he could live for God in his own power but learned he could not.

But guess what? After Peter was born again and baptized with God's Holy Spirit, he preached a salvation message that led 5000 people to Christ. He lived the rest of his life for the Lord—preaching, healing the sick, and helping to lead the Church. He died by being crucified upside down because he refused to deny Christ. What a change in Peter! What made the difference in his life? Receiving the Holy Spirit! **(For the teacher, Peter's ministry: Matthew 10:1-42, 26:69-75; Acts 1:1-6:7; 9:32-12:19; 15:1-29; 1 and 2 Peter)**

Next week we will talk about how you, just like Peter and the other apostles, can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. One of the main reasons to do this is to help you pray more effectively.

What did you learn this week?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5 LESSON 4

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT (Part II)

THEME OF THE WEEK: To progress in our prayer journey, our next step is to learn the value of praying in the Spirit or in other tongues.
(Teacher: This lesson is condensed from Victorious Overcomers Series quarter three, lessons eight through eleven.)

MEMORY VERSE: “I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:”
1 Corinthians 14:18

The Bible calls the Holy Spirit a gift for God’s kids (Acts 2:38-39). Jesus is God’s gift for unsaved people (or the world) (John 3:16); but the Holy Spirit is God’s gift for His kids (Acts 2:38-39). First people are born again or saved; after that, they can be baptized with the Holy Spirit. God’s Word promises when you ask God for the Holy Spirit, that’s exactly what you get – the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:11-13).

In the Bible, whenever God baptized people with the Holy Spirit, those people received an extra blessing which came along with the package. This blessing is called the gift of *tongues*. Tongues is a heavenly language that you will be able to use in your prayer time to pray when you don’t know how to pray. Your mind will not understand what your spirit is praying when you pray in the spirit or in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:14-15). The Bible says you are speaking divine mysteries – God is giving you things to pray for that your mind doesn’t even know about (1 Corinthians 14:2).

When you pray in tongues, you automatically pray God’s will (Romans 8:26-27). Because we want you to be able to pray better, today we will give you the chance to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. But first there are a few things you need to know. One of the things you need to know is that God will not make you speak in tongues. God is not dropping a radio into your belly. If you don’t open your mouth and speak the words that God is giving you out loud with your own voice, then no sound will come out. In the Bible, Paul explained that the Holy Spirit gives the utterance. That means the Holy Spirit makes you able to speak in

tongues, but *you do the speaking* (Acts 8:26-27; I Corinthians 14:14-15). God will put strange sounds into your spirit man—sounds that are different from mine and from the person who is sitting next to you, sounds that may sound foolish to your mind. But God expects you to speak those sounds out of your mouth. When you do, the Holy Spirit in you is telling your spirit man what to say to your mind, and your mind is telling your body what to pray.

It's really so simple and so easy that a lot of people miss the whole point. God is not giving you an earthly language. He is giving you simple sounds that His Holy Spirit uses in order to pray through you – you may only start out with a few sounds. That's all God needs because it's your spirit praying to God about things that are important to God. You're only letting Him use you. Why would He need a huge complicated language to speak back to Himself (1 Corinthians 14:14-15; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 1:27)?

Just remember these five things.

#1 God says you need the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17).

#2 The Holy Spirit is a gift (Acts 2:38-39).

#3 When someone who is already filled with the Holy Spirit lays hands on you to receive the Holy Spirit, that person should say something like—"Receive the Holy Spirit." After that, you should say something like—"I receive the Holy Spirit." You see, you need to first give God permission to baptize you with His Spirit. He won't do it against your will. (John 20:22; Acts 19:1-7; Revelation 3:20)

#4 Speak out the words God puts in your spirit (1 Corinthians 14:15).

#5 Use your prayer language in praise and prayer every day. But remember that this is a private prayer language. The Bible tells us that people who aren't taught about such things will think you're crazy if they hear you praying in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:11, 16, 23), so don't pray in the Spirit out loud around them. Except for special times of prayer and praise, our prayer time is normally done privately (Matthew 6:5-6).

Those of you who desire to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, please come forward now.

Beautiful Feet Ministries

(Teacher, use sensitivity. Don't force or pressure anyone into coming forward. Once you do begin to pray with a young person, work with him or her patiently until a release comes in the prayer language. Usually, just encouraging the candidate to speak out those words that God is giving is enough to get the flow started.)

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5 LESSON 5

PRAYING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, TRAVAILING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND INTERCESSION

THEME OF THE WEEK: This week we will discuss praying and traveling in the Holy Spirit as well as their uses in intercessory prayer.

MEMORY VERSE: “[T]he Spirit also helps our weaknesses; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words.” Romans 8:26 (NAS)

As you remember, we are several lessons into a series on prayer. You have learned that although there are different kinds of prayers, all prayers include praying to the Father in the Name of Jesus. Many times we know how to pray because the Bible teaches what God’s will is about certain problems we have to face in our lives. Sometimes, however, we do not know how to pray. Remember last week when we prayed with people to receive God’s gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit? You will remember that when people are baptized with God’s Holy Spirit, God also gives them a prayer language which the Bible calls “other tongues.”

When we speak or pray in tongues, we do not understand what we are saying. In 1 Corinthians 14:5, the Apostle Paul says that he wishes all of us would speak in tongues and in 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 (NAS) he says “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful [in other words, my mind doesn’t understand what my mouth is saying]. What is *the outcome* then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also [or in other words, I will pray and sing in words I understand, but I will also pray and sing using words I do not understand; that is, I will pray and sing in other or unknown tongues].

Why would you pray and sing making words or sounds you don’t understand? Our memory verse gives the answer: “[T]he Spirit also helps our weaknesses; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself

intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words” (Romans 8:26) (NAS) and the Bible goes on to explain that “He [God] who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints [that’s us] according to *the will of God*” (Romans 8:27) (NAS). In other words, the Holy Spirit, who already knows what His will is, prays for that, using our tongues to do it. He is not off in heaven somewhere praying for us (although Jesus is); He is in us, praying through us in unknown words and in groans when we just don’t know how to pray.

When we will allow the Holy Spirit to use us this way in prayer, then according to the very next verse, “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose (Romans 8:28 NAS). Some people say that everything that happens to Christians is God’s will and is good. They quote Romans 8:28. But many of these people never notice verses 26 and 27 which come right before 28. Yes, if we have allowed God to pray His will through us by praying in tongues and maybe even groans, then we can count on God’s good will being done in our lives and in the lives of those people we pray for “who [also] love God (Romans 8:28).”

When you groan the way Romans 8:26 says, many people call this *travailing* in the Spirit or *travailing* in birth because the Apostle Paul says in Galatians 4:19, “My little children, of whom I *travail* [or labor] in birth again until Christ be formed in you.” Women who are in labor giving birth to a baby (this is what *travail* means) will sometimes groan. When we groan as we’re praying, it may sound like the groans of a woman in labor, and indeed Paul seems to be saying that when we pray this way, we are giving birth to spiritual things.

When we pray for other people in a known language or in other tongues or when we *travail* in the spirit (groans), we are interceding for them. To intercede just means to pray for other people. **(Teacher, please study on your own, not necessarily with your group, the following Scriptures: Job 9:32-33; Genesis 18:16-33; Isaiah 66:8-9; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Romans 8:22-26.)** Job 9:32-33 tells us that God is looking for people who will stand in the gap between God and other people. When you stand in the gap for another person and God, it is as if you are a bridge between that person and God. God wants to help that person, and your prayers help God to do it. Remember then, that intercessory prayer is standing in the gap for other people before God.

Ephesians 6:12 says, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world,

against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Other people need our prayers, and it is pleasing to God when we are willing to intercede for them.

Remember, praying in the Holy Spirit means what? **(Answers.)** Travailing in the Spirit means what? **(Answers.)** To intercede for someone else means what? **(Answers.)**

What did you learn this week?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5 LESSON 6

THE MODEL PRAYER

THEME OF THE WEEK: It is true that prayer, simply put, is just talking to God. Nevertheless, just as the early disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, we also need to be taught how to pray if we want to pray more effectively.

MEMORY VERSE: “[O]ne of His [Christ’s] disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray.’” Luke 11.1 (NAS)

The Lord wants to be our best Friend, and He wants us to learn to be comfortable talking to Him as a friend. How do you talk with friends? **(Answers.)** Learn to tell God how you’re feeling, what you’re thinking about and especially ask Him to minister to your feelings and to guide your thoughts. But God is also revealed to us in the Bible as a Judge, and we are shown as people going to that Judge for help (Luke 18:1-8). People don’t just go to judges when they’ve done wrong but also when wrong has been done to them, and they need help. If you knew you were going to stand before a judge and ask him or her for help, you would be very clear about what you wanted, wouldn’t you?

God has given many promises to you in the Bible. We go before God and simply ask for those promises to be fulfilled. If God has promised us something, we don’t need to stand before Him in prayer begging for what He wants us to have. We simply ask (Matthew 21:22). If the devil has robbed from us, then we can go to God about that too (John 10:10).

There are some promises we are to take to God daily. He tells us what they are in what is called the Lord’s or the Disciple’s Prayer. We find this prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 and in Luke 11:2-4. You may have memorized this prayer. If you haven’t yet, you should. Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV) goes like this:

In this manner, therefore 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 this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever. Amen.

But just before Jesus teaches his disciples this prayer, in verse seven, He tells them not to use “vain repetitions” when they pray. *Vain* means empty and *repetitions* means to repeat or say over and over. To use vain repetitions means to say the same words over and over again without even thinking about what we’re saying. Christ, then, never intended for us to pray this prayer using the same exact words every time with little or no thought about what we’re saying. That would be using vain repetitions, which Christ said not to do.

Actually, what Christ told us to do in verse nine is to pray *in this manner*. To pray in this manner means to pray “like this or in this way.” In other words, Jesus is telling us to keep these things in mind when we pray and to keep these attitudes in mind when we pray. Let’s say this prayer out loud again, and try to remember what Christ says we need to remember to pray for when we 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 this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever. Amen.

Beautiful Feet Ministries

Tell us what the Lord says we need to pray for. **(Answers. Teacher, take as much time as you can with this question. This is an important concept.)**

Great. Next week come back ready to talk more about this important prayer.

What did you learn this week?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5 LESSON 7

THE MODEL PRAYER – PART II

THEME OF THE WEEK: It is true that prayer, simply put, is just talking to God. Nevertheless, just as the early disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, we also need to be taught how to pray if we want to pray more effectively.

MEMORY VERSE: “[O]ne of His [Christ’s] disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray.’” Luke 11.1 (NAS)

Who remembers what kind of prayer we talked about last week? **(Answers.)** There are two different names that people usually call this prayer. One is the Lord’s Prayer because the Lord Jesus taught it to his disciples. The second name is the Disciples’ Prayer because the disciples were told to pray this way. A third name people sometimes use for this prayer is the Model Prayer. What is a model of something? **(Answers.)** If you buy a really fine model of a car or a ship or something like that, it will have all the parts that the real car or ship will have. Studying your model can help you remember all the parts that the real thing has.

When a teacher asks a student to write an outline for a paper, what the teacher means is that the student needs to write down the main ideas that will later be used to write a whole paper. An outline is a model for the paper. When the student is writing the real paper, the important ideas won’t be forgotten if the student checks the outline while writing the paper. The Model Prayer can be used as a model or an outline to help us remember all the different things we need to pray for.

(Reread Matthew 6:9-13 as a group.)

How does the Model Prayer start? “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.” This helps us remember to do what when we pray? **(Answers.)** We must always remember to pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus. We remember God is holy. That will help us to keep the right attitude and to ask for forgiveness

before we begin to pray because to go before a holy God we need to have clean hands and pure hearts (Psalm 24:3-5). To hallow God's Name and show Him honor, many people open their time singing praise and worship songs to Him.

Next, what does Christ tell us to pray for? "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." What does this mean? **(Answers.)** What might you include in this part of your prayer? **(Answers include: praying for ourselves, our families, our churches, our country, people who don't know Jesus, people who do know Jesus, the peace of Jerusalem, etc..)**

The next part is important for two reasons. It says "Give us this day our daily bread." Number one, this tells us to pray for our needs. Number two, this tells us to use this model prayer daily.

What does the next part say? "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." What does this mean? **(Answers.)** We are told to forgive people who hurt us. Our own forgiveness with God depends on our willingness to forgive other people. **(See also Matthew 6:14-15.)**

The next part says what? "And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one." The Bible promises us protection from the evil one, who is, of course, the devil. But this promise, like all God's promises, comes to us when we pray in faith.

Our Model Prayer ends as it begins—by honoring God. It says "For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

This is an important prayer, so if you haven't yet memorized it you should. Let's end by saying it a couple of times together.

In this manner, therefore 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 this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13)(NKJV)

What did you learn this week?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5 LESSON 8

THREE IMPORTANT PRAYERS: PRAYER OVER FOOD, PRAYER OF FAITH, PRAYER OF AGREEMENT

THEME OF THE WEEK: This week we will discuss three critically important kinds of prayers: prayer over food, prayer of faith, and prayer of agreement.

MEMORY VERSE: “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.” Mark 11:24

This week we are going to talk about three important kinds of prayer: #1 the prayer we pray over our food; #2 the prayer of faith; and #3 the prayer of agreement. The first one, the prayer over our food is easy. It has only two Scriptural requirements, which are these: #1 Pray to the Father in Jesus’ Name and #2 Thank your Heavenly Father for your food. If you add anything else, that is fine, but make sure you always remember to pray to the Father in Jesus’ Name and to thank Him for your food. The reason we need to pray over our food is that the Bible says we should in 1 Timothy 4:4-5. Let’s read that together right now.

(Teacher, read Scripture aloud with group. Then you and your group practice saying proper prayers over food. You may even tell them you are going to say a few things that are wrong and you want them to tell you what those wrong things are.)

Next, we will discuss the prayer of faith. The prayer of faith has four Scriptural requirements. #1 Pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus. #2 Remember, when you pray, that the prayer of faith is a prayer for things. #3 Pray the desire and not the problem. #4 Believe you receive when you pray.

Now, let’s talk about each of these requirements:

#1 You already know by now that we pray everything to the Father in Jesus’ Name (John 16:23).

#2 We say that the prayer of faith is a prayer for things because Mark 11:24 says, “What **things** (teacher, stress *things*) soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.” In other words, this is not a prayer to use to

try to make other people do things which are against their wills. A student cannot Scripturally pray for God to force his or her teacher to give an A+ for F- work. But that same student may ask God to help him or her to do a good job and to have favor with the teacher and so forth. So remember, Scriptural requirement #2 is to remember that the prayer of faith is a prayer for things.

#3 is to pray the desire and not the problem. To tell God what you desire is to tell Him what you want Him to do for you. Some people tell God all their problems, but they don't tell Him what they want Him to do for them. God already knows about your problems. Mark 11:24, says "What things soever ye **desire** (Teacher, stress *desire*), when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*." Remember, we've talked about the power your words hold over you. Don't give the devil power by talking about your problems all the time. Tell God what you desire for Him to do for you.

#4 is to believe you receive when you pray. Why? Because Mark 11:24 says, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, **believe** (Teacher, stress *believe*) that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*." In order to receive, you must first believe. Believing you receive seems to pull what you desire toward you, but unbelief seems to push it away.

Remember the four Scriptural requirements to pray the prayer of faith:
#1 Pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus.

#2 Remember, the prayer of faith is a prayer for things.

#3 Pray the desire and not the problem.

#4 Believe you receive when you pray.

So far today we have talked about the prayer we pray over our food and about the prayer of faith. The third kind of prayer is the prayer of agreement. The prayer of agreement is really just the prayer of faith when it is prayed with someone else. If you find someone else to pray the prayer of faith with you, then the prayer of faith is called the prayer of agreement. What does agreement mean? (**Answers.**) What does disagreement mean? (**Answers.**) Why would you bother to find someone to pray with you about something? Matthew 18:19 says, "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." The prayer of agreement is an extraordinarily powerful prayer. It just gives us that extra prayer power we need

sometimes. When asking other people to agree with you in prayer, make sure they understand what you want to pray for, and, also, ask them if they can believe with you, because if in their hearts they don't believe that God will answer your prayers, their prayers will do you no good. They are not in agreement with you.

These three kinds of prayers will really help your prayer lives to become exciting if you will use them. Let's quickly review how they work. For the prayer over food, pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus and thank Him for the food. To pray the prayer of faith, pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus; pray for things; pray the desire and not the problem; and believe you receive when you pray. For the prayer of agreement, find another Christian who can agree with you in prayer.

What did you learn this week?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5 LESSON 9

THE PRAYERS OF CONSECRATION AND COMMITMENT

THEME OF THE WEEK: This week we will discuss the important prayers of consecration and commitment.

MEMORY VERSE: “[N]ot my will, but thine, be done.” Luke 22:42b.
“Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

This week we will talk about two kinds of prayers that have really big names. One prayer is called the prayer of consecration, and the other is called the prayer of commitment. The prayer of consecration is the prayer we pray when we don't know God's will. The prayer of commitment is the prayer we pray when we give our cares or problems to the Lord.

First, let's focus on the prayer of consecration. Do you always know God's will for everything you may need to pray about? No, of course we don't. Some things are easy. The Bible says God wants us saved, healed, acting right, with our needs met and so forth. We know God's will for these things. But the Bible does not tell us who God wants us to marry, what kinds of jobs we should have, or where we should live. For these kinds of things, we pray for God's will to be done because God knows what is best for us. Jesus prayed the prayer of consecration in Matthew 26:36-44. Let's read that together. (Read aloud with your group.) Jesus prayed for the Father's will. Don't pray “if it be thy will” to God when you know His will. If you pray “if it be thy will” when you know God's will, you will be undermining your own faith (James 1:6-8). In these cases, pray God's words out of the Bible – Scripture words – and you will be praying God's will. But when you don't know God's will, ask Him for His will to be done. Staying in God's will for our lives keeps us under the covering of God's protection. Remember, praying something like “if it be thy will, is called a prayer of consecration.

The prayer of commitment is a prayer for giving our cares, problems, or worries to the Lord. God doesn't want His people worrying. As long as we're

holding on to our worries or cares, God isn't holding on to them. But if we will cast or throw those cares or worries onto the Lord and leave them there, He can take care of things for us. 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." When you commit or give your cares to the Lord, this is called the prayer of commitment. So after you've committed your cares to the Lord, stop worrying about them and think happy thoughts (Philippians 4:8).

Now let's look at the guidelines for both prayers again. For the prayer of consecration, you pray to find God's will. This is the only prayer that we use the words "if it be thy will." For the prayer of commitment, we cast our cares on the Lord, stop worrying and think happy thoughts. For both prayers, as with all prayers, we pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus.

What did you learn this week?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5 LESSON 10

THE PRAYERS OF BINDING, LOOSING, AND COMMANDING

THEME OF THE WEEK: The prayers of binding, loosing, and commanding are vital weapons of our warfare over the forces of darkness.

MEMORY VERSE: “Assuredly, I [Jesus] say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18:18 NKJV)

This week, we will talk about three important kinds of prayers. They are the prayers of binding, loosing, and commanding. Now that I’ve told you that, I will tell you that these three prayers are not prayers at all because prayer is talking to God, and, when we bind, loose, or command, we are not talking to God.

Imagine you are in the middle of a really important conversation with someone. Maybe you’re trying to talk someone you work for into paying you more money. You want something. You are carefully choosing your words and things seem to be going your way. Then, out of nowhere, somebody runs up, interrupts the conversation and starts talking to you about stuff that can wait for later. You have to find a way to let the interrupter know he or she needs to GO AWAY NOW. The person catches the hint, leaves, and your conversation with that important person continues. That interruption was not really a part of the conversation. You were not talking to that important person when you were telling the other person to go away but that interruption had to be handled and handled properly. Otherwise, it would have ruined your conversation, and you would not have gotten what you wanted.

Sometimes, as we are talking to God or when we are waiting for a prayer to be answered, we have to tell the interrupter, the devil, to go away in the Name of Jesus. In fact, sometimes we even have to bind him up and cast him away from the important “stuff” we need from God. We do this with our words. We may say something like, “Devil, in Jesus’ Name, I bind you up and cast you away from my stuff. I loose you from your assignment against me (in other words, ‘Go away!’), and I loose the angels (meaning—I give them my permission) to bring my stuff to

me.” This is called the prayer of binding and loosing because, even though we are not talking to God, binding and loosing is sometimes what we need to do to get our prayers answered.

Commanding prayer is also not a true prayer, but it is something we often need to do to get our prayers answered. I hope you remember, from other lessons, that we have talked about your being created in God’s image, that God created everything by speaking His Word, and that you, being created in God’s image (Genesis 1:26-27) have been given *word power* too. The Bible says you have the power of life and death in your tongue (Proverbs 18:21).

Sometimes, after we’ve really prayed to God about something, we need to do some commanding with our words. Imagine you are in the army. You are not the President of the United States. The President of everything is God. If you want to, you can be a general. Even generals completely obey the President of the United States because the President is the head of the armed forces. But a general has plenty of power at his or her command and you can at least be the general of your own life. Generals don’t command Presidents. Generals command soldiers. When you speak, your words are your soldiers. You speak those words, and they go forth to make those things you spoke happen for you. If you say words such as, “I command my body to be healed in Jesus’ Name,” or “Knee, I command you to line up with God’s Word and be healed in Jesus’ Name,” you are sending those soldiers out to do good things for you (Mark 11:23-24; Matthew 8:5-13). Remember though, soldiers don’t decide when and if they want to obey the general. They just obey. Don’t send your soldiers out to do bad things against yourself or others by saying things like, “I’m stupid, I’m always broke; I’m always sick; I can’t ever remember anything; That guy’s a jerk and I hope somebody shoots him.” Your words have power and the devil doesn’t mind taking whatever power you give him. We can also use commanding prayer to command the devil to leave our stuff alone.

This week we talked about binding, loosing, and commanding. These are three powerful tools you can put in you prayer tool chest. When you need them, use them.

How will what you learned this week help you pray better?

(Scripture references for teacher: Matthew 8:3,8-9,13; 10:8; 12:29; 16:19; 18:18 (KJV and Amplified); 28:18-20. Mark 2:11; 3:27; 4:39; 13:34; 16:15-18. Luke 7:1-10; 9:11; 10:19; 13:11-13. `John 11:41-43; 14:12. Acts 1:8; 3:6. 2 Corinthians 5:20. Hebrews 13:8.)

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5 LESSON 11

THE PRAYERS OF WORSHIP, PRAISE, AND THANKSGIVING

THEME OF THE WEEK: As Christians, we are both privileged and required to offer up prayers of worship, praise, and thanksgiving to our God.

MEMORY VERSE: “Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Please notice your memory verse does not say to give thanks for everything but in everything. If things are going wrong in your life, thank God for getting you out of the mess, not for the mess, because if it’s a mess, it didn’t come from God. The Scripture doesn’t say the mess is God’s will. It says thanking Him is His will. In fact, our attitudes, our lives, and our prayers should be full of thankfulness toward God. As I read these Scriptures, listen to what they say about giving thanks. By the way, that’s what thanksgiving means—giving thanks.

(Teacher: read the following Scriptures.)

“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;”
Colossians 4:2

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving;” Colossians 4:2 (NAS)

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; 1 Timothy 2:1

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name.” Psalm 100:4

Of worship, the Bible says:

(Teacher, read the following Scriptures.)

“God is a Spirit, and they that worship *him* must worship him in spirit and in truth.” John 4:24

“Make a joyful shout to the LORD...Come before His presence with singing....Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.” (Psalm 100:1-4) (NKJV)

Man is a spirit, has a soul, and lives in a body. God is a Spirit and we need to create the kind of environment that will enable our spirits, as well as our souls and our bodies, to worship God (John 4:24). We are fellowshiping with God when we worship Him.

There are many Scriptural ways to worship and praise God. Some of the ways are:

- A. Singing to the Lord (approximately 300 references including Psalm 149:1)
- B. Lifting our Hands (1 Timothy 2:8; Psalm 63:4, 119:48, 134:2, 141:2)
- C. With Instruments (Psalm 150, 33:2, 57:8, 144:9)
- D. Clapping Hands (Psalm 47:1, 98:8; Isaiah 55:12)
- E. Dancing unto the Lord (Psalm 30:11, 149:3, 150:4; 2 Samuel 6:14)
- F. Being Still (Psalm 46:10)
- G. Shouting unto the Lord (Psalm 47:1; 2 Samuel 6:15; Revelation 7:10)
- H. Worshiping God in Other Tongues (Acts 2:11; 1 Corinthians 14:16-17)
- I. Rejoicing (Hebrew to Brighten Up) (Psalm 149:2)
- J. Making a Joyful Noise (Psalm 81:1)
- K. Blessing the Lord (Psalm 103:20)
- L. Magnifying the Lord (Psalm 34:3)
- M. Mouth Filled with Laughter (Psalm 126:2)
- N. Walking and Leaping (Acts 3:8)
- O. Standing (Psalm 134:1, 135:2)
- P. Bowing and Kneeling (Psalm 95:6; Ephesians 3:14)
- Q. Worshiping God in Other Tongues (Acts 2:11; 1 Corinthians 14:16-17)
- R. Singing in the Spirit (*1 Corinthians 14:15*)

Praise and worship are two different activities. Praise brings you into God's presence, and worship is what you do when you get there. Praise is thanking God for what He has done. Worship is loving and ministering to God simply because He is God.

Praise usually tends to be more lively than worship. In church praise and worship services, the praise part is usually fast. The worship music is usually much slower than the praise music.

Church praise and worship services many times begin with a song of thanksgiving during the early part. In Old Testament Tabernacle and Temple worship, God's people entered God's gates with thanksgiving in their hearts, into His courts with praise. "Make a joyful shout to the LORD...Come before His presence with singing...Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name." Psalm 100:1-4 (NKJV). We enter the gates with thanksgiving. We praise in the courts. All work, sacrifices, and various activities take place in the court. As we leave the court of praise and enter the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place, we are entering worship.

We hope you will spend time with God every day praising Him, worshiping Him, and telling Him how thankful you are to Him.

What did you learn this week, and what will you try to do differently?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5 LESSON 12

HINDRANCES TO PRAYER, PART I

THEME OF THE WEEK: Over the next two weeks we will examine sixteen hindrances to prayer and also look at the importance of praying according to Scripture.

MEMORY VERSE: “Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (1 John 3:21-22 NKJV).

For the next two lessons, we are going to talk about hindrances to getting your prayers answered. To not get your prayers answered when you want to get your prayers answered is to have your prayers hindered. These lessons are called “Hindrances to Answered Prayer.” If you need to write a letter and you have no paper, having no paper is a hindrance. You will need to either find some or go out and buy paper before you can write your letter. If you want to take a drive and you discover you have a flat tire, the tire has to be fixed before you can take your drive. A flat tire is a hindrance to your drive. We will talk about sixteen different hindrances to answered prayers. Next week, after we finish talking about the last prayer hindrance, we will finish up by talking about the importance of praying God’s Word and give you a list of Scriptures that you can use to help you pray according to God’s Word.

Hindrance #1 is not being born again. There are promises in the Bible that God will answer your prayers if you are His child. There is no promise that He will answer your prayer if you are not His child. You become His child when you become born again. You become born again when you believe Jesus Christ died for your sins and was raised from the dead after three days and ask Him to be your Savior and Lord (Romans 10:9-10). Has everyone here asked Christ to be his or her Lord because we can get rid of this hindrance right now? Remember, God wants to be your Heavenly Daddy. **(Teacher, take time as needed to pray with people for salvation.)** (John 9:31; Romans 8:15)

Hindrance #2 is not praying to the Father in the Name of Jesus. God tells us to pray to Him in Jesus' Name (John 16:23). If you get in the habit of praying this way, you won't forget.

Hindrance #3 is forgetting to pray (James 4:2). Learn to talk to God about everything. God wants you to talk to Him.

Hindrance #4 is a lack of faith when praying (Mark 11:22-24; James 1:6-8). God wants you to know that you can count on Him.

Hindrance #5 is praying the problem instead of the solution. Telling God about all of your problems may make you feel better, but Mark 11:24 says "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*." So, unless you are believing to have problems, get in the habit of praying for the solutions to the problems. Learn to tell God what you want Him to do for you.

Hindrance #6 is speaking death to your prayers. After you have prayed in faith for something, don't talk about it like it's not going to happen. Your words have power. When you pray, you are planting seeds. If you talk about the problems like you never prayed over them, it's like digging up your seeds or spraying them with plant killer. Imagine planting an apple tree today, cutting it down tomorrow, and then wondering when that dead, rootless tree lying on its side is going to grow apples for you. When you pray, continue to thank God for the answers to your prayers until those answers come. Thank God and speak life over your prayer seeds. (Proverbs 18:20-21; Luke 18:1-8)

Hindrance #7 is not following God's rules for different kinds of prayers. Ephesians 6:18 (NIV) says "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." We have spent many weeks now talking about the different rules for the different kinds of prayers. God's Holy Spirit will continue to teach you how to pray *as you pray*.

Hindrance #8 is praying with a self-righteous attitude. (Teacher, read Luke 18:9-14 with your group.) God does not want his people to have the proud attitude of the Pharisee but rather the humble attitude of the tax collector or publican. Let God work His character into your character, His attitudes into your attitudes.

Hindrance #9 is praying with lustful motives, or, in other words, with a greedy, everything is all about me, give me, give me, give me attitude. God wants

you to renew your mind and crucify your flesh. You renew your mind by studying God's Word, the Bible. You crucify your flesh by letting what's most important to God become what is most important to you. James 4:3 says "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it on* your pleasures" (NKJV). Ask God to help you line up your desires with His desires. If your desires are His desires, your prayers will be answered much more easily for you.

Hindrance #10 is being out of fellowship with the Lord or having sin in your life. Psalm 24:3-5 (NKJV) says, "Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation." Have you been ignoring God? This is called being out of fellowship with Him. Do you have sin (wrongdoing) in your life? 1 John 1:9 (NKJV) says "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Ask God to forgive you, and you are back in fellowship with Him, and your sins are forgiven.

So far, we've covered ten hindrances to getting your prayers answered. Next week we'll talk about six more, plus we will talk about the importance of praying Scripture and praying in agreement with Scripture.

Were any of the hindrances a surprise to you and which ones?

VICTORIOUS OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5 LESSON 13

HINDRANCES TO PRAYER, PART II

THEME OF THE WEEK: This week we continue to examine sixteen hindrances to prayer and also look at the importance of praying according to Scripture.

MEMORY VERSE: “Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (1 John 3:21-22 NKJV).

Last week we began to look at the problems that can keep people from getting their prayers answered. We talked about ten of those problems or hindrances. **Hindrance #11** is praying with a dirty conscience. There are times when we try to pray but feel so guilty about something we’ve done wrong that we feel like hypocrites for expecting God to answer our prayers. This is not a bad thing; this is a good thing because it shows that you have a tender conscience. When this happens to you, go to the Lord to ask for forgiveness. Take your guilty conscience to Jesus; ask Him to wash it in His Blood, and let Him renew your mind as you read His Word, the Bible. In other words, ask God to forgive you for your sins. He will, and after that you can pray with a clean conscience. (Exodus 20:1-17; Mark 12:29-31; Matthew 22:20-21; Galatians 3:13-14; Matthew 5:17-20; John 14:15; Mark 10:26-27; 1 John 3:20-24; 1 John 1:9)

Hindrance #12 is disobedience to God. God invites us to walk with Him, but, when we don’t, He is not obliged to answer our prayers. God doesn’t change, and His counsel doesn’t change either (Malachi 3:6-13; Hebrews 13:8). The answer for this hindrance is to obey God.

Hindrance #13 is praying without first getting our relationships with other people right. Matthew 6:14-15 (NKJV) says: “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Matthew

5:44 (NKJV) says, “[L]ove your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you, and persecute you.

1 Peter 3:7 (NKJV) says, “[Y]ou husbands, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.” Matthew 5:23-24 (NKJV) says, “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” If you are having problems with people in your life, forgive them and ask God to help you get and keep your relationships right. And remember this – just because somebody wants to make trouble with you doesn’t mean you have to make trouble with them. Romans 12:18 (NIV) says, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

Hindrance #14 is not “praying through.” Now, what does not praying through mean? Not praying through means not praying until our prayer gets through to God, until the devil can’t stop it and until we’ve given birth to the answer to our prayer by praying about it in other tongues and in English (or your native language). Not praying through is not praying until you know you are through. Sometimes things don’t need a lot of prayer but other times they do. The more you pray and spend time with God the more you can begin to sense when you have prayed through and when you haven’t. You just know on your inside when the answer to your prayer is on its way or when it isn’t and you need to pray more. Also, ask God to show you how to pray about things. He’s not teasing you to see how many different ways He can get you to pray. He wants to answer your prayers, but He needs you to do your part so that He can. Once you know you’ve prayed through, then just keep thanking Him until the answer to your prayer arrives. God wants you to press in and not to give up. (1 Samuel 1:9-12, 17-18; Matthew 9:19-22; Ephesians 6:12,18; Galatians 4:19; James 5:16b-18)

Hindrance #15 is that evil spirits can interfere with people’s prayers. I’m going to tell you the Bible story of when a man of God named Daniel prayed, but it took an extra three weeks for the answer to his prayer to arrive because the angel bringing God’s answer was hindered by an evil angel called the prince of the Kingdom of Persia. God finally had to send the archangel Michael to help the messenger angel get through to Daniel. Here’s the story (from Daniel 10:2-3 and 12-13): “When this vision came to me...I [Daniel] had been in mourning for three full weeks. All that time I tasted neither wine nor meat, and of course I went without desserts” (Living Bible), “and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over” (NIV). After twenty-one days of fasting and prayer, an angel appeared to

Daniel and said these words: “Don’t be frightened, Daniel, for your request has been heard in heaven and was answered the very first day you began to fast before the Lord and pray for understanding; that very day I was sent here to meet you. But for twenty-one days the mighty Evil Spirit who overrules the Kingdom of Persia [the prince of the Kingdom of Persia] blocked my way. Then Michael [the archangel], one of the top officers of the heavenly army, came to help me, so that I was able to break through these [evil] spirit rulers of Persia” (Living Bible).

The first day that Daniel prayed, God sent an angel with the answer to Daniel's prayer, but that angel was hindered for twenty-one days until heavenly reinforcements arrived! Daniel did not give up and neither should you.

Scripture says, “[M]en always ought to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1b) (NKJV), and we are again encouraged to “not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart” (Galatians 6:9) (NKJV).

Hindrance #16 is not praying according to the will of God. God’s answer for this hindrance is that we learn to pray according to His Word. 1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV) says, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, 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 the petitions that we have asked of Him.” God's Word and God's will are one and the same. When we pray God's Word we are praying God's will. Hebrews 4:12 calls God's Word both living and powerful. Isaiah 55:11 says that God's Word does not return to Him void or empty but accomplishes His will. Learning to pray Scripturally is important to answered prayer.

One of the most important things you can ever do to make you prayers powerful is to learn to pray God’s Word. For instance, if you need healing and you know that 1 Peter 2:24b says, “by whose stripes ye were healed,” then you know you can use that Scripture to pray over yourself. You might pray something like this: “Heavenly Father, I thank you that Jesus’ stripes [His beating] paid for my healing because your Word says ‘by Jesus’ stripes ...[I am] healed.’ I receive that promise – my healing, and I thank you that I am healed. In Jesus’ Name I pray, Amen.”

As you read God’s Word, collect His promises. Write them down. You can use these promises when you pray.

What are you going to try to do to make your prayer life better?

YOUNG OVERCOMER SERIES

QUARTER 5

ADDENDUM:

SCRIPTURES FOR PRAYER

(Note: Put your name or other people's names into these prayers to make them personal.)

(All Scripture references in this section are from the New King James Bible. Teacher: We encourage you to make copies to give to your students.)

Ability to Learn: Daniel 1:17: “As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.”

1 Corinthians 2:16: “For ‘*Who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?*’ But we have the mind of Christ.”

Backsliders and Backsliding: Hosea 14:4: “I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from him.

Churches: Acts 9:31: “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”

Country, Government, Schools, Parents (All in Authority):

1 Timothy 2:1-3: “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.”

Proverbs 21:1: “The king’s heart *is* in the hand of the LORD, *Like* the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.”

Daily Needs: Matthew 6:9-13: “In this manner, therefore, 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 this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Everything Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13: “In this manner, therefore, 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 this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

Family, Children: Matthew 6:10: “Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”

Isaiah 54:13: “All your children shall be taught by the LORD, And great shall be the peace of your children.”

Favor: Proverbs 3:1-4: “My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.”

Forgiveness: 1 John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Fruit of the Spirit: Galatians 5:22-23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

God’s Will: Colossians 1:9-11: “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering

with joy.”

Guidance: Proverbs 3:6: “In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

Happy Marriage: Philippians 2:2: “[F]ulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”

Healing: 1 Peter 2:24: “[W]ho Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”

Missionary and Other Ministry Work: Colossians 4:3-4: “[M]eanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ...that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”

Overcoming Bad Habits: Romans 8:37: “Yet in all these things we are More than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

Peace/Freedom from Worry: Philippians 4:6-7: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
2 Timothy 1:7: “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”
1 Peter 5:7: “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

Peace of Jerusalem: Psalms 122:6-9: “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces.’ For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, ‘Peace *be* within you.’ Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good.”

Praising God: Psalms 95:1-2,6: “Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.... Oh come, let

us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.”

Prosperity: Philippians 4:19: “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

3 John 2: “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”

Receiving from God: Matthew 21:22: “And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

Mark 11:24: “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.”

James 1:6-8: “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

James 4:3: “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

Revival: Psalm 85:6-7: “Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your mercy, O LORD, And grant us Your salvation.”

Safety: Psalm 121:8: “The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.”

Isaiah 54:17: “No weapon formed against you shall prosper... This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD.”

Salvation for Others: 2 Timothy 2:26: “and that they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

Salvation for Yourself: To receive your personal salvation you must first understand the following four points.

1. God loves you (John 3:16)!
2. You have sinned and are separated from God (Romans 3:23).
3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, died in your place for your sins. Father God raised Jesus from the dead after three days (Romans 5:8; Acts 10:40).

4. You must repent of your sins and receive (ask) Jesus Christ into your heart to be your Savior and Lord (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 3:19; Revelation 3:20).

If you would like to receive God's gift of salvation, repeat this prayer from your heart to God:

Heavenly Father, I thank you for sending Jesus to die for my sins. I believe that He died for me and that You raised Him from the dead after three days. I renounce Satan, the devil. I turn from my sins and ask Jesus into my heart to be my Savior and Lord. Jesus, I love you and will live my life for you. Come into my life and make me pure and holy as you want me to be. In Jesus' name. Amen.

What to do now:

1. Be water baptized (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38-39).
2. Be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).
3. Read your Bible daily (Acts 17:11; 1 Peter 2:2).
4. Pray daily (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
4. Fellowship at a church where the Bible is preached (Hebrews 10:25).5
6. Share your faith in Christ openly (Acts 1:8).

Single/Unmarried People: 2 Timothy 2:22: “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Sleep: Proverbs 3:24: “When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.”

Speech: Proverbs 18:21: “Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.”

Temptation: 1 Corinthians 10:13: “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not let you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but—with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.”
Matthew 6:13: “And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

Wisdom: James 1:5: “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

Work: Isaiah 48:17: “Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: ‘I am the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go.’”