



Prayer MADE SIMPLE

FIGHTING FOR
YOUR FAMILY
AND FRIENDS
IN PRAYER

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INTRODUCTION



Prayers similar to '*Now I lay me down to sleep*' or '*God is great, God is good*' were how I prayed for years. They were familiar and comfortable, and honestly, I didn't know any other way to pray.

However, years ago, when my daughter was diagnosed with a life-threatening autoimmune disease, I needed more than familiar and comfortable. I needed powerful, God-moving prayer. Memorized and rote prayers were not enough.

Not knowing much about prayer, I intentionally connected with women who *knew how to pray*. These women seemed to know how to storm the gates of heaven when they prayed, and that's what I needed at this time.

Whenever I prayed for my daughter with one of them, I was immediately comforted and uplifted. I'd never felt closer to God. And when they said, "Amen!", I knew heaven had heard, and an answer was coming. And often it did!

Although these women hardly knew each other, they shared a commonality.

They prayed *the Scriptures*.

Praying the Scriptures is POWERFUL. In *The Daniel Prayer*, Anne Graham Lotz calls it "reverse thunder." It's when we take God's Word and pray it back to Him. Praying the Scriptures unleashes God's power into our circumstances. It's the most effective way we can touch others and make a difference in our own lives.

One of these women shared an analogy I've never forgotten. She asked me to picture launching something more powerful than an atomic bomb into the situation for which I am praying. That is exactly what we are doing when we pray God's Word.

While I would not consider myself a prayer warrior, I've learned the basic principles of powerful prayer found in the Bible. As a result, I've seen God move mountains — BIG mountains in my marriage, in my home and family, in ministry, and in the lives of people I care for deeply. I've also seen Him do what I considered impossible!

Please know, God does not always answer me with an affirmative. Sometimes He seems to say, 'No' or 'Wait.' At other times, there's silence. In fact, there are several things I've been praying for years with relative silence from God. While it can be very discouraging, I'm not giving up. I've been taught the key to powerful prayer, and *I know* with great certainty that I'm praying God's will in these situations, so I know He will answer in His time.

WHY Pray THE Scriptures?

When we use God's Word as the basis for our prayers, we're inviting and launching His power into the lives of the people we love. Extraordinary things happen when we pray God's Word:

1. The lost get saved
2. Wise decisions are made
3. Obstacles are overcome
4. Needs are met
5. God begins to move
6. We're protected
7. We experience peace that surpasses all understanding
8. We grow in our faith
9. True worship is ignited
10. Revival is sparked
11. We're delivered from fear
12. We can stay even-tempered, cool-headed and strong-spirited in a crisis

This list could go on and on! When we pray His Word, God supernaturally ignites the Scripture in our hearts. ***His power is released!***

Ephesians 6:17 tells us that the Word of God (the Scriptures) is the sword of the Spirit. We are told to *“pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”*

We also learn in 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 that, *“We are human, but we do not wage war as humans do. We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.”* (Underline mine.)

Prayer and Scripture are part of God's weaponry. As is praise, worship, thanksgiving and keeping our hearts clean. These are the weapons we use in fighting for those we love. Prayer moves mountains. Praying the Scriptures strengthens our hearts and moves God like nothing else!

HOW TO *Use* THIS GUIDEBOOK

Use this Guidebook as a prayer tool to help you use God's Word as a launching pad for powerful prayer in your family and spheres of influence.

We need God's Word when we pray. It gives us something to base our faith and prayers upon. Since all Scripture is God-breathed, the Bible is God's thoughts and Words. Personally, I need God's Word when I pray because there are days:

- My prayers feel dry and rote. I need the help of the *'Praise and Worship'* section. It places my thoughts on the greatness and sufficiency of God.
- My needs are great. The *'Thanksgiving'* section reminds me of His faithfulness to me in the past and gives me confidence that I can put my trust in Him for the future.
- I need reminding of what God says concerning my sin and restoration with Him found in the *'Confession'* section.
- I need help! Instead of praying, "Help me!" or "Guide me," I want to pray powerful Scriptures for confidence in decision-making.

I want to see God move in the lives of the people I love. Praying the Scriptures based on their needs is the most effective way I can make a difference in the life of another.

This book contains Scriptures I've discovered during my quiet times and now pray on a regular basis. They are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. Passages that are not directly quoted from Scripture but rather emphasize the verses' applications are preceded with a tilde symbol (~).

1. Set aside time each day to study the Bible and for prayer. If fifteen minutes is all you have, let's make it fifteen minutes of power. But please note: while we can and should pray anytime, anywhere, fighting for those we love in prayer requires our focus so that we can turn our heart, mind and thoughts to the ONE who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine - praying His Word back to Him.
2. Section two is especially important. We do not have to spend hours in prayer to pray powerfully. Whatever time you have, ***try to always integrate these aspects of prayer.***
3. Make a prayer list. This list should be the people or things you feel burdened to pray for and then divide them up by days of the week.
4. If possible, determine before your prayer time who or what you are praying for. Bookmark the sections you want to use, so you can easily flip to the pages. This tip will help you save time.

For example:

Tuesday - prayer emphasis is on your children/grandchildren or nieces and nephews. Perhaps one is not walking with the Lord.

You would always start with:

- Verses from Section Two
- Verses from Section Three and Section Four - Prodigal

Example 2:

You have a friend facing cancer. In addition to some verses of praise and thanksgiving, pull verses from whatever her needs may be.

- Healing p. 113
- Deliverance from fear p. 109
- Peace p. 121

5. Do not feel you must pray every Scripture. Simply integrate one, some, or all into your daily prayer time.
6. Using the words of Scripture, ***insert your name or the name of the person*** for whom you are praying.

7. Believe that you are speaking to the God of the Universe, who hears when you pray. He has the ability to do immeasurably more than you could ask or imagine!
8. TRUST. He knows the best way to answer your prayers for your family and friends. Trust that God knows best. His ways are not our ways. His thoughts are not our thoughts. His ways are higher than our ways. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9) He even promises that if we love Him, He *will* work all things for our good. (Romans 8:28) Trust Him in the ways He answers.
9. Memorize Scripture. As you pray God's Word, ask the Holy Spirit to write the Word on your heart so that you can pray back the Scripture whenever that worrisome or anxious thought comes to mind. The power of the Word is like taking a shotgun and putting a bullet through the head of a snake in the spiritual realm.
10. Make sure you do not overlook the conditions to powerful prayer. (p 17-18)

Author Stormie Omartian says, "If we are praying, something is happening in the lives of those for whom we pray whether we see it or not. **Everything that needs to happen in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones cannot happen without the presence and power of God.** Prayer invites and ignites both." (emphasis mine)



Quiet Time STARTERS



"My soul finds rest in You alone."

Psalm 62:1

These are great phrases and passages to use when starting your time with God. Remember, you do not have to pray all of these verses. Only the ones that resonate in your heart. You might find different verses speak to you each day. Or some days more than others. Ever notice how some days a particular passage seems to jump off the page at you? That's God speaking to you!

Jesus, You are the bright Morning Star. *Revelation 22:16*

Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere.

Psalm 84:10

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars which You have set in place, who am I that You are mindful of me? *Psalm 8:3-4 NLT*

This is the day You have made. I will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

Your Word says that when I 'draw near to You, You draw near to me.' *James 4:8*

You have wakened me to listen as one being taught.

Isaiah 50:4

Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in Your Word.

Psalm 119:18 NLT

Open my mind so I can understand the Scriptures. *Luke 24:45*

Don't let me just go through the motions.

Let the morning bring word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in You. *Psalm 143:7,8*

You are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for You, my whole being longs for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. *Psalm 63:1 NLT*

Jesus, You are the Living Water and the Bread of Life. You are the one who feeds my hungry heart and truly quenches my thirst. *John 6:35 John 7:10,13*. Nothing this world has to offer compares to You!

My heart has heard You say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "Lord I am coming." *Psalm 27:8 NLT*

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything that offends You, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. *Psalm 139:23-24 NLT*



MARRIAGE



*"That YOU, Jesus, would be the center of our marriage and home."
Ecclesiastes 4:12*

P

ray one or more of these verses for your marriage on a regular basis. I try to pray these weekly.

Enable us to develop a deep, abiding love relationship that we enjoy for the rest of our lives. *~1 Corinthians 7:10-11*

May we be completely humble and gentle with each other, patient, bearing with one another in love. Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:2-3

Help me to accept my husband the way he is; knowing only You can change him into the man You have created him to be.
~2 Corinthians 3:18

Make our marriage bulletproof against the incessant attacks of the enemy. Make us strong like a fortified city that cannot be captured; like an iron pillar or a bronze wall. *Jeremiah 1:18*

Where love has run out, create new love. *John 2:1-11*

Bring unity between us so we can be in unity about everything.
Romans 15:5-6

Make us a team overlooking each other's faults and weaknesses for the greater good of the marriage. *1 Corinthians 1:10*

That we would only have eyes for each other. *Ephesians 5:3*

Help us to be quick to forgive so that we are not hanging on to roots of anger. *Ephesians 4:32*

Remind both of us not to keep a list of negatives, but only the positives. *Philippians 4:8*

Keep us free from the love of money; help us to be content with what we have. *Hebrews 13:5*

Move on both of us to be good stewards of the finances you've entrusted to us. Help us to put You first by tithing. Help us to be debt free; not owing anyone. *Malachi 3:10, Romans 13:8*

Help us to be generous givers. *Luke 6:38*

Help me to share in his responsibilities. *Matthew 20:28*

Help me to respond to his nature with love and understanding. *Philippians 2:3*

You intend for us to be one flesh. Please enable us to be able to communicate well with each other. *Genesis 1:24*

Enable us to have a healthy, deeply satisfying physical relationship with each other. ~*1 Corinthians 7:2-3*

Help me enjoy making myself available to him physically. *1 Corinthians 7:4*

Help us to enjoy each other's company and companionship. *Genesis 2:18*