

Prayer

Ephesians 6:10-18

v. 10 – **be strong**- to empower, to enable, and increase in strength

power- kratos- dominion, manifested power; especially means exerted strength, an open show (power seen openly), a display, power in operation that causes a scene; a active role as a king exercising his power openly

- Be strong, be enabled, be empowered by the Lord, by our union or connection with the Lord and in the power, exerted strength, in the power shown effectively in a reigning authority, this power is operative causing change and manifestation of God's will, purpose, and plan.

v. 11 – Without the armor of God I am unable to stand against the wiles, tricks, schemes, and methodologies of the devil.

Stand- “histemi”- stand, abide, remain, establish, to set, stand still, to stand up, covenant; *to stand without giving ground, bending, or without weakening.*

- Prayer equips me with the ability to be able to stand without giving ground, without bending, or without weakening; it is a stance that is forever, permanent
 - **Covenant**- a remaining agreement that cannot be broken
 - My standing should be taken as serious as a covenant. My stand is a covenant.
- Whatever the devil brings my way, whatever tricks or schemes he uses, I will not weaken in my stance.
- Prayer gives me the power and the strength needed to stand against ALL of the tricks, schemes, strategies, wiles, and temptations of the devil and NOT WEAKEN!
 - The devil is going to tempt me and try to trick me with the desires of my own lusts. How can the devil tempt me with something I do not want?
- Another point that needs to be stressed is that the scripture says here in verse 11 to “Put on the whole armor of God...”. This implies that this is something that I must do. I must put on the armor of God. God is not going to do this for me. This is an act of my own will.
 - So if I do not put on the armor of God, it is because I do not want to.
 - If I do not put on the armor of God, then I will not be able to stand against the tricks of the devil.

v. 12 – Classes or Ranks of demon spirits: Here Paul points out that the devil has an organizational structure and a chain of command. Specific demon spirits have been assigned to me to destroy me, kill me, and to steal from me (John 10:10). Strategies and schemes have been devised to detour me from the life God has designed for me. In order to withstand, I must engage in prayer.

- The battle is not against individuals but against spirits, demonic spirits. It is a spiritual war that we are in.

- Evil spirits influence an individual's activity especially if he or she is not born again.
- Anything that hinders, weakens, or bends my stance is influenced by the devil. Doubt and unbelief are the tools of the devil used to disrupt the flow of God in my life.

v. 13 – **withstand**- vigorously oppose, bravely resist, standing face-to-face against an adversary; a military term that means to rage in battle against. (**Galatians 2:15**)
evil day- the day when you are tempted

- We must stand because the devil is trying to impose his wickedness, his evil upon all believers because he is the prince (ruler) of this world.
 - John 12:31
 - John 14:30
 - Ephesians 2:2
 - II Corinthians 4:3-4
 - Since the devil is the god of this world, everything in this world's system is influenced by the devil unless a believer is in domination (leadership).
- Prayer equips, enables, and empowers every believer to be able to withstand- resist, oppose, to rage in battle against, to stand without weakening, bending, or giving ground.
 - I put on the armor of God through prayer.
- If the believer is not giving ground, then prayer causes the believer to gain ground. Prayer pushes back, forces back the force of the devil. Therefore, more of God's power, love, and glory is expressed, revealed, and manifested upon the earth.

v. 18 – Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit

- This armor; the whole armor of God is prayer armor.
- If I do not spend time in prayer, I am not putting on the armor of God.
- If I do not spend time in prayer, then I am not walking in the manifested power nor am I enabled or equipped with the power of God has for me.

In order to get a deeper understanding of prayer, it is necessary to understand the mind and the purpose of God Himself. Prayer is a result of God's established authority structure between heaven and earth, as well as a product of His faithfulness to His word. Prayer is as simple as respecting and honoring God's authority. Basically, to understand the essence of prayer, we must understand the God-given authority that God has given to man.

Man has been given the authority over the earth.

Authority – The power to enforce laws, the power to enforce or demand obedience, command, determine, or judge; power to influence or persuade

Genesis 1:26-28

Dominion –“radah”(raw-saw) – to rule, dominate, tread down, subjugate, to control; a territory or sphere of influence; to govern or rule by superior authority; to exert a supreme, guiding influence on or over

- God did not say, “let us have dominion over the earth”, but God said “let them have dominion over the earth.”
- Since God gave man dominion over the earth, the legal authority to dominate upon the earth is man.
 - Man is a spirit with a physical body; therefore, only spirits with physical bodies can legally function and operate in dominion on the earth. Any spirit without a body is illegal on the earth.
- God gave man dominion and the authority because God wanted **man** to dominate; to rule and to reign; God wanted man to call the shots; God wanted man to be in charge of the works of His hands (Psalms 115:16)
- God has placed or given man authority; that is the power to enforce or demand obedience, the power to influence or persuade every affair in the earth. This is the same authority that Jesus functioned and operated in. Jesus is the second Adam. (Romans 5:14, I Cor. 15:47)
- An individual in authority is like a door. Whatever gets in or whatever is not allowed to come in is based upon the decision of the individual in authority.
- In order to give God access into this earth, man must ask or invite God to come in because man is the door.
- Prayer is the vehicle through which God’s will and plan is poured out into this earth. If men and women do not pray, then God’s plan or God’s will cannot take place upon the earth. Why? It is because God has given man authority upon or over the earth.

God cannot violate or even change what He has said. What God says is law. The word of God is not only law for man; it is also called “the Law of God.” This implies that every word God speaks is also a law to Himself. What God says is even law for Him. God’s word even governs God Himself. God is bound by His word

Numbers 23:19

Psalms 138:2

God cannot step into the earth and do what He wants to do because God has given the authority over the earth to man. If God’s will is to be done on this earth, then man’s will must be converted to God’s will. Man’s desire must be changed to God’s desire. God has access into this earth through man. This is why Jesus had to come to the earth (I Timothy 2:5)

Matthew 6:5-15

v. 10 – Jesus instructs us to pray that God’s will be done here on Earth as it is in heaven. If God’s will is automatic, why do we have to pray for His will to be done?

It is because God’s will can only be accomplished upon the earth if a man or woman prays.

Joel 2:28-29

Acts 1:12-14, 2:1-4, 12-21

In order for God's will to be accomplished upon the earth, we, the believer, must engage in prayer. God has given us the authority and the dominion over the earth and what happens on the earth is a result of prayer or a lack thereof. If we are going to see God's will come to pass, if we are going to see the promises of God manifest themselves, we must take God's word and declare it out of our mouth. It is because we shall have, possess whatever we say. Why shall we have whatever we say? It is because we are the ones who are in authority, who have been given the dominion. We are the individuals who have the power to enforce or demand obedience. We are the individuals who have the power to influence.

Luke 10:19 (AMP)

God has given the power and the authority to the believer: His legal, authorized agents or representatives upon the earth. The only way God has access into this earth is through His legal authorized agents or representatives upon the earth.

II Corinthians 5:17-21

v. 20 – ambassador – a diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government as the resident representative of his own government; an authorized representative or agent

- We represent **all of God** and **all of heaven** here on this earth.
- God has no other representative here upon this earth except for us. God has no other spokesperson on this earth except for us. We are God's representative.
- The only way God has access into this earth is through individuals who are born-again.

Representative - standing or acting for another especially through delegated authority; one that represents another as agent, deputy, substitute, or delegate usually being invested with the authority of the principal (the one being represented)

Every legal representative has the power of the one whom he/she represents placed upon them. We represent God Almighty, and He has placed His power and His authority upon us in order to complete the work he began upon the earth.

Through His legal representatives, God is restoring what the first Adam gave away or messed up. **It is only through His legal representatives that God can operate on this earth.**

This is why God tells us that as Jesus is so are we in the earth because you and I are His legal, authorized representatives upon the earth. **(I John 4:17)**

I Corinthians 12:12, 27

You and I are the body of Christ. Without us, God cannot express His love to mankind. Without us, then God cannot express His power to the world. Without us, then God cannot express His will to the individuals here at Mississippi State University.

We are God's legal representatives upon this earth. We have been sent by God and from the kingdom of God. We represent the King of kings and the Lord of lords, Jesus Christ. Therefore, you and I do not come with our own word, but we come with the word of our King, the one whom we represent. This is why we confess God's word because we say what the King says and we believe what the King believes. We function like our King because you and I have been sent to this earth to operate for Him. As Jesus is so are we in this world right now. As Jesus is, so are we on this campus right now.

We do not represent our self; therefore we cannot live the way we want to live. We cannot become too accustomed to the way of life here on the earth and imitate the way the world lives. We are supposed to represent or imitate the one whom we represent, Jesus the Christ. (**I Corinthians 11:1**)

Man is God's legal representative upon this earth. The only way God has access into this earth is by getting the permission from the one who is in authority (the door). Man is in authority; therefore man has to give God access, right of entry, admission, contact, entrance, and a way into all of the affairs, dealings, and the activities of man.

How does man (the door) give God access into the affairs of this earth? It is through prayer.

What is prayer?

- Prayer is man giving God the legal right and permission to interfere in earth's affairs.*
- Prayer is man giving heaven earthly license to influence earth.*
- Prayer is a man exercising his legal authority on earth to invoke heaven's influence on the planet.*

God must obtain the agreement and cooperation of a person for whatever He desires to do in the earth.*

(*Information from "Understanding the Purpose and Power of Prayer" by Myles Monroe)

God does nothing upon the earth without man asking Him first. God does nothing upon the earth without man praying first. Prayer is man giving God the legal right and permission to interfere in earth's affairs. Prayer gives God access into the affairs of man.

Matthew 9:38

Here Jesus instructs the believer to pray so that God the Father will send more laborers in order to gather the harvest of souls. This lets me know that without praying for God to send forth laborers, He will not send them forth. God will not send more laborers because the one who is in authority (man) over the earth has not gave God the permission to send

forth more laborers. We give God permission through prayer, because prayer is man giving God the legal right and permission to interfere in earth's affairs. God's will is only done upon the earth when men and women pray His will into the earth. God can do nothing upon the earth without us asking Him first. In the words of the great founder of the Methodist church, John Wesley, "It seems as if God is limited by our prayer life. He can do nothing upon the earth unless a man prays."

John 14:12-14, John 16:23-24, James 4:2

Jesus declares to you and I that whatever we ask in His Name, He will do it. Well, what if we do not ask Him. Then Jesus will not do it. God is limited to working because of our limited prayer. God can only do upon this earth what we ask Him to do. This lets me know that prayer is very important if I want to see God active in the earth today. God can do nothing upon the earth without us asking Him first. God is only limited by our prayer life.

Since God can only perform on the earth what we are able to pray, then we must learn how to pray according to God's word. If God is bound by His word, then He can only do what He has spoken. God can only respond in agreement with what He has spoken. Therefore, we must find out what God has spoken concerning prayer.

God designed prayer to get results.

James 1:5-8

Seven Steps To Answered Prayer

Step Number One: Be Specific and Stand on God's Promise.

The first step to receiving answered prayer is decide what you want from God and find the scripture or scriptures that definitely promise you these things.

John 14:12-14, John 16:23-24, Mark 11:23-24

God says whatever we ask in His Name or authority, He will do it. Well what is the it? The "it" is whatever we ask. The "it" is that *specific thing* that we are asking God to do. We must know what we want if we are going to get it. If we do not know what we want, then how are we going to know when we get it.

We must be specific when we ask God what we want Him to do, because God is going to do *whatever* we ask in His name or authority! Therefore, we must be specific when we pray.

Remember that we learned that God cannot violate or even change what He has said. Also remember that what God says is law. Not only is the word of God law for man, it is also called "the Law of God." This implies that every word God speaks is also a law to Himself. God's word governs, rules over, oversees, and directs God Himself. Since God is only moved by His word, we **MUST** have scriptures (God's word) revealing to us that

God has performed what we want Him to do for us. God is only going to do what He **SAID** He is going to do.

II Corinthians 1:20, Hebrews 10:23, Hebrews 11:11

Judge- to form an opinion through careful weighing of evidence and testing of premises; to determine or pronounce after inquiry and deliberation; to resolve, to make your mind up

You and I must judge God as being faithful in order to see results in our prayer life. If we do not judge God as being faithful, then we will never believe that God is going to do what He promised to do. There will always be room for doubt and unbelief.

Isaiah 55:10-11, Numbers 23:19, Psalms 138:2

God is going to do what He has promised or spoken within the pages of the Bible!

Once we have settled the fact that God is faithful to perform His word, we must meditate on those scriptures that tell us God is going to do what we are asking Him to do.

Joshua 1:8, Psalms 1:2-3

When we meditate on God's word, it causes us to be like a tree that is planted by that water. The wind of doubt and unbelief is going to come to try to move us from our stance, but because we have meditated on God's word, the word of God causes us to be like that tree planted by the water. Our roots and our belief in God's word is so strong, it does not matter what the situation says or what people may say, we cannot be move from our stance upon God's word. That is, knowing God will perform what He has spoken because we have judged Him as being faithful.

We must fight the good fight of Faith!

I Timothy 6:12

If there weren't any hindrances to faith, there would not be a fight.

If God's Word says something belongs to you, *then it belongs to you!* So put up a fight by standing your ground on God's word. If God didn't want intend for you to have what He promised you, then He would not have promised it to you. It's up to you to fight the good fight of faith with the Word and receive your promised blessing and all that God has promised you. Fighting the good fight of faith is speaking the Word out of your mouth that you believe in your heart or your spirit.

Step Two: We Must Ask God for What We Want

Step two to receiving answered prayer is ask God for the things you want and believe that you receive them.

God knows what we have need of but because God cannot do anything upon this earth unless a man or woman prays, we must ask God to do what we want Him to do based upon His word.

John 16:23-24, Matthew 7:7-8, Luke 11:9, 13

God says *ASK* and it *SHALL* be given you. This is a promise from God. God is the one who said this. God just said that if we ask Him, He *SHALL* give to us whatever we ask Him. God cannot lie and He is certainly not lying here. We must ask God for what we want.

I also want to point out that the negative to this scripture is also true. If we do not ask God, it will not be given to us. God gives us what we ask Him.

Mark 11:23-24 (AMP)

WE must believe that we receive and THEN we shall have. When shall we have those things that we ask God in prayer? It is when we believe that we receive. We must believe that we have what we pray for before we see it, before it comes to pass in this physical world.

Remember this is God talking and He just established a law in the kingdom of God. We MUST believe that we receive before we shall see the physical manifestation of it in this world.

We must walk by what God has said in His word. That which is in the spiritual realm is made real in the natural realm through my faith in the Word of God. My faith grasps it and creates the reality of it in my life. (Rom 4:17, II Cor. 4:13-18)

Step Three: Be Positive in Your Thinking

Step Three to receiving answered prayer is let every thought and desire affirm that you have what you asked for.

Joshua 1:8

We are to mediate on God's word. After we prayer in faith according to God's Word, never permit a mental picture of failure to remain in your mind. Never allow words of "Oh, you don't really believe this confession stuff works do you?" to remain in your head. Those scriptures that you found that guarantees you to have what you have prayed for is to be in your head all of the time. Meditate and speak that word all of the time. It is because what we mediate on is what we are going to experience in our life.

Proverbs 23:7

(NAS) "For as he thinks within himself, so he is."

Whatever we think is what we will become or experience.

All doubt, unbelief, and fear is from the devil. The devil is trying to disconnect you and I from having our prayers answered. The devil is trying to disconnect me from what God's word has promised for me. I must guard my mind. What I think about is going to be what I believe, and I believe God's word. Therefore, I must think on God's Word. I must meditate on God's Word.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NLT)

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. ^{E53} He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterward. Now he is seated in the place of highest honor beside God's throne in heaven. 3 Think about all he endured when sinful people did such terrible things to him, so that you don't become weary and give up.

The battle ground is in the mind. The main place the devil attacks you is with thoughts in your mind. These thoughts must be replaced with what God has said about the situation. Whatever God has said about the situation, this is what we must think about, talk about, mutter about, sing about, and dance about. We must believe what God has said, more than what the devil is saying. We must think about what God has said more than what the devil is saying. We must believe God more than we believe what we see or what we feel. It is because we have judged God as faithful and He is going to perform what He has said.

I Peter 5:8

The devil seeks whom he *may* destroy. He will send you a thought to see if you are going to accept it. These thoughts are coming because the devil is trying to convince you that what God's Word says is not true or God is not going to come through for you. He is going to bombard your mind with thoughts of doubt and unbelief. You and I have to resist every thought that is not in line with God's word (James 4:7). We must arrest every thought that is contrary to God's word.

In order to receive answers to your prayers, you must eradicate every image, suggestion, vision, dream, impression, feeling, and all thoughts that do not contribute to your faith and that do not affirm that you have what you have asked God for.

The word eradicate means *to uproot* or *remove*. Remember Satan moves in the sense realm, in the natural realm, and he uses the tool of suggestion. Some people think that every kind of vision, dream, impression, or feeling they have is from God, but this is not true.

Step Four: Guard Your Mind

Step four to receiving answered prayer is guard against every evil thought that comes into your mind to try to make you doubt God's Word. This step is closely related to Step Three.

Thoughts are governed by observation, association, and teaching. This is why we must stay away from all places and things that do not support your affirmation that God has answered your prayer. Your thoughts are governed and affected by observations, associations, and teaching.

II Corinthians 10:5

We must cast down every thought that does not support our affirmation that God has answered our prayer. We must cast the thought down with our mouth by speaking "I cast that thought down in Jesus Name! I refuse to allow that thought to stay in my head and I will not allow it to remain in my mind!"

"Well, what do I need to think about? What do I need to let my mind stay on?"

Philippians 4:8

The Bible tells us in Philippians exactly what to think on. God is informing us of this because He wants to see our faith work for us in order for His will to be accomplished upon the earth. If we do not think on these things, then we will short circuit our faith and we will not see the results God has intended for us to receive. We must guard our mind in order to develop in faith. And as you stand your ground firm in faith, your faith will see you through to victory.

Step Number Five: Meditate on God's Promises

Step number five to receiving answered prayer is meditate constantly on the promises upon which you based the answer to your prayer. In other words, you must see yourself in possession of what you have asked for and make plans according as if it were already a reality. You must develop an image on the inside of yourself.

Proverbs 4:20-22

Attend – (syn) focus and concentrate

Meditation brings about a revelation of that which you meditate on. A synonym of revelation is "eye-opener". God wants to open your eyes to see what He sees. What God sees all of the time is His word. When God looks at you He sees you as He created you: blessed, highly favored, all of your needs being met, and walking in good success. God sees you as being full of His wisdom and power and love. Since God has this picture of us, you and I must have the same picture that God has. We must see our selves having the answer to what we have prayed. We must see it in order to have it.

The only thing we need to focus on is God's word. If the Bible says it, I believe it, and that settles it. I am not interested in what this or that church believes. I am interested in what the Bible says. I am not interested in church creeds or church doctrines. I am interested in what the Bible says.

If God's Word says he hears and answers prayer, and of that Word doesn't depart from before your eyes, then you are bound to see yourself with the things you asked for. Of you do not see yourself with the things you desire, then God's Word has departed from before your eyes.

If you do not stand by the Word, although God wants to stand by you, He can't because the only way God works is through His Word. Remember, God only works and moves in line with His word. He has bound Himself by His word. He has magnified His Word above His Name. If you stand by the word, God will stand by you and will make His Word good in your life. But if you do not stand on God's Word, then He has nothing to make good in your life.

Step Number Six: Continually Thank God for the Answer

Step number six to receiving answered prayer is to thank God continually for the answer that you have received when you prayed.

Mark 11:24, Matthew 7:7-8

If we truly believe that we have what we have prayed for, then we will be thankful because we have exactly what we prayed for. God has declared in His word that if we ask, we shall receive. This is a law in the kingdom of God. If we ask according to God's Word, then we shall have exactly what we ask. Now since God says we have what we ask, then we must thank God for it. Faith is the ability to believe God and His authority alone to the point that it produces corresponding action. This action that is produced is an expression of what I truly believe. This action that is produced defines my faith. This action that is produced points directly to what I believe.

Philippians 4:6

Our prayers are to be made *with* thanksgiving. Why am I thanking God? It is because I know He *always* works with His Word and He *always* confirms His Word. I have prayed according to His Word therefore I **KNOW** that I have the petitions that I have asked of Him. Since I know that I have what I asked God for, what I must do now is thank Him for it *continuously*! I must thank God in the morning and at noonday. I must thank God when the sun goes down. I must thank God from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same. When the devil sends thoughts of doubt and unbelief, I must thank God. I must continuously thank God. My thanksgiving to God is an expression of my faith that I believe what God says. My thanksgiving to God is an expression of my faith that I believe that God cannot lie. Praise is an expression of my faith. This is why I can praise God without music, because my praise is not an expression of music but it is an expression of my faith. Praise expresses to the world and to mankind that I believe that

my God is true and everything else is a lie. My praise communicates to the devil that no matter what he brings my way I will not be moved. My praise will cause the devil to stop his maneuvers in my life and stop his activity in my life.

What is praise? Praise cannot be defined by man, but it must be defined by God.

Hebrews 13:15

Here God's Word defines praise as the fruit of our lips. The fruit of our lips are words. Praise is simply words that brag on, boast in, and magnify God. When I allow words to come out of my mouth that brag on, boast in, and magnify God, then I am praising God. When I praise God it expresses my faith in God.

I must continuously thank God for what I have prayed about.

Step Number Seven: Make Every Prayer a Statement of Faith

Step number seven to receiving answered prayer is make every prayer relative to what you have asked a statement of faith instead of unbelief.

You can think and say words of faith just as easily as you can think and say words of doubt and unbelief. *It is thinking faith thoughts and speaking faith words that leads the heart out of defeat and into victory.*

Mark 11:23

You are going to have what you say. Therefore, after you ask God for what you want, now turn that prayer of faith into a statement of faith. You must declare what you want. You must make a declaration of your faith. You must have a faith declaration.

Job 22:8

Whatever you decree, that is what is going to be established. The word decree means announce, pronounce, verdict, and a judgment. The word established in this verse means to arise, come forth, confirm, and to bring on the scene. Therefore whatever you decree, whatever you announce, whatever you pronounce with your mouth is what is going to come forth, be confirmed, and be brought on the scene on your life. We must now turn that prayer of faith into a statement of faith. Once we do this we will see our prayer manifest right before our eyes.

Isaiah 42:9

Here God says that he speaks a thing before it springs forth. It is because we are going to have what we say. If we never make a declaration of our faith, then we will never see it spring forth in our life. What do you want to spring forth, come forth, manifest, and to come to pass in your life? Then you are going to have to declare it before it springs forth.

You must have the faith and confidence in God to speak something before you see it.
When you speak it, then you will see it come to pass in your life.