

BERN ZUMPANO

**PRAAYER POWER
AND
COVENANT
POWER**

**BEING THE MAN BEHIND THE PRAYER AND
KNOWING THE GOD BEHIND THE MAN**

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PRAYER POWER AND COVENANT POWER

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Dedication

This book is firstly dedicated to the Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, at One with the Father and the Holy Spirit, who has made me to KNOW Him, His Word and His Ways; that everyone who reads this book will come closer to that same revelation of Him...

To that end is this book written, then, to the memory of my late wife, Rosa Maria, and my late son, Gian-Andrew, both of whose love of Jesus and walk in the Spirit taught me many wonderful things even through their untimely deaths...

Then to my sons Joseph, Daniel, Cary, and my daughter, Roseanne, God's blessings to me during good times and bad, whose unconditional and steadfast love for me has allowed me to see Christ living in them and through them, and whom I will always love and cherish in Him, and to my grandchildren and descendants to come, each and every one...

And to teach and every one of my disciples and students in the Word, whom the Lord Jesus Christ is discipling through me, and whom I have also come to love and cherish as He does,

...to Him and to all these, this book is dedicated.

Bern Zumpano, M.D.
Miami, Florida
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Prayer Power and Covenant Power

Foundational Truths for Spiritual Warfare

In spiritual living, you must move in revelation and not in reason. You must learn to act on the Word of God which is the Holy Scriptures of the Bible. You cannot know Jesus Christ or Father God or His Holy Spirit through seeking by your own knowledge. You must first reach out to Him by child-like faith. ONLY AFTER you take this first step of faith to trust and believe will He reveal Himself to you. These things are so because Christianity is not a religion but a relationship with Jesus Christ Himself. This relationship is developed through prayer and by acting on the words of the Scriptures.

Jesus tells us that it is the doers of the word and not the hearers of the word that inherit the Kingdom of God. In order to be a doer of the word, therefore, one must read the Bible daily for it is food for our spirit and Jesus says that His Word is Spirit and Life. Jesus also tells us that unless we are “born-again” we cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

The building and growth of our relationship with Christ occurs through prayer which brings personal revelation and experience of Him. Prayer is conversation with Father God and His Christ and the Holy Spirit. It is a dialogue between man and God. It is the basis of relationship with the Divine and the growth of that relationship occurs through a continual series of prayer dialogues and God-responses. It is a privilege extended only to the believer. God does not hear the prayers of un-believers (John 17).

The Christian faithwalk occurs in three stages:

- 1) The “born-again” experience (contact or initiation of relationship with Jesus);
- 2) The Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the release of the gifts of the Spirit (relationship); and
- 3) Fellowship (intimacy).

Therefore, our prayer dialogues and God’s responses are the basis of our relationship with Him. John Wesley once said that God does nothing but through prayer. If there are two things which characterize many 20th century Christians in general, they are unbelief and prayerlessness. Yet, prayer without unwavering faith is powerless. Faith activates prayer. Praise activates faith. You will never get God to act on your prayer until you get the Bible-kind of faith (Romans 10:7). Faith is also in the WILL. We must WILL to believe even if we don’t feel “it”. God doesn’t care so much about what we feel as much as He cares about what our WILL is.

Prayer rooted in faith is prayer that is answered. There is no sense in praying if our prayers cannot or will not be answered. The fact is that God WANTS to answer prayer. Faith is calling the things that are not as if they already are. When we pray, therefore, we pray the solution and not the problem. We thank God ahead of time that He has already heard and granted our request.

We pray without doubting (sometimes it is a matter of the will not to doubt). We avoid speaking the problem over and over again and ruminating on it and we talk to God about the solution or what we believe the solution to be and speak the solution as well as ask it in supplication.

Prayer spoken aloud appears to be the most effective and more quickly answered than mental prayer, in my experience and that of many others. I believe that the reason for this is that in the Bible, God's pattern of doing things was to speak them into existence and Jesus says in the Scriptures that "the things that I do YOU will also do." (John 14:12) I believe that this also means that we can pray to dispatch angels to go forth on our behalf to carry out a mission prayed for (Hebrews 1:14). The Scriptures tell us that prayer activates the Word of God, particularly when we pray the Word of God, and the Word activates angels.

When we pray and then speak words of doubt about our situation, our doubt nullifies our prayer. Jesus says in the Scripture, "let not him who doubts believe that he will receive anything from the Lord." Doubt and unbelief, then, are the enemies of prayer. If we pray one thing and then speak doubt or unbelief, we are confessing another thing with our mouth and nullifying our prayer.

When we come to Christ in a personal commitment to Him, inviting Him into our heart to be our personal Lord and Savior, we must put aside all preconceived ideas and all that we have previously been taught by men and test all things whether they be true or not by the Scriptures. The Bible says "you have no need that any man teach you, the Holy Spirit WILL teach you ALL things." This is the essence of relationship with Christ. The Holy Spirit now takes over your life personally and gives you personal revelation of the things that are true and the things that are not true according to Scriptures. Thus through prayer and scripture, we become led by the Spirit rather than by men. Which would you rather be -- Spirit-led or man-led?

When we get into the Word of God and learn what it says about our particular circumstance or situation, we can then pray the Word over our situation and see God work on our behalf. The reason for this is because Father God says that He is bound by the Word to perform it (Jer. 1:12) and that His Word will NOT return to Him void or empty (Isaiah 55:11).

Praying what the Word of God says about your situation or circumstance, therefore, and empowering it by faith and trust that God is going to answer, moves God to intercede on your behalf. The Bible-kind of faith that activates prayer is

unwavering, unmovable, unshakable faith. It doesn't move God until it moves you first. Be willing, therefore, to be fully persuaded. God will act.

You can come to be fully persuaded by getting into the Word of God, the Bible. Jesus said "I AM the Word." Get the Word (Jesus) into YOU by YOU getting into the Word (Jesus). The ancient Jews had direct access to Jesus and you have direct access to the Word. Jesus is the WORD. You, therefore, have direct access to Jesus.

There is a curse described in the Scriptures for trusting in man rather than God (Jeremiah 17). When we trust in the doctrines of man, which are not in the Scriptures, we are trusting in the flesh rather than in the Spirit. Yet Jesus says that "the things of the Spirit are spirit." And tells us that by the flesh will no man be justified.

Often, prayer is generic and repetitive, a work of the flesh. Such prayer often lacks power, particularly if it is not accompanied by unwavering faith or activated by praise. The problem with most of the Church today is that it suffers from unbelief and prayerlessness. It is a sad fact that much of the Church today does not move in the power of the Spirit that the early Church moved in. There are many forms of prayer. All are strong weapons against Satan.

You can only engage in powerful and victorious spiritual warfare by operating in the power of the Holy Spirit, through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Prayer is the weapon. It begins with praise and thanksgiving, by which we enter that gate and court (Psalms 100:4). We speak it aloud and the confession of our mouth, that is, the words which come out, activate our faith which in turn activates our prayer. The confession is to our faith as thrust is to a rocket. It sets the effects of the prayer in motion and creates the momentum to bring it to completion and fruition.

When you use the weapon of prayer against Satan, you must have absolute confidence and trust that you will have "WHATSOEVER YOU SAY (Mark 11:23, 24) (emphasis mine), because it is the Bible-kind of faith which activates the hand of God and enables God to respond. Before discussing the dynamics of effective, answered prayer it is necessary to understand covenant and covenant relationship with Christ because your covenant with Jesus Christ is the reason, the foundation stone, the cornerstone upon which your faithwalk is built. It is the all-in- all which makes your spiritual warfare ultimately always successful, permitting you to go from victory-to-victory or, as Paul says, "... from glory to glory."

It is with His covenant, which permits you to operate in expectant faith in Christ Jesus which creates the environment in which miracles of victory are birthed. ALL CORRECT PRAYER EVENTUALLY SUCCEEDS because of your covenant relationship with Jesus Christ. I firmly believe that every Christian must instill within himself the realization of what covenant relationship with Jesus Christ means, and then begin to utilize the tremendous power behind it.

Long ago, I read in a book that a pastor ministering deliverance to a person was addressed by a demonic spirit that did not want to leave the person. The spirit said to the pastor that he could not make him leave, implying that he lacked knowledge and said something to this effect, "IF you Christians only KNEW what power you have available to you ..." I was amazed by this statement and for years I asked the Lord to give me revelation as to what that spirit meant. That revelation turned out to be the blood covenant which makes the empowerment of the Holy Spirit upon the Bible-believing individual possible.

Once you understand Christ's covenant with you, you will understand why you are predestined by Christ to be victorious over Satan and all of his kingdom and you will KNOW that you have victory in all that you do in Christ Jesus. Lets look at the meaning of covenant with Christ to better understand these things.

God has continually related to man through covenant throughout Biblical history. The word "covenant" implies a contractual relationship between two people. It implies intimacy or "abiding" which means "to dwell with". Covenant is an ancient practice which is even known to the most primitive peoples of the world. A perfect example of this is the covenant known between chieftains of various tribes in Africa. I know of no better way to illustrate this other than through the example of Robert Stanley who, in his search for the lost missionary, David Livingston, brought him throughout Africa.

Early on, I am told, he encountered a hostile African tribe. He learned through his interpreters and hired hands that this tribe intended to kill them. An interpreter advised him that the only way to live or to survive was to make a covenant with the chief of the tribe, by so doing, he would become his blood brother. The covenant implied, however, that all that Robert Stanley had would become the chiefs possessions and power and all that the chief had would become Robert Stanley's possessions and power. In essence, it was saying that "what I have is all yours and what you have is all mine."

Stanley and the tribal chief then cut their wrists and pressed them together and by the spilling of their blood, sealed their covenant. It is said that they gave each other gifts. Some say that Stanley was given the chiefs knife which had a very ornate handle as a symbol of the chiefs authority. Stanley went throughout Africa searching for Livingston and carrying the knife along with him. Whenever he encountered hostile tribes and they saw that he possessed the knife of a tribal chief, they backed down from their hostilities or fled or showed respect.

That symbol of authority received by Stanley's covenant with the tribal chief, imputed authority and power to Stanley which others dared not come against. Stanley was one with a king and all of the other African tribesmen that they encountered knew and understood this. It is quite remarkable that even primitive societies of the African bush understand the meaning of covenant.

There were many covenants described in the Bible. Father God made covenants with Abraham, Moses, Noah, David, and others in the Old Testament, and our Lord Jesus Christ made a covenant with all who believe from the time of His coming onward as noted in the New Testament. His new covenant is a better one, not for a thousand generations but forever. The marriage union is a type of covenant between a man and a woman which is also described in the New Testament as a type of Christ and His Church. The Song of Solomon, in the Old Testament is an expression of covenant relationship between Jesus and His Bride, the Church.

When we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior by inviting him into our hearts, repenting of sin, we enter into covenant relationship with Him. This is a relationship of intimacy and the Scripture implies that Jesus becomes a relative and friend to us and we become a relative and friend to Him. He says "I no longer call you servants but friends." (John 15:15) He is a kinsmen, If we search the Scriptures describing the relationship between Jesus and His Bride, the Church, it becomes clear that the relationship is a covenant marriage between the Kinsmen Redeemer and the Body of believers (the Church), the kinsmen redeemed.

We become KIN by blood relationship, Christ's Precious Blood shed for our sin. We receive the covenant by receiving salvation. We enter covenant relationship by inviting Jesus Christ into our hearts as Lord and Savior and, by trusting faith in Him and Him alone for our salvation, He seals the covenant by his Precious Blood. We understand that when we ask Him for salvation, that He forgives and forgets our sin and does it for the asking.

St. Paul says that Jesus Christ is faithful. (1 Cor. 1:9) That's covenant! Our covenant relationship is activated by our faithwalk and empowered by trusting faith in Christ alone. Our faith confession of the word of God regarding our circumstances activates our faith which in turn activates our prayers which, in turn, manifests the power of covenant. The Kingdom manifests in power and not in words (1 Cor. 4:20) Because we have entered covenant relationship with Jesus Christ, the New Testament tells us that we are priests and kings, a righteous people, a holy nation. We are the adopted sons of God grafted in to His royal family.

He is the Vine. We are the branches. The Vine and branches are one and not apart from each other but are a part of each other. We are grafted into the tree of the Spirit of Eternal Life in Christ. Every time we receive the Eucharist of Bread and Wine, we testify to others and to Him of our covenant with Him. We are a covenant people.

Because of the intimate relationship of covenant, we are heirs of the Kingdom. He will give us the Kingdom for His Glory and make us to sit upon His throne and make us to rule with Him-because of His covenant with us. Covenant brings revelation and Jesus Christ is not a god of religion but a God of revelation. He is not a god of religion but a God of relation. It is one thing to know that there is a god and another thing to know the God who is. The latter is the experience of covenant.

There are over 800 covenant promises for the believer in the Bible. It is not within the realm of this book to possibly cover all of them but there are key scriptures which you should become familiar with. The more that they become a part of you, the more covenant will be more real for you. The more that you operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the more covenant power will become real to you. Let's look at some essential covenant scriptures. When you understand that their foundation is in relationship to Jesus Christ with you on an intimate basis, you will come to understand the power behind prayer and why you can have victory over Satan in all things regarding your life as long as it is in line with God's will, God's Word and God's plan for your life.

Here are some key "abiding" scriptures which establish covenant relationship between the believer and his Christ:

"But if anyone obeys his WORD, God's love is truly made complete in Him. This is how we know that we are in Him: Whoever claims to live in Him, must walk as Jesus did." (1 John 2:5- 6) (Emphasis Mine).

"But you have an anointing from the Holy one and all of you know the truth." (1 John 2:20)

"As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit-just as it has taught you, remain in Him." (1 John 2:27)

"And receive from Him ANYTHING we ask because, because we obey his commands and do what pleases Him.. those who obey His commands live (abide) in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives (abides) in us; we know it by the Spirit He gave us." (1 John 3:22, 24) (emphasis mine).

"If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in Him and He in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives (abides) in God and God in Him." (1 John 4:15,16) (emphasis mine).

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: 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 what we ask of Him." (1 John 5: 14,15) (emphasis mine).

"And I will do WHATEVER you ask in MY NAME, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for ANYTHING in MY NAME, and I WILL do it. (John 14:13,14)

“And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever- the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept Him because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him for He LIVES (abides) with you and will be IN you.” (John 14:16,17) (emphasis mine)

“Remain in me and I will remain (abide) in you. (a promise) No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain (abide) in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain (abide) in ME. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing... As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love (abide) in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain (abide) in MY love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain (abide) in His Love... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit- fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you WHATEVER you ask in MY NAME.” (John 15:4,5,9,10,16) (emphasis mine).

“In that day, you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you WHATEVER you ask in MY NAME. Until now, you have not asked for anything in MY NAME. ASK and you will receive and your joy be made complete...The Father Himself loves you because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God...” (John 16:23,24,27) (emphasis mine).

These key scriptures reveal to us the INTIMACY of covenant which means to ABIDE, DWELL, or LIVE in Christ. Our covenant with Jesus Christ is sealed by His Precious Blood which He gives to us and, in turn, we give to Him our trusting faith in Him alone for our salvation which activates our covenant with Him.

We had Jesus’ promise that if we abide in Him, we can ask WHATSOEVER we need for ourselves or others, and He WILL do it. Jesus is saying “ALL that I have is yours, all that you have is mine.” That’s covenant!

The covenant promises of the Bible are too numerous to mention in this work. There are over 800 covenant promises in the scriptures from the beginning of the Old Testament to the completion of the New Testament. It is impractical to list all of the scriptural references.

I personally surveyed over 138 of the 800 promises and I am going to PARAPHRASE them in order to illustrate to you the DEPTH of meaning of covenant relationship that the Savior has entered into with you and me. I have taken each scripture reference, and rather than to quoted verbatim (word-by-word), I have re-stated or paraphrased it without changing its content or meaning, as if Our Lord Jesus Christ were speaking these covenant promises directly to us. I was amazed and astounded at how generous, protective, loving, and prospering our Lord Jesus Christ is. One thing is certainly established: God is FOR US!

Let us look at these covenant promises.

Covenant promises Jesus guarantees He will perform in the life of every believer who enters into an intimate relationship with Him:

Lord Jesus says...

I will shield you from your enemies. (Gen. 15:1)

I will deliver you from your enemies. I will give you revelation knowledge. I will give you the Kingdom. (Ex. 6:5-8)

I will give you My righteousness. I will give you mercy. I will forgive your sins. (Ex. 24:8)

I will Sabbath with you continually. (Ex. 31:16)

I will give you prosperity and abundance. I will give you favor. (Lev. 26:9,10)

I will remember you and your nation. (Lev. 26:42)

I will forgive you if you backslide. (Lev. 26:44,45)

I will love you forever. (Deut. 7:9)

I will bless you and your children. (Nu. 18:19)

I will give you peace. (Nu. 25:12)

I will never abandon you. I will never cause you to be destroyed. (Deut. 4:31)

I give you the Mount Horeb experience (Baptism by the fire of the Spirit). (Deut. 5:23)

I give you faithful and eternal love. (Deut. 7:9)

I will give you wealth. (Deut. 8:18)

I will make you to prosper in all that you do. (Deut. 29:9)

I will be your inheritance. (Deut. 8:9)

I will seal you with My Spirit. (Deut. 29:12,13)

I will go on ahead of you. I will carry you when the flow is against you. (Josh. 3:11-17)

I will cause your enemies to fall. (Josh. 6:1-20)

I will wash away your sin once and for all time, and once and for all men and once and for all sin. (Matt. 26:28)

I will rescue you. (Luke 1:72)

I will make your offspring a blessing to others. (Acts 3:25)

I will covenant with you through bread and wine. (1 Cor. 11:25,26)

I will give you life through my Holy Spirit. (2 Cor. 3:6)

I will lift the veil from your eyes. I will cause you to see things as My Spirit sees them.

I will cause you to experience My glory. I will transform you into My likeness. (2 Cor. 3:6-18)

I will give you the covenant promises of Abraham and his seed. I will give you Salvation. I will make you sons of God and Abraham's seed. I will make you heirs of the Kingdom. (Gal. 3:15- 22,24;26-29)

I will give you freedom of the Holy Spirit. I will give you freedom from the law. (Gal. 4:24-31; 5:1-6)

I will make you to be led by the Holy Spirit. (Gal. 5:10,18)

I will guarantee My covenant promises. (Heb. 7:22)

I will give you a new covenant superior to the old. (Heb. 8:6)

I will put My laws in your mind and write them in your heart. I will forgive and forget all sins. (Heb. 8:7-10)

I will be your mediator. (Heb. 9:15)

I will sanctify you by My Precious Blood. (Heb. 10:29)
I will allow you to come directly to My throne of grace to petition for your needs and your needs of others. (Heb. 12:22,24)
I will equip you by the Holy Spirit to do My will. (Heb. 13:20,21)
I will perform My covenant promises and My word. (Ps. 89:34)
I will make you to experience the Father in Me. I will make you know Our Love. I will indwell your spirit. I will allow you to do the things I do and greater things. (John 17:2 1)
I will fellowship with you; you will be overcomer and sit on My throne. (Rev. 3:21,22)
I will make your enemies to be at peace with you. (Prov. 16:7)
I will give you your desires (as long as they line up with the Father's will and word). (Prov.10:24)
I will deliver you and your descendants through My righteousness and knowledge. (Prov.11:6,8,9,21)
I will see that your root is unmoved and bears fruit. (Prov. 12:4-12)
I will see that you escape trouble without harm. (Prov. 12:13,21)
I will see that you have life and not see death (spiritual). (Prov. 12:28)
I will give you prosperity and wealth even the wealth of sinners. (Prov. 13:21,22)
I will give you My righteousness, life (zoe) and honor. (Prov. 21:21)
I will give you My humility, riches, honor and life. (Prov. 22:4)
I will give you My Holy Spirit to teach you all things. (John 14:25,26)
I will grant anything asked in MY NAME. (John 14:13,14)
I will guide you into all truth by My Holy Spirit. (John 16:13)
I will choose you to covenant so that the Father will grant what you ask for in My name. (John 15:16)
I will give you My anointing. (1 John 2:20)
I will abide with the Father in you and you in us. (1 John 2:24)
I will give you the Holy Spirit if you abide. (1 John 3:24)
I will abide in you if you abide in love. (1 John 4: 15,16)
I will make you a new creation (born-again if you believe) trust on me. (1 John 5:1)
I will make you a world overcomer through faith in ME. (1 John 5:4,5)
I will make my Holy Spirit to witness with yours that you are saved. I will make you to know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:10-12)
I will make you confident that you have what you ask in MY NAME. (1 John 5:14,15)
I will give you authority to bind and loose Satan and his demons. (Matt. 18:18)
I will grant whatever two or three agree on in my name. (Matt. 18:19,20)
I will make you the head and not the tail. (Deut. 28:13)
I will give you authority to destroy demonic strongholds, binding Satan first, in MY NAME. (Matt. 12:29)
I will make demons obey anything you command them in MY NAME. (Luke 10:19)
I will see to it that no enemy will prevail against you. (Josh. 1:5)
I will give you success and prosperity when you learn and act on the Word. (John 1:7-9)
I will carry out your words said in MY NAME. (Is. 44:24,26)
I will contend with your adversaries. I will save your children. (Is. 49:25)
I will not permit any weapon formed against you to prosper. (Is. 54:17)

I will see to it that none of My Word performed for your life returns empty. (Is. 55:11)

I will put My Word and Spirit upon you, your children, and descendants to come. (Is. 59:2 1)

I will deliver you from all trouble. (Ps. 34:19)

I will make your enemies change direction when you call upon Me. (Ps. 56:9)

I will surround you with My angels continually to protect you. I will answer whenever you call. (Ps. 91:11,13-15)

I will, by your faith, allow you to extinguish every attack of Satan. (Eph. 6:16)

I alone will be your Mediator. (1 Tim. 2:5)

I will go before you and keep you from harm. I will honor you. (Is. 43:1-4)

I will free you from bondage and give revelation of need. (Jer. 29:13,14)

I will surround you with favor. (Ps. 5:12)

I will hear your call and give you victory. (Ps. 18:3,6,16,17;47-50)

I will make you My chosen people. (1 Pe. 2:9)

I will deliver and not disappoint WHEN you trust (covenant). (Ps. 22:4,5)

When they war against you, you can be confident and fearless (because of covenant). (Ps. 27:3)

I will strengthen, shield, and help you when you trust in ME. (Ps. 28:7-9)

I will hear and deliver you when you cry out to Me. (Ps. 34:17)

Your enemy will not triumph over you. (Ps. 41:11,12)

You will KNOW ME when you are still. (Ps. 46:10)

I will save you from your enemies when you cry out to Me. (Ps. 55:16-18)

I will send angels and save you when you cry out to Me. (Ps. 57:1-3)

I will be your refuge when you trust and pour your heart out. (Ps. 62:8)

I will make you escape death. (Ps. 68:19,20)

I will give you a hope and a future. (Pr. 23:18)

I will provide Divine plan for your life. (Jer. 29:11)

I will consecrate you to Me. (Ps. 50:5)

I will give you unfailing love through trust (Ps. 32:10)

I will be faithful and loving in all that I do for you. (Ps. 25:10)

I will never forsake you. (Ps. 9:10)

Your heart will rejoice in ME. (Ps. 33:2 1)

I will deliver and rescue you from the enemy when you take refuge in me. (Ps. 31:1-4,8)

I will carry your burdens and rescue you. (Ps. 81:6,7)

I will be your strength and shield. (Ps. 28:7)

You will not receive shame or disgrace but a double blessing. (Is. 61:7)

I will act on your behalf. (Ps. 64:4)

I will do what you ask. (John 14:4)

I will rescue, deliver, and delight in you when you trust in Me. (Ps. 22:8)

I will make you a chosen cornerstone and protect you from shame. (1 Pe. 2:6)

I give you power (of the Holy Spirit). (Acts 1:8)

I give you healing. (Mal. 4:2).

You will enter My rest. (Heb. 4:9)

Angels will render service to you. (Heb. 1:14)

Angels will come for your word. (Dan. 10:12)

Now you know why Satan doesn't want you to know or realize WHO you are in Christ. He does not want you to know the astounding power of the covenant promises behind your relationship with Jesus Christ. He does not want you to understand the authority delegated to YOU by the Savior (1 John:4, Luke 10:19), which can defeat him.

Satan does not want you to know that all you need to do is to take refuge in our Lord Jesus Christ, and that by doing so, the Lord Jesus Christ will cause the heavenly host to be called forth against Satan.

Satan does not want you to know the power and the promise behind covenant relationship because it will bring certain victory in God's timing to the believer who abides, lives, remains, trusts, and walks in faith other than by what he sees or feels. Christians walk by faith and not by sight. It is faith which activates covenant and is the shield which quenches EVERY fiery dart of the enemy according to Ephesians 6.

If I had to summarize all of the covenant promises in a nutshell, I would paraphrase them as follows:

Jesus says:

"I will never leave you.

I will never forsake you.

No harm will by any means come to you.

The power that is in you is greater than the power that is in the Earth (Satan).

I give you power to trample over serpents and scorpions and authority over all of Satan's powers.

You will ask anything of ME in MY NAME and I will do it.

You will ask ANYTHING of the Father in MY NAME and HE will do it.

You are no longer my servants but friends.

When we enter into covenant relationship with Jesus Christ, Jesus reveals himself to us as a living Person involved in each of our lives through His life giving covenant promises. Covenant relationship leads you to the personhood of Jesus. Through the Personhood of Christ through His Word, we come to know who we are in Christ, the Kinsmen Redeemed.

When you understand covenant relationship, the power of covenant, the relationship of covenant, you will understand the power of prayer because the essence of Prayer is covenant and it is covenant that makes prayer work so that you and others may see the power of Christ as a living being in you, and through you to the glory of God the Father and His Kingdom.

Then, prayer doesn't have to be generic and lifeless. It becomes a living thing from your mouth. Christ said that His Word was Light and Life. Therefore, the words

which come forth from our mouths become light and life-because of covenant. By understanding your covenant relationship with Jesus Christ, you come to understand why prayer works - it is because of the INTIMACY of your relationship with Him. He is your Kin. He is my Kin. Kin (relatives) do things for each other. They share love, wealth, power, burdens, joy, grief, and meet each other's needs.

Now that you fully understand that covenant is the power behind answered prayer to trust in Christ alone, you will be able to understand why Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between Father God and man (1 Timothy 2:5) The true Christian, knows that he is to direct his relationship to Christ through personal, intimate relationship in Jesus Christ as his Kinsmen.

You MUST understand that the things of religion, i.e. denominationalism, ritual ceremony, formalism, legalistic religious practices, such as asking departed saints in heaven to pray in intercession for you to help you obtain something that you need (among many other types of religious practices) all kill and nullify the covenant. The idea that praying to this saint or that saint will obtain something for me or reciting a monotonous prayer repeatedly practicing some sort of ritualistic repetitive prayer will obtain it, is all nothing more than trying to barter with God. The Bible calls it "praying amiss," which means praying wrongly. This is a work of the flesh; the Scripture says that by the flesh will no man be justified. God warns in the scriptures not to engage in such practices. They are useless, empty and damaging to God's Kingdom, and wrong nurturing of its people.

Christianity is not a religion. It is a relationship. The relationship is solely between YOU and Jesus Christ alone. His COVENANT. Covenant is NOT achieved through denominationalism or keeping denominational doctrines. John Knox did not die for your sins. John Wesley and Martin Luther did not die for your sins. No Pope ever died for your sins. The General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God did not die for your sins. The president of the Southern Baptist Convention did not die for your sins. Billy Graham did not die for your sins. Oral Roberts did not die for your sins. I did not die for your sins. ONLY Jesus Christ died for your sins and ONLY He can save you and covenant with you.

Jesus says that NO ONE comes to the Father BUT THROUGH ME. (John 14:6) The essence of covenant is direct relationship with Jesus Christ alone. This is the reason why so many Christians have a horizontal faithwalk through life going from one religious experience to another and from one religious practice to another, perpetuating a stagnant state without spiritual growth. They have not experienced the great spiritual breakthroughs nor have they gone from glory-to-glory as the apostles and early Church Christians did. They are the same people, spiritually, that they were 10, 20, or even 40 years ago.

The remedy for this is to be absolutely sure that you are "born-again." Then, make sure that you have received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the "power gifts", the promise of the Covenant.

This is a far cry from those forms of denominationalism with all of their formal practices which are works of the flesh. Jesus says that the things of the Spirit ARE SPIRIT. (John 3:6) So much prayer goes unanswered because it is so often motivated by the flesh and as a work of the flesh is habitually repetitive, powerless and useless, generic and impotent. It is a far cry from prayer arising out of a Spirit-filled believer, operating in the power of the Holy Spirit, motivated by the “knowledge gifts” of the Holy Spirit, and the leading of the Holy Spirit when He is on you, in you, around you, above you, and below you with God first putting it on your heart.

Such prayer is powerful and shakes the very foundation of hell itself because the kingdom of darkness fears and trembles at the sight of a Bible-believing, spirit-filled, born-again, blood-washed Christian who KNOWS who he or she is IN CHRIST and who knows the secret of Covenant with Christ and what Christ will do for him on his behalf.

I personally believe that when all of these conditions are met and the Christian believer comes to the full understanding of Covenant and operates in direct Covenant relationship with Jesus Christ, that he will move vertically in his faithwalk in the Kingdom of God and His Christ. He will receive revelation upon revelation, supernatural experiences and knowing, and will come to see with the eyes of the Spirit. This will permit him to see the difference between the real (covenant relationship) and the counterfeit (religion).

The words which Jesus said, “depart from me, you cursed, for I never KNEW you...”, will have new meaning to him. He will come to realize that Jesus was talking about what He would do to those who were not in covenant with Him, i.e., who never knew Him.

Will you be Spirit-led or man-led? if you insist on being man-led, it will bring you nothing and may cost you your soul. It will cause you to move continually in the flesh, the way of the world. The problem is that the world does not hold your future, only Jesus Christ alone holds your future.

I do not want to give the impression that I am against denominations. Nothing could be further from the truth. St. Paul says that we should be all things to all people so that a few might be saved. I am, however, against the practice of denominationalism, which is to foster divisions in the Body of Christ, which simply and bluntly put, just kills the love of the Holy Spirit in the true Church which is defined in the scriptures as the body of believers, and not as an organization. (Eph. 1:22,23) It breaks covenant and renders prayer useless. It is one of Satan’s greatest strategies to keep the Body of Christ divided and impotent. The best way that I know to be out of a denomination is to be “in Christ,” and to come into unity and one accord in faith in Christ.

The covenant relationship implies that you will not make any denominational legalism, any unscriptural patterns of prayer or religious practice, denominational law, or denominational manipulation, intimidation, or domination, (all of which St. Paul calls witchcraft in the Church [Galatians 3]), interfere or take precedent over your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. You will otherwise be lacking in your fullness of relationship to Christ and you will never experience the fullness of covenant because you cannot relate to Jesus Christ through any organization. Nor should you trust the keeping of your soul to any organization or anyone other than Jesus Christ ALONE. This is IMPORTANT.

The scripture says that the Spirit of Christ is the Spirit of liberty. Therefore, those who are truly covenanting with Christ are freed from religious bondage. We must remember that the word "religion" which appears in the Bible some 58 times, is always used in a derogatory sense with one exception in the New Testament where Paul refers to "true religion" as taking care of widows and children.

Again I will remind you, God does not call us to be religious. He calls us to be HOLY. Holiness is doing God's Word, since the Bible tells us that the doers of the Word, and not the hearers, inherit the Kingdom of God. And to enter the Kingdom, we must be holy. Holiness means to be so filled with the love of God that there is hardly any room for anything else. Holiness is the practice of covenanting with Christ who imputes His holiness and His righteousness to us when we enter into that covenant relationship with Him. Holiness is hearing and doing His Word.

Now look at this. God says in the scriptures that a man who has entered covenant - relationship with Jesus Christ is holy, righteous, empowered by the Spirit, able to operate in supernatural manifestations or gifts of the Holy Spirit, has all power over Satan and his entire kingdom (in Jesus' NAME), is empowered to cast out demons (Mark 16), and his prayers WILL be answered. When the Christian believer changes his mode of practicing his faith from denominationalism to Christ alone and frees himself from legalistic bondage, the operation of the Holy Spirit will become full in him and Christ will reveal Himself to that believer, and His fullness - but not until then. The believer may then use his local church or denomination for the purpose of carrying out the activities and ministries to the body of Christ that only a Christian community can do for the love of Christ and His glory. This is simply a matter of maintaining the proper doctrinal perspective without compromising the doctrine of Christ with the doctrines of man, which St. Paul warns us against doing. (Gal. 1:9; Col. 1:18,23)

When every local church, regardless of denomination, encourages each of their members to become submissive to Jesus Christ alone, the Lord will bless that church with the presence of His Spirit and it will thrive and prosper with the abundance of God's love. It will become an oasis of love in the community. The covenant promises are as much for the church as they are for the individual. God's prosperity and abundance is promised.

The true Christian believers are covenant-keepers and prayer-warriors. They KNOW the power of the Spirit that is behind them and in them and they KNOW that their prayers are answered and why their prayers are answered. They KNOW that Satan is spiritually dead and powerless against them. They know that they know that they know. Their prayers are always answered because Jesus Christ performs His Word and His covenant promises.

Once you, as a believer, come to understand that prayer in faith (trust) will always be answered because of Christ's covenant with you and promises for you, you understand that you have become a covenant-man, which is a supernatural man operating in the supernatural gifts of the Spirit.

Your power advantage over Satan is incredibly tremendous because 1) Satan is spiritually dead and cannot operate "in the Spirit", and must therefore resort to attacking the mind (soul) in trying to bring you down to his level, i.e., the mind level, and 2) Satan is powerless against the true believer because his power was stripped from him when he was defeated at the Cross by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ nearly two thousand years ago.

When we refuse to let Satan get us in the flesh or get us down to the level of the mind (his battle turf) by maintaining our faithwalk and living in the Spirit, we KNOW that he remains defeated because he cannot operate on the level of the Spirit. The prayer that arises through covenant-relationship with Christ, arises and remains entirely in the Spirit and it is this which makes spiritual warfare successful.

Having established, then, that it is the operation of covenant-relationship which is behind all answered prayer and prayer without fear, let us look at the proper biblical dynamics of prayer and the proper methods of prayer as defined by the scriptures.

In discussing the dynamics of prayer, the first thing that has been established is that it is covenant relationship which empowers prayer spoken in line with God's Will and God's Word. Such prayer, in my experience, is ALWAYS answered unless, for some reason, its granting would in some way interfere with God's Divine plan for that person's life. I said previously that God does nothing but through prayer. The comments which I am about to make are applicable to all prayer in general and to spiritual warfare in particular. In regard to the latter, and particularly in overcoming Satan, the secret of success is MASSIVE and ABUNDANT prayer. The secret of all answered prayer is unwavering faith without doubt with words confessed with the mouth in line with God's will and God's word.

If the Christian church is weak today, much of that weakness comes from prayerlessness. If one reads about the spiritual practices of great saints of the past such as Augustine, Francis, Wesley, Knox, Finney, among others, the common denominator in all of their lives was the tremendous amount of time which was spent in prayer-sometimes up to seven hours per day. The anointing was so strong on them that when their lives touched people, they touched people not, 10, 15 or 100 at a time,

but 10,000 at a time. So anointed were people like Charles Finney that historians noted that when he would enter a town riding in horse and carriage, hundreds of people at a time would be “slain in the spirit” falling over on the streets as he passed, so great was the power of God on him.

Since God is not a respecter of persons, I have no doubt in my mind that anyone who would covenant with God seven hours a day would do the same. We as Christians all need to improve in our intensity of prayer to get back into the type of prayer life that God meant us to have. The Holy Spirit, through Paul, commanded us to “pray unceasingly”. In the book of Acts, we find the saints DEVOTING themselves to prayer numerous times.

Perhaps the greatest weapon which Satan has used against the Church in these last days has been the weapon of distraction and effectual business. Christians are caught up in the things of the world, in work, Church socials, prayer meetings at Church for one to two hours a night and then only one night a week. The Gospel is not preached as it should be.

The signs of the last days are here and all of the world is falling into anarchy, decadence, and lawlessness. There is no lack of things or people to intercede for. I believe it is fair to say that one of Satan’s greatest techniques of spiritual warfare against the Church has been to get Christians so distracted and involved in such impotent and powerless Church activities; but the most powerful weapon against him, prayer, is used by a relatively small percentage of people who call themselves Christians. This is the greatest weapon against Satan. We are all guilty of prayerlessness to some degree. I believe that God is calling us to get back on track and to do the things that we as Christians ought to do.

There are certain conditions that must be met in order for prayer to be answered. They are as follows:

- 1) Prayer must line up with God’s Word and God’s Will (which IS His Word)
- 2) The most effective prayers which get answered are prayers which are spoken out loud with the mouth. Keep in mind that, in Genesis, God spoke things into existence and the verse “...and God said...” appears repeatedly. This is not to say that we cannot pray with the understanding (mind) -- as Paul did.
- 3) They must be empowered by unwavering faith, regardless what the Christian sees or hears about the circumstances.
- 4) All prayer should start out with praise and thanksgiving since Paul tells us that we are to come boldly to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). We go directly to the throne room of Christ, our only intercessor, by entering his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise (Psalm 100:4).
- 5) There must be thanks given always for God’s glory for the healing, expansion, and deliverance of those in his kingdom. Always give praise, thanksgiving and glory to the Father, to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit for all answered prayer.

6) Prayer should not be repetitious. Matthew 6:7 COMMANDS us to avoid vain repetitions. The word vain means useless. It describes repetitions as useless. The verse goes on to tell us not to pray as the pagans do. What the scripture is telling us is that repetitious prayer is pagan and useless.

When we engage in repetitious prayer, particularly the types devised through doctrines of men, we are being self-willed and acting against the scripture, if we value our opinion regarding such practices, over the command of scriptures, this can lead us to idolatry since we are valuing our own opinion of what is right and wrong over the Word of God and placing it on the altar of our hearts. This is not to say that we cannot pray for the same thing on a daily basis because the idea of “praying through” until the result comes is scriptural. The idea of saying the same prayer, however, over and over again at the same sitting is not scriptural and, indeed, Matthew 6:7 God is commanding that we NOT DO THAT!

7) Regardless of the kind of prayer, there is a pattern which occurs over and over again in the Bible which God has set down as the pattern to follow. Prayer is first conceived in the Spirit, that is, to be useful it must be motivated by the Holy Spirit in our spirit and come from the heart, it must be spoken aloud with the mouth. The individual must believe by trusting faith that God will answer the prayer and that, indeed, he has ALREADY answered in the Spirit, and the individual must believe that he receives what he asks for and that it has already been granted by his Father in Heaven. This pattern: CONCEIVE-SPEAK-BELIEVE-RECEIVE appears repeatedly throughout the Bible.

8) Pray the solution and not the problem, by faith, which is calling the things that are not as if they already are. Example: “Father I call Jim free of his alcoholism (although he is not yet free and restored), in Christ Jesus’ Name.”

9) All prayer by decree or supplication must be asked or decreed.. .in Jesus’ Name. I believe that the exception to this would be praying in tongues, where the Holy Spirit is praying through you in His own Name, whereas intimate communication with God imparts the Holy Spirit upon us and into our life.

The believer who moves in the power of the Spirit knows he must be obsessed with prayer and that prayer is not an option. The confession from his mouth must be the answer to prayer and not the problem that he is praying about. His prayer must be in faith, not doubt.

The biblical forms of prayer are as follows:

1) Praise and thanksgiving- All prayer should begin with praise and thanksgiving since we are told in Hebrews 4:16 to come boldly to the throne of grace. In Psalm 100:4 we are told that we enter God’s gate with thanksgiving and we enter his courts with praise. Praise and thanksgiving, therefore, is the mode by which we come boldly to the throne of grace and enter the throne room, itself, in the Spirit. God attaches great importance to praise prayer. This is apparent in the following biblical passages:

“As they began to sing and praise, the Lord sent ambushments (spiritual) against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah and they were defeated.” (2 Chronicles 20:22)

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.” (Psalm 100:4)

“From the lips of children and infants.. you have ordained praise because of your enemies to silence the foe and the avenger.” (Psalm 8:2)

“I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your Name, Oh Most High. My enemies turn back. They stumble and perish before you.” (Psalm 9:2,3)

“I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.” (Psalm 18:3)

“Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.” Another translation says that the Lord inhabits the praises of Israel. (Psalm 22:3)

Praise, then does the following:

- 1) It releases angels (ambushments) in the spirit realm to defeat the enemy.
- 2) It lets you go in the Spirit directly into the throne room of Christ.
- 3) It stops Satan.
- 4) It causes the enemy to turn back, fall and perish before your eyes.
- 5) It saves and rescues you from the enemy.
- 6) It causes the Lord Jesus Christ to come on the scene immediately because he inhabits the praise.
- 7) It above all glorifies God.

2) The prayer of agreement (the prayer of two or three) -

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on Earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in Heaven. For where two or three come together IN MY NAME, there am I with them” (Matthew 18:19)

3) Intercessory Prayer.

“I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and the Spirit of supplication.” (Zechariah 12:10)

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, INTERCESSIONS and thanksgiving be made for everyone...” (1 Timothy 2:1)

“I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge and STAND IN THE GAP before me.” (Ezekiel 22:30)

There are many forms of intercessory prayer described in the Bible and a complete discussion of each is not within the scope of this book. Intercession is made for the needs of others and for oneself. It is supplication to the Lord to seek the Lord's intervention and provision. Intercession for others and for oneself may be by praying with the understanding or in our own language, aloud.

Old Testament scriptures also describe intercession by moaning and groaning where meaning was entrusted to the Holy Spirit. This was referred to as travailing "prayer" or travailing in the Spirit. Often, intercessors will feel a symptom in a certain location in their body such as arm pain, shoulder ache, one-sided headache and this will come repeatedly. When this is discerned as a need to intercede for someone, one would usually go directly to intercessory prayer. If a person is used in the ministry of intercession, they will know their ministry because of the fact that the Lord will have that person they prayed for cross their path at some time in the future, discuss their symptom or problem, giving the intercessor confirmation by word of knowledge that this was, in fact, the person he prayed for.

People with the anointing for intercessory prayer have a very powerful ministry of intercession. A particular type of intercession is called "standing-in-the-gap". In Ezekiel 22:30, the Lord says to Ezekiel that he searches for a man to make up the hedge. In Job chapter 1, Satan was petitioning to test Job and said that he could not do so because Father God had placed a hedge of protection around him.

It is obvious that Satan needed a break in the hedge in order to come against Job. The person who "stands-in-the-gap" makes up the defect in the hedge so that Satan and his hierarchy cannot attack the person being afflicted without first confronting the person who is "standing-in the-gap". The person who is willing to "stand-in-the-gap" is usually a Christian who knows that he does not have to fear Satan or his evil spirits, and who knows that he can bind and loose Satan and all of his activities from the victim and from himself, and that no harm will come to him because he is covered and protected under the Precious Blood of Christ Jesus.

"Standing-in-the-gap" may also be looked upon as the intercessor bridging the hedge or gap, holding the person who is too weak to either fight for himself or come to Christ, with one hand and holding Christ's hand with his other hand so that he becomes a bridge between that person and Christ. This type of intercession gives the person under attack the ability and time to be strengthened and to receive ministry.

The person who "stands-in-the-gap" must first cover his spouse, children, family members and relatives, friends and acquaintances, lastly himself, all that he is, has, and possesses, with the Blood of Christ Jesus. He must then bind Satan, the entire Satanic hierarchy, every principality, power, ruler of the darkness, wicked spirits in high places, and all spirits not of the Holy Spirit, loose them from the person being attacked and from self, binding them up and off permanently, and commanding that they cannot retaliate or get even in any way, manner or form, to or through any individual, organization, adversary, or would-be adversary. When this is done,

“standing-in-the-gap” becomes an effective form of intercession and the intercessor need not fear retaliation by the powers of darkness.

In Isaiah 53:12 and Jeremiah 36:25 as well as Isaiah 59:16, the Hebrew words “to make intercession” means “to strike or assail”. In application to prayer, it implies “to assail with petitions,” in such a way as to pray with a fervor tended to ones’ point understood and accepted. It implies a certain degree of importuning the Lord, which is, oddly enough, encouraged by the scriptures. God loves “holy boldness.”

4) Praying in “tongues”- (1 Corinthians chapters 12, 13 and 14)

“For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to man but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with His Spirit.”

“Tongues” is a form of prayer language in which the individual utters fluent sounds to which the Holy Spirit gives meaning. What the individual is saying is unintelligible to him. He is putting complete trust to the Holy Spirit to give the utterance meaning. Again, it is this trusting faith that empowers the prayer. The Holy Spirit prays through you when you pray in “tongues” (Romans 8:26,27).

“Tongues” is an extremely powerful form of prayer for the following reasons:

- 1) Satan cannot understand “tongues”.
- 2) When you pray in “tongues”; the Holy Spirit prays through you. The Holy Spirit is able to pray a perfect prayer for your needs or the needs of others, or, for a solution to a circumstance.
- 3) When the Holy Spirit prays through you, he is able to get God’s Will regarding the circumstance or situation you are praying about.

“Tongues” is received by impartation through the laying-on-of-hands with breathing upon the individual by a believer who has already received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and operates in the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12) or through spontaneous reception of the Spirit Baptism by asking the Father in Jesus’ Name. It is received as a genuine gift from the Holy Spirit when the person is first born-again and receives the Holy Spirit Baptism.

If a person is speaking in “tongues” and is unsaved or not born-again and has not received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit; if he does not evidence the fruits of the Holy Spirit, then the “tongues” that he is expressing is demonic tongues.

If a believer who truly desires tongues is born-again and Spirit-filled, he need not fear receiving demonic tongues when he asks for this gift of tongues or prayer language since the scriptures states “which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?” (Luke 11:11,12) In other words, if you desire the genuine gift and ask God for it, (Luke 11:10-13), He will be faithful to give you the genuine gift. The only thing required on the part of the believer is trusting faith.

If you do not know how to handle a circumstance or how to pray for a situation, pray in tongues and let the Holy Spirit do it for you. If you do this with trusting faith, believing that you receive, you will see amazing results. Pray until you feel a discernment of “release” from the Holy Spirit, that is, that you do not need to pray about the situation any further. The answer will usually be forthcoming shortly after. Keep praying in tongues until the situation is resolved. You will find that it is mandatory to pray in tongues when you need to receive revelation about a circumstance or situation, or if you need wisdom or word of knowledge in what to do. Tongues always bring revelation knowledge.

Whether we intercede with the understanding or with tongues, we must understand that the basis of all intercession is trust; going back to our observations regarding covenant relationships, we need to remind ourselves of the “abiding” scriptures, that once asked, it is done because we “abide” (live in Christ) (1 John 4)

When we ask in Jesus’ Name, He promises that He will do it. The basis for all intercession, then, is that God does what we ask if in line with His Word and His Will. It is tremendously powerful to know this. There is no limit to what we can intercede for or for whom we can intercede - we have what we ask! (1 John 1-3)

5) The prayer of binding and loosing

“I tell you the truth, whatever YOU bind on Earth WILL BE bound in Heaven and WHATEVER you loose on Earth will be loosed on Heaven.” (Matthew 18:18) (emphasis mine)

“Or, again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up (binds) the strong man? Then he can rob his house.” (Matthew 12:29)

In the preceding verses to Matthew 18:18, Jesus tells us that he gives us “the keys to the heavenly...” It goes on to talk about binding and loosing with reference to tying up Satan and his hierarchy. In Revelation, we learned that Satan was cast down to the Earth and in Daniel chapter 10, we learned that the demonic prince of Persia which opposed Gabriel’s coming to Daniel, apparently contended with Gabriel in the hemisphere around the Earth and particularly around Persia and Israel. The implication is that the “heavenlies” refers to the atmospheric heavens around and above the Earth.

Since scripture implies that Satan’s kingdom is on the Earth, it is obvious that this would include the Earth’s atmosphere. The “key” to the heavenlies, that is, the key to stopping Satan, then, is the prayer of binding and loosing. Although it is a powerful and necessary form of prayer, it is SO IMPORTANT to the

believing Christian, that I have decided to treat it as an individual topic which you will read later on. I will discuss it in much greater detail.

For the moment, let it suffice to say that your functioning as a believing Christian, your protection and that of your family is impossible without spiritual warfare. The Christian who believes that all he needs to do, once he becomes a Christian, is to trust Jesus and that Jesus will protect him and prevent Satan from destroying him or harming him, must balance such an idea with the fact that we are **COMMANDED** by the scriptures to do warfare with Satan.

Note in Mark 16 that “YOU will cast out demons...” and Matthew 18:18 says “whatever YOU BIND...” Jesus says in 1 John 4:4 that the power that is IN US is greater than the power in the Earth, and in Luke 10:19 he delegates authority to the believer to “trample over serpents and scorpions” (Satan and his evil spirits).

The point is this, you will never know who you are in Christ until you use the power delegated to you by Jesus Christ Himself. The whole purpose is to bring God glory, to expand the works of the Kingdom, and to let you experience who you are in Christ while moving in the power of the Spirit.

6) Praying thrice (2 Corinthians 12:8). Paul asked the Lord (in supplication) three times.

7) Praying the scriptures-

A powerful form of praise prayer is to pray the scriptures, telling God what His scriptures say about him or about his promises for you, and then praising and giving Him thanks, adoration, and blessing while reciting and praying the scripture back to Him. God loves to hear you recite His Word back to Him because He loves to know that you love and receive His Word.

Another way to pray the scriptures is to incorporate them in a prayer of supplication or intercession, or, to incorporate what the scripture says or implies in such a prayer. Scripture prayer is an exceedingly potent form of prayer because God performs His Word (Jeremiah 1:12).

Example: Say that Jim is an alcoholic who needs to be saved. Here is an example of praying the scriptures for Jim in order to release the ability of God to move on Jim's behalf:

“Father, I give you great thanks and praise, glory and blessing on Jim's behalf (Psalm 100:4, Hebrews 4:11). Satan, the word says that I have greater power than you and that I have the delegated authority to trample your works. Therefore, I take authority over you and your works and I trample your stronghold in Jim (Luke 10:19), (1 John 4:4). Therefore, I bind you, the ruler-

spirit on him, and the spirit of alcohol addiction, and loose you off from him (Matthew 18:18), binding Satan and the strongman first (Matthew 12:29; and I loose you all from him and call all strongholds down. I bind you all up and off from him and cast you out to the feet of Christ Jesus to do what Christ Jesus tells you, all in Christ Jesus' Name (Mark 16:17). By trusting faith, I call Jim saved, born-again, spirit-filled, sober, healed and delivered (Hebrews 11: 3), and curse and destroy all of your works against Jim and render them of no effect - all in Christ Jesus' Name (Ephesians 6:16) (John 14:14).

When we speak the Word of God over something or someone, God performs the Word. (Jer. 1:12) and his Word will not return to Him empty or unanswered (Isaiah 55:11). The application of this spiritual warfare principle is obviously powerful.

There are eight things which we are specifically commanded to pray for in the Bible.

- 1) All people (1 Timothy:2)
- 2) The peace of Jerusalem and Israel (Psalm 122:6; Isaiah 62:6,7)
- 3) Our enemies (Matthew 5:44)
- 4) All in authority (James 5)
- 5) The sick (James 5:14)
- 6) Our Pastors and the Church (Ephesians 6:19; Colossians 4:3)
- 7) Each other (Romans 1:9)
- 8) Our own needs (Matthew 14:30)

When prayer is unanswered and, in particular, we are not making progress in spiritual warfare, we should examine ourselves for the causes of unanswered prayer. Below are twenty- eight reasons:

- 1) Disobedience (Deut. 28:14; 2 Cor.10:6)
- 2) Generations curse (Ex. 20:5)
- 3) Being unsaved (an unbeliever) (John 17)
- 4) Insincerity (Mt. 6:5)
- 5) Demonic attack (Dan. 10:10)
- 6) Unconfessed sin (a secret sin) (Ps. 66:18)
- 7) Presumption and pride (Luke 18: 10-14)
- 8) Rebellion against God's Word (Prov. 1:24-28; Zech.7: 11-14)
- 9) Not tithing (Mal. 3:8,9,10)
- 10) Unforgiveness (Mt.6: 14,15; Mk. 11:25,26)
- 11) Hypocrisy (Lk. 18:9-14)
- 12) Anxiety and worry (Phil. 4:6)
- 13) Doubt and double-mindedness (James 1:5-8)
- 14) Discouragement (Lk. 18:1-8)
- 15) Vain (useless) repetitions (Mt. 6:7)
- 16) Sin (James 4:1-5; Is. 59:2; John 9:3 1)
- 18) Haughty prayer-life. (Mt. 5:6)

- 19) Marital arguments (1 Pet. 3:7)
- 20) Unbelief (Mt. 17:30,31; Mt. 21:22)
- 21) Practicing iniquity (Ps. 66:18)
- 22) Praying amiss (wrong motives) (James 4:3)
- 23) Forsaking God. (2 Chron. 15:2)
- 24) A hardened heart (Zech. 7:12,13)
- 25) Lack of humility (2 Chron. 7:14)
- 26) Not loving others (Prov. 21:13)
- 27) Tempting God (Dt. 3:26)
- 28) Resisting truth (Prov. 28:9)

Finally, for prayer to be both scriptural and effective, the following conditions must be met:

- 1) It must line up with God's Word and God's Will (Jeremiah 1:12; Isaiah 44:24,26)
- 2) The person must be a believer in covenant-relationship with Christ (John 16)
- 3) It should be spoken with the mouth (Hebrews 4:14; Romans 10)
- 4) It must be backed by unwavering faith (Hebrews 11:3; Hebrews 11:1; Romans 4:17)
- 5) All prayer should start out with praise and thanksgiving (Psalm 100:4)
- 6) It should be for God's glory. Give praise, thanks and glory to the Father, to the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Holy Spirit for all answered prayer.
- 7) Must not be repetitious (Matthew 6:7)
- 8) We must pray "... in Jesus' Name.' (John chapters 14, 15, 16)
- 9) We should pray the solution and not the problem since faith is calling the things that are not as if they already exist (Hebrews 11:1)
- 10) Prayer should be conceived in the spirit (from the heart), spoken with the mouth, believed on in trusting faith, and received in existence. As mentioned earlier, this pattern: conceive-speak-believe-receive, appears repeatedly throughout the Bible.