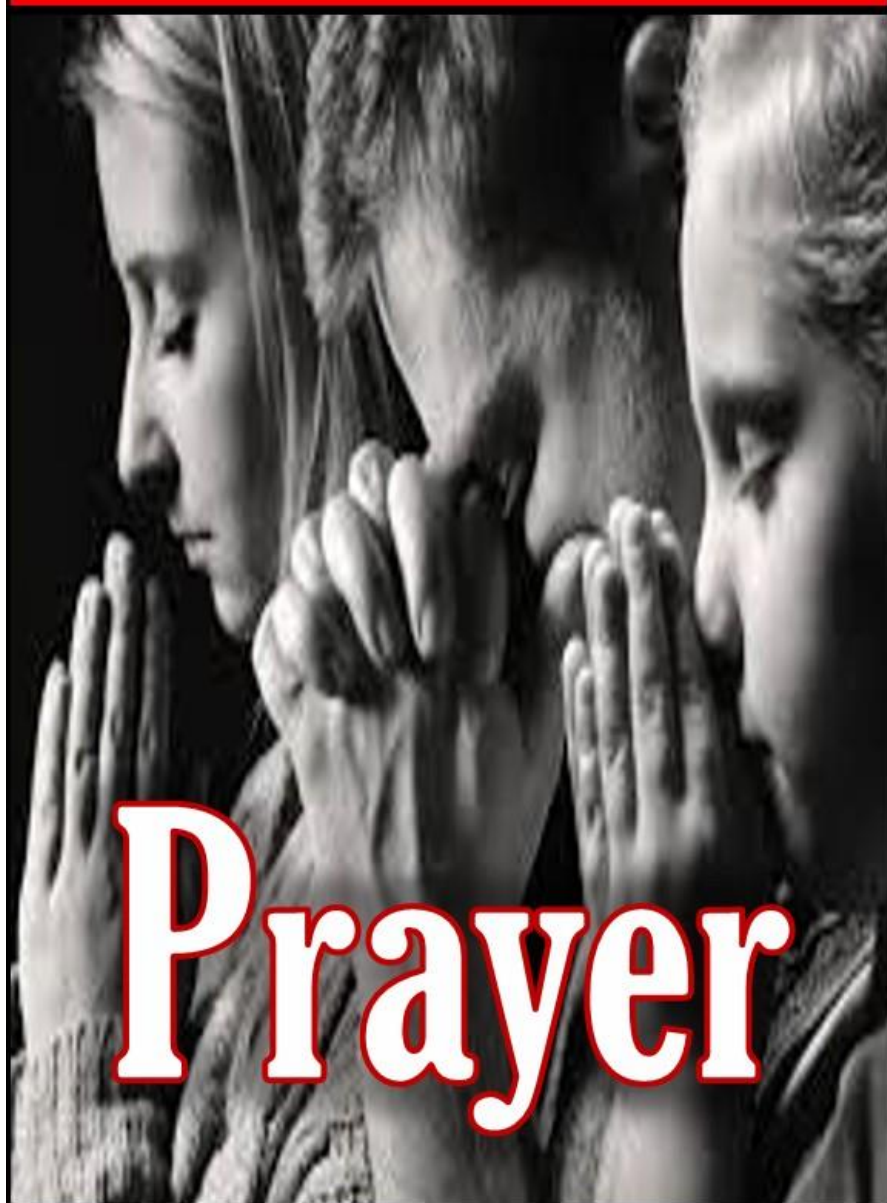


Tool Box Series



Prayer

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Prayer

The right attitude

Before we pray to God, we must have the correct attitude and understanding of who he is and who we are. God is vastly superior to anything our mortal minds can fathom because his holiness, power, and wisdom are beyond human comprehension. Therefore, we should approach God with humility, sincerity, and reverence, knowing that we are undeserving and unworthy and our only access to God is through his mercy, forgiveness, and grace.

1 Peter 5:5-6 ... All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Hindrances to prayer

Prayer brings life to our relationship with God, and we must make every effort to enter his presence under the right conditions. Many obstacles make our prayers ineffective or just plain worthless. If we know what displeases God, we can make changes and increase the chances of entering his presence and having our prayers heard and answered. The following is a list of hindrances to prayer.

Sin separates from God

By far, sin is the biggest obstacle that can kill our prayers, except when we pray for forgiveness and mercy. If anyone is living in unrepentant sins, all their prayers are offensive to God until they sincerely repent and put away their sin.

Psalms 66:18-20 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. But certainly, God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!

Proverbs 15:8 The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.

Proverbs 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Proverbs 28:9 If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.

Defiled conscience

Similar to the sin problem is the aftermath of sin, which is a guilty conscience. The only remedy is to confess our sins and ask for forgiveness and cleansing by the blood of Jesus. We must expose, renounce, and confess our sins to God and ask Jesus to cleanse our conscience so we may pray with faith and confidence.

1 Timothy 3:9 ... holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.

*1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin** ... If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

***Hebrews 9:14** ... how much more shall **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?*

Unforgiveness

If we harbor unforgiveness towards others, God will not forgive our sins. If we hold onto anger and hatred and are unwilling to forgive, our prayers will not be heard or answered. First, as much as possible, we need to reconcile and forgive those who have offended or hurt us.

***Luke 11:2-4** He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. **Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.** "*

Mark 11:25, 26** "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, **forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

Strained relationships

If we are offended and bitter in any relationship, our conscience will be clouded, and our prayers will be hindered. We need to go to that person and set things right, ask for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Matthew 5:23-24 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. **First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.**

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them (wives) with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, **that your prayers may not be hindered.**

Double mindedness

When we are double-minded, divided between serving God and serving sin, we will not receive any answers to our prayers. You cannot serve two masters; we must choose one or the other.

Luke 16:11-13 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? **"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."**

James 1:6-8 *But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.***

James 4:8 *Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.***

Hypocrisy & wanting recognition

Jesus was clear that the prayers of the hypocrites were only for show, to receive the praise of man. Prayers for self-promotion, recognition, and religious theatre will only increase the sentence of judgment against religious frauds.

Matthew 6:5-7 *"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners **to be seen by men.** I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. **But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.***

Matthew 24:51 *And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him **his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.***

Repeating written prayers

Religious people mindlessly repeat prayers written by others, they speak with their mouths, but their hearts are far from God. They think that denominational, professionally prepared prayers read off verbally by rote in mindless repetition will find favor with God, but those prayers have no value or merit.

***Luke 20:46-47** "Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely."*

***Matthew 6:7** "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words."*

Our fleshly desires war against God

Sometimes we don't know what to pray for or how to pray. If you have what you might consider an emergency, it may seem obvious how to direct your prayers. That is potentially one of the biggest problems we have in prayer. Because, what we want for ourselves, may not be what God wants for us. In other words, God's will may cross our will. As Jesus faced the cross, He prayed and was sweating big drops of blood, saying not my will, but thy will, be done. Jesus, soaked with blood, sweat, and tears, said the spirit was willing, but the flesh was weak. We all have the same weakness, that is, our flesh.

Matthew 26:38-41 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." ... "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

James 4:1-3 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. **You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.**

Romans 8:5-8 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **For the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace; because the mind of the flesh is hostile towards God; for it is not subject to God's law, neither indeed can it be. Those who are in the flesh can't please God.**

We need help

We just saw a long list of hindrances, which only points to why prayer can be a struggle or battle. There are so many things that either keep us from praying or from praying effectively. Even when we have the right attitudes, motives, relationships, and a strong desire to pray, we still fall short in our strength.

The Bible tells us that we have weaknesses in prayer and that everyone needs help. Real prayer is not just words but dependence on God, not only for answers, but for the prayer itself.

***John 14:26** But the Counselor, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things** and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

***Romans 8:26-27** In the same way, **the Spirit helps us in our weakness**. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us** with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will**.*

***Ephesians 6:18** And **pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests**. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

***Jude 1:20** ... dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and **pray in the Holy Spirit**.*

The desire to learn

The disciples of Jesus were Jewish; they had observed and practiced their religion from birth. They had seen many "holy men" pray and had participated in the annual Jewish feasts and ceremonies that repeated the same prayers from the Psalms and other scriptures for centuries.

As religious Jews, the disciples of Jesus had seen, heard, and learned all about prayer but had never seen anyone pray like Jesus. The disciples must have been so impressed by all the unbelievable miracles, healings, and teaching revelations, and they asked plenty of questions about parables, the destruction of Jerusalem, and the end times. But the only thing they specifically asked Jesus to train them to do, was prayer.

Luke 11:1-10 "And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Jesus our example of dependence

The most powerful way that Jesus taught his disciple's regarding prayer was the living example they saw in him. There were times in Jesus' ministry that they were so busy they had no time to eat, and at the end of the day, late at night, when the disciples were exhausted and went to sleep, Jesus would go out by himself and pray ALL NIGHT. The physical stamina required for his rigorous life of prayer was nothing less than a display of the power of God. No doubt that watching Jesus pray made a permanent impact on the disciples. Jesus was a living and breathing example of total obedience, dependence, and communion with the Father.

John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

***John 5:30** By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.*

***Matthew 14:23** And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.*

***Luke 6:12-13** And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;*

***Mark 1:35** And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.*

***Mark 6:46-47** And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray. And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.*

***Luke 5:15-16** But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.*

Weakness is strength

The apostle Paul was also a role model of dependence on God. Paul said when I am weak, I am strong in Christ.

The rich and powerful can peddle money and influence to deal with their problems. But the weak and poor are desperate and depend on God as their only hope, so they urgently and passionately cry out to God for help.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

James 2:5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

2 Chronicles 16:7-9 ... For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

James 5:16-18 ... and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

Praying according to scriptures

To discern the will of God when we pray, we should find a Bible verse that fits our situation and pray in harmony with the scriptures. Quoting verses in prayer, when taken in context, assures us that we are praying for the will of God. If quoting verses becomes our regular practice, we will memorize more of the Bible, and our prayers will be more powerful.

Daniel 9:2-3 ... I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So, I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Hebrews 1:2-3 ... has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power,

2 Peter 3:2-7 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior ... For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the

*earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. **But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word**, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

*2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.***

Different types of prayer

In the Old Testament temple, the priest would burn incense daily as part of their service to God. God instructed Moses to make incense with four different ingredients in equal amounts, without any variation or imitations. Burning incense is symbolic of prayer and identifies four types of prayer and the balance needed in our prayers.

*Exodus 30:34-35 And the LORD said to Moses: "Take sweet spices, **stacte** and **onycha** and **galbanum**, and **pure frankincense** with these sweet spices; **there shall be equal amounts of each.** "You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy.*

*Rev 8:3-4 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much **incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints**, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand.*

***Psalms 141:2** Let my prayer be set before you like incense; the lifting up of my hands like the evening sacrifice.*

There were four ingredients to the incense, and the Apostle Paul also mentioned four types of prayer, **request (or supplications), prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks**. There should be equal amounts, or a balance, between the different kinds of prayers. One aspect of a balanced prayer life is that it creates variations so that we don't get stuck in a rut and pray the same routine every time. Prayer should not become boring, monotonous, or repetitious.

***1 Timothy 2:1-4** I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

***1 Corinthians 14:14-15** For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will **pray with my spirit**, but I will also **pray with my mind**; I will **sing with my spirit**, but I will also **sing with my mind**.*

***Ephesians 5:19-20** Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord**; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

Note: Questions about praying in the Spirit, or speaking in tongues, are answered in the book “Holy Spirit Baptism.”

God’s courtroom

Jesus used the example of a persistent widow pestering, nagging, and begging a judge as an example of the attitude that gets answers to prayer. We should be relentless in bringing our petitions before God the great judge until He answers our prayers.

***Luke 18:1-7** Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them **that they should always pray and not give up.** He said: "In a certain town **there was a judge** who neither feared God nor cared about men. And **there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him** with the plea, '**Grant me justice against my adversary.**' "For some time, he refused. But finally, he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, yet **because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!**'"
And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you; **he will see that they get justice, and quickly.** However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"*

Ultimately, as we bring our petitions in prayer, we enter God's courtroom and make our case before God, the judge of all. One example would be how Abraham made intercession.

Once God revealed that he would destroy Sodom, immediately, Abraham interceded with God on behalf of his nephew Lot. Abraham, like an attorney, presented the case for Lot's rescue by appealing to God's justice, saying, surely you will not destroy the righteous with the wicked. Shall not the judge of all the earth do what is right? Abraham respectfully made his plea for Lot, and God granted his petition and sent two angels to save Lot from destruction.

*Genesis 18:25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not **the Judge of all the earth** do, right?"*

Jesus is our attorney

We have a better intercessor than Abraham, Jesus is the one who represents us before the Father, and he has purchased our pardon with his blood. And now he ever lives to make intercession for us and present our case before the Father.

*John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, **we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:***

*1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and **one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;***

Hebrews 7:24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore, He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to

*God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession** for them.*

We have an adversary, an accuser, and a slanderer who wants to destroy us, and he is like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. He is like a prosecuting attorney who continuously persecutes the righteous, which is why prayer is always a battle.

1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Revelation 12:9-10** So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God, day and night, has been cast down.

One day the accuser will be cast out of heaven, but for now, we have to battle his army in prayer. But God has equipped us with superior weapons, and we have the victory in Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For **the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every

thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Ephesians 6:12-18 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places ... praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

The Bible paints a picture of the type of battles taking place in heavenly realms when we pray. Daniel had visions from the Lord, and when he prayed to receive an understanding of the visions, God dispatched the angel Gabriel to give him insight. But as Gabriel was on his way to talk to Daniel, he encountered resistance from ruling fallen angels that exercised dominion over the empire of Persia. These principalities and wicked powers battled with Gabriel for 21 days while Daniel prayed. Finally Michael, one of the chief princes among God's angels, came and helped Gabriel so that he could appear to Daniel. After delivering the message to Daniel, Gabriel would return to battle the spiritual wickedness over Persia again but pointed to future conflicts with the coming empire of Greece.

Daniel 10:12-20 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. "But the prince of the

kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. "Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come." ... Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.

Let us reason together

Regarding prayer, we have seen terms that relate to making your case in court or using military tactics and strategies to win a victory. That points to the fact that we must be diligent, study the word, prepare and fight with our arguments from the written word, and present our case before God the judge.

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD:

The Hebrew word translated here as "reason" literally means to: argue, decide, dispute, judge, plead, and rebuke. In other words, God says, "come let us argue, come let us decide, come let us dispute, come let us judge, come let us plead, and come let us rebuke, with each other." To do all that, we need to use all our reasoning and rationalization skills. That's part of loving God with all our hearts, minds, soul, and strength. These meetings are not just light or frivolous chats but pivotal interventions. When Job was in affliction and assailed by the accusations of the slanderer Satan and his friends, he was like a lawyer, ready to present

his case in court before God:

Job 13:15-18 "Though He slay me, I will hope in Him, Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him (to his face). Behold now, I have prepared my case. I know that I will be vindicated.

Also, we must be ready to take our prayers into the battle with the Satanic powers. Our armory of weapons is the scriptures that we use as arrows to shoot down and defeat our enemies. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God that we use to cast down every stronghold of the Devil with logical, rational, and intelligent arguments by the inspiration and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in

the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Passion in prayer

God is not obsessed with form and substance but looks at our hearts and sees our emotions. If we mouth prayers with our lips, but our hearts are far from God, he will not hear us.

Matthew 15:7-9 "Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"

As always, Jesus is our example, and nobody ever prayed with the same emotion as Jesus, and his burden was so heavy that when he prayed, he was sweating drops of blood.

Luke 22:44-46 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He

*found them sleeping from sorrow. Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? **Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation.**"*

Elijah was another example of fervent and passionate prayer. Elijah prayed, and it did not rain for three and a half years, and when he prayed again, heavy rain fell and ended the drought.

***James 5:14-18** The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours (subject to like passions as we are), and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*

Elijah's prayers were passionate, powerful, and to the point. Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a prayer contest, they would set up an altar with a sacrifice and call on God, and the God who answered by fire would be the winner and recognized as the only true God. The prophets of Baal prayed all day, and nothing happened. Elijah had them dig a trench around the sacrifice and drench it with water three times so that the trench filled with water. Elijah stepped up and prayed a few words, and the fire came down.

1Kings 18:36-39** And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, **LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy

servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

The warfare begins now

We already saw how Jesus battled with the flesh and the Devil and how Daniel's prayers impacted angelic wars in heaven. When we pray, unseen things happen in spiritual realms. Prayer is a fierce battle, and every time we set out to pray, something will happen or enter our minds to take us on a detour away from prayer. Our flesh does not want to pray and would choose to do anything else like eat, or watch videos, and the "to do" list will flash into our minds. There is a reason all that happens, prayer is a war, and many times, the hardest part is getting started.

The primary objective of the antichrist is to take away the daily sacrifice, which will happen in the temple during the great tribulation. The antichrist is not here, but the spirit of the antichrist is already in the world, and that demonic spirit wants to extinguish all daily prayers and pervert the truth.

1 John 4:2-3 ... but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

Daniel 8:11-12 *It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low. Because of rebellion, the host of the saints and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.*

Unlike any time in history, we need to pray now more than ever, and our destiny may depend on it. The whole earth will be deceived in the end times by the antichrist. Of course, global deception couldn't happen. Right? That would be like saying that the entire planet would lock themselves inside their houses, and close churches, businesses, and schools, under a medical tyranny. Or that a global mandate would force healthy people to wear masks and take untested experimental vaccines for a flu virus created in a lab that would kill less than one percent of the people, but the cure, the vaccine would kill or make infertile untold millions. Deception like that could never happen on a global scale, could it?

The Bible tells us that far, far, far worse things are coming, and Jesus is coming for those who battle to restrain the antichrist from coming forward. And Jesus also tells us to pray that we are considered worthy to escape that time.

2 Thessalonians 2:4-7 *(speaking of the antichrist). He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. And now you know what is holding him back,*

*so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; **but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.***

***Luke 21:34-36** "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. "For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

Again, we are thrown to our knees, realizing we cannot fight these battles in our strength and it is only by the Holy Spirit that we can rise to this pivotal time on the prophetic clock. We need the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of prayer in continual communion with God. One attribute of the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of grace and supplication, or grace and prayer, which references a set time with the Jews. But we also have access to the same Spirit of grace in prayer through the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:26-27** In the same way, **the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

Are you ready for the battle? It's time to develop a strategy. The enemy wants to take away daily prayer, so the top priority should be to set a daily time for prayer. We saw that Jesus prayed all the time, and Daniel prayed three times a day, consistently, even when they made a law against praying. The only way to be consistent is to schedule a time and make it a habit. From this point, the focus is on providing information to help make a game plan, strategy, and marching orders to enter the battlefield.

This study only covered a few aspects of prayer because prayer is not a destination where you arrive and are finished. Prayer is meant to be a lifestyle of continuous communion with God and is a journey whereby we grow and have new experiences with God every day of our life. Since prayer represents an intimate personal relationship with God, each individual will be unique in how they commune with God. Therefore, canned prayer programs and outlines may be fruitful in intercession and group prayers but cannot be a substitute for sincere, passionate, heartfelt conversations with God. For that reason, we provide a little information for each person to process, filter, and implement into their prayers as the Holy Spirit guides them.

Next, we will see an outline of what Jesus said about prayer, and then we will look at examples from the first church and letters to the churches.

Jesus on prayer

Pray for enemies	Matthew 5:44
Don't pray to be seen of men	Matthew 6:5, 6
Don't use vain repetitions	Matthew 6:7
An outline for prayer	Matthew 6:9 -13
Pray for workers in the harvest	Matthew 9:38
Pray in trials	Matthew 26:41
Pray in faith	Mark 11:24
Perseverance in prayer	Luke 18:1-8
Humility in prayer	Luke 18:9-14
Prayer for disciples	John 17:6-19
Prayer for all believers	John 17:20-26

Prayer in the 1st Church

Prayer to appoint a new apostle	Acts 1:24
Prayer for boldness	Acts 4:23-31
Prayer to appoint deacons	Acts 6:6
Prayed to receive the Holy Spirit	Acts 8:15
Prayed to send out missionaries	Acts 13:1-3
Prayed to appoint elders	Acts 14:23

Paul's prayers for the churches

The apostle Paul's letters to the churches were to encourage, rebuke, and instruct, but they also revealed his prayers for the various churches, which are relevant today for us, and we should use them in our prayers. The following is a list of prayers for the saints and churches.

Prayers for the Ephesians

Ephesians 1:15-19, Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Ephesians 6:18-20 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Prayers for the Philippians

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts

and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:8-11 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Prayers for the Colossians

Colossians 1:3, 9-13 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ... For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Colossians 4:2-4 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, **always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.**

Prayers for the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

1 Thessalonians 5:22-25 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. Brethren, pray for us.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-3 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. But

the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

Paul on prayer to Timothy

1 Timothy 2:1-4 I exhort supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

James on Prayer

James 5:13-17 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any sick among you? pray over him, the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Old Testament & Psalms

The Old Testament has prayers from beginning to end, but the best examples are in the book of Psalms, which is a collection of prayers and songs. We will not outline the Psalms for you, but if you read five Psalms a day, you will read all the Psalms in a month. David and the other psalmist were very emotional and dramatic with their prayers and are beautiful examples of pouring out your soul to God in prayer. The following example is David's prayer of repentance.

Psalm 51:1-12 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity

and cleanse me from my sin. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

Prayer outlines

It's up to each person to decide what their commitment to prayer will be. It's up to each one to enlist as a prayer warrior, to get their marching orders, build their arsenal, engage in the battle, and balance their attack. It's up to each person to enter the courtroom as an intercessor, to do their research, prepare their arguments, state the legal precedence from the written word of God, and present their case before God the judge.

Everyone has their particular way of praying because we are all individuals with a personal relationship with God. There is no authorized official template for prayer, but the most important thing is to pray and spend time with God. We have included a few outlines that may help organize and develop a disciplined prayer life.

Types of prayer

Casual Prayer	Meals, Trips, etc.
Current Events	For special needs, etc.
Community Prayer	Church Meetings, etc.
Committed Prayer	Daily, Personal

Combat Prayer	Intercession, Spiritual Warfare
Continuous Prayer	Praying Always, Spirit of Prayer

The subjects of prayer

All Men	Nations, People groups
Governments	To Live Peaceful, Godly Lives
Kings	Leaders, Presidents, etc...
Rulers	Those in Positions of Authority
Family	Salvation, Provision, Healing, etc.
Church	Spiritual Understanding, Discernment
Lost Souls	That they would be Saved

7 Days to pray for 7 Continents

God's house is called a house of prayer for all nations. We should pray for all the nations, especially since we have access to global news daily. God has declared a special blessing to those who pray for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem.

Isaiah 56:7 ... these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."

Psalms 122:6-7 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces."

Monday	Australia & Antarctica
Tuesday	Central & South America
Wednesday	Europe
Thursday	Africa

Friday	Asia
Saturday	Israel (Jews) & Middle East (Muslims)
Sunday	USA, Canada, The Church

Praying Bible verses

Quoting Bible verses is a great way to pray, and if you find a verse that fits your situation, you can use it as a sword to fight your spiritual battles. We see that Jesus used the spiritual sword of the spirit, the word of God, to fight against Satan. At the end of 40 days of fasting and testing, Satan came with three final attacks against Jesus, and each time Jesus defeated him by saying, "it is written."

***Luke 4:3-4** And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." But Jesus answered him, saying, "**It is written**, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"*

***Luke 4:8** And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! **For it is written**, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"*

***Luke 4:12** And Jesus made answer and said to him, **It is said in the Writings**, You may not put the Lord your God to the test.*

When Jesus returns to judge the nations at the second coming, scriptures say he has a sword coming out of his mouth, meaning he is speaking the word of God, when he comes to make war.

Revelation 19:11-15 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness **He judges and makes war**. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and **His name is called The Word of God**. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

You can pray using your own words and thoughts, but they will not have the same power as when you use scriptures. That is why we suggest praying with the scriptures, which will also keep you aligned with the will of God and the mind of God. We will use a healing verse as an example of how you can personalize the scriptures when you pray.

1 Peter 2:24 ... who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness **by whose stripes you were healed**.

You would pray, “by whose stripes I am healed,” or insert the name of the person you are praying for, “by whose stripes Joe Sick Person is healed. Each verse is like a sword, but don’t swing the sword just once because the more scriptures you can use in your prayers, the better.

Sometimes God will speak a verse to you that will become your verse, that verse is perfect for your situation and becomes part of your life. You may hang that verse at the top of your list until the next verse pops off the page at you. The bottom line is to build your list of prayer verses, like putting more arrows of victory in your quiver.

Psalms 45:3 (speaking of Jesus). Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, With Your glory and Your majesty. And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; And your right hand shall teach You awesome things. Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; The peoples fall under You.

2 Kings 13:17 "Open the east window," he said, and he opened it. "Shoot!" Elisha said, and he shot. "The LORD's arrow of victory,

The following is a starter list of scriptures that we can use in our prayers.

Prayer verses for spiritual warfare

Luke 10:19 "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Matthew 16:18-19 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. **For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,** and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment **You shall condemn.** This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me," says the LORD.

Psalms 18:29-36 For by You I can run against a troop, by my God I can leap over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; **He is a shield to all who trust in Him.** For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God? **It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places. He teaches my hands to make war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, your gentleness has made me great.** You enlarged my path under me, so my feet did not slip.

Psalms 18:2-3 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies.

Psalms 149:6-9 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; to execute vengeance, to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute the judgment written:

Prayer verses for healing

Isaiah 53:4-5 He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; **and with his stripes we are healed.**

Exodus 15:26, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for **I am the LORD that heals you.**

Psalms 103:1-5 Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: **Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases**, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing every sickness and every disease** among the people.

Matthew 12:15 But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, **and he healed them all.**

Acts 5:16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, **bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.**

Luke 7:7 "Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. **But say the word, and my servant will be healed.**

Psalms 107:19-20 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. **He sent His word and healed them,** and delivered them from their destructions.

Luke 9:11 And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, **and healed them that had need of healing.**

Deuteronomy 33:25 Your sandals shall be iron and bronze; **As your days, so shall your strength be.**

Deuteronomy 34:7 Moses was **one hundred and twenty years old** when he died. **His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.**

Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall **the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings;** and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Acts 4:29-31 "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and **grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, "by stretching out Your hand to heal,** and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

Mark 16:17-18 "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Prayer verses for salvation

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

Ezekiel 18:31-32 "Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? "**For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,**" says the Lord GOD. "Therefore, turn and live!"

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;** of whom I am chief.

Ezekiel 33:11 "Say to them: '**As I live,**' says the Lord GOD, '**I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.** Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore **He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him,** since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Psalms 34:18-19 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. **The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Romans 10:13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Call to Action

Because we are in the end times, our world is changing quickly to line up with Bible prophecy. Jesus said the signs of his return would be like birth pangs, growing in intensity and frequency and globally. All those signs happen at once, and we can see them happening in real-time with wars, food shortages, pandemics, shutdowns, and natural disasters, all leading to a one-world government ruled by the antichrist. Also, there will be a great falling away from Christ, with churches becoming perverted, politically woke, and government-controlled. Eventually, all true believers will have to come out of the dead institutional denominations and fake churches. Thank God we have a blessed hope that Jesus will rapture the church before wrath and judgment hit the earth!

While we have time and freedom, we should study the scriptures, share the gospel, and learn to live by faith. This book is part of a series of basic teachings that all Christians should know and teach. We call it the "toolbox series"

because each study is a tool for you to share your faith with others. For free resources and study materials, visit our website at: Ears2Hear.online

The Tool Box Series

This book is part of a series of Bible studies that are basic teachings for followers of Jesus. We call it the "toolbox series" because each study is a tool for you to use in building your faith and sharing with others. These "tools" can also be used as a start-up kit for small group Bible studies and shared online. For other resources like free Bibles and study materials, visit our website at:

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