

# TURNING POINT MISSION CENTER

(A HOLY SPIRIT & TRUTH CHURCH)

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PRAYER CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, APRIL 29 THRU FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2010

**MOTHER MARY GARDNER, PRAYER BAND LEADER**

**DEACON JACKIE SURRELL, DIVISION LEADER**



**ELDER MICHAEL F. OWEN, SENIOR PASTOR**

**ELDER ARNETTE D. OWEN, PASTOR**

**ELDER MINNIE J. BROOKS, ASSISTANT PASTOR**

1814 SHADY LANE DRIVE • JACKSON, MS 39204

601-372-1080

[WWW.LIGHTHOUSE TP.ORG](http://WWW.LIGHTHOUSE TP.ORG)

## 2010 PRAYER CONFERENCE PANELIST'S QUESTIONS

### WHO ARE WE TO PRAY TO, THE FATHER, THE SON, OR THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Jesus told us to pray to the Father in **Matt. 6:9** when He said, "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.'" What is the proper method of prayer? Jesus said in **John 14:14**, "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it." Therefore, it would seem safe to say that we can pray to Jesus and ask Him to answer our prayers. Also, we can see further confirmation of this by looking at the phrase, "call upon the name of the Lord." In the Old Testament that phrase is used only of God and it includes the meaning of worship, adoration, and prayer. **Psalm 116:4** says, "Then I called upon the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I beseech Thee, save my life!'" What is interesting is that this phrase is applied to Jesus in **1 Cor. 1:2**, "to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours." Paul obviously knew the significance of the phrase, which included prayerful appeal, and applied it to Jesus.

In **1 Cor. 1:9** it says, "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." The word "fellowship" is the Greek word "koinonia" which is also translated as the word "communion." **1 Cor. 1:9** says that we are to have an intimate fellowship with Jesus. That is fine. But, how can we have

fellowship with someone with whom we never talk? Therefore, this verse can also be used to support the idea of praying to Jesus.

The Father loved us and sent His Son (John 3:16). Jesus came down and lived and died among us. Jesus taught us to pray to "Our Father who art in heaven" (**Mathew 6:9**). The Holy Spirit came to guide us into all the truth (**John 16:13**) and is given to all who obey Christ in salvation (**Acts 5:32**). The Holy Spirit is the earnest of our salvation (**Ephesians 1:13-14**). The Holy Spirit helps us with our prayers (**Romans 8:26-28**). Jesus is the one mediator between God and man" (**I Timothy 2:5**) - thus we offer our prayers "in His (Jesus) name."

Since it is acceptable to pray to the Father, and the Son, is it alright to pray to the Holy Spirit because He is also God. Nevertheless, we never see an instance in the Bible where anyone prays to the Holy Spirit. Why is that? The answer is that **the Holy Spirit does not bear witness of Himself**. He bears witness of the Son (**John 15:26**). But still, we can pray to the Spirit because we are also called into fellowship with the Spirit. **2 Cor. 13:14** says, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion (fellowship) of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."

**2 Corinthians 13:14** "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."

Finally, we can simply pray to God. We can address God, the Lord, in our prayers and as we feel led, address any members of the Trinity because they are one in spirit and purpose.

## **IS IT ACCEPTABLE TO REPEATEDLY PRAY FOR THE SAME THING, OR SHOULD WE ONLY ASK ONCE?**

**Luke 18:1-8** *“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”* This parable is showing us that it is acceptable to present our petitions to the Lord continuously. We are to be perseverance in prayer which indicates the state of mind of the petitioner willing to seek God for the answer thereby giving God an opportunity to do the things He could not safely do for himself otherwise.

In **Matthew 26:36-46**, we read that Jesus came to the place called Gethsemane, along with disciples, and went alone to pray unto the His Father. The Bible tells us in **Matthew 26:44** that Jesus prayed

the **third time, saying the same words**, “*if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.*”

Also, **2 Corinthians 12:8-9** “For this thing I **besought the Lord thrice**, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

So, **yes it is acceptable to repeatedly pray for the same thing.** We must pray in accordance to God’s will (**1John 5:14-15**). **1 John 5:14-15** “*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*”

## **HOW CAN I GET MY PRAYERS ANSWERED BY GOD?**

**1 John 3:22** “And **whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.**” What an astounding statement! John says in so many words, that everything he asked for, he received it because he keeps God’s commandments and do those things that are pleasing in God’s sight. In other words, the one who expects God to do as he asks Him, must on his part **DO WHATEVER GOD BIDS HIM**. If we give a listening ear to all God's commands to us and obey them, He will give a listening ear to all our petitions to Him.

This verse goes beyond the mere keeping of God's commandments. John tells us that we must **DO THOSE THINGS THAT ARE**

PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT. There are many things which it would be pleasing to God for us to do which He has not specifically commanded us. A true child is not content with merely doing those things which his father specifically commands him to do. He studies to know his father's will, and if he thinks that there is anything that he can do that would please his father, he does it gladly, though his father has never given him any specific order to do it. So it is with the true child of God. He does not ask merely whether certain things are commanded or certain things forbidden. He studies to know his Father's will in all things.

There are many Christians to-day who are doing things that are **not pleasing to God**, and leaving undone things which would be pleasing to God. Therefore, if you are doing those things pleasing unto God and keeping His commandments, you can be assured that God will answer your prayers because you abide Him and His words abide in you, thus He will do those things you ask (**John 15:7**). **John 15:7** *“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”*

**Ephesians 6:18** *“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”*

In this verse, we discover the tremendous importance of prayer with startling and overwhelming force. When we meditate upon this verse, the Holy Spirit will help you to unearth the keys to the power and force of prayer. There is definitely a connection between

praying in the Spirit and watching with all perseverance as we present our supplications unto the Lord.

As we meditate upon **Ephesians 6:18**, and ask the Holy Spirit to give us understanding and utterance as to what to pray, we will come to recognize that we must always pray in every season on every occasion by putting all our energy and whole heart and soul into our prayers.

We must understand that prayer is not another weapon, but rather it is the spirit, the manner, in which the whole armor of God is worn and the battle fought. Paul is here urging prayer as a perpetual state of mind, in other words, a continuous attitude of communion with God. (**Luke 18:1; Phil. 4:6; Heb. 4:16**)

## **WHAT IS THE PROPER WAY TO PRAY?**

Great light is given to us about "How to Pray" in **Matthew 6:6** "*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*"; and **1John 5:14-15** "*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*" These passages teach us plainly that if we are to pray aright, we must pray according to God's will, and after the manner Jesus gave us to pray, then will we get the things we ask of Him.

**Psalm 145:18** throws a great deal of light on the question of how to pray: "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth." Thus, the proper way to pray is in truth through the scriptures. The prayer that God answers is the prayer that is real, the prayer that asks for something that is sincerely desired and according to His will.

**Luke 21:36** "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

**Hebrews 4:16** "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Therefore, the Word of God gives us guidance as to the proper way to pray. However, someone might be also wondering what is the proper posture or position to assume when praying unto the Lord. The key element in determining the proper posture or position to pray is "**reverence**". God is Holy, so we must approach Him with all meekness and reverence when praying. God's Word gives examples of the different postures used in offering pray, supplication and thanksgiving unto the Lord. **Psalms 89:7** "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." **Hebrews 12:28** "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:" **Hebrews 5:7** "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and

tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;” Hebrews 10:22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.” Revelation 15:4 “Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.”

A woman stood ..., praying unto the LORD in **1 Samuel 1:26**; They stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God in Nehemiah 9:3-5; at the evening sacrifice Ezra fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God in Ezra 9:5 and **1 Kings 8:54** when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

## **WHAT IS INTERCESSORY PRAYER?**

Intercessory prayer is simply the act of praying on behalf of others. There are several examples of intercessory prayer throughout the Old and New Testaments, in the cases of Abraham, Moses, David, Samuel, Hezekiah, Elijah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. Christ is pictured in the New Testament as the ultimate intercessor. Thus following Christ’s example, all Christian prayer becomes intercession in the truest sense since they are offered to God through and by our Saviour, Jesus Christ. At cavalry Jesus became our mediator and redeemer. Because of Jesus’ mediation, we can now

intercede in prayer on behalf of other Christians or for the lost, asking God to grant their requests according to His will.

The following is only a partial list of those for whom we are to offer intercessory prayers: all in authority (1 Timothy 2:2); ministers (Philippians 1:19); the church (Psalms 122:6); friends (Job 42:8); fellow countrymen (Romans 10:1); the sick (James 5:14); enemies (Jeremiah 29:7); those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44); those who forsake us (2 Timothy 4:16); and all men (1 Timothy 2:1).

**Exodus 32:7-14; Deuteronomy 9:8-9, 12-20, 23-27, etc.; Psalms 106:23** - Moses' intercession for the people of God, in pleading with the Lord for mercy, held back the hand of God from consuming the nation in His wrath.

**Acts 12:5-12, etc.** - Because "prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God," Peter's "chains fell off from his hands," "the iron gate ... opened to them of its own accord," and he was led out of the prison by an angel of God!

**Joel 2:17** “Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?”

**Colossians 4:2-3** “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:”

**Romans 15:30** “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;”

**Hebrews 7:25** “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” This verse tells us that Jesus is able to save us unto the uttermost, not merely FROM the uttermost, but UNTO the uttermost, unto entire completeness, absolute perfection, because He not merely died, but because He also "ever liveth." The verse also tells us for what purpose He now lives, "TO MAKE INTERCESSION FOR US," to pray. Praying is the principal thing He is doing in these days. It is by His prayers that He is saving us.

**Romans 8:34** “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” If we then are to have fellowship with Jesus Christ in His present work, we must spend much time in prayer; we must give ourselves to earnest, constant, persistent, perseverance and overcoming prayer. It is important to have fellowship the Father, so to that end we should ask the Father that whatever else He may make us, to make us at all events an intercessor, to make us a servant who knows how to pray, and who spends much time in prayer.

This ministry of intercession is a glorious and a mighty ministry, and we can all have part in it. As a Christian, a servant of the true and living God, we should shut ourselves away from the world and

present our prayers for the saints, and for our pastors, and for the unsaved, and for foreign missionaries.

**Hebrews 4:16** “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

It is important to recognize that gratitude and intercession are two most important elements in prevailing prayer. **Philippians 4:6** “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

Thanksgiving and supplication is added to prayer. As we give thanks unto God, it helps to remind us of past mercies and prepares us to receive further blessings from the Lord. It is not necessary for us to tell God our needs for He already knows our needs before we even ask Him. This opens the petitioner’s heart to hear and receive the voice of the Holy Spirit, who gives utterance of what to say and presents our petitions unto the Lord.

## **HOW CAN I BE SURE I AM PRAYING ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD?**

God has revealed His will in His Word. When anything is definitely promised in the Word of God, we know that it is His will to give that thing. If then when I pray, I can find some definite promise of God's Word and lay that promise before God, I know that He hears me, and if I know that He hears me, I know that I have the petition that I have asked of Him. For example, when I pray for wisdom I know that it is the will of God to give me wisdom, for He says so in **James 1:5**: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that

giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." So when I ask for wisdom I know that the prayer is heard, and that wisdom will be given me especially if my desire is to use this wisdom to bless God's work and faithfully serve Him. In like manner when I pray for the Holy Spirit, I know from **Luke 11:13** that it is God's will, that my prayer is heard, and that I have the petition that I have asked of Him: "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"

God has promised to give His Holy Spirit to them who ask for it. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live Holy, righteous lives; as well as to lead, guide, direct and teach in truth. Certainly it is our privilege to know God's will. When we have a specific promise in the Word of God, if we doubt that it is God's will, or if we doubt that God will do the thing that we ask, we make God a liar. **Numbers 23:19** "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Thus, we can trust God and claim His promises, **2 Corinthians 1:20** "FOR ALL THE PROMISES OF GOD IN HIM ARE YEA, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."

Here is one of the greatest secrets of prevailing prayer: To study the Word to find what God's will is as revealed there in the promises, and then simply take these promises and spread them out before God in prayer with the absolutely unwavering expectation that He will do what He has promised in His Word.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRAY IN JESUS' NAME?

Prayer in the name of Christ has power with God. God is well pleased with His Son Jesus Christ. He hears Him always, and He also hears always the prayer that is really in His name. There is a fragrance in the name of Christ that makes acceptable to God every prayer that bears it.

**John 14:13**, "Whatsoever ye shall ask IN MY NAME, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." Jesus is letting us know that there is power in His name. Prayer in the name of Christ has power with God. God is well pleased with His Son Jesus Christ. He hears Him always, and He also hears always the prayer that is really in His name. There is a fragrance in the name of Christ that makes acceptable to God every prayer that bears it.

There are conditions for being able to tap into this great power source. It is simple, but one can only experience this great source of power by doing it God's way. **John 15:7** "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." In other words, Jesus is saying that "If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it, if ye abide in me and my words abide in you." Jesus is the Word, so through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Jesus can abide in us and we in Him.

To pray then in the name of Christ is to pray on the merit or credit of Jesus and not on my credit because I have none. In other words, to renounce any thought that I might have on any such claims on God, but rather approach Him in the name and power of Jesus Christ. Praying in the name of Christ is not merely adding the phrase "I ask

these things in Jesus' name" to my prayer. I may put that phrase in my prayer and really be resting in my own merit all the time. But when I really do approach God, not on the ground of my merit, but on the ground of Christ's merit, not on the ground of my goodness, but on the ground of the atoning blood (**Heb. 10:19**), God will hear me. Very much of our prayers today are vain because many people approach God imagining that they have some claim upon God whereby He is under obligations to answer their prayers.

**John 16:24** "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." The way to have it filled full is by praying in the name of Jesus. People who are full of joy and bubbling always spend much time in prayer.

Why is it that prayer in the name of Christ brings such fullness of joy? In part, because we get what we ask! But that is not the only reason, nor the greatest. It makes God real. When we ask something definite of God, and He gives it, how real God becomes! He is right there! It is blessed to have a God who is real, and not merely an idea.

There is no greater joy on earth or in heaven, than communion with God, and prayer in the name of Jesus brings us into communion with Him. The Psalmist was surely not speaking only of future blessedness, but also of present blessedness when he said, "In Thy presence is fullness of joy." (**Ps. 16.11.**) O the unutterable joy of those moments when in our prayers we really press into the presence of God!

## WHAT IS PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT?

The Word of God is the instrument through which the Holy Spirit works, it is the sword of the Spirit in more senses than one; and the one who would know the work of the Holy Spirit in any direction must feed upon the Word. The one who would pray in the Spirit must meditate much upon the Word, that the Holy Spirit may have something through which He can work. The Holy Spirit works His prayers in us through the Word, and neglect of the Word makes praying in the Holy Spirit an impossibility. If we would feed the fire of our prayers with the fuel of God's Word, all our difficulties in prayer would disappear.

There are many things that we need from God which are not covered by any specific promise, but we are not left in ignorance of the will of God even then. Romans 8:26-27 “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD.”

Here we are distinctly told that the Spirit of God prays in us, draws out our prayer, in the line of God's will. When we are thus led out by the Holy Spirit in any direction, to pray for any given object, we may do it in all confidence that it is God's will, and that we are to get the very thing we ask of Him, even though there is no specific promise to cover that particular case or specific situation. Ecclesiastes 1:9 “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be;

and that which is done is that which shall be done: and THERE IS NO NEW THING UNDER THE SUN.” Often God by His Spirit lays upon us a heavy burden of prayer for some given individual. We cannot rest, we pray for that individual with groanings which cannot be uttered. Perhaps the man is entirely beyond our reach, but God hears the prayer, and in many a case it is not long before we hear of that individual definite conversion or breakthrough in their lives.

In **Eph. 6:18**, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication IN THE SPIRIT," and in **Jude 20**, "Praying IN THE HOLY GHOST." Indeed the whole secret of prayer is found in these three words, "in the Spirit." It is the prayer that God, the Holy Spirit, inspires that God the Father answers. **John 14:16-17** "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; EVEN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." **Romans 8:26** "Likewise THE SPIRIT ALSO HELPETH OUR INFIRMITIES: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." He teaches us how to pray. True prayer is prayer in the Spirit; that is, the prayer the Spirit inspires and directs. When we come into God's presence we should recognize "our infirmity," our ignorance of what we should pray for or how we should pray for it, and in the consciousness of our utter inability to pray aright we should look up to the Holy Spirit, casting ourselves utterly upon Him to direct our prayers, to lead out our desires and to guide our utterance of them. When we pray in the Spirit, we will pray for the right things and in the right way. There will be joy and power in our prayer.

## WHAT ARE SOME HINDRANCES TO EFFECTIVE PRAYER?

The first hindrance to prayer we will find in **James 4:3**, "*Ye ask and receive not BECAUSE YE ASK AMISS, THAT YE MAY SPEND IT IN YOUR PLEASURES.*" A selfish purpose in prayer robs prayer of power. Very many prayers are selfish. These may be prayers for things for which it is perfectly proper to ask, for things which it is the will of God to give, but the motive of the prayer is entirely wrong, and so the prayer falls powerless to the ground. The true purpose in prayer is that God may be glorified in the answer. If we ask any petition merely that we may receive something to use in our pleasures or in our own gratification in one way or another, we "ask amiss" and need not expect to receive what we ask. This explains why many prayers remain unanswered.

The second hindrance to prayer we find in **Is. 59:1,2**: "*Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But YOUR INIQUITIES HAVE SEPARATED BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR GOD, and YOUR SINS HAVE HID HIS FACE FROM YOU, THAT HE WILL NOT HEAR.*"... Sin hinders prayer. Your own sins; your iniquities have separated you from God, and your sins have hid His face from you that He will not hear your prayers. Many are crying to God in vain, simply because of sin in their life. It may be some sin in the past that has been unconfessed and unjudged, it may be some sin in the present that is cherished, very likely is not even looked upon as sin, but there the sin is, hidden away somewhere in the heart or in the

life, and God "will not hear" your prayers because of the sin that is in your life.

The third hindrance to prayer is found in **Ezekiel 14:3**, "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?" **IDOLS IN THE HEART CAUSE GOD TO REFUSE TO LISTEN TO OUR PRAYERS.** What is an idol? An idol is anything that takes the place of God, anything that is the supreme object of our affection. God alone has the right to the supreme place in our hearts. Everything and everyone else must be subordinate to Him.

The fourth hindrance to prayer is found in **Prov. 21:13**, "WHOSO STOPPETH HIS EARS AT THE CRY OF THE POOR, HE ALSO SHALL CRY HIMSELF, BUT SHALL NOT BE HEARD." It is the one who gives generously to others who receives generously from God. **Luke 6:38** "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." The generous man is the mighty man of prayer. The stingy man is the powerless man of prayer.

The fifth hindrance to prayer is found in **Mark 11:25**, "And when ye stand praying, FORGIVE, if ye have ought against any; that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." An unforgiving spirit is one of the commonest hindrances to prayer. Prayer is answered on the basis that our sins are forgiven; and God cannot deal with us on the basis of forgiveness while we are harboring ill-will against those who have wronged us. Anyone who

is nursing a grudge against another has fast closed the ear of God against his own petition.

The sixth hindrance to prayer is found in **1Peter 3:7**, “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.” Here we are plainly told that A WRONG RELATION BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE IS A HINDRANCE TO PRAYER.

The seventh hindrance to prayer is found in **James 1:5-7**, 7 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask IN FAITH, NOTHING WAVERING. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.” Prayers are hindered by unbelief. God demands that we shall believe His Word absolutely. To question it is to make Him a liar. Many of us do that when we plead His promises, thus many of our prayers are not answered. How many prayers are hindered by our wretched unbelief! We go to God and ask Him for something that is positively promised in His Word, and then we do not more than half expect to get it. Because of our lack of faith and unbelief, we do not receive the petition we ask of the Lord.

## **IS CORPORATE PRAYER IMPORTANT? IS CORPORATE PRAYER MORE POWERFUL THAN AN INDIVIDUAL PRAYING ALONE?**

Jesus is our greatest example. **Hebrews 4:16** “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” These words make it very

plain that God has appointed a way by which we shall seek and obtain mercy and grace. That way is prayer; bold, confident, outspoken approach to the throne of grace, the most holy place of God's presence, where our sympathizing High Priest, Jesus Christ, has entered in our behalf. There is certainly power in prayer as we have already shown from the Word of God.

There is power in UNITED PRAYER. Of course there is power in the prayer of an individual, but there is vastly increased power in united prayer. God delights in the unity of His people, and seeks to emphasize it in every way, and so He pronounces a special blessing upon united prayer. We read in **Matt. 18:19**, "*If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven.*" This unity, however, must be real. The passage just quoted does not say that if two shall agree in asking, but if two shall agree **AS TOUCHING** anything they shall ask. Two people might agree to ask for the same thing, and yet there be no real agreement as touching the thing they asked. One might ask it because s/he really desired it, but the other might ask it simply to please his/her friend. But where there is real agreement, *where the Spirit of God brings two believers into perfect harmony* as concerning that which they may ask of God, where the Spirit lays the same burden on two hearts; in all such prayer *there is absolutely irresistible power.*

We read in Heb. 5:7 that "**in the days of His flesh**" **Christ** "offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears." In **Romans 15:30**, "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together

with me in your prayers to God for me;” Paul beseeches the saints in Rome to STRIVE together with him in their prayers. The word translated "strive" means primarily to contend as in athletic games or in a fight. In other words, the prayer that prevails with God is the prayer into which we put our whole soul, stretching out toward God in intense and agonizing desire. Much of our prayers today have no power in it because there is no heart in them. We rush into God's presence, run through a string of petitions, jump up and go out. If someone would ask us an hour or so afterward what we have prayed for, many of us could not tell you what our prayers contained. If we put so little heart into our prayers, we should not expect God to answer them because all answered prayers are for the glory of God. Truly God knows the ending from the beginning, therefore, He knows if the answer would glorify Him and if it would be a true blessing for the petitioner. Many times, God has to delay the answers to our prayers because we are not yet ready for the blessing awaiting that prayer.

**Acts 12:5-12** “Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him... the angel of the Lord came upon him, and ... smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. ... he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.” Because "corporate prayer was made without ceasing Peter's "chains fell off from his hands," "the iron gate ... opened to them of its own accord," and he was led out of the prison by an angel of God!

## WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN PRAYER AND FASTING?

We see from Daniel 9 that there is a connection between fasting and praying. In **Daniel 9:3** we read that Daniel set his face "unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes." There are those who think that fasting belongs to the old dispensation; but when we look at **Acts 14:23**, and **Acts 13:2,3**, we find that it was practiced by the earnest men of the apostolic day. **Acts 14:23** "And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed." **Acts 13:2-3** "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

If we would pray with power, we should pray with fasting. This of course does not mean that we should fast every time we pray; but there are times of emergency or special crisis in work or in our individual lives, when we, God's people of downright earnestness, should withdraw themselves even from the eating, and indulging the natural appetites or pleasures that would be perfectly proper under other circumstances, that they may give themselves up wholly to prayer. **There is a peculiar power in such prayer.** Every great crisis in life and work should be met in that way. There is nothing pleasing to God in our giving up in a purely Pharisaic and legal way, things which are pleasant, but there is power in that downright earnestness and determination to obtain in prayer the things we sorely need, that

leads us to put away everything, that we may set our faces to find God, and obtain blessings from Him.

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PRAY WITHOUT CEASING?**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” The Greek word "without ceasing" means continuous action. Therefore, “praying without ceasing” means to pray continuously. This passage focuses on heart attitude. "Rejoice always" is an attitude of joyfulness. Giving thanks in everything also requires a mental attitude of thankfulness. How do we rejoice and give thanks? Through prayer! Therefore, effective prayer is a proper heart attitude: a mental outlook of joyful thanksgiving. It expresses itself throughout the day with silent prayers of vital communication with the LORD. Maintaining a healthy relationship requires communication. Always be "on line" with God so when the Spirit moves you to pray, you can instantly agree with Him. The Holy Spirit prays for us with inexpressible groans (**Romans 8:26**). When we are in harmony with the Spirit, we are praying continuously. The heart attitude of praying without ceasing means an ever-open heart to the Lord’s leading through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 12:5** Peter therefore was kept in prison: but **prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.** Pray "without ceasing" is "earnestly" praying with faith that God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. In other words, this is a soul that is stretched out earnestly in intense desire to God, willing to accept His divine answer. In Luke 22:44 we see that Jesus, "**He prayed more**

**earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**" Jesus prayed in earnest with intensity to God, His Father, to let the cup pass, but willingly accepted His Father's divine will. We too must stretch out before the Lord and earnestly prayer with intensity that God will answer our petition, but willingly accept His divine will.

## **HOW IS PRAYER COMMUNICATING WITH GOD?**

Prayer is simply communicating with God by listening and sharing our petitions with God in faith. It is through prayer that our sin is brought to light, our most hidden sin. As we kneel before God and pray, **Ps.139:23,24**, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me," God shoots the penetrating rays of His light into the innermost recesses of our heart, and the sins we may have never suspected are brought to view. In answer to prayer, God washes us from our iniquity and cleanses us from our sin (Ps. 51:2). In answer to prayer our eyes are opened to behold wondrous things out of God's Word (Ps. 119:18). In answer to prayer we get wisdom to know God's way (Jas. 1:5) and strength to walk in it. As we meet God in prayer and gaze into His face, we are changed into His own image from glory to glory ( 2 Cor. 3:18). Each day of true prayer life finds us liker more to my glorious Lord.

**1 John 5:14-15** tells us, "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 asked of him." No matter the person

praying, the passion behind the prayer, or the purpose of the prayer - God answers prayers that are in agreement with His will. His answers are not always yes, but are always in our best interest. When our desires line up with His will, we will come to understand that in time. When we pray passionately and purposefully, according to God's will, God responds powerfully!

**Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” In other words, you have to believe in God and obey His commandments in order to pray to God and have Him answer your.

**1 Peter 5:7** “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” **Ephesians 3:12** “In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.” **Hebrews 4:16** “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” **Psalms 5:3** “My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.” These scriptures help us to see that we can come before the throne of God with all our cares, concerns, worries, and burdens boldly anytime we need to, but especially in early in the morning.

## **WHAT IS THE POWER OF PRAYER?**

The power of prayer is hinged upon the faithfulness of God to perform that which He has promised, for all the promises of God are “...yea, and in Him Amen...”, **2 Corinthians 1:20** “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of

God by us.” The power of prayer has overcome enemies (**Psalm 6:9-10**), conquered death (**2 Kings 4:3-36**), brought healing (**James 5:14-15**), and defeated demons (**Mark 9:29**). God, through prayer, opens eyes, changes hearts, heals wounds, and grants wisdom (**James 1:5**). Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego show us that when we pray, even the hottest flame will not burn us (**Daniel 3:19-28**). The power of prayer should never be underestimated because it draws on the glory and might of the infinitely powerful God of the universe! **Daniel 4:35** proclaims, "All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: 'What have you done?'"

There is power in Prayer! Those persons who know the deep peace of God, the unfathomable peace that passeth all understanding, are always men and women of much prayer. **2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." We become new creatures as we open our hearts in prayer and allow God to come in and take control. As we pray to God, **Psalms 51:10**, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.", we become changed. Thus, prayer is a transforming agent; we are changed by the power of prayer through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and faith in God. Prayer allows Christ to come in and make us anew. **Ezekiel 36:26** "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." **Isaiah 26:3** "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on

thee: because he trusteth in thee.” The power of prayer is to change us as well as change our circumstances; as well as to give us perfect peace as we keep our mind stayed on Jesus.

**James 5:16-18** “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.** Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.” We see from these verses, that prayer is very powerful and can change both the petitioner and their surrounding both carnal and spiritual. We can bind or loose things here on earth as well as in heaven through prayer. **Matthew 18:18** “Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

My friend, don't miss the blessings and power God has made available just for you through prayer. Perhaps you are perplexed or troubled with a life situation, do not delay, but join me in prayer, while trusting and believing that God ... Hebrews 11:6 “**But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.**”

## **WHAT IS THE PRAYER OF JABEZ?**

**1 Chronicles 4:9-10** “**And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I**

*bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.”*

During an uneventful time in Israel's history, a faithful man named Jabez prayed a simple, straightforward prayer and gained the favor and blessings of God. Now, a small book has prompted millions of saints and seekers to memorize and repeat the same prayer daily. After three thousand years of obscurity, Jabez has found surprising favor with the world.

Things started badly for a person no one had ever heard of; then Jabez prayed an unusual, one-sentence prayer and things ended extraordinarily well.

Clearly, the outcome can be traced to his prayer. Something about Jabez's simple, direct request to God changed his life and left a permanent mark on the history books of Israel. “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil.

In this little prayer, people have experienced extraordinary results. For examples, “Living beyond the limits” When was the last time God worked through you in such a way that you knew beyond doubt that God had done it? God really does have unclaimed blessings waiting for you. Seeing manifest Himself in awesome ways that leaves the petitioners overwhelmed and excited about trusting, praising and living for Jesus.

So, what's the problem with promoting a Biblical prayer that God honored in His Word? After all, our Lord delights in the prayers of His saints -- all the daily thanks, praises and petitions that turn our hearts to Him in faith, worship and surrender. Using Bible verses as a basis for prayer and worship is a wonderful habit. Why be concerned?

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*Because this book -- not Jabez' prayer -- promises rewards from God that God doesn't promise in the Bible. While author Bruce Wilkinson enriches the meaning of Jabez' prayer in the rest of his book, the first part (many readers go no further) seems to put the book into the unbiblical realm of the "name it claim it" movement. Consider the opening words:*

*"Dear Reader, I want to teach you how to pray a daring prayer that God always answers. It is brief--only one sentence with four parts--and tucked away in the Bible, but I believe it contains the key to a life of extraordinary favor with God...."*

*Thousands of believers who are applying its truths are seeing miracles happen on a regular basis. Will you join me for a personal exploration of Jabez? I hope you will!" *Emphasis added**

Millions have joined his quest. Many have testified to miraculous answers which demonstrate God's love, mercy and intervention on behalf of those who seek Him. But these amazing interventions and anecdotal stories don't *prove* that God "*always answers*" this specific prayer. Nor do they verify that this Old Testament prayer by itself "contains the key" to extraordinary favor with God.

Nor does the Bible suggest that we -- God's people -- have the authority or power to "put Jabez' [or any other] prayer to work," as [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com) suggests in its publicity statement below. Ponder its invitation to potential buyers:

**"Discover how to release the miraculous power of God in your life!  
...See what God will do for you when you put Jabez' prayer to work!"**

It is hard to see how anyone could conclude that Jabez' prayer "works" better than the prayers of Moses, David, Elijah and Paul -- men used by God to liberate His people, slay giants, restore life to a dead boy and bring sight to the blind. The "miraculous power of God" demonstrated through their lives came, not because of the words they uttered, but because they had consecrated their lives to God, humbled themselves before Him, trusted in His provision for sin, and chose to seek and do His will *with* all their heart and *without* compromise.

Therefore God forgave their sins, offered His strength in their weaknesses and -- through the Holy Spirit in them -- put prayers in their hearts that expressed His will. Because these men took time to know His Word and will, God "spoke to Moses face to face, as a

man speaks to his friend." (Exodus 33:11) No less amazing, He called David "a man after My *own* heart, who will do all My will." (Acts 13:22)

## **WHY DO WE PRAY BEFORE EATING MEALS?**

**Matthew 14:19** "And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude."

**Matthew 15:36** "And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude."

**Matthew 26:27** "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;"

In following the examples of Christ in which He blessed and gave thanks when He fed the 5,000, 4,000 after ministering to the multitude; also when He blessed the last supper with His disciples. Jesus is our ultimate example, so we are to follow His examples. Also by praying before we eat our meals, we are showing gratitude and thankfulness to God for being our provider, sustainer and keeper. As Christians, we should live our lives in constant gratitude to the One who sustains us by His grace.

## **WHY DO WE END OUR PRAYERS WITH "AMEN"?**

Amen is so; so be it (used after a prayer, creed, or other formal statement to express solemn ratification or agreement).

The word "Amen" is almost always the last word of a solemn statement. In the first example, it was said by the woman at the end of the priest's pronouncement of the curse and of her taking the oath.

We find the word “Amen” as the last word in several instances in the Bible.

- The word is found in the last verses of the Bible (Rev 22:20-21).
- The first three books of Psalms end with Amen (Ps 41:13, 72:19, 89:52).
- Most books of the New Testament end with it (KJV).
- In the land of Israel, when a prayer or prophecy was made, or a law of God was read, "All the people said, “Amen”" (Neh 5:13, 8:6).
- The Lord's example prayer ends with “Amen” (Matt 6:13).
- Paul uses the word seven times in his letter to the Romans at the end of doxologies or benedictions (Rom 1:25, 9:5, 11:36, 15:33, 16:20,24,27)
- Paul implies that people should say “Amen” at the end of a prayer in church (1Cor. 14:16), “Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?” Paul uses the word as an affirmation when he says of Christ in 1Cor. 14:16.

The word “Amen” appears therefore to be the fitting last word for solemn utterances made before God.

## **WHY IS DAILY PRAYER IMPORTANT?**

In **Ephesians 6:18**, we read words which put the tremendous importance of prayer with startling and overwhelming force: “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

This verse gives us the connection to God's power. We see that we must pray, pray, pray. It is important that we put all our energy and all our heart into prayer. The Authorized: "With all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the spirit, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."

Note the ALLS: "with ALL prayer," "at ALL seasons," "in ALL perseverance," "for ALL the saints." Paul realized the natural slothfulness of man, and especially his natural slothfulness in prayer.

**Matthew 6:11** "Give us this day our daily bread." Jesus tells us to pray this prayer trusting God to provide our daily needs. Thus daily prayer is essential for the spiritual health of a Christian. **Matthew 4:4** "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." **Proverbs 30:8** "Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:" **Luke 11:3** "Give us day by day our daily bread." Daily prayers bring us into a posture to truly God for our daily needs.

**Luke 21:34-36** "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Watch ye therefore, and PRAY ALWAYS, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these

things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. According to this passage there is only one way in which we can be prepared for the coming of the Lord when He appears, that is, through much prayer.

## **HOW SHOULD A CHRISTIAN RESPOND TO UNANSWERED PRAYER?**

Prayer is actively acknowledging God as the source of all power and trusting that His answers, whether expected or unexpected, will accomplish greater things **Isaiah 46:9-10; 64:4, Isaiah 46:9-10** *“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:”*

**Isaiah 64:4** *“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him..”*

God is all knowing, therefore, a Christian should ask God what is blocking the answer to their prayer. When the Holy Spirit brings a matter to your mind, the Christian should **instantly pray for understanding and strength to acknowledge their shortcoming or sin, then accept God’s divine power to turn away from the matter to become whole in Jesus.** However, the Christian turns a deaf ear to God’s precepts, and disobey them, God will more likely turn a deaf ear to their prayers and not honor them. Here is the secret of much **unanswered prayers.** We are not listening to God's Word, and

therefore He does not grant our petitions because He knows that the answer will not glorify Him nor result in a blessing for the petitioner and certainly will not draw him/her closer to God and His divine will for their lives.

**John 14:13** “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” Jesus, knowing all things declaring the end from the beginning, therefore, He knows if the prayer answered will not glorify the Father, He cannot answer that prayer because all answered prayers must glorify the Father through the Son.

**John 16:23-24** “And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” We must also recognize that God is too perfect to do something that is not in accordance with His good and perfect will; thereby giving the petitioner and beneficial full joy. Hence, all Christians should ask God to reveal whatever is hindering His answer to the prayer, then wait patiently on God to reveal the hindering. A Christian must also accept the Father’s perfect will even if the answer is no or wait (not yet). Faith and love enable the Christian to trust and accept the Father’s answer.

**IF YOU ARE PRAYING FOR SOMEONE TO BE SAVED AND THEY DON’T WANT TO BE SAVED, WILL GOD ANSWER THE PRAYER?**

Prayer prevails in the conversion of others through the movement of the Holy Spirit. No one comes to the Lord on their own, but rather it is through prayer and faith that we are converted. Christ does not force Himself upon anyone, but His Spirit will urge, plead and convict the sinner to accept Jesus' invitation to allow Him to come in and sup with the individual. **John 3:16** tells us that God love was so great that he sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to save us through His death. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

It is through our prayers that we beseech the Lord not to take away His Holy Spirit from pleading with the sinner; it is Jesus' delight to stand at the door of the sinner's heart knocking to enter and make them a new creature so that they will no longer desire to live in sin. **Revelation 3:20** “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” **Luke 19:10** tells us that Jesus came to save, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Therefore, is important to pray diligently for the unsaved, but know that God cannot save the sinners until they are willing to be saved. God wants us all to be saved, so we must continue to pray for the unsaved and live a holy, righteous life before the sinners by allowing Jesus to love the sinners through us.

**2 Corinthians 5:19-21** “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we

pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

**1 John 4:9-10** “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

**1 Timothy 1:15-16** “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.”

**Revelation 22:17** “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

All sinners must desire to be saved before God can save any sinner.

**These answers are presented by the Pastoral Staff of  
Turning Point Mission Center**

1814 Shady Lane Drive • Jackson, MS 39204  
601-372-1080 [www.lighthousept.org](http://www.lighthousept.org)

Reference Material: The King James Bible; How to Pray by R.A. Torrey; Problems with The Prayer of Jabez by Berit Kjos; SDA Bible Commentary