

PREVAILING PRAYER  
“HOW MUCH MORE ...”  
(T.E. 9/17/2008)  
PREVAILING PROMISES  
(1 of 7)

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Introduction

1. Encouragements to Pray

1 John 5: 14,15

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, 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 the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

E. M Bounds

In prayer, “God turns Himself over to the will of His people. When Christ becomes our all in all, prayer lays God’s treasures at our feet.” *Prayer*, p. 177.

Christ Object Lessons, p. 173

“If we surrender our lives to His service, we can never be placed in a position for which God has not made provision. Whatever may be our situation, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexities, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend. If in our ignorance we make missteps, Christ does not leave us. His voice, clear and distinct, is heard saying, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." John 14:6. "He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper." Psalm 72:12. The Lord declares that He will be honored by those who draw nigh to Him, who faithfully do His service. "Thou keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee." Isaiah 26:3. The arm of Omnipotence is outstretched to lead us onward and still onward. Go forward, the Lord says; I will send you help. It is for My name's glory that you ask, and you shall receive. I will be honored before those who are watching for your failure. They shall see My word triumph gloriously. "All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:22.

2. Necessary Bible Conditions & Expectations

Charles Finney

“On one occasion, when I was in one of the prayer-meetings, I was asked if I did not desire that they should pray for me. I told them, ‘No!’ because I did not see that God answered their prayers. I suppose I

52 need to be prayed for, for I am conscious that I am a sinner; but I do not see that it will do any good for  
53 you to pray for me; for you are continually asking, but you do not receive.... You have prayed enough...to  
54 have prayed the devil out of (this town) if there (were) any virtue in your prayers.’ On further reading of  
55 my Bible, it struck me that the reason their prayers were not answered was because they did not comply  
56 with the revealed conditions upon which God had promised to answer prayer; that they did not pray in  
57 faith, in the sense of expecting God to give them the things they asked for.” *Memoires*  
58

### 59 3. Sharing Together

- 60
- 61 • What has been your experience with prayer?
- 62 • What do you hope to gain by this study of prayer?
- 63

### 64 4. Singing Together

65 Sweet hour of prayer. (2x)  
66 That calls me from a world of care;  
67 And bids me at my Father’s throne.  
68 Make all my wants and wishes known.  
69 In seasons of distress and grief,  
70 My soul has often found relief;  
71 And oft escaped the tempter’s snare,  
72 By thy return sweet hour of prayer.  
73

### 74 God’s Prevailing Promises

#### 75 Mark 11: 24

76 “Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them and you will have them.”  
77

#### 78 Matthew 7: 7,8

79 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For  
80 everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”  
81

#### 82 Matthew 18: 24

83 “If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in  
84 heaven.”  
85

#### 86 Psalm 81: 10

87 “Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.”—was key promise of George Muller.  
88

#### 89 James 4: 2

90 “You do not have because you do not ask.”  
91

#### 92 2 Cor. 9:8

93 “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you always having all sufficiency in all  
94 things, may have an abundance for every good work.”—was key promise claimed by August Francke.  
95

#### 96 Luke 1: 37

97 “With God, nothing is impossible.”  
98

#### 99 John 14: 12-14

100 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater  
101 works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will  
102 do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

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Matthew 17: 20

“If you have faith as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible for you.”

Other Testimonies

Unknown Christian

“Prayer is the key that unlocks the door of God’s treasure-house. It is not too much to say that all real growth in the spiritual life — all victory over temptation, all confidence and peace in the presence of difficulties and dangers, all repose of spirit in times of great disappointment or loss, all habitual communion with God — depends upon the practice of secret prayer. It can easily be shown that all want of success (and all failure in the spiritual life and in Christian work) is due to defective or insufficient prayer.... The greatest thing we can do for God or for man is to pray. For we can accomplish far more by our prayers than by our work. Prayer is omnipotent; it can do anything that God can do! When we pray God works.” *Kneeling Christian*, p. 9, 18.

Great Controversy p. 525

“It is part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask.”

That I May Know Him, p. 224

"God knows our wants, and has provided for them. The Lord has a treasure house of supplies for His children, and can give them what they need under all circumstances. There is not a burden but He can remove, no darkness but He can dispel, no weakness but He can change to power, no fears but He can calm, no worthy aspiration but He can guide and justify."

E. M Bounds

“How vast are the possibilities of prayer! How wide is its reach! What great things are accomplished by this divinely appointed means of grace! It lays its hand on Almighty God and moves Him to do what He would not otherwise do if prayer was not offered. It brings things to pass which would never otherwise occur. The story of prayer is the story of great achievements. Prayer is a wonderful power placed by Almighty God in the hands of His saints, which may be used to accomplish great purposes and to achieve unusual results...The only limits to prayer are the promises of God and His ability to fulfill those promises.” *Possibilities of Prayer*.

Charles Spurgeon

“I have never failed because I have cast myself upon the Lord. I have not hesitated to challenge our church with large ideas of what we might do for God, and we have accomplished all that we purposed. I have sought God’s help in all my manifold undertakings, and though I cannot tell here the story of my private life in God’s work, yet if it were written, it would be a standing proof that there is a God that answers prayer. He has heard my prayers—not now and then—so many times that it has grown into a habit with me to spread my case before God with the absolute certainty that whatsoever I ask of God He will give to me. It is not now a perhaps or a possibility. I know that my Lord answers me, and it would be folly to doubt it. I am sure of this, for I have reaped it.” *Prayer in the Life of the Believer*

Making It Simple

- Miracle Answers of the Past
- My Journey With Prayer

Prevailing Certainties

Mark 11: 24

“Whatever things you ask, when you pray, believe that you have received them, and you will have them.”

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That I May Know Him, p. 230

"We should believe that God will answer our prayers, and not trust to feeling. We should say, 'My gloomy feelings are not evidence that God has not heard me....' We are to trust to the promise of God. We are to go about our business believing that God will do just what He has said He would do, and that the blessings we have prayed for will come to us when we most need them. Every petition enters into the heart of God when we come believing."

Delayed & "No" Answers

Ministry of Healing, p. 474

"In the future life the mysteries that here have annoyed and disappointed us will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes have been among our greatest blessings."

Counsels on Health, p. 380,381

"We all desire an immediate answer to our prayers and are tempted to become discouraged if our prayer is not immediately answered. Now, my experience has taught me that this is a great mistake. The delay is for our special benefit. We have a chance to see whether our faith is true and sincere or changeable like the waves of the sea. We must bind ourselves upon the altar with the strong cords of faith and love, and let patience have her perfect work."

Unknown Christian

"God means every prayer to have an answer. Not a single real prayer can fail of its effect in heaven.... God's answer to prayer may be 'Yes,' or it may be 'No.' It may be 'Wait,' for it may be that He plans a much larger blessing than we imagined, and one that involves other lives as well as our own." *Kneeling Christian*, p. 87.

Andrew Murray

"He wants to impress deep on our minds this one truth, that we may and must most confidently expect an answer to our prayer. Next to the revelation of the Father's love, there is in the whole course of the school of prayer, not a more important lesson than this: 'Everyone that asketh, receiveth.'" *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, p. 21.

Andrew Murray

"It is one of the terrible marks of the diseased state of the Christian life in these days, that there are so many who rest content without the distinct experience of answer to prayer. They pray daily, they ask many things, and trust that some of them will be heard, but know little of direct definite answer to prayer as the rule of daily life."

"The proof that we have prayed aright is the answer. If we ask and receive not, it is because we have not learned to pray aright.... (God) would tell us that we are not to rest without an answer because it is the will of God, the rule in the Father's family: every childlike believing petition is granted.... If no answer comes, we are not to sit down in the sloth that calls itself resignation, and suppose that it is not God's will to give an answer. There must be something in the prayer that is not as God would have it.... We must seek for grace to pray so that the answer may come. It is far easier to the flesh to submit without the answer than to yield itself to be searched and purified by the Spirit, until it has learnt to pray the prayer of faith." *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, pp. 32, 33, 34

How will we respond?

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P R E V A I L I N G P R A Y E R

*PREVAILING AUTHORITY*  
(2 of 7)

Prevailing Promises: [Prevailing Promises](#)

*Prevailing Authority: [Prevailing Authority](#)*

Prevailing Objectives: [Prevailing Objectives](#)

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Introduction

A. Ask!

[Matthew 7:7,8](#)

“Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened unto you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

[Andrew Murray](#)

“It is one of the terrible marks of the diseased state of the Christian life in these days, that there are so many who rest content without the distinct experience of answer to prayer. They pray daily, they ask many things, and trust that some of them will be heard, but know little of direct definite answer to prayer as the rule of daily life. The proof that we have prayed aright is the answer. If we ask and receive not, it is because we have not learned to pray aright.... (God) would tell us that we are not to rest without an answer because it is the will of God, the rule in the Father’s family: every childlike believing petition is granted. If no answer comes, we are not to sit down in the sloth that calls itself resignation, and suppose that it is not God’s will to give an answer. There must be something in the prayer that is not as God would have it.... We must seek for grace to pray so that the answer may come. It is far easier to the flesh to submit without the answer than to yield itself to be searched and purified by the Spirit, until it has learnt to pray the prayer of faith.” *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, pp. 32, 33, 34

B. Sharing Together

- Share a little of what you have learned so far.
- Pray together asking God for blessing.

Prevailing Authority

What authority do we find in the Bible relative to prayer?

254 A. The Authority To *Ask*

255

256 Matthew 7: 11

257 “If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father  
258 who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him.”

259

260 Great Controversy, p. 525

261 “It is part of God’s great plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not  
262 bestow did we not thus ask.”

263

264 Andrew Murray

265 “God wills a great deal of blessing to His people, which never comes to them. He wills it most earnestly,  
266 but they do not will it, and it cannot come to them. This is the great mystery of man’s creation with a free  
267 will, and also of the renewal of his will in redemption, that God has made the execution of His will, in  
268 many things, dependent on the will of man. Prayer is the power by which things come to pass which  
269 otherwise would not take place. (God) has left it to prayer to say where the blessing is to bring the living  
270 water to the desert places; the will of God to bless is dependent upon the will of man to say where the  
271 blessing must descend.” *WCSP* p. 167, 168

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273 B. The Authority to Ask *Specifically*

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275 Matthew 7: 7,8

276 “Ask and it will be given unto you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For  
277 everyone that asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.”

278

279 Youth Instructor, October 1, 1855

280 “To pray aright, is to ask God in faith for the very things you need....”

281

282 Review & Herald, April 28, 1885

283 “Christ impressed upon his disciples the idea that their prayers should be short, expressing just what they  
284 wanted, and no more. He gives the length and substance of their prayers, expressing their desires for  
285 temporal and spiritual blessings, and their gratitude for the same. How comprehensive this sample prayer!  
286 It covers the actual needs of all. One or two minutes is long enough for any ordinary prayer.”

287

288 Unknown Christian

289 “We want every Christian to ask, ‘Have I ever fairly tested prayer?’ How long is it since you last offered  
290 up a definite prayer? .... Most Christians do not give God a chance to show His delight in granting His  
291 children’s petitions, for their requests are vague and indefinite.” *Kneeling Christian*, p. 43

292

293 F. B. Meyer

294 “(Elijah’s) prayer was definite. This is where so many prayers fail. They are shot like arrows into the air.  
295 They are like letters which require no answer, because they ask for nothing. They are like the firing by  
296 artillery in a mimic fight, when only gunpowder is employed. This is why they are so wanting in power  
297 and interest. We do not pray with any expectation of attaining definite and practical results. Let us keep a  
298 list of petitions, which we shall plead before God. Let us direct our prayers, as David did (Psalm V. 3),  
299 and look up for the answer; and we shall find ourselves obtaining new and (unexpected) blessings. Be  
300 definite!” *Elijah*, p. 95.

301

302 Andrew Murray

303 “Our prayers must not be a vague appeal to His mercy, an indefinite cry for blessing, but the distinct  
304 expression of definite need. Some cry for mercy, but take not the trouble to know what mercy must do for

305 them. Others ask, perhaps to be delivered from sin, but do not begin by naming any sin from which  
306 deliverance may be claimed. Still others pray for God's blessing on those around them or on their land,  
307 and yet have no distinct situation where they wait and expect to see the answer. To all the Lord says:  
308 'And what is it now you really want and expect me to do?'" *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, p. 56.

309

310 Mary Slessor

311 "My life is one long, daily, hourly record of answered prayer for physical health, for mental overstrain,  
312 for guidance given marvelously, for errors and dangers averted, for enmity to the Gospel subdued, for  
313 food provided at the exact hour needed, for everything that goes to make up life and my poor service. I  
314 can testify with a full and often wonder-stricken awe that I believe God answers prayer. I know God  
315 answers prayer" *Kneeling Christian* p 94.

316

317 Rosalind Goforth

318 "I learned that prayer was the secret which overcame every obstacle, the key that unlocked every closed  
319 door. I felt like a child learning a new and wonderful lesson—as I saw benches, tables, chairs, stove, fuel,  
320 lamps, oil, even an organ coming in answer to definite prayer for these things. But the best sight of all  
321 was when men and women, deep in sin, were converted in answer to prayer..." *Know God Answers*  
322 *Prayer*, p. 21.

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324 Some Specific Answers to Prayer

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On Your Own

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328 Ask God what He would like you to be praying about?

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330 D. Authority to Ask in *Jesus Name!*

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332 John 16:23, 24

333 "Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My  
334 name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

335

336 Luke 10:17

337 "Even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

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339 Proverbs 18: 10

340 "The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run to it and are safe."

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342 Acts 16: 18

343 "But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to  
344 come out of her.' And he came out that very hour."

345

346 Signs of the Times, June 18, 1902

347 "Christ has opened the way for us to approach God. He says, 'Make use of My name. It will be your  
348 passport to the heart of My Father and to all the riches of His grace....'"

349

350 Desire of Ages, p. 667

351 "He explained that the secret of their success would be in asking for strength and grace in His name. He  
352 would be present before the Father to make request for them. The prayer of the humble (petitioner) He  
353 presents as His own desire in that soul's behalf."

354

355 Selected Messages, Vol. 1, 344

356 “The religious services, the prayers, the praise, the penitent confession of sin ascend from true believers  
357 as incense to the heavenly sanctuary, but passing through the corrupt channels of humanity, they are so  
358 defiled that unless purified by blood, they can never be of value with God. They ascend not in spotless  
359 purity, and unless the Intercessor, who is at God's right hand, presents and purifies all by His  
360 righteousness, it is not acceptable to God. All incense from earthly tabernacles must be moist with the  
361 cleansing drops of the blood of Christ. He holds before the Father the censer of His own merits, in which  
362 there is no taint of earthly corruption. He gathers into this censer the prayers, the praise, and the  
363 confessions of His people, and with these He puts His own spotless righteousness. Then, perfumed with  
364 the merits of Christ's propitiation, the incense comes up before God wholly and entirely acceptable. Then  
365 gracious answers are returned....”

366  
367 Desire of Ages, p. 668

368 “To pray in Christ's name means much. It means that we are to accept His character, manifest His spirit,  
369 and work His works. The Saviour's promise is given on condition. "If ye love Me," He says, "keep My  
370 commandments." He saves men, not in sin, but from sin; and those who love Him will show their love by  
371 obedience.”

372

373 Andrew Murray

374 “Jesus solemnly gives to all His disciples a general and unlimited power of the free use of His Name at all  
375 times for all they desire. He could not do this if He did not know that He could trust us with His interests,  
376 that His honor would be safe in our hands.” *WCSP* p. 135

377

378 George Müller

379 “On the ground of our own goodness we cannot expect to have our prayers answered. But Jesus is  
380 worthy, and for His sake we have our prayers answered.... If we trust in Him, if we hide in Him, if we put  
381 Him forward and ourselves in the background, depend on Him and plead in His name, we may expect to  
382 have our prayers answered.” *Narratives*

383

384 In 1874 Muller fed 2,100 people, supported 189 missionaries, sent £10,000, supported 9,000 day students,  
385 and printed 4 million tracts and thousands of Bibles.

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387 An Example from Daily life

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389 D. Authority to Ask *Expectantly!*

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391 As we plead in His name, we may expect to have our prayers answered!

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393 Mark 11: 24

394 “... Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

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396 James 1:6

397 “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed  
398 by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-  
399 minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

400

401 Mark 9: 23

402 “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

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404 Matthew 17: 20

405 “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will  
406 move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”



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Our High Calling, p. 134

We must not pray and then run away as though afraid we should receive an answer. God will not mock us. He will answer if we watch unto prayer, if we believe we receive the things we ask for, and keep believing and never lose patience in believing. This is watching unto prayer. We guard the prayer of faith with expectancy and hope. We must wall it in with assurance and be not faithless, but believing. The fervent prayer of the righteous is never lost. The answer may not come according as we expected, but it will come, because God's word is pledged. {OHC 134.3}

Testimonies, Vol 7, p. 274.

“Pray in faith. And be sure to bring your lives into harmony with your petitions, that you may receive the blessings for which you pray. Let not your faith weaken, for the blessings received are proportionate to the faith exercised. Pray, believe, rejoice. Sing praises to God because He has answered your prayers. Take Him at His word. "He is faithful that promised." Hebrews 10:23. Not one sincere supplication is lost. The channel is open; the stream is flowing.”

The Prevailing Sequence

|         |         |                            |
|---------|---------|----------------------------|
| Pray    | Fact    | <i>(Based on Word)</i>     |
| Believe | Faith   | <i>(Resting on facts)</i>  |
| Rejoice | Feeling | <i>(Receiving results)</i> |

James Fraser

“I have been impressed lately with the thought...that people fail in praying the prayer of faith because they do not believe that God has answered, but only that He will answer their petitions. They rise from their knees feeling that God will answer some time or other, but not that He has answered already.... (The) full outworking is often in the future, but God's word is as good as His bond and we need have no anxiety. Sometimes He gives at once what we ask, but more often He just gives His promise.” *MR, p. 75*

Examples From History

Modern Day Examples

IV. Conclusion & Appeal

Morning Talks, Nov. 1883, p. 14.

“If (we) have complied with the conditions upon which these promises are based, God's word is pledged that He will do for (us) more than (we) ask.”

Sharing and Praying

What does it mean to pray in Christ's name?  
To what degree do you want to place yourself under Christ's authority so far as your prayers go?  
With these thoughts in mind, pray about the things God put on your heart earlier in the session.

A Final Thoughts

Gospel Workers, p. 113

“I saw that the servants of God and the church were too easily discouraged. When they asked their Father in heaven for things which they thought they needed, and these did not immediately come, their faith wavered, their courage fled, and a murmuring feeling took possession of them. This, I saw, displeased God. Every saint who comes to God with a true heart, and sends his honest petitions to him in faith, will have his prayers answered. Your faith must not let go of the promises of God, if you do not see or feel the

458 immediate answer to your prayers. Be not afraid to trust God. Rely upon his sure promise, “Ask, and ye  
459 shall receive.” [John 16:24.] God is too wise to err, and too good to withhold any good thing from his  
460 saints that walk uprightly. Man is erring, and although his petitions are sent up from an honest heart, he  
461 does not always ask for the things that are good for himself, or that will glorify God. When this is so, our  
462 wise and good Father hears our prayers, and will answer, sometimes immediately; but he gives us the  
463 things that are for our best good and his own glory. God gives us blessings; if we could look into his plan,  
464 we would clearly see that he knows what is best for us, and that our prayers are answered. Nothing hurtful  
465 is given, but the blessing we need, in the place of something we asked for, that would not be good for us,  
466 but to our hurt. I saw that if we do not feel immediate answers to our prayers, we should hold fast our  
467 faith, not allowing distrust to come in, for that will separate us from God. If our faith wavers, we shall  
468 receive nothing from him. Our confidence in God should be strong; and when we need it most, the  
469 blessing will fall upon us like a shower of rain.”  
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P R E V A I L I N G P R A Y E R

*P R E V A I L I N G O B J E C T I V E S*

*“At the command of the Lord they journeyed...”*  
(3 of 7)

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Introduction

[Hudson Taylor](#)

“Not only was the poor woman’s life saved, but I realized that my life was saved too! It might have been a wreck — would have been a wreck probably, as a Christian— had not grace at that time conquered, and the striving of God’s Spirit been obeyed. I well remember how that night, as I went home to my lodgings, my heart was as light as my pocket. The lonely, deserted streets resounded with a hymn of praise which I could not restrain. When I took my basis of gruel before retiring, I would not have exchanged it for a prince’s feast.” *Retrospect*, p. 18

[Aldous Huxley](#)

"The third petition of the Lord's Prayer is repeated daily by millions who have not the slightest intention of letting anyone's will be done but their own."

A Biblical Foundation

[Numbers 9: 18](#)

“At the command of the Lord the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the Lord they would camp; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped.”

[Matthew 7:21](#)

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

[John 7:17](#)

“If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.”

[1 John 5: 14,15](#)

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, 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 the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

521  
522 James 4: 3  
523 “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

524  
525 What Others Have Said

526 Education, p. 257,258  
527 “Christ... makes it plain that our asking must be according to God’s will; we must ask for the things that  
528 He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the  
529 promise is unequivocal.”

530  
531 E. M. Bounds  
532 “What is obedience? It is doing God's will: it is keeping His commandments. How many of the  
533 commandments constitute obedience? To keep half of them, and to break the other half -- is that real  
534 obedience? ... On this point, James the Apostle is most explicit: "Whosoever shall keep the whole law,"  
535 he declares, "and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

536  
537 E.M. Bounds  
538 “Prayer is obedience. It is founded on the adamant rock of obedience to God. Only those who obey  
539 have the right to pray. Behind the praying must be the doing; and it is the constant doing of God's will in  
540 daily life which gives prayer its potency, as our Lord plainly taught: "Not every one which saith unto Me,  
541 Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in  
542 heaven.” *The Necessity of Prayer*

543  
544 E. M. Bounds  
545 “The will must be surrendered to God as a primary condition of all successful praying. Everything about  
546 us gets its colouring from our inmost character. The secret will makes character and controls conduct. The  
547 will, therefore, plays an important part in all successful praying. There can be no praying in its richest  
548 implication and truest sense, where the will is not wholly and fully surrendered to God. This unswerving  
549 loyalty to God is an utterly indispensable condition of the best, the truest, the most effectual praying.” *The*  
550 *Necessity of Prayer*

551  
552 Thomas Payne  
553 “Daniel’s loyalty to the will of God in everything explains more than anything else the secret of his  
554 prevailing power in prayer.” *Power of Intensified Prayer*

555  
556 Andrew Murray  
557 “Do understand that there is no surer way, rather, that there is no other possible way, of getting into God’s  
558 love and blessing in prayer, than by getting into His will. In prayer, give up yourself most absolutely to  
559 the blessed will of God; this will avail more than much asking.” *School of Obedience*.

560  
561 Andrew Murray  
562 “It is to be feared that often our efforts to believe have been unavailing because we have not taken up the  
563 only position in which a large faith is legitimate or possible — that of entire surrender to the honor and  
564 the will of God. It is the man who is entirely consecrated to God and His will (to whom) the power will  
565 come to claim everything that His God has promised to be for him.” *With Christ in the School of Prayer*,  
566 pp. 129,130.

567  
568 George Müller  
569 “In reading about all these answers to prayer, the believing reader may be led to think that I am spiritually  
570 minded above most of the children of God, and that therefore the Lord favors (me) thus. The true reason

571 is this. Just in as many points as (I am) acting according to the mind of God, in so many (am I) blessed  
572 and made a blessing.” *Narratives*

573

574 George Muller

575 "I never remember, in all my Christian course, a period now (in March 1895) of sixty-nine years and four  
576 months, that I ever SINCERELY and PATIENTLY sought to know the will of God by the teaching of the  
577 Holy Ghost, through the instrumentality of the word of God, but I have been ALWAYS directed rightly.  
578 But if honesty of heart and uprightness before God were lacking, or if I did not patiently wait upon God  
579 for instruction, or if I preferred the counsel of my fellow men to the declarations of the word of the living  
580 God, I made great mistakes."

581

582

583 *“Prevailing prayer is always answered along the pathway of God’s will.”*

584

#### 585 Determining God’s Will

586

#### 587 A Biblical Foundation

588 Luke 9:23

589 “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

590

591 Psalms 32:8

592 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.”

593

594 Isaiah 8: 20

595 “To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no  
596 light in them.”

597

598 Proverbs 3: 5,6

599 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways  
600 acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.”

601

602 Colossians 3: 15

603 “Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.”

604

#### 605 What Others Have Said

606 Ministry of Healing, p. 480

607 “Many who profess to be Christ’s followers have an anxious, troubled heart, because they are afraid to  
608 trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him; for they shrink from the  
609 consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender, they cannot find  
610 peace.... Worry is blind, and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every  
611 difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide  
612 for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service (and honor—  
613 DA 330) of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet.”

614

615 George Müller

616 1. 90% of knowing God’s will is choosing to have no will of our own.

617 2. Anything that is God’s will, will be in harmony with the Scriptures.

618 3. Anything that is God’s will, will be accompanied by His opening providences.

619 4. Anything that is God’s will, will be accompanied by His peace.

620

621 F. B. Meyer

622 “God’s impressions within and His Word without are always corroborated by His providence around, and  
623 we should quietly wait until these three focus into one point.”

624

625 Some Practical Modern Examples

626

627 Encouragement to Trust God

628 Psalms 34: 8,9

629 “O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him. O fear the Lord, you His  
630 saints, for there is no want to those who fear Him”

631

632 Psalms 37: 3,4

633 “Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in  
634 the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

635

636 Desire of Ages, p. 208

637 “The Son of God was surrendered to the Father’s will, and dependent upon His power. So utterly was  
638 Christ emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself. He accepted God’s plans for Him, and day by  
639 day the Father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God, that our lives may be the simple  
640 outworking of His will.”

641

642 Sons and Daughters of God, p. 17

643 We must not study to have our own way, but God's way and God's will. . . . Human beings suffer much  
644 because they step out of the path that God has chosen for them to follow. They walk in the sparks of the  
645 fire they themselves have kindled, and the sure result is affliction, unrest, and sorrow, which they might  
646 have avoided if they had submitted their will to God. . . . Whatever path God chooses for us, whatever  
647 way He ordains for our feet, that is the only path of safety. . . . With the eye of faith, with childlike  
648 submission as obedient children, we must look to God, to follow His guidance, and difficulties will clear  
649 away. The promise is, "I will instruct thee and teach thee."

650

651 The “Surrender” Challenge

652 James McConkey

653 “Not only are we to commit our lives to God, but we must also allow Him to have His way with them.  
654 The committal of all things must be accompanied by the submission in all things. When we yield our  
655 lives, we yield our plans concerning our lives, and accept God’s dealings with them. Not only “commit  
656 your way unto the Lord,” but “trust also in Him.” Not only take your hands off, but let Him put His hands  
657 on, however He may see fit.”

658

659 Practical Examples

660

661 C.T. Studd

662

663 C. T. Studd

664 “Either (I) had to be a thief and keep what wasn’t mine, or else I had to give up everything to  
665 God.”

666

667 Hannah Whithall Smith

668 “When you have surrendered all to God, you have given Him all the responsibility, as well as  
669 everything else. It is God who is responsible to look after you and all you have to do is to trust.  
670 Put your hand in His and the Lord will lead you.” *Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life*

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672 Rosalind Goforth

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Rosalind Goforth

“We therefore prayed that God would make the new house a means of reaching the people -- a blessing, and not a hindrance. The answer to this prayer, as is often the case, depended largely upon ourselves. We had to be made willing to pay the price that the answer demanded. We came to see that in order that our prayer could be answered we would have to keep open house every day and all day, which was by no means easy. ...The climax in numbers was reached in the spring of 1899, when 1,835 men and several hundred women were received by us in one day.”

Rosalind Goforth

“My eyes seemed suddenly opened to what I had been doing — I had dared to fight against Almighty God. In the moments that followed God revealed Himself to me in such love and majesty and glory that I gave myself up to Him with unspeakable joy. Then I knew that I had been making an awful mistake, and that I could indeed safely trust my children to Him wherever He might lead. One thing only seemed plain, that I must follow where God should lead. I saw at last that God must come first. Was God faithful to the vision He had given me? Or did He allow the children to suffer in the years that followed.... As I write this, eighteen years have passed since we started on that first trip, and none of our children have died. Never had we as little sickness as during that life. Never had we so much evidence of God’s favor and blessing in a hundred ways....” *How I Know God Answers Prayer*, p. 73.

Practical Considerations

1. The “Next Step” Pathway

“Go to the prophet Elisha...”

Proverbs 119: 105

“Your word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

C. T. Studd

“God does not deal with you until you are wholly given up to Him, and then He will tell you what He would have you do.” *The Cambridge Seven*

2. Fleeces

Judges 6:36-40

“...look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.”

- a. Can be misused, and result in misleading.
- b. They encourage and confirm.

3. Don’t Assume

Counsels on Health, p. 503

“I have been surprised at being asked by physicians if I did not think it would be more pleasing to God for them to give up their medical practice and enter the ministry. I am prepared to answer such an inquirer: If you are a Christian and a competent physician, you are qualified to do tenfold more good as a missionary for God than if you were to go forth merely as a preacher of the word.”

3. Patience

Hebrews 10: 36

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P R E V A I L I N G P R A Y E R

*HINDERING FACTORS*  
(4 of 7)

- Prevailing Promises: [Prevailing Promises](#)
- Prevailing Authority: [Prevailing Authority](#)
- Prevailing Objectives: [Prevailing Objectives](#)
- Prevailing People: [Prevailing People](#)*
- Prevailing Relationships: [Prevailing Relationships](#)
- Prevailing Remedies: [Prevailing Remedies: Intercession, Healing](#)
- Prevailing Results: [Prevailing Results](#)

Introduction

We have been called to a race!

1 Cor. 9:24

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.”

My Hitchhiking Friend

Only a little bit won't matter!

Reasons Given For Lack of Answers

- It's not God's will.
- It's not God's time.
- God is sovereign
- We don't know how to pray
- The person we are praying for has a problem that delays God.

Frequently overlooked or minimized reasons:

- Sin
- Unresolved Differences
- Lack of Forgiveness

*Prevailing People*  
“If I regard iniquity...”

A Biblical Foundation

Isaiah 59: 1,2

“Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”



775  
776 Psalms 66: 18  
777 “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.”  
778

779 1 John 3: 22  
780 “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things  
781 that are pleasing in His sight.”  
782

783 James 5:16  
784 “The prayer of a righteous man avails much.”  
785

#### The Testimony of Others

786 Steps to Christ, p. 95  
787  
788 “There are certain conditions upon which we may expect that God will hear and answer our prayers.... If  
789 we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of  
790 the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that  
791 God will answer our petitions.”  
792

793 Testimonies, Vol 2, p. 146  
794 “Fasting and prayer will accomplish nothing while the heart is estranged from God by a wrong course of  
795 action.”  
796

797 Signs of the Times, May 15, 1884  
798 “If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cherish any darling sin, we may be assured that no blessing will  
799 be given in response to our prayers.”  
800

801 D. L. Moody  
802 “If we are regarding iniquity in our hearts, or living on a mere empty profession, we have no claim to  
803 expect that our prayers will be answered. There is not one solitary promise for us. I sometimes tremble  
804 when I hear people quote promises, and say that God is bound to fulfill those promises to them, when all  
805 the time there is something in their own lives which they are not willing to give up. It is well for us to  
806 search our hearts, and find out why it is that our prayers are not answered.” *Prevailing Prayer*  
807

808 S. D. Gordon  
809 “If I am holding something in my life that the Master does not like, if I am failing to obey when His voice  
810 has spoken, that to me is sin. It may be wrong in itself. It may not be wrong in itself. It may not be wrong  
811 for another. If that faithful quiet inner voice has spoken and I know what the Master would prefer and I  
812 fail to keep in line, that to me is sin. Then prayer is useless; sheer waste of breath.”  
813

814 Charles Spurgeon  
815 “If you do not do Christ’s will, He will not do your will.... If anyone should tell me of a man whom God  
816 greatly answered in prayer and then inform me that he lived in gross sin,  
817 I would not believe it. It is impossible for God to patronize a guilty professor of religion by giving him  
818 success in prayer.” *Prayer in the Believer’s Life*, p.161.  
819

820 George Muller  
821 “The promises are particularly for such — for the weak, for the feeblest, for the ignorant, for the needy;  
822 and all such who ask for Christ’s sake are warranted to expect their prayers to be answered. But if it  
823 means, “I live in sin; I go on habitually in an evil course,” the prayer cannot be answered; for in the sixty-  
824 sixth Psalm we read, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” That is if I live in sin,  
825 and go on in a course hateful to God, I may not expect my prayers to be answered.”

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E. M. Bounds

“What is obedience? It is doing God's will: it is keeping His commandments. How many of the commandments constitute obedience? To keep half of them, and to break the other half -- is that real obedience? To keep all the commandments but one -- is that obedience? On this point, James the Apostle is most explicit: ‘Whosoever shall keep the whole law,’ he declares, “and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.’ Our Lord Jesus Christ was preeminent in praying, because He was preeminent in saintliness. An entire dedication to God, a full surrender, which carries with it the whole being, in a flame of holy consecration -- all this gives wings to faith and energy to prayer. It opens the door to the throne of grace, and brings strong influence to bear on Almighty God.... True praying, be it remembered, is not mere sentiment, nor poetry, nor eloquent utterance. Nor does it consist of saying in honeyed cadences, “Lord, Lord.” Prayer is not a mere form of words; it is not just calling upon a Name. Prayer is obedience. It is founded on the adamant rock of obedience to God. Only those who obey have the right to pray. Behind the praying must be the doing; and it is the constant doing of God's will in daily life which gives prayer its potency, as our Lord plainly taught.”

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P R E V A I L I N G P R A Y E R

*P R E V A I L I N G R E L A T I O N S H I P S*

*“How pleasant it is...”  
(5 of 7)*

Prevailing Promises: [Prevailing Promises](#)

Prevailing Authority: [Prevailing Authority](#)

Prevailing Objectives: [Prevailing Objectives](#)

Prevailing People: [Prevailing People](#)

*Prevailing Relationships: [Prevailing Relationships](#)*

Prevailing Remedies: [Prevailing Remedies: Intercession, Healing](#)

Prevailing Results: [Prevailing Results](#)

Introduction

A mother’s love for her baby; a groom for his bride!

Three Key Relationships

|            |     |  |
|------------|-----|--|
| Three      | Key | Christ Our Life: United to Christ        |
| Relations: |     | Christ Our Head: United in the Church    |
|            |     | Christ Our Example: United to Each Other |

1. Christ Our Life: United to Christ

2 Corinthians 5: 17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.”

R&H, September 11, 1883

“When we are united to Christ, his mind is transferred to us. Purity and love shine forth in the character; meekness and truth control the life. The very expression of the countenance is changed. Christ abiding in the soul exerts a transforming power, and the outward aspect bears witness to the peace and joy that reign within.”

Gospel Workers, p. 414

“Some who come to God by repentance and confession, and even believe that their sins are forgiven, still fail of claiming, as they should, the promises of God. They do not see that Jesus is an ever-present Saviour; and they are not ready to commit the keeping of their souls to him, relying upon him, to perfect the work of grace begun in their hearts. While they think they are committing themselves to God, there is a great deal of self-dependence. There are conscientious souls that trust partly to God, and partly to

890 themselves. They do not look to God, to be kept by his power, but depend upon watchfulness against  
891 temptation, and the performance of certain duties for acceptance with him. There are no victories in this  
892 kind of faith. Such persons toil to no purpose; their souls are in continual bondage, and they find no rest  
893 until their burdens are laid at the feet of Jesus.”

894

895

896 2. Christ Our Head: United in the Church

897

898 Psalms 133:1-3

899 “Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like precious oil upon the  
900 head running down the beard, the beard of Aaron.... For there the Lord commanded the blessing....”

901

902 Ephesians 4: 15,16

903 “...but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from  
904 whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective  
905 working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

906

907 Let’s think about this matter of the body for a moment.

908

909 Let’s consider our hands. Would you be willing to go without one of your hands? Would you be  
910 willing to go without two of your hands? What about one of the feet? That’s absurd you say. We  
911 need all of our limbs? Do we ever suggest that we can get by without one of our “limbs” so to  
912 speak in the church?

913

914 Then let’s consider the direction of the body. Does the hand try to convince the other limbs of the  
915 body to work in a particular way? Does the right leg try to convince the other limbs to do what it  
916 does? Of course not. Success comes as each limb looks to the head for direction. The head  
917 working in its amazing way coordinates the work of all the parts. Right? Of course. What do we  
918 learn about unity from this “looking to the head for direction” data?

919

920 What about this. When you were doing construction last time, and you hammered the end of your  
921 thumb instead of the nail, did you nonchalantly say, “That’s okay it’s just a tiny bit of my body.”  
922 Of course not. Your whole body reacted to the pain. In fact the whole body spent time protecting  
923 that injured limb in a special way for the time it took for it to heal, and took pains to make sure  
924 the injury wasn’t repeated.

925

926 Ephesians 4: 30

927 “For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.”

928

929 R&H, December 11, 1888

930 “(Christ) engages to come into the midst of his church, and to honor their prayers and decision by the  
931 manifestation of his grace and power. They are members of his mystical body. Christ expects that man  
932 will be partaker of his divine nature while in the world, and thus convey a large amount of glory from  
933 earth to heaven.”

934

935

936 3. Christ Our Example: United to Each Other

937

938 John 17: 21

939 “...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that  
940 the world may believe that You sent Me.”

941  
942 John 17: 23  
943 "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You  
944 have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. I in them, and You in Me; that they may be  
945 made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You  
946 have loved Me. I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may  
947 know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."

948  
949 1 John 2: 10  
950 "Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble."

951  
952 Gospel Workers, p. 483  
953 "True religion unites hearts, not only with Christ, but with one another, in a most tender union. When we  
954 know what it means to be thus united with Christ, and with our brethren, a fragrant influence will attend  
955 our work wherever we go."

956  
957 1 Selected Messages, p. 386  
958 "As living branches of the True Vine, all will be united to Christ, the living head. Christ will abide in  
959 every heart, guiding, comforting, sanctifying, and presenting to the world the unity of the followers of  
960 Jesus, thus bearing testimony that the heavenly credentials are supplied to the remnant church. In the  
961 oneness of Christ's church it will be proven that God sent His only-begotten Son into the world.... Satan  
962 is determined that...oneness shall not be; for it is the strongest witness that can be borne that God gave  
963 his Son to reconcile the world to heaven. But the union for which Christ prayed must exist among God's  
964 people before he can bestow on the church the enlargement and power that he longs to bestow on it."

965  
966 Ms 44, 1900  
967 "The bonds of unity which unite member with member of the church are to be as firm and harmonious in  
968 their operation as are the different parts of the natural body. The hands, head, and feet are so closely  
969 united, and so mutually dependent, that one member cannot live and act independently of the other  
970 members. ..."

971  
972 Testimonies Vol. 7, p. 16  
973 "The world will be convinced, not by what the pulpit teaches, but by what the church lives. The minister  
974 in the desk announces the theory of the gospel; the practical piety of the church demonstrates its power."

975  
976 R&H January 27, 1903  
977 Perfect oneness,--a union as close as the union existing between the Father and the Son,--this is what will  
978 give success to the efforts of God's workers. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in  
979 thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me," to bring about  
980 this union, this sanctified harmony. "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and  
981 that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." It is this  
982 union that convinces the world that God has indeed sent his Son to save sinners. Christ gives to his true  
983 disciples the glory of his character, that his prayer may be answered. Through the impartation of his  
984 Spirit, he appears in their lives. {RH, January 27, 1903

985  
986 Selected Messages Vol. 1, p. 175  
987 "When the laborers have an abiding Christ in their own souls, when all selfishness is dead, when there is  
988 no rivalry, no strife for the supremacy, when oneness exists, when they sanctify themselves, so that love  
989 for one another is seen and felt, then the showers of the grace of the Holy Spirit will just as surely come  
990 upon them as that God's promise will never fail in one jot or tittle. But when the work of others is

991 discounted, that the workers may show their own superiority, they prove that their own work does not  
992 bear the signature it should. God cannot bless them.”

993

994 Sharing Together

995 Is such unity even possible?

996 To what degree do we experience such a unity?

997

998 Notice the following thoughts

999

1000 Adventist Home, p. 179

1001 “The cause of division and discord in families and in the church is separation from Christ. To come near  
1002 to Christ is to come near to one another. The secret of true unity in the church and in the family is not  
1003 diplomacy, not management, not a superhuman effort to overcome difficulties—though there will be  
1004 much of this to do—but union with Christ.”

1005

1006 Paulsen Collection, p. 153

1007 The cause of divisions or discord in the church is separation from Christ. The secret of unity is union with  
1008 Christ. Christ is the great center. We shall approach one another just in proportion as we approach the  
1009 center. United with Christ, we shall surely be united with our brethren in the faith.

1010

1011 Charles Finney

1012 “Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying together. Never do they love one  
1013 another so well as when they witness the outpouring of each other’s hearts in prayer. Their spirituality  
1014 begets a feeling of union and confidence, highly important to the prosperity of the Church. ...It can be  
1015 doubtful whether Christians can ever be otherwise than united, if they are in the habit of really praying  
1016 together. And where they have had hard feelings and differences among themselves, these are all done  
1017 away by uniting in prayer.” *Lectures on Revival*

1018

1019 A. W. Tozer

1020 “Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to  
1021 each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which  
1022 each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshippers meeting together, each one looking away to  
1023 Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be were they to become "unity"  
1024 conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship. Social religion is perfected  
1025 when private religion is purified.”

1026

1027 Robert Chapman

1028 “Humility is the secret of fellowship, and pride the secret of division.”

1029

1030 Augustine

1031 “In necessary things, unity; in doubtful things, liberty; in all things, charity.”

1032

1033 Making it simple

- 1034 • Pray specifically.
- 1035 • Pray with a list.
- 1036 • Pray with a prayer partner
- 1037 • Pray in a small group.

1038

1039 Praying Independently

1040 Talk to God about finding a prayer partner or prayer group to be a part of.

1041

Resolving Differences

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Matthew 5: 23, 24

“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

Luke 6: 27,28

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.”

1 Peter 3: 7

“Husbands, likewise, dwell with (your wives) with understanding, giving honor to the wife...that your prayers may not be hindered.”

Sons & Daughters of God, p. 286

“Unity in diversity among God’s children — the manifestation of love and forbearance in spite of differences of disposition — this is the testimony that God sent His Son into the world to save sinners. This unity is the most convincing proof to the world of the majesty and virtue of Christ...”

My Experience

Unknown Christian

“It would be an immense gain to our spiritual life if we would resolve not to attempt to pray until we had done all in our power to make peace and harmony between ourselves and any with whom we have quarreled. Until we do this as far as lies in our power, our prayers are just wasted breath.” Kneeling Christian

Review & Herald, April 15, 1880

“One great reason why our brethren and sisters have no more confidence toward God in prayer, is, that nearly all neglect to follow the words of Jesus in preserving harmony between brethren. They allow various wrongs to exist with members of the church, which create bitter envy and strife; and while these differences exist, God neither hears nor answers their prayers....”

Acts of the Apostles, p. 549

“There is no surer way of weakening spirituality than by cherishing envy, suspicion, faultfinding, and evil surmising. On the other hand, the strongest witness that God has sent His Son into the world is the existence of harmony and union among men of varied dispositions.”

Roy Hession

“The work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross was not only to bring men back into fellowship with God, but also into fellowship with their fellow men. Indeed it cannot do one without the other. Everything that comes as a barrier between us and another, be it ever so small, comes as a barrier between us and God.” *The Calvary Road*, p. 35.

Charles Spurgeon

“If in the church of God there is a lack of love, we cannot expect prayer to be heard, for God will say, ‘You ask for success. What for? To add more to a community that does not already love itself? You ask for conversions. What? To bring in others to join an unloving community?’ Do you expect God to save sinners who you do not love and to convert souls whom you do not care a bit about?” *PILB*, p. 118

Charles Spurgeon

1093 “Selfishness cannot be trusted with power in prayer. (Individuals) that love neither God nor men cannot  
1094 be trusted with great broad, unlimited promises. If God is to hear us, we must love God and love our  
1095 fellow men.” *Prayer in the Life of the Believer*, p. 112

1096  
1097 What will result?

1098  
1099 Testimonies Vol. 6, p. 129

1100 “A few converted souls, uniting for one grand purpose under one head, will achieve victories in every  
1101 encounter.”

1102  
1103 

Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians

1104  
1105 The Moravian’s Condition:

- 1106 • They lived close together on the Count’s Herrnhut estate.
- 1107 • Included Lutheran, Reformed and Baptist members.
- 1108 • Were deeply divided and unhappy.
- 1109 • Argued about predestination, holiness and baptism.

1110  
1111 Count Zinzendorf’s Plea:

- 1112 • Seek unity.
- 1113 • Set aside personal differences.
- 1114 • Focus on areas of agreement.
- 1115 • Pursue love.
- 1116 • Repent

1117  
1118 The Immediate Outcome

- 1119 • A group covenanted to pour out their hearts in prayer.
- 1120 • The Holy Spirit was sent down on them August 13, 1727.

1121  
1122 Continuing Efforts

1123 On August 26, 48 members covenanted to continue praying at one hour intervals; 77 more joined them  
1124 later. Moravian children soon started their own groups.

1125  
1126 “They had quit judging each other because they had become convinced, each one, of his lack of worth in  
1127 the sight of God and each felt himself at this communion to be in view of the noble countenance of the  
1128 Saviour. In this view of the man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, their hearts told them that He  
1129 would be their patron and their priest who was at once changing their tears into the oil of gladness and  
1130 their misery into happiness. This firm confidence changed them in a single moment into a happy  
1131 people....” (Written of the August 13, 1727 experience)

1132  
1133 The Long-term Outcome:

- 1134 • Became marvelously united.
- 1135 • Became a world-changing, mission-driven, community.
- 1136 • Began a 100-year continuous prayer meeting!
- 1137 • Sent out one hundred missionaries over the next twenty-five years!

1138  
1139 

Granting Forgiveness

1140  
1141 Matthew 6:12

1142 “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”

1143



1144 Matthew 6:14,15

1145 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not  
1146 forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

1147

1148 Ephesians 4:32

1149 “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

1150

1151 Matthew 18:35

1152 “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his  
1153 trespasses.”

1154

1155 Testimonies, Vol. 3, p. 95

1156 “In the prayer Christ taught his disciples was the request, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
1157 who trespass against us.” We cannot repeat this prayer from the heart and dare to be unforgiving, for we  
1158 ask the Lord to forgive our trespasses against him in the same manner we forgive those who trespass  
1159 against us. But few realize the true import of this prayer. If those who are unforgiving did comprehend the  
1160 depth of its meaning, they would not dare to repeat it, and ask God to deal with them as they deal with  
1161 their fellow-mortals. And yet this spirit of hardness and lack of forgiveness exists, even among brethren,  
1162 to a fearful extent. Brother is exacting with brother.”

1163

1164 Sons and Daughters of God, p. 144

1165 “Let us not think that unless those who have injured us confess their wrongs, we are justified in  
1166 withholding from them our forgiveness. We should not accumulate our grievances, holding them to our  
1167 hearts until the one we think guilty has humbled his heart by repentance and confession. . . . However  
1168 sorely they may have wounded us, we are not to cherish our grievances and sympathize with ourselves  
1169 over our injuries.”

1170

1171 D. L. Moody

1172 “(Lack of forgiveness)...is keeping more people from having power with God than any other thing —they  
1173 are not willing to cultivate the spirit of forgiveness. If we allow the root of bitterness to spring up in our  
1174 hearts against someone, our prayer will not be answered.” *Prevailing Prayer*

1175

1176 Thom Rainer

1177 “A lack of unconditional forgiveness is perhaps Satan’s greatest weapon. Many churches have divided  
1178 over members not willing to forgive one another.”

1179

1180 Making It Simple: Forgiveness can bring wonderful spiritual and physical results!

1181

1182 What will result?

1183 Testimonies Vol. 6, p. 129

1184 “A few converted souls, uniting for one grand purpose under one head, will achieve victories in every  
1185 encounter.”

1186

1187 D. L. Moody

1188 “Where there is union, I do not believe any power, earthly or infernal, can stand before the work. When  
1189 the church, the pulpit and the pew, get united, and God’s people are all of one mind, Christianity is like a  
1190 red hot ball rolling over the earth, and all the hosts of death and hell cannot stand before it.”

1191

1192 Testimonies Vol. 9, p. 187

1193 “We have a character to maintain, but it is the character of Christ. Having the character of Christ, we can  
1194 carry on the work of God together. The Christ in us will meet the Christ in our brethren, and the Holy  
1195 Spirit will give that unity of heart and action which testifies to the world that we are children of God.”

1196  
1197 ST, February 7, 1900

1198 “He in whose heart Christ abides recognizes Christ abiding in the heart of his brother. Christ never wars  
1199 against Christ. Christ never exerts an influence against Christ. Christians are to do their work, whatever it  
1200 may be, in the unity of the Spirit, for the perfection of the whole body. There is a vast power in the church  
1201 when the energies of the members are under the control of the Spirit, gathering good from every source,  
1202 educating, training, and disciplining self. Thus is presented to God a powerful organization through  
1203 which He can work for the conversion of sinners....”

1204  
1205 Making it Simple

- 1206 • Spiritual Healing
- 1207 • Physical Healing

1208  
1209 A Writing Assignment

1210 Ask God to impress you who you need to visit or write relative to resolving differences or forgiving.

1211  
1212 

How Shall We Proceed?

1213 Acts 1: 14

1214 “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication....”

1215  
1216 Acts 2: 42,43

1217 “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in  
1218 prayers. Then fear came upon every soul and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”

1219  
1220 Mount of Blessing p. 128

1221 Not until you feel that you could sacrifice your own self-dignity, and even lay down your life in order to  
1222 save an erring brother, have you cast the beam out of your own eye so that you are prepared to help your  
1223 brother. Then you can approach him and touch his heart. No one has ever been reclaimed from a wrong  
1224 position by censure and reproach; but many have thus been driven from Christ and led to seal their hearts  
1225 against conviction. A tender spirit, a gentle, winning deportment, may save the erring and hide a  
1226 multitude of sins. The revelation of Christ in your own character will have a transforming power upon all  
1227 with whom you come in contact. Let Christ be daily made manifest in you, and He will reveal through  
1228 you the creative energy of His word--a gentle, persuasive, yet mighty influence to re-create other souls in  
1229 the beauty of the Lord our God.

1230  
1231 What is your response to the need to have good relationships?

1232  
1233 Do you want your way; do you want to follow God’s way, like the Moravians?

- 1234 • Unity
- 1235 • A passion for prayer
- 1236 • Amazing love
- 1237 • Abundant power

1238  
1239

Reviewing Hindering Factors

- 1239  
1240  
1241 Reviewing reasons prayers go unanswered...  
1242  
1243 1. We don't ask. (Matt. 7:7,8)  
1244 2. We haven't asked in faith. (Mark 11:24)  
1245 3. We are not looking for God's answer. (Acts 12:13-15)  
1246 4. We are not asking in Jesus' name. (John 14:13,14; 16:23,24)  
1247 5. We haven't fully surrendered our lives to God. (Mal. 1:14; Rev. 3:20)  
1248 6. We are asking for things outside of His will. (1 John 5:14,15)  
1249 7. God is waiting for us to accept a greater answer. (1 Sam. 1:9-12)  
1250 8. His answer is being delivered in a "rough packing case." (Gen. 45:3-8; Daniel 3:13-15)  
1251 9. We are disobeying God. (1 John 3:22; Ex. 20:8-11; Mal. 3:7-10; Mal. 2:14,15)  
1252 10. We must FULLY obey before the answer comes. (1 Kings 18:44; 2 Kings 5:14)  
1253 11. We limit God by our half-hearted obedience. (2 Kings 13:18,19)  
1254 12. We limit God by our half-hearted prayers. (Dan. 9:3; Matt. 17:21)  
1255 13. We are cherishing something that is outside of God's will. (Isa. 59:1,2)  
1256 14. We are forgetting to first "go, then come" so far as forgiveness goes. (Matt. 5:23,24)  
1257 15. We are lagging behind God's directing of our lives. (Luke 9:23; Ps. 119:105)  
1258 16. We are seeking a supernatural remedy when a natural remedy—granted a remedy requiring  
1259 dying to self—is available. (2 Kings 20:7)  
1260 17. He is unable to answer at this time (Daniel 10:12-14)  
1261 18. It is better that things stay the same (2 Cor. 12:7)  
1262 19. The "Prayer Warriors" you are praying with are not in relationship with God and therefore not  
1263 obtaining answers to prayer. (Mark 9:18)  
1264

C. Suggestions for praying and obtaining answers:

- 1265  
1266  
1267 1. Look for a promise that you can claim for your situation. (2 Peter 1:4; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Cor. 1:20)  
1268 2. Find another person, or group of people, that can pray with you locally. (Matt. 18:20)  
1269 3. Prayerfully go through the list of hindering factors and ask God to show you if any are present.  
1270 4. Prayerfully make an inventory of your life to see if anything needs changing. 2 Chron. 7:14)  
1271 5. Prayerfully make any adjustments needed as soon as possible—immediately is best! (Matt.  
1272 4:22)  
1273 6. Thank Him for answering regardless of circumstances. (Daniel 6:10)  
1274 7. Keep praying until answers. (Dan. 10:2,3; Col. 1:9)  
1275 8. Live out your prayer. (2 Sam. 12:13)  
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P R E V A I L I N G P R A Y E R

*PREVAILING REMEDIES*

*“How pleasant it is...”  
(6 of 7)*

Prevailing Promises: [Prevailing Promises](#)

Prevailing Authority: [Prevailing Authority](#)

Prevailing Objectives: [Prevailing Objectives](#)

Prevailing People: [Prevailing People](#)

Prevailing Relationships: [Prevailing Relationships](#)

*Prevailing Remedies: [Prevailing Remedies: Intercession, Healing](#)*

Prevailing Results: [Prevailing Results](#)

Introduction

Early Examples of Intercessors

Abraham: Genesis 18:20-33

Moses: Exodus 17:10-12

God’s Intentions

[Isaiah 62: 6](#)

“I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night; ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence.”

[Isaiah 59: 16](#)

“And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor....”

[Lamentations 2:19](#)

“Arise cry out in the night. At the beginning of the watches; pour out your heart like water before the Lord. Lift your hands towards Him for the life of your young children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street.”

[2 Corinthians 10: 4,5](#)

“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.”

[Luke 10: 19](#)

“Behold, I give you authority to trample on serpents and on scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

- 1327 1 John 3: 8  
1328 “For this purpose the son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”  
1329  
1330 Colossians 2: 15  
1331 “Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them  
1332 in it.”  
1333  
1334 Isaiah 62: 3  
1335 “For Zion’s sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest until her righteousness  
1336 goes forth as brightness and her salvation as a lamp that burns.”  
1337  
1338 Isaiah 42: 16  
1339 “I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will  
1340 make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight.”  
1341  
1342 Matthew 17: 21  
1343 “This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”  
1344  
1345 2 Thessalonians 3: 1  
1346 “Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we  
1347 may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men, for not all have faith.”  
1348  
1349 

Prevailing Remedies: Intercession

  
1350 Maranatha, p. 38.  
1351 “I remember in Battle Creek when there were those who felt the burden for the unconverted ... and saw  
1352 no light; then prayer meetings were appointed worked with these efforts, and souls were saved.”  
1353  
1354 Testimonies to Ministers, p. 19.  
1355 “Jesus sees His true church on the earth, whose greatest ambition is to cooperate with Him in the grand  
1356 work of saving souls. He hears their prayers, presented in contrition and power, and Omnipotence cannot  
1357 resist their plea for the salvation of any tried, tempted member of Christ’s body.”  
1358  
1359 Samuel Zwemer  
1360 “The history of missions is the history of answered prayer. From Pentecost to the Haystack meeting in  
1361 New England and from the days when Robert Morrison landed in China to the martyrdom of John and  
1362 Betty Stam, prayer has been the source of power and the secret of spiritual triumph.”  
1363  
1364 Unknown Christian  
1365 “The Lord Jesus is as powerful today as ever before. The Lord Jesus is as anxious for men to be saved as  
1366 ever before. His arm is not shortened, but He cannot stretch forth His arm unless we pray more and  
1367 more.” *The Kneeling Christian* p. 35  
1368  
1369 Sidlow Baxter  
1370 “Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our person — but they  
1371 are helpless against our prayers.”  
1372  
1373 E. M. Bounds  
1374 “If men would pray as they ought to pray, the marvels of the past would be more than reproduced. The  
1375 Gospel would advance with a facility and power it has never known. Doors would be thrown open to the  
1376 Gospel, and the Word of God would have a conquering force rarely if ever known before.”  
1377

1378 James Fraser

1379 “Can it be that a great work for God involving thousands of souls devolves upon our prayer life, half a  
1380 world away? I am feeling more and more that it is, after all, just the prayers of God’s people that call  
1381 down blessing upon the work, whether they are directly engaged in it or not. Paul may plant and Apollos  
1382 water, but it is God who gives the increase; and this increase can be brought down from heaven by  
1383 believing prayer, whether offered in China or in England.” *Mountain Rain*, p. 35.

1384

1385 Andrew Murray

1386 “Oh, when will Christians learn the great truth, that what God in heaven desires to do needs prayer on  
1387 earth as its indispensable condition. It is as we realize this that we shall see that intercession is the chief  
1388 element in the conversion of souls.” *The Secret of Intercession*, p. 53.

1389

1390 Charles Spurgeon

1391 “There is nothing that intercessory prayer cannot do. Believer, you have a mighty engine in your hand—  
1392 use it well, use it constantly, use it now with faith, and you shall surely prevail.” *PIBL*

1393

1394 Some Bible Examples

- 1395 • Abraham: Genesis 18:20-33
- 1396 • Moses: Exodus 17:10-12

1397

1398 Some Examples

- 1399 • Hudson Taylor’s mother interceding through the afternoon with her son.
- 1400 • David Nash praying for Charles Finney
- 1401 • The invalid woman praying for Moody
- 1402 • The Students at Knox College interceding for Jonathan Goforth
- 1403 • Praying Hyde & revival in India
- 1404 • Fraser praying for 100 Lisu Families
- 1405 • My Experience

1406

1407 How does intercessory prayer work?

1408

1409 1. Take up your God-given role.

1410 1 Samuel 7:8 “Do not cease to cry out to the Lord....”

1411 “God is waiting for those whom He can trust and use, who will have the discernment to foresee  
1412 His steppings and the faith to command His power. Authoritative intercessors are men and  
1413 women, whose eyes have been opened to the full knowledge of their place in Christ. To them the  
1414 Word of God has become a battle chart on which is detailed the plan of campaign of the hosts of  
1415 the Lord. They realize that they have been appointed by Him for the oversight of certain sections  
1416 of the advance, and they have humbly accepted His commission. ...” J. A. MacMillan

1417

1418 2. Make up a prayer list.

1419 “Nash had remarkable power in prayer and was in the habit of making a ‘praying list’ of persons  
1420 for whose conversion he daily prayed in secret. The answers to his prayers sometimes seemed  
1421 almost miraculous, for he did not confine his ‘list’ to those whom he thought might be reached by  
1422 the revival, but the most (challenging) and unlikely cases were made the subjects of prayer, with  
1423 results that were truly astounding.... He prayed more and more; he used to take the map of the  
1424 world before him, and pray, and look over the different countries and pray for them, till he  
1425 expired in his room, praying.” David Nash

1426

1427 3. Seek to understand the battle.

1428 “Satan is ever ready to insinuate that prayer is a mere form, and avails us nothing. He cannot  
1429 bear to have his powerful rival appealed to. At the sound of fervent prayer, the hosts of darkness  
1430 tremble. Fearing their captive will escape, they form a wall around him, that heaven’s light may  
1431 not reach his soul. But if in his distress and helplessness the sinner looks to Jesus, pleading the  
1432 merits of His blood, our compassionate Redeemer listens to the earnest, persevering prayer of  
1433 faith, and sends to his deliverance a re-enforcement of angels that excel in strength. And when  
1434 these angels, all-powerful, clothed with the armor of Heaven, come to the help of the fainting,  
1435 pursued soul, the angels of darkness fall back, well knowing that their battle is lost, and that one  
1436 more soul is escaping from the power of their influence.” *Signs of the Times*, November 18, 1886

1437  
1438 “There is a mighty power in prayer. Our great adversary is constantly seeking to keep the  
1439 troubled soul away from God. An appeal to heaven by the humblest saint is more to be dreaded  
1440 by Satan than the decrees of cabinets or the mandates of kings.” *Signs of the Times*, October 27,  
1441 1881

1442  
1443 “Every soul that refuses to give himself to God is under the control of another power. He is not  
1444 his own. He may talk of freedom, but he is in the most abject slavery. He is not allowed to see the  
1445 beauty of truth, for his mind is under the control of Satan While he flatters himself that he is  
1446 following the dictates of his own judgment, he obeys the will of the prince of darkness. Christ  
1447 came to free the shackles of sin-slavery from the soul. ‘If the Son therefore shall make you free,  
1448 you shall be free indeed.’” *Desire of Ages*, p. 466

1449  
1450 “Have you stood with Christ on the mount of transfiguration? Down in the plain there are souls  
1451 enslaved by Satan; they are waiting for the word of faith and prayer to set them free.” *Mount of*  
1452 *Blessing*, p. 43

1453  
1454 4. Don’t be afraid to disagree with God.  
1455 “Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, that I may consume  
1456 them.” Exodus 32: 10

- 1457  
1458
  - Golden Calf (Exod. 32: 31-34)
  - Korah’s Rebellion (Num. 16: 20-22)
  - Miriam (Num. 12: 9-14)
  - Marah (Exod. 15: 23-25)

1462  
1463 5. Plead the promises of God.  
1464 “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done  
1465 unto you.” John 15: 7

1466  
1467 “Lay hold upon God’s word and upon all the helpful agencies He has appointed. Thus your faith  
1468 will be strengthened and will bring to your aid the powers of heaven. ...The obstacles piled  
1469 across your path by Satan, though apparently as insurmountable as the eternal hills, shall  
1470 disappear before the demand of faith. Nothing shall be impossible to you.” *Desire of Ages*, p. 431

1471  
1472 “The Word of God is a great help in prayer. If it is lodged and written in our hearts, it will form  
1473 an out-flowing current of prayer, full and irresistible. Promises, stored in the heart, are to be the  
1474 fuel from which prayer receives life and warmth.” E. M. Bounds

1475  
1476 6. Unite your efforts with Christ.  
1477 “All that Christ was to do in heaven was to be in fellowship with His people on earth.” Andrew  
1478 Murray *Secret of Intercession*

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7. Be prepared to live out your prayers.

“Do not mark out some particular way that the Lord must work for you before you believe you receive the things you ask of Him; but trust His word, and leave the whole matter in the hands of the Lord, with full faith that your prayer will be honored, and the answer will come at the very time and in the very way your heavenly Father sees is for your good; and then live out your prayers. Walk humbly and keep moving forward.” *God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 289

“We must not make the fatal mistake of not moving in the direction of our own prayer. Go to the one for whom the heart yearns and reveal the anxiety. Plead with him as well as plead with God for him. This is to live as we pray.” Courtland Myers, *Read Prayer*, p. 84

Some Examples:

- Francis Havergal in the boarding house.
- Sarah at her school.
- My own experience

8. Join others in interceding.

“I remember in Battle Creek when there were those who felt the burden for the unconverted, and those who were in darkness and saw no light; then prayer meetings were appointed that they might make the strength of God their strength. In every case the heavenly intelligences worked with these efforts, and souls were saved.” *Maranatha*, p. 38.

9. Overcome the varied results (Ex. 2:23-25)

- Complacent “Bless Me in Egypt” Prayers
- Self-Centered “Survive in the Wilderness” Prayers
- Conquering “Take Canaanite Strongholds” Prayers

Prevailing Remedies: Healing Prayer

Jeremiah 17:14

“Heal, O Lord, and I shall be healed; Save me, and I shall be saved.”

Jeremiah 30:17

“For I will restore health to you , and heal you of your wounds, says the Lord....”

Psalms 103:3

“Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases....”

3 John 1:2

“Beloved. I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”

James 5: 13-16

“... Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

Mark 16: 15-18

“And these signs will follow the believers: In My name they will ...lay hands on the sick and they will recover.”



1530  
1531 Act 9:34  
1532 “And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose  
1533 immediately.”

1534  
1535 Matthew 10: 1  
1536 “...He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all  
1537 kinds of disease.”

1538  
1539 Matthew 10:7,8  
1540 “As you go, preach saying, ‘the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers raise the  
1541 dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

1542  
1543 Counsels for the Church, p. 303  
1544 “His disciples in this time are to pray for the sick as verily as the disciples of old prayed. And recoveries  
1545 will follow; for "the prayer of faith shall save the sick." We have the Holy Spirit's power, the calm  
1546 assurance of faith, that can claim God's promises. The Lord's promise, "They shall lay hands on the sick,  
1547 and they shall recover" Mark 16:18, is just as trustworthy now as in the days of the apostles. It presents  
1548 the privilege of God's children, and our faith should lay hold of all that it embraces. Christ's servants are  
1549 the channel of His working, and through them He desires to exercise His healing power. It is our work to  
1550 present the sick and suffering to God in the arms of our faith. We should teach them to believe in the  
1551 Great Healer. The Saviour would have us encourage the sick, the hopeless, the afflicted, to take hold upon  
1552 His strength.”

1553  
1554 Medical Ministry, p. 195  
1555 “When you neglect to pray for the sick, you deprive them of great blessings; for angels of God are waiting  
1556 to minister to these souls in response to your petitions....”

1557  
1558 Selected Messages, Vol 3, 295  
1559 “It has often been my privilege to pray with the sick. We should do this much more often than we do. If  
1560 more prayer were offered in our sanitariums for the healing of the sick, the mighty power of the Healer  
1561 would be seen. Many more would be strengthened and blessed, and many more acute sicknesses would be  
1562 healed.”

1563  
1564 Some Experiences

- 1565 • Dad
- 1566 • Aaron Prayer Group
- 1567 • Seminar Healings
- 1568 • HOP Healing
- 1569 • Lance
- 1570 • Pastor S.

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Why Doesn't God Always Answer?

1. Failure to Believe

“Our Lord has given us definite instruction, through the apostle James, as to our duty in case of sickness. When human help fails, God will be the helper of His people. If the professed followers of Christ would, with purity of heart exercise as much faith in the promises of God as they repose in satanic agencies, they would realize, in soul and body, the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit....” *Counsels on Health*, p. 457

1581 2. Not In Person's Best Interest

1582 "All that can be done in praying for the sick is to earnestly importune God in their behalf, and rest  
1583 their case in his hands, in perfect confidence.... When we come to him we should pray that we  
1584 might enter into, and accomplish, his purpose, and that our desires and interests might be lost in  
1585 his.... We have united in earnest prayer around the sick bed of men, women and children, and  
1586 have felt in regard to our earnest prayers, they were given us back from the dead. In these prayers  
1587 we thought we must be positive, and if we exercised faith, we must ask for nothing less than life.  
1588 We dared not say, If it would glorify God, fearing it would admit a semblance of doubt. We have  
1589 interestedly and anxiously watched these cases which have been given back, as it were, from the  
1590 dead. We have seen some of these, especially youth, raised to health, and forget God, become  
1591 dissolute in life, causing sorrow and anguish to parents and friends. They lived not to honor and  
1592 glorify God, but to curse him with their life of vice, and a shame to those who feared to pray. If  
1593 their life can glorify Thee, let them live, nevertheless not as we will, but as Thou wilt. We no  
1594 longer mark out a way, nor seek to bring the Lord to our wishes. Our faith can be just as firm, and  
1595 more reliable, by committing the desire to the all-wise God, and trusting, with unfeverish anxiety,  
1596 all in perfect confidence with him. We have the promise. We know that he hears us if we ask  
1597 according to his will." *Testimony for Battle Creek Church*, p. 64

1598  
1599 "I repeatedly prayed with sick believers until they were restored. I asked...for the blessing of  
1600 bodily health unconditionally(which I could not do now), and almost always had the petition  
1601 answered." George Müller

1602  
1603 3. Not Following Some Law

1604 "It is labor lost to teach people to look to God as a healer of their infirmities, unless they are  
1605 taught also to lay aside unhealthful practices. In order to receive His blessing in answer to prayer,  
1606 they must cease to do evil and learn to do well." *Ministry of Healing*, p. 226

1607  
1608 4. Failure to Confess Sin

1609 "In order for the child of God to receive divine healing, the following usually must take place: sin  
1610 must be confessed and renounced, one must completely surrender to the Lord, self must be  
1611 yielded up to be wholly in His hands, and that Jesus desires to take charge of the body must be  
1612 firmly believed. Then, the healing becomes the commencement of a new life of intimate  
1613 communion with the Lord." Andrew Murray *Divine Healing*, p. 52

1614  
1615 5. Violation of Natural Law

1616 "To those who desire prayer for their restoration to health, it should be made plain that the  
1617 violation of God's law, either natural or spiritual, is sin, and that in order for them to receive His  
1618 blessing, sin must be confessed and forsaken." *Ministry of Healing*, p. 226

1619  
1620 6. May Lead to Ungodly Pride

1621 "God desires us to trust implicitly in Him, and if it is for our good and His name's glory to do the  
1622 work, it will be done. We are to wait. The power of the Lord is limitless. We poor mortals need to  
1623 purify our souls, that when the Lord works for us, it will not ruin us. This is the reason that so few  
1624 of the sick are healed. If they were [healed], men would be elevated in self-esteem. We must learn  
1625 from Jesus to be meek and lowly of heart, and we shall find rest unto our souls." *The Upward  
1626 Look*, p. 375

1627  
1628 "We are so weak that we cannot bear much spiritual prosperity, lest we should take the glory, and  
1629 accredit goodness and righteousness to ourselves as the reason of the signal blessing of God. ..."  
1630 *Testimony for the B. C. Church*

1631

A Sobering Matter

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"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep." 1 Corinthians 11; 28-30

Faith & Setting Affairs in Order; Making Use of Remedies

Ministry of Healing, p. 231

"Often there is danger of error here. Believing that they will be healed in answer to prayer, some fear to do anything that might seem to indicate a lack of faith. But they should not neglect to set their affairs in order as they would desire to do if they expected to be removed by death. Nor should they fear to utter words of encouragement or counsel which at the parting hour they wish to speak to their loved ones."

Manuscript Releases, p. 387

"In regard to the matter of prayer for the sick, many confusing ideas are advanced. One says, 'He who has been prayed for must walk out in faith, giving God the glory, and making use of no remedies. If he is at a health institute he should leave it at once.' .... The path of faith lies close beside the path of presumption. Satan is ever seeking to lead us into false paths. He sees that a misunderstanding of what constitutes faith will confuse and disappoint. He is pleased when he can persuade men and women to reason from false premises.... It is no denial of faith to use rational remedies judiciously.."

Rosalind Goforth

"In all cases of divine healing cited in this record it will be noted that God healed in answer to prayer either when the doctors had done all in their power and hope had been abandoned, or when we were out of reach of medical aid." *How I Know God Answers Prayer* p. 31

Methods...

1. Is it always necessary to do a laying on of hands?

In the book of Acts there are instances recorded where the mere shadow of the Apostles falling on the person brought healing. At other times, a piece of clothing seemed to be sufficient.

2. Should oil be used?

Oil wasn't always used, but one should remember that the oil represents the work of the Holy Spirit that brings about the healing.

3. Should elders be present?

Healing isn't a solo sport. I don't believe God ever intended for one person to have supposed healing power and therefore have everyone run to him or her to get help. To safeguard against this danger, I believe God has directed the calling of the "elders." However, I have seen people other than elders used to bring healing to another person.

Books

Ministry of Healing

Eat To Live, Joel Fuhrman

The China Study, T. Collin Campbell

1677 Prevailing Results (7 of 7)  
1678 Perseverance/Praise

1679  
1680 Prevailing Promises: [Prevailing Promises](#)

1681  
1682 Prevailing Authority: [Prevailing Authority](#)

1683  
1684 Prevailing Objectives: [Prevailing Objectives](#)

1685  
1686 Prevailing People: [Prevailing People](#)

1687  
1688 Prevailing Relationships: [Prevailing Relationships](#)

1689  
1690 Prevailing Remedies: [Prevailing Remedies: Intercession, Healing](#)

1691  
1692 *Prevailing Results: [Prevailing Results](#)*

1693  
1694 Introduction

1695  
1696 [The Mystery of Delayed Answers](#)

1697 Continuing to pray in spite of limited results is one of the major challenges of the prayer life. Many an  
1698 individual has struggled over the lack of answers and wondered, “Why isn’t God responding?” This is  
1699 also the most challenging part of putting on seminars. This session we want to look at the all important  
1700 connection between perseverance and praise.

1701  
1702 [Andrew Murray](#)

1703 “Of all the mysteries of the prayer world, the need of persevering prayer is one of the greatest. That the  
1704 Lord, who is so loving and longing to bless, should have to be supplicated time after time, sometimes year  
1705 after year, before the answer comes, we cannot easily understand. It is also one of the greatest practical  
1706 difficulties in the exercise of believing prayer.”

1707  
1708 Persevering Prayer

1709 [It was practiced by Elijah](#)

1710  
1711 [1 Kings 18:42,43](#)

1712 “... And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground and put his face  
1713 between his knees, and said to his servant, ‘Go up now, look toward the sea.’ So he went up and  
1714 looked, and said, ‘There is nothing.’ And seven times he said, ‘go again.’”

1715  
1716 It was instructed by Jesus!

1717  
1718 [Luke 18: 1-5](#)

1719 “That men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: ‘There was in a certain city a judge  
1720 who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him,  
1721 saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ And he would not for a while; but afterward he  
1722 said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles  
1723 me I will avenge her lest by her continual coming she weary me.’”

1724  
1725 [Luke 11: 5-9](#)

1726 “And He said to them, ‘Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to  
1727 him, ‘Friend lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have

1728 nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door  
1729 is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? I say to you,  
1730 though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he  
1731 will rise and give him as many as he needs. So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek,  
1732 and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

1733  
1734 It was requested by Paul

1735  
1736 1 Thessalonians 5: 17  
1737 "Pray without ceasing."

1738  
1739 Romans 12: 12  
1740 "Steadfastly continuing in prayer."

1741  
1742 Ephesians 6: 18  
1743 "...praying always...with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."

1744  
1745 Colossians 4: 2  
1746 "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving..."

1747  
1748 **Biblical Examples**

1749 Hannah: God needed prophet.

1750  
1751 Elijah: Needed heart work.

1752  
1753 SDABC Vol. 2, pp. 1034,1035  
1754 "When upon Mt. Carmel he offered the prayer for rain, his faith was tested, but he persevered in  
1755 making known his request unto God. Six times he prayed earnestly, and yet there was no sign that  
1756 his petition was granted, but with a strong faith he urged his plea to the throne of grace. Had he  
1757 given up in discouragement at the sixth time, his prayer would not have been answered, but he  
1758 persevered till the answer came.... God does not always answer our prayer the first time we call  
1759 upon Him; for should He do this, we might take it for granted that we have a right to all the  
1760 blessings and favors He bestowed upon us... We (would) become careless and fail to realize our  
1761 dependence was on Him."

1762  
1763 Joseph: He needed to die to self.

1764  
1765 Israel: Needed deliverance.

1766  
1767 Daniel: A battle was waging.

1768 Daniel 10: 12  
1769 Daniel: "Do not fear Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to  
1770 humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your  
1771 words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days...."

1772  
1773 Paul: Deliverance wasn't for his good.

1774 Heavenly Places, p. 83  
1775 "When Paul prayed that the thorn in his flesh might be removed, the Lord answered his prayer,  
1776 not by removing the thorn, but by giving him grace to bear the trial. 'My grace,' He said, 'is  
1777 sufficient for thee.' Paul rejoiced at this answer to his prayer, declaring, 'Most gladly therefore  
1778 will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.'"

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Why Persist?

Andrew Murray

“When, after persevering supplication, our prayer remains unanswered, it is often easiest for our slothful flesh, and it has all the appearance of pious submission, to think that we must now cease praying, may have His secret reason for withholding His answer to our request. It is by faith alone that the difficulty is overcome. When once faith has taken its stand upon God’s word and the Name of Jesus, and has yielded itself to the leading of the Spirit to seek God’s will and honor alone in its prayer, it need not be discouraged by delay. It knows from Scripture that the power of believing prayer is simply irresistible; real faith can never be disappointed.”

Christ Object Lessons, p. 175

“Christ desires nothing so much as to redeem His heritage from the dominion of Satan. But before we are delivered from Satan’s power without, we must be delivered from his power within. The Lord permits trials in order that we may be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness, from harsh, unchristlike traits of character. He suffers the deep waters of affliction to go over our souls. There is no danger that the Lord will neglect the prayers of His people. The danger is that in temptation and trial they will become discouraged, and fail to persevere in prayer.”

George Müller

“The great point is never to give up until the answer comes. I have been praying for fifty-two years, every day, for two men, sons of a friend of my youth. They are not converted yet, but they will be! The great fault of the children of God is ... they do not go on praying; they do not persevere. If they desire anything for God’s glory, they should pray until they get it.” *Delighted in God*, p. 186

Review & Herald, October 30, 1888

“The enemy holds many of you from prayer, by telling you that you do not feel your prayers, and that you would better wait until you realize more of the spirit of intercession, lest your prayers should be a mockery. But you must say to Satan, “It is written” that “men ought always to pray, and not to faint.” We should pray until we do have the burden of our wants upon our souls; and if we persevere, we shall have it.”

Shall we persevere?

But it’s hard to persevere when we don’t seem to see results? What are we to do? What provision has God provided to remedy our dilemma?

Praise

Andrew Murray

“Between the ‘have received’ in heaven, and the ‘shall have’ of earth, believe—believing praise and prayer is the link.” *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, p. 64

Why Praise?

It’s our natural response to God

Psalm 34: 1

“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

It’s our response to His keeping!

Ps 118: 5, 6, 14, 21, 29

“I called upon the Lord in distress; the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The Lord is my strength and song and He

1829 has become my salvation. I will praise You, for You have answered me. O Give thanks to the  
1830 Lord, for He is good? For His mercy endures forever.”

1831  
1832 Romans 8: 28

1833 “And we know that all things work together for good to those who are the called according to His  
1834 purpose.”

1835  
1836 We are commanded to praise.

1837 Philippians 4: 4  
1838 “Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice.”

1839  
1840 Philippians 4: 6,7

1841 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your  
1842 requests be made known to God.”

1843  
1844 Review & Herald Vol. 3, p. 139

1845 “Those who follow inclination and judge from appearances, are not good judges of what God is  
1846 doing. They are filled with discontent. They see failure where there is indeed triumph, a great  
1847 loss where there is only gain.”

1848  
1849 Review & Herald Vol. 3, p. 125

1850 “I testify to those who love and serve God, that we miss very much because we do not grasp the  
1851 blessings that may be ours in afflictions. All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and  
1852 trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and privations, and in short all things, work  
1853 together for our good. All experiences and circumstances are God’s workmen whereby good is  
1854 brought to us.”

1855  
1856 Review & Herald May 7, 1908

1857 “ All trials that are received as educators will produce joy. The whole religious life will be  
1858 uplifting, elevating, ennobling, fragrant with good words and works.”

1859  
1860 Youth Instructor, January 10, 1901

1861 “Let us educate our tongues to speak forth his praise, not only when we feel gladness, but at all  
1862 times.”

1863  
1864 It enables God’s miracles.

1865 Testimonies Vol. 5, p. 317

1866 “We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. If the loving kindness of  
1867 God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer. We  
1868 would abound more and more in the love of God and have more bestowed to praise Him for. You  
1869 who complain that God does not hear your prayers, change your present order and mingle praise  
1870 with your petitions. When you consider His goodness and mercies, you will find that He will  
1871 consider your wants.”

1872  
1873 Charles Spurgeon

1874 “The kind of prayer that kills care is a prayer that asks cheerfully, joyfully, thankfully. ‘Lord, I  
1875 am poor. Let me bless You for my poverty,’ and then, ‘O Lord, will You not supply all my  
1876 needs?’ That is the way to pray.... ‘Supplication with thanksgiving.’ Mix these two things, rub  
1877 them well together, and they will make a blessed cure for care.” *Prayer in the Believer’s Life*, p.  
1878 174, 175.

1879

1880 Unknown Christian  
1881 “Nothing so pleases God as our praises, and nothing so blesses the man who prays as the praises  
1882 he offers! “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the petitions of thine heart. Do  
1883 we praise enough to get our prayers answered? If we truly trust Him, we shall always praise  
1884 Him.” *Kneeling Christian*, p. 117  
1885

1886 Charles Spurgeon  
1887 “Sweeten your lips with the pleasant confection of praise. If anyone should confess to me that he  
1888 has sinned by going too far in blessing God, I would for once become a priest and give him  
1889 absolution. Praise God extravagantly if you can. Try it. Say to yourself, ‘I will go beyond all  
1890 boundaries in this matter,’ for there are no limits to what God deserves, for He ever blesses.”  
1891 *Prayer & Spiritual Warfare*, p. 405  
1892

1893 Praying Hyde  
1894 “Mr. Hyde used to say that at any time when he noticed few souls being led by him to Christ, he  
1895 invariably found it was all due to his lack of the spirit of praise. He would then confess his sin,  
1896 ask pardon, and take the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. His experience then  
1897 invariably was that Christ would again draw souls to Himself through him.” *Praying Hyde*, p.  
1898 143, 144.  
1899

1900 Some Experiences

1901 Red Sea Adventures  
1902 Daniel’s “Thanksgiving”  
1903 Peter’s Emancipation  
1904 North Atlantic Crossings  
1905 God’s Perfect Timing When Moving  
1906 God’s Perfect Timing with Power Point.  
1907 God’s Perfect Timing With a Computer  
1908

Continuing Results

- 1909
- 1910 1. Be intentional in your prayers.
    - 1911 • Regular time
    - 1912 • Use prayer lists.
    - 1913 • Maintain a journal for answers.
  - 1914 2. Maintain a life-changing devotional experience.
  - 1915 3. Keep Studying.
  - 1916 4. Pray with others.
    - 1917 • Prayer Partner
    - 1918 • Prayer Group
    - 1919 • Midweek Prayer Services.
    - 1920 • What is your response?
- 1921  
1922

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1924 9/17/2008  
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