



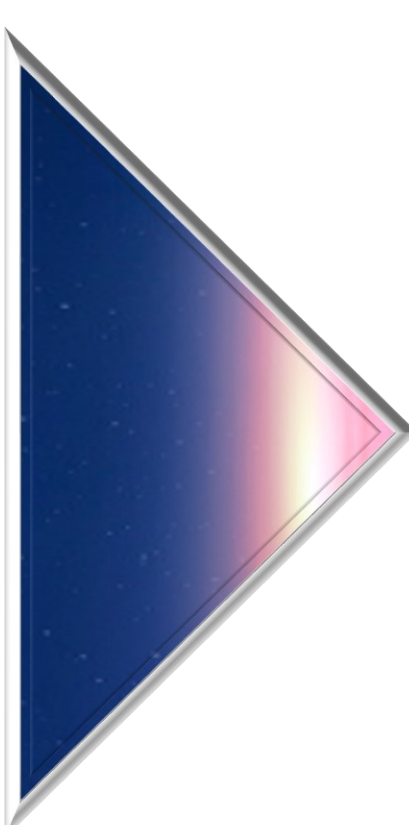
# PRAYER GUIDE

**Please pray for the Body of Christ to bust through the  
darkness of our preeminent culture!**



“These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.”

*Jude 1:12-13*



“Join us in praying for the Body of Christ.

Members are suffering from betrayal, cultural depravity, and global rejection. Fake Christians filled with hidden hatred are infiltrating the Church to divide the works of Christ.”

**-Dr. Stephen Phinney**

# FOCUSED PRAYERS

## BUSTING THROUGH DARKNESS

### THE IMPORTANCE OF COVENANT PRAYERS

Covenant prayers represent or present supplications in light of an appeal versus telling your Husband what to do. Since the New Covenant fulfilled the Old Covenant, the Bridal members of Jesus Christ need to pray in a fashion that expresses fulfillment instead of begging for changes or, in some cases, demanding that the everlasting God change eternity for the one was praying. Simply put, Covenant prayers confirm New Covenant Truth.

**Critical Note:** While Covenant prayers are the most Biblically sound prayers you can pray, Satan will work tirelessly to turn your thanksgiving of hardships into an attitude of demanding.

### DESENSITIZATION OF SATAN

Satan has successfully used the world, and all of its influences, to bring a light-hearted attitude and mindset regarding the kingdom of darkness. Just look at the enormous volume of books, movies, video games, T-shirts, music, toys, television, advertisements, the internet, fashions, jewelry, and, of course, silly jesting that we are bombarded with wherever we turn!

The desensitization about Satan and his role in man's sins is a subtle but strategic attack on God's divine creation – His blessed children. The enemy of this world sees that the world (his domain) laughs him off with indifference. Always remember that this callousness is the enemy's most powerful tool in defusing God's serious plan of redemption. Christians should never entertain crude joke-making, purchase degrading media products, or lightheartedly support Satan. Believers need to exercise care in not assigning all of their wrongdoing as Satan's responsibility. We must, with biblical insight, understand the limited power of Satan and his kingdom. Oppression and bondage are not joking matters.

The key to the believer's emphasis on spiritual warfare must be based on a biblical approach to the subject. Subjective feelings, emotional desires, and genuine sincerity are not sufficient weaponry against an enemy who laughs in the face of one's intent. He yields no ground to emotion or sincerity. He retreats only from the authority and power given to the Christian through his/her union with the Lord Jesus Christ and the

absolute Truth of the Word of God. An illustration worth remembering is this: If I were to give you a sharp two-edged sword and a butter knife, which would you use to fight an assailant? Dumb question? I don't think so! Your logical male side would choose the sharp, two-edged sword. However, in reality, when we do not use the Word of God to fight off the enemy, we are essentially using a butter knife to war against an enemy who slings a ball and chain.

*"Take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"* (Ephesians 6:17b).

Satan hates the New Covenant, which is the fulfillment & release of the condemnation of the Old Covenant!

We have two basic offensive weapons to use against Satan. They are the Word of God, primarily the New Covenant, and the power of prayer. When we put the two of these together, we have the most intimidating weapon known to the enemy. He knows he has been "had" when a man of God masters the art of using the Word of God in the power of prayer.

**I pray that you are beginning to** see our critical need for the Word of God and prayer. The sword of the Spirit, God's Word, is living and active. These are not words on a page. They are life-giving Words from the mouth of a living God! Use our own words, and we die. Use God's Words, and we live. It's as simple as that!

*"For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12).

The Word is eternal, just as God Himself is eternal. Just as God is omnipotent (all-powerful), so does His Word have all the needed power to defeat the enemy and to accomplish God's will. Just as God is immutable, the Word of God will never change. Just as our Lord is omnipresent, His Word is always there and ready to be used in every situation. Just as God is holy, so His Word is holy. The bottom line is this: His Word is living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword. The enemy hates hearing it. Jesus used it to fight off temptation. We can't survive without it.

**As a sword, the Word has the power to penetrate** the life of every being who hears it, including the enemy. It is meant to do corrective surgery within the soul, spirit, thoughts, attitudes, and body of all who hear it. This is the secret of its power against the enemy. As it is read/heard, the Word can penetrate, cleanse, and change the lives of those who embrace it as Truth. It is why it cuts away at the grip of the enemy. Nothing is more powerful, and there is no substitute for persistent, steady, consistent application of coming against the enemy. Even Jesus, the Son of God, used the written Word in the wilderness to fight off Satan. What worked for the Son of the living God will certainly do no less for us!

*"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry. And the devil said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.'" (Luke 4:1-3).*

**The importance of doctrinal Truth** and doctrinal praying is given to us by God to use daily. Doctrine, God's unchanging Truth, is mighty in defeating our enemies. As Christians, this Truth must go deep into our hearts. This will only come about as we understand the Holy Word of God and then use that Word aggressively in our lives. The following material will help keep doctrinal Truth at the forefront of our warfare activities.

Normally, I do not advocate following "steps" to embrace freedom. However, when it comes to deliverance from strongholds in our lives, I see a definite need for a plan. Faithfully following these suggestions will equip us and build a foundation for our souls. The Holy Spirit will aggressively act to guard our hearts against our enemies.

## WARNINGS

Whenever we go to the frontlines, where the enemy lives and breathes, he is bound to try chasing us away. Do not submit to his deceptive ideas and lies: there is no time; this level of combat isn't necessary; these are only words; we can put this off because we already have too many things to do; we're tired or too sick; or that we are already struggling with worries, doubts, and fears that will prevent us from completing our pathway to deliverance. We should push through it all and respond like warriors!

**In rare cases, some people experience** terrifying feelings of guilt, worthlessness, physical symptoms (choking, pains moving around the body, tightness above the eyes, dizziness, blackouts, or even fainting), and terrifying spells of panic and depression. If any of these symptoms occur to the point of "paralyzing" you from being unable to go through the study, you will need a spiritual mentor (male church leader) who understands balanced warfare to pray over you. Remember, fear is the fire from the dragon's mouth – it is his primary tool of intimidation. Don't worry – it's only hot air!

## Never address Satan personally – don't talk to him!

Another warning: Avoid becoming preoccupied with Satan and his domain. Have you ever wondered why people are intrigued with movies, video games, and music based on the dark side? One of the games that the enemy plays is creating an unhealthy fascination with his work. Many people are caught up in giving more attention and credit to the enemy than they do to God. I call this a "demon behind every bush" mentality. It is common for those struggling with satanic affliction to be preoccupied with the enemy due to their level of temptation, obsession, and negative thoughts. However, one must take special caution to keep their eyes on Jesus. Well-trained Christians in the Word and Spirit will not fear Satan or his schemes.

**The Christian is engaged in a spiritual battle**, even if they ignore reality. Satan and his spiritual forces are on the battle line, waiting for us daily. A believer does not choose his engagement in this battle, it awaits him each day, and there is no way to get around it. You are in if you are saved and have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior! Be

alert and sober, for your enemy, Satan roams around on the earth to seek whom he can devour. Are you battle-ready? If not, that's OK. This Book of Prayers will equip and ready you for taking on the challenges he and his demonic influence have to offer.

**Believers are being awakened** to the reality that their fight in life is not against flesh and blood but against the powers of darkness and the principalities of the air (see Eph. 6:12). So many Christians today are deceived into thinking that what they see is what they are to battle. As the Lord draws near, we can be assured that our battle with the world, the flesh, and the devil will intensify. Worldly ideas of pop psychology will increase as the primary solution to our troubled minds. More rapidly than most realize, the questions people ask are based on worldly fables called philosophies of man. God calls each of His children to call upon Him, and He will deliver according to His Divine Truth and Will.

Fear of confronting the enemy has held most believers back from boldly going before the throne of God regarding the temptations and afflictions of the enemy. God's greatest servants have always appreciated the magnificent power of prayer and the complete victory over Satan's kingdom available to all believers through the mighty Person and work of our Husband, Jesus Christ.

**The book of Ephesians is the New Testament handbook** on spiritual warfare and prayer. Get to know this book as a handbook. The believer's emphasis in prayer must be upon a biblical and sound doctrinal approach to this subject. The Word of God recognizes that we encounter the three faces of Satan—the world, the flesh, and the devil. When a person becomes born-again, their relationship to everything in the physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional world completely changes. Since the believer is a citizen of heaven, he is given the power to face the enemy toe-to-toe. Scary? Well, look at it this way. Either we face him head-on, or he will constantly be nipping at our heels—eating away our lives a little at a time.

To resist the limited power of the enemy, one must submit to God first, then resist the evil one, and he will flee. It is a promise given to us by God (see James 4:7).

Because of our newfound relationship with God, all believers are marked targets for attack from God's enemy—Satan. Understanding that he is relentless in his attacks, believers must embrace the Truth that the Father has given them a defense system—the power of prayer.

**Furthermore, we must not depend upon feelings** and experiences as evidence of our being strong enough to pray. The power and ability to pray boldly are based on objective facts, not subjective feelings. The power of prayer is to be appropriated by faith and faith alone. The following are the Five Phases of Effectual Prayers:

1. Personal Reflection and Confession
2. Praise, Thanksgiving, and Adoration
3. Alining Oneself with the New Covenant

4. Prayers of Supplication
5. Worship and Affirmation

## PRAYING ALOUD VS. SILENTLY

The scriptures do not support the ideology of the enemy being able to “read our minds.” Silent prayers, prayers in our minds’ inner room, are the safest form of communication with our Savior. Since indwelt believers have the Life and mind of Christ within them (1 Cor. 2:16), private prayers coming from the believer’s “prayer closet” are mostly honored by our Lord.

*“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.” (Matthew 6:5-8)*

**The enemy’s goal is to turn all those who pray into hypocrites** – Greek, one who acts on a stage. Knowing that the enemy has NOT been given the power to read human minds, he must function in temptation externally to recondition the prayer habits of the one praying. He accomplishes this by playing on the human’s dynamic of fear, the believer’s fears associated with people-pleasing – who wants to be seen or heard by others. This fulfills his goal of setting the believer’s prayer habits by using “meaningless repetition.” The Greek meaning for “meaningless repetition” is one word (*battologeō*), meaning, to stutter, vain requests from obligation. When people pray from *battologeō*, Satan knows that their prayers have transitioned into a vanity (about self). Vanity is nothing more than performance-based requests, which the Father does not note.

The most honest and earnest requests are typically done in private. Therefore, the Lord tells us to go into our inner room, close the door and pray to our Father in secret. The Father is not a pleasing public figure. He fully knows the tactics of His enemy (Satan) in public prayers, thus, revealing His method of accomplishing His mighty deeds - through secrecy. The Greek word for secret is “*kruptos*,” which means concealed, private, hidden, and inward. It is here we gain insight into the importance of inward praying.

### ***When, then, do we pray aloud, publicly?***

The key is for the believer to understand that when prayers go from inward to outward, publicly, they understand and are alert to the reality that external manipulation by the enemy is in play.

Remembering, external prayers are not wrong! External prayers are more vulnerable prayers due to exposure to the enemy. External prayers activate the enemy's ability to toss sudden fears into the mix, tempting the prayer warrior to be concerned about what others might think about them and the prayers offered.

External prayers are a perfect way to put the enemy in his place – if the prayer warrior is not intimidated nor moved by the enemy's tactics.

Public prayers are ideal for showing new or older believers how to pray publicly – releasing the Spirit to pray through the indwelt believer vs. praying repetitiously, which forms battologieo (hypocrisy). After Jesus revealed how to do this, pray; then, in this way, we are reminded of where His true intercession occurred.

*"After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone."* (Matthew 14:23)

But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray. (Luke 5:16)

Why was this His primary method and place of prayer? To honor His previous mandate of avoiding the temptations revealed in Matthew 6:5-8. Intercessory prayer also is guarded by the Spirit – blocking the enemy from entering the inner room. Whether Jesus prayed aloud in His private place or from the inner man is not known to us, NOR does it make any difference due to the protection provided by the Spirit. This same protection applies to all indwelt believers to this day.

**The believer's primary venue of prayer should be** in secret. Our secondary modality of prayer should be publicly (two or more gathered), with the attitude of alertness, guarding oneself against the fears afflicted upon us by the enemy. I believe that public prayers are for the sole purpose of demonstrating the true modality of releasing the Spirit to pray through us and combat the external enemy that oppresses others – via Satan and his demonic beings.

### *Why am I immovable in this stance?*

Jesus, Himself said, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him (Matthew 6:8b). This clearly emphasizes He and not us. When believers pray, they must remember that the Father already knows what they need before they pray. That is why it requires an alinement with the New Covenant, not an appeal, to change God's sovereign WILL. In this, we find the prerogative to join Him in what is already in play by the Father. Prayer doesn't change God's mind nor adjust it, to match our rote self-life requests. Prayer is for reflection, adoration, praise, confession, and aligning ourselves with the preexisting WILL of God. When a believer uses prayer to attempt to change the mind and will of the Father, it puts the petitioner in the seat of the Godhead, manipulating the God of the eternal to adjust His entire plan to match the request of the supplicatory. This will NEVER happen! The only supplications that become "answered prayers" are the prayers that match the preexisting WILL of the Father. All other prayers are disregarded as an attempt to change the eternal to match the self-life requests of the one praying.



When the believer supplicates, these supplications need to be with an appeal of realigning their minds with the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16).

## PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

The following outline presents a biblical procedure for our reflection and confession time with the Lord.

- **Engage in an honest appraisal** regarding your selfishness. It is important to be open and honest with God about yourself.
- **Confess all known sins** (1 John 1:9). Verbalize your sins against yourself, others, and God. Don't ask for forgiveness; accept the existing forgiveness He provided through His deeds on the Cross. Confessions take back the ground Satan took from your spiritual walk in Christ.
- **Extend forgiveness** to those who have hurt you. Unforgiveness is the primary reason most Christians don't pray consistently. List out who hurt you, how they hurt you, and your reactions. Bring the offenders and how they hurt you before Him and extend forgiveness to them in prayer. Now confess to God that your reactions to these offenses are sin, accept His forgiveness, and tell Him you are willing to seek the offenders' forgiveness for those reactions.
- **Yield yourself to God** (Romans 6:13). As an act of your will (displace your feelings), yield all areas of your life to Him—spiritual, psychological, physical, social, marital, parental, and financial.
- **Express your passion** and desire for the Holy Spirit to renew your mind.
- **Believe with your mind** that the Holy Spirit will fill you up with His power—remember to set your "feelings" aside and claim this by faith.
- **Now, obey God** in all that He reveals and expresses in the Scriptures and begin to pray doctrinally.

## Sample Covenant Prayers:

*Blessed Holy Father, in the name of my Husband and Savior Jesus Christ, I choose to pray in the Light of the Holy Spirit. I recognize that only as Jesus lives in my life will I be able to escape the works of my flesh. I desire the Holy Spirit to bring all the works of my flesh to death. I choose to bring all the work of co-crucifixion and the resurrection of Christ into my life today. I pray that the life of Christ may produce His fruit within my whole being and fill my heart with Your love for You and others. I claim Your forgiveness for how I have grieved or quenched You. Enable me to embrace and respond to Your grace. Cause me to release Christ's obedience to fulfill Your precious Word. Grant me discernment to resist being deceived by the lies of the enemy. I choose this day to allow the Holy Spirit to control my heart and mind. I apply my Victory in Christ over my flesh and worldly influences. I completely yield my life to You. I now pray that you empower me to bring praise and adoration before your throne. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I receive all the fullness of the Holy Spirit, the fulfillment of the New Covenant into all areas of my being today. Amen.*

## PRAISE AND ADORATION

Walking after the Spirit is essential if we are to bring praise and adoration before the Father. When God said to enter the courtyard with thanksgiving and prayer—He was quite serious. Many Christians attempt to praise God while having “things” in their lives for which they are not thankful. Philippians 4:6 says, *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”* It is difficult, if not impossible, to pray and supplicate with anxiety in our hearts. The way to remove anxious thoughts is through thanksgiving! *“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory”* (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Thanksgiving and praise for what He has accomplished for & in us through the Holy Spirit is a great place to start. Once your head is clear, tell Him of your thanksgiving you're your infirmities. Prayers of praise and adoration are simply admiring the Person and work of God no matter your “feelings” state or the circumstances you face. It is crucial to acknowledge before God that you are grateful for everything before petitioning your requests.

## Sample Prayer of Adoration

*Dear Lord, I humbly approach You - the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - the God of promise, hope, love, and grace. I come before You in the merit, the holiness, and the righteousness of my Husband, the Lord Jesus Christ. I praise You for the blessed ministry of prayer through the Holy Spirit. I thank you for the privilege of intercession for all Your saints.*

*I praise You for being the God of all the living. I recognize that You are the Life-giver and the substance of my faith. You are the God of perfection and purity. I bless you for the mighty work of the crucifixion, which You accomplished through Jesus. Thank you for the cleansing work you accomplished through the blood of Your Son and for taking the penalty and guilt for my sin. I bless you for the privilege. You give me to fellowship with You. Thank You that the work of the Cross brings Satan's work to nothing. I will be grateful all of the days of my life for the deliberate act of the sacrifice You demonstrated by giving Your Only Son to free us from the domain of darkness and transferring us into Your kingdom of light. I will accept any things brought into my life through your Sovereign plan. I chose to die to my old ways and count my flesh dead with Christ on the Cross. Therefore, I thank You for my new identity and praise You for the redemptive act of putting off my old self and granting me new life! I now ask that you receive the prayers of supplication that match Your Holy will. Amen.*

### **ALINEMENT WITH THE NEW COVENANT**

This phase of your prayer is the most important. If we don't align thinking with the New Covenant message, our thinking and requests will take the pathway of selfish praying. New Covenant thinking is about fulfillment versus asking for things – it is more like claiming what is already true about us and the allotment of our daily circumstances. Without this modality of thinking, the enemy will shift our focus from accepting existing sovereignty to begging for God to change His sovereignty to match our panic and fears. Note. He will not change His eternal plan to match humanity's needs. However, since He knows what your needs are before you pray, He will fulfill all the requests that match His predestined care for you.

### **SAMPLE NEW COVENANT PRAYER**

*Lord Jesus, I aline myself this day with the work & deliverance you provided on the Cross many years ago. I agree with Your divine fulfillment of meeting all my needs according to Your richness and glory. While I reject the enemy's works, I accept the sovereign will of You, Your Father, and the Holy Spirit. I renounce any temptation to beg You to change Your will to match mine. I ask for a manifestation of the Holy Spirit to accept my human weaknesses and the ramifications it presents. I knowledge that my flesh cannot live life without Your empowerment. I also accept the reality that Your grace is sufficient AND that Your power is perfected in my weaknesses. Amen.*

### **PRAYERS AND SUPPLICATIONS**

Intercessory prayer is the practice of praying or applying the objective, absolute Truth of the Word of God in the hope of realigning our will with that of the Father. God loves for us to pray His Word back to Him, claiming His attributes, promises, and redemptive work as the foundation of our faith and hope that He will answer our supplications.

Praying His Word is the assurance of praying the will of the Father. However, the hope and solution of the prayer burden are always based upon the objective absolutes of God's attributes and character as revealed in His Holy Word.

**Experienced prayer warriors know** that using their own ideas or words accomplishes nothing, but by using the Word of God in prayers, the enemy (Satan) shutters and backs down. Satan cannot stand when the Word is used to combat the temptations and attacks he presents. Quoting verses while praying is what puts the enemy in his place—dark places. When we attempt to confront the tactics of our foe by using our self-life sincerity and efforts, we will soon discover he is not intimidated. New Covenant praying should occupy much of our daily prayer time. It must be used in praise, petition, and intercession. Herein lies one of God's greatest gifts for our prayer time.

Believers have a supernatural resource of wealth and riches in the grace and gifts bestowed upon them in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Truths are ours for claiming power, position, authority, and total victory over Satan's world, which belongs to God the Father. The believers' victory over the enemy is absolute when he attempts to use God's Truth to defeat us—his primary tactic of deception.

*"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations, and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).*

We must learn to pray aggressive warfare prayers for family and friends who struggle with bondage. Pray this prayer aloud when led to intercede for an individual in a public environment.

### **Sample Prayer of Supplication**

*My dear heavenly Father, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I bring before You in prayer (loved one's name) \_\_\_\_\_. I ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance that I might pray in the Spirit as You have taught me. I thank You, Father, that You have sovereign control over \_\_\_\_\_. I thank You for the spiritual gifts you have placed in \_\_\_\_\_. In the name of the Lord Jesus and as a priest of God, I ask for mercy and Your invite for them to accept Your forgiveness for the sins by which \_\_\_\_\_ has grieved You. I plead the sufficiency of the blood of Christ to meet the full penalty their sins deserve. I pray for an opportunity for \_\_\_\_\_ to claim back the ground they have given to Satan by believing the enemy's deception. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I resist all of Satan's activity that holds \_\_\_\_\_ from mercy & deliverance. Exercising my authority given to me in my union with the Lord Jesus Christ, I pull down the strongholds that the kingdom of darkness has formed against \_\_\_\_\_. I smash, break, and destroy all those plans formed against \_\_\_\_\_'s mind, will, emotions, and body. In prayer, I destroy the spiritual blindness and deafness that Satan keeps on \_\_\_\_\_. I invite the Holy Spirit of God to bring His power's fullness to convict, to repentance, and to lead \_\_\_\_\_ into faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior if not authentically saved. I cover \_\_\_\_\_ with*

the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and ask You to break Satan's power that blinds \_\_\_\_\_ from seeing the Truth of God.

Believing that You, Holy Spirit, are leading me, I request a deliverance for \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. If it is Your will to keep \_\_\_\_\_ in darkness for a while, please release Your patience in those that are praying to accept the Holy timeline of the Living God for the answer to this prayer. In the name of Jesus, I joyfully lay this prayer before You in the worthiness of His completed work. In Jesus's Name, Amen.

### **Be persistent in praying, Covenant!**

While Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'" Then He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' 'I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs. "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his Son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" (Luke 11:1-13)

### **This passage reveals to us three significant things.**

The first is that Jesus was praying in a certain place (private, inner room) and the items to include in prayer. And third, the method of appealing/aligning oneself with the will of the Father regarding the true needs of the one praying (get up and give him as much as he needs). This method of prayer is conclusive and perfect. Pray without ceasing and always be intuitive in and through the mind of Christ to align oneself with the existing will of the Father, who knows what the true needs of His prayer warriors are.

### **Our Focus**

Because the objective of the one who is praying is to become victorious, indwelt Christians and ministers of the Cross, or lead others to such victory, we should not aim merely at helping ourselves or others at resolving "problems." Most people perceive as

problems may be God's instruments for accomplishing the most significant work in an indwelt believer – that of being brought to the end of oneself. Without those "impossible situations," we might never have come to the place of brokenness and emptiness before our Groom and Savior, and through this "death," we entered into Christ's resurrection power and life as a daily reality.

There is a nasty habit in the church today of thinking that counseling answers all "psychological" issues in a person's life. This fantasy resulted from a church that referred people away from the church when "counseling was needed." The irony of this twist is that God works diligently to send hurting souls to the church, while 91% of American churches refer people away from the church when the hurting soul reveals "counseling-related" issues beyond prayer or Bible reading! In reality, God has empowered every believer with the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit to offer wise counsel and assist others in repentance of wrong attitudes and actions (sin). Most Christ-as-Life workers experience that transformation is quick and certain when the Holy Spirit is released to be obedient to Christ within the worker. And when I was getting my Master's degree, it was stated that the average stay of counseling is 10—12 years. There seems to be something wrong with that picture.

**Anyone who has worked with a hurting soul** knows that the process is dirty and messy, and it is due to this mess the discipler needs the mind of Jesus to do the work through them. This requires the believer to self-reckoned oneself to be dead, and this must start with a prayer – the Selfer's Prayer. This way, we will not be so apt to function like a "texted-book" Christian, doing to get. If we focus on being a Christ as Life believer, we will be more apt to invest our own lives in another so that Christ will be formed in the one being ministered to. This certainly means that we must start at the Cross's foot. Considering praying the following prayer.

## THE SELF-LIFE PRAYER

*I, at this moment, surrender everything that I am, and have, and ever will attempt to be. I take my hands off of my life and release every relationship to You: every habit, every goal, my health, my wealth, and everything that means anything. I surrender it ALL to You. By faith, I take my place at the Cross, believing that when the Lord Jesus was crucified, according to Your Word, I was crucified with Him; when He was buried, I was buried; when He was raised from the dead, I was raised with Him. I deny myself the right to rule and reign in my own life, and I take up the Cross believing that I was raised from the dead and seated at Your right hand.*

*I thank You for saving me from my sins and myself. From this moment on, I am trusting You to live Your life in me and through me, instead of me; to do what I can't do; quit what I can't quit; start what I can't start; and--most of all--to be what I can't be. I trust you to renew my mind and heal damaged emotions in Your time. I thank You now by faith for accepting me in the Lord Jesus, for giving me Your grace, Your freedom, Your joy, Your victory, and Your righteousness as my inheritance. Even if I don't feel anything, I know that Your Word is true; I am counting on Your Spirit to do what Your Word says-*

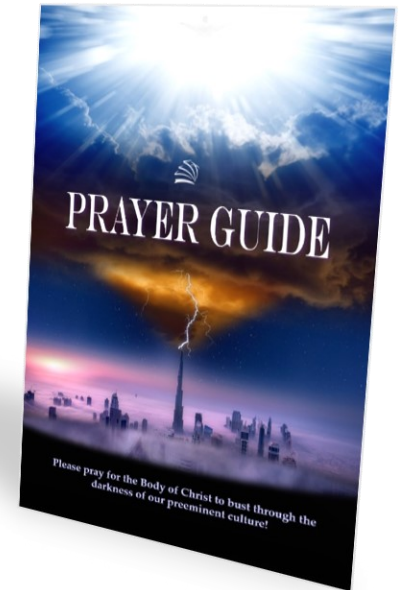
- to set me free from myself, that Your resurrection life may be lived out through me, and that You may receive all the glory.

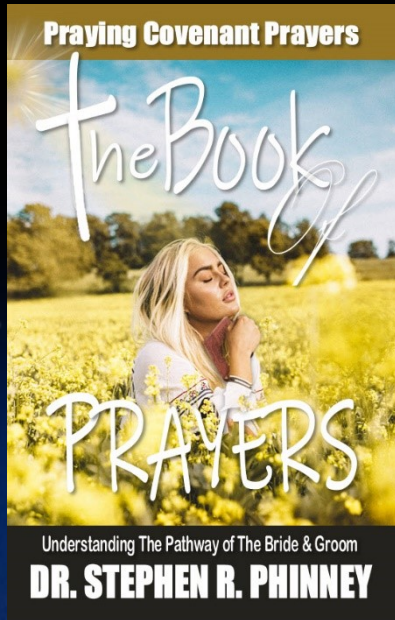
I praise You for victory in Jesus' name, *Amen*.

Thank you for reviewing our prayer guide. I was blessed to write a book detailing the highlights of this prayer guide. It is titled "*The Book of Prayers, Praying New Covenant Prayers.*" We encourage you to order of copy of this life-changing publication.

**-Dr. Phinney**

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