

## PERSONAL WORD

When I first became converted, I would read as many books on prayer as I could find. One particular book that stood out among many was Dr. Torrey's: The Power of Prayer & The Prayer of Power. I was challenged and convicted when I first read it, and to this very day, the Holy Spirit continues to use this book to challenge my prayer walk. This study is not just a theological pie in the sky study, but it has been actually used in our home church. We praise the Lord for all the personal help we received, and we trust you too will be lifted to new heights and vistas as you use this study.

How does one design a class about prayer? By His grace and mercy, I have endeavored to put together some materials, radio sermons, and writings that I believe enhance the teachings of Dr. Torrey and the devotional book, *Kneeling We Triumph*.

Be assured, this is just a simple study. You and I know that prayer is far deeper than can be portrayed in just a few weeks of study. However small the crumbs may seem in this study, I pray they will be used for His kingdom so that His will can be done.

Prayer is not just a mumble of mere words, for Paul wrote: "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17) Prayer is more than an embodiment of words; it is an embodiment of our entire being. May Jesus help you to clothe yourself in His Presence, His posture, and His attitude of prayer. For indeed our Savior is "ever interceding." Can we do less?

His disciple,

Faith - WGBD Where God Builds Disciples - <http://www.wgbd.org>

## INTRODUCTION

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“Ask, Seek, Knock Bible Study” may be conducted individually or within a group setting. This Bible study has been designed to be used with the Holy Bible (all scripture reference are King James Version unless otherwise denoted) and the following two books:

The Power of Prayer and the Prayer of Power by R. A. Torrey

Kneeling We Triumph Book 1 is a 60 day devotional on prayer. This can be purchased directly through the [Kingsleypress.com](http://Kingsleypress.com)

This workbook: “Ask, Seek, Knock Bible Study” is divided into six studies, and includes radio sermons on CD. The 6 sermons: Enter Into Thy Closet, Put On The Whole Armor, I Bow My Knees, Remove the Stones, Continue In Prayer, and Praying Always. These radio sermons are presented by Pastor Reimar Schultze. Pastor Schultze has been broadcasting the Call To Obedience Radio Ministry for over thirty years. He is a graduate of Asbury Seminary. Each of these 6 studies has been designed with a particular topic, and has required assignments. Studies 2 & 4 also offer fasting as an elective.

To order the radio sermons for this study (1 CD with 6 sermons) send a check for \$10.00 (USA residents) and \$15.00 for those living outside the USA. Or to save time and money you may freely record the sermons directly from the Internet to your own home recording devices.

Make your check payable to:  
Kokomo Christian Fellowship

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Below is a suggested agenda that you might consider using should you use this workbook in a group setting. It is also recommended that the group meet 6 consecutive weeks to maintain and promote continuity during this Bible Study.

Suggested Agenda:

Devotional Thought (15 min.)  
Time for Praise Reports (10 min.)  
Time for Corporate Prayer (30 min.)  
Time for Lesson, listening to cassette tape, and assignments (50 min.)  
Wrap up & Closing Prayer (15 min.)

## INTRODUCTION

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Some other helpful hints to consider:

- >Pray that God will provide wisdom and understanding.
- >Find a place to meet that is conducive to study and to prayer.
- >Choose a Bible translation that you can understand.
- >Review
- >Come to the group prepared by having completed assignments.
- >Participate in the discussion, but be careful not to dominate.
- >Expect God to answer prayer.

The best preparation is prayer! You don't have to be a theologian or a Bible scholar to conduct or participate in a prayer study. It is more important that you allow the Holy Spirit to lead, guide, and direct. These studies, 1-6 as outlined below, may be used individually or in a group setting. Whether using them individually, or as a group, the time required to complete each topic may be no more than a day or may take a week depending on your schedule. It is important that you not rush through the materials, but wait upon God in prayer.

### OUTLINE:

#### Study 1

Devotions & Prayer

How Do You Pray?

Topic: Essentials to Answered Prayer by Pastor Reimar Schultze

Listen to: "Enter Into Thy Closet"

Assignments:

Read Chapters 1-2 The Power of Prayer... by R. A. Torrey

Begin reading daily from Kneeling We Triumph Book 1

Quiz #1

#### Study 2

Devotions & Prayer

Review Quiz #1

Topic: Intercessory Prayer

Listen to: "Put On The Whole Armor"

Assignments:

Read Chapters 3-4 The Power of Prayer... by R. A. Torrey

Continue Reading in the devotional Kneeling We Triumph Book 1

Quiz #2

Elective: Corporate fast before next session

# INTRODUCTION

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## Study 3

Devotions & Prayer

Review Quiz # 2

Topic: Significant Prayers

Listen to: "I Bow My Knees"

Assignments:

Read Chapters 5-6 The Power of Prayer... by R. A. Torrey

Continue reading in Kneeling We Triumph Book 1

## Study 4

Devotions & Prayer

Review Quiz #3

Topic: Hindrances to Prayer - Strongholds

Listen to: "Remove the Stones"

Assignments:

Read Chapters 7-8 The Power of Prayer... by R. A. Torrey

Continue reading in Kneeling We Triumph Book 1

Quiz # 4

Elective: Corporate fast before next session

## Study 5

Devotions & Prayer

Review Quiz #4

Topic: Importunity & George Muller

Listen to: "Continue In Prayer"

Assignments:

Read Chapters 9-10 The Power of Prayer ... by R. A. Torrey

Continue reading in Kneeling We Triumph Book 1

Quiz # 5

## Study 6

Devotions & Prayer

Review Quiz #5

Topic: Intercession

Wrap up and closure:

Assignments: Finish reading the devotional book Kneeling We Triumph Vol. 1

Let's begin our prayer walk with the anticipation that God wants to and will answer prayer!

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" Ephesians 3:20

## STUDY 1 HOW DO YOU PRAY?

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God must help man by prayer. He who does not pray, therefore robs himself of God's help and places God where He cannot help man. -- E. M. Bounds

Prayer is partnership with God. It is praying: "...Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth." Luke 11:2 Don't rob yourself from God's will and God's help. Take this evaluation. Circle your answers. This is for your own personal use!

1. What time of day do you pray?

Early AM   Mid-Morning   Afternoon   Evening   After Midnight

2. Do you pray at the same time each day?

Yes   No

3. How long do you spend in prayer each day?

15 Minutes   30 Minutes   1 Hour   More than 1 Hour

4. What is your posture in prayer? (Kneeling, Walking, etc.)

5. Do you read your Bible during your prayer time?

Yes   No

6. Do you read through the Bible each year?

Yes   No

7. Do you use a devotional in your prayer time?

Yes   No

8. What is the name of your current devotional?

9. Do you routinely keep a prayer journal?

Yes   No

**STUDY 1**  
**HOW DO YOU PRAY?**

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10. Do you have a specific place where you pray each day? If Yes, where?

Yes No

11. Do you fast?

Yes No

12. Do you routinely fast?

Yes No

If Yes, how often?

13. What type of fast? (one day, extended, etc.)

14. Do you use praise in your prayer time?

Yes No Sometimes

If Yes, how long of time do you spend in praise?

15. Do you praise God out loud or quietly within your thoughts?

16. Do you use a songbook in your prayer time?

Yes No Sometimes

17. Do you attend church prayer meetings?

Yes No Sometimes

If not, why not?

18. Do you memorize Scriptures?

Yes No Sometimes

**STUDY 1**  
**HOW DO YOU PRAY?**

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19. Do you have a quiet time with God where you only listen?

Yes No Sometimes

20. Do you pray for the persecuted church?

Yes No Sometimes

21. Do you have a prayer partner?

Yes No

22. Do you routinely pray for the pastors and teachers of your church?

Yes No

23. Do you pray for the missionaries of your church?

Yes No

24. Do you pray for souls to be saved?

Yes No

25. Do you pray for your children?

Yes No

26. Do you pray for your spouse?

Yes No

27. Do you pray for world wide revival?

Yes No

28. Do you make it a habit to read biographies of men and women of God?

Yes No

If yes, list the recent books you have read:

**STUDY 1**  
**HOW DO YOU PRAY?**  
**PRAYER GOALS**

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29. Do you receive answers to your prayers?

Yes No

If yes, list your most recent victory received in prayer:

This "How Do You Pray?" assessment is for your very own evaluation. It is expected that you will make changes and adjustments to your prayer walk after having answered these 29 questions. What do you think Jesus would have you change? List your ideas below:

Now that you have given some thought to the changes you would like to make, please pray and let the Holy Spirit help you select a prayer goal. Choose **ONE** goal that you can honestly accomplish. You should have a prayer goal before going on to Study 2. Below are some suggestions:

**Example goal:** I want to spend more time in praise before I pray. I plan to read Psalms 145-150 during this study, because I know praise is an important part of prayer. **My Scripture to support this goal:** "Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Psalms 107:8

**Example goal:** I want to pray for the missionaries of my church while participating in this course on prayer. Not only do I plan to pray for their needs, but I plan to write one letter of encouragement to them before I finish this course on prayer. **My Scripture to support this goal:** "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:" 2 Thessalonians 3:1

**Example goal:** I want to memorize Scripture during my prayer time. I am going to memorize 6 verses while taking this study. **My Scripture to support this goal:** "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Let the Holy Spirit guide you in the selection of your **ONE** prayer goal. Be sure to select a goal that you can accomplish while taking this study. Be sure to add a supportive Bible verse for your goal.

**MY GOAL FOR THIS STUDY IS:**

**MY SCRIPTURE IS:**

## STUDY 1 CORPORATE PRAYER GOALS

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Not only will each member have **ONE** prayer goal, but the group will select **THREE** prayer goals. Goals for a group might be praying for the pastoral ministry, salvation of souls, for the youth ministry, etc. Remember our focus in prayer is not “my will be done,” but “Thy will be done.” So often we pray selfishly. Enlarge your vision and begin to pray for His will. Below are some examples you might consider for group prayer goals. Let the Holy Spirit guide and direct, and be careful not to limit God! These three corporate prayer goals should be selected before going on to Study 2.

**Example Goal:** As a group we want to see revival in our church youth group. We want to pray that souls will be saved and revived. **Our Scripture to support this goal:** “... for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.” Isaiah 66:8

**Example Goal:** As a group we want to see God open doors and expand our Pastor’s ministry. **Our Scripture to support this goal:** “I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.” Revelation 3:8

The group must select **THREE** prayer goals that they will pray for corporately in class and outside of class. Be sure to add a supportive Bible verse for each goal.

**Group Goal 1.**

**Scripture**

**Group Goal 2.**

**Scripture**

**Group Goal 3.**

**Scripture**

**STUDY 1**  
**ESSENTIALS TO ANSWERED PRAYER**

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Why is it that some people get answers to pray and others do not? List below three necessary items you feel will help you get answers to prayer?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

— **Excerpts From: Call to Obedience Newsletter by Pastor Reimar Schultze**

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.” 1 John. 3:22

What are the two conditions that must exist in this verse for our prayers to be heard?

- 1.
- 2.

As you may well know, the problem of unanswered prayers is generally attributed to three categories:

God, Satan, or man. It is either that God is not willing, the devil is fighting, or man is not right with God when praying. We can find biblical support for all of these.

If something is not in the will of God, God has no interest in bringing it to pass. If something is in the will of God, the devil will fight it. If man is not right with God when praying, nothing much will be accomplished, even if it is God's will.

God, in His infinite wisdom, has made His actions dependent on the prayers of His people. He has, as the Revelation tells us, “made us unto our God kings and priests...” (Revelation 5:10). The Christian is born again to be a royal priest, or a priestly king. He can never be a king without being a priest, and he will never be a priest without being a king. We do govern, but we govern by prayer only. It is the prayers of saints (and our praises), and not our church statistics, that ascend to the throne of God (Revelation 8:3-4). Jesus said, “whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Mathew 16:19). Jesus gave His disciples power to preach the gospel, to heal the sick, and power over the demons and the devil (Matthew 10: 7-8).

Jesus has given us power to change things. We are a royal priesthood. We are here to act in His behalf for the advancement of His kingdom. Why then do we have so many unanswered prayers when we pray in His behalf? The answer to that is simple, my friend: TO PRAY IN GOD'S WILL REQUIRES THAT WE LIVE IN GOD'S WILL. It is to not only keep His commandments, but ALSO to do that which is pleasing in His sight.

## STUDY 1

# ESSENTIALS TO ANSWERED PRAYER

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You may pray for a sick son. It may be God's will to heal that sick son. But, it is much more in God's will for you to live in God's will 24 hours a day than for that son to be healed! When you have a petition, God wants you to come to him from the position of a royal priest—a godly person who keeps the commandments and does all that pleases God. God wants you to come to Him as a person walking with God and not as a backslider, a lukewarm Christian or a part-time Christian. God has absolutely no obligation to hear the prayers of people who are not all for God. He may, in His mercy, act upon such requests, but He is not obligated to do so.

People who neither keep the commandments, nor do that which pleases God, are not in a place of authority to have their prayers heard. They do not have God's interest at heart, but their own. When they pray for healing, they have their own interests in mind. When they pray for finance, they have their own interests in mind. When they pray for sanctification, or spiritual gifts, or even for their marriage to be restored or for their children or spouse to be saved, they have their own interests in mind. It is their own happiness that is vital to them, as well as the happiness of those about them.

You may keep all the laws of God, but not do that which is pleasing in His sight. You may not kill, you may not commit adultery, you may keep the Sabbath holy, you may honor your father and mother; YET, you may watch television programs that have violence, adultery, nakedness or foolishness in them. You may watch programs that bring leanness to your soul—programs that are not pleasing in His sight. If you do so, you may take yourself out of 1 John 3:22, and have to settle for a lot of unanswered prayers.

I can hardly say this all without losing some friends and making others mad, but I must do so to give an answer for the many unanswered prayers. We get no credit for doing our duty or for keeping the law. Our credit comes when we go beyond law and our fixed responsibilities, and we allow our love to God and man to unfold itself in pleasing service (Luke 17:10). We must keep one eye on the commandments, but the other on the heart of God so as not to grieve Him.

Have you been doing what is pleasing to God today? Have you kept His commandments? What could you change?

**STUDY 1**  
**ENTER INTO THY CLOSET**  
**CASSETTE REVIEW**

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1. After listening to this cassette tape please list the Bible characters who had places of prayer:

Example: Abraham: Place of prayer: Grove of trees Bible Reference: Genesis 21:33

Pastor Schultze' states three reasons why people don't pray. What are they?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What interferes or stops you from praying each day?

Can you make changes to correct this problem?



## STUDY 2 INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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Prayer is simply talking to God. He speaks to us; we listen. We speak to Him; He listens. A two-way process: speaking and listening. The more you pray, the easier it becomes. The easier it becomes, the more you'll pray. -- Mother Teresa

Review Quiz # 1 The Power of Prayer... by R. A. Torrey

As Mother Teresa said: "Prayer is simply talking to God..." and it is "a two-way process." Have you been faithful to talk to God each day? The only way to know who God is and to understand God is to talk to God. God also wants to talk to you. Tell Him what is on your heart. Did you remember to pray over your personal and group goals this past week? Don't forget that prayer changes things!

The topic for Study 2 is Intercession. Read the following newsletter by Pastor Schultze and answer the questions. **Excerpts From: Call to Obedience Newsletter by Pastor Reimar Schultze**

Burden bearers are draftees. Intercessors are volunteers. Some of you may be both!

The primary means by which God's will is to be done in earth is by prayer. In reference to the kingdom of God and the will of God on earth, it has been said that God does nothing but in answer to prayer. This is a great mystery. And until you accept that mystery as a reality to be dealt with 1) you will not pray much, 2) your whole Christian life will be off-center, and 3) you will miss what you are a Christian for.

It is an astounding fact that the destiny of events have been placed in the hands of praying men. PRAY, "Thy will be done!" If we pray for God's will to be done, it will be done! If we don't pray for His will to be done, the devil will have his way. This is one of the greatest lessons in the Bible. After God created man, He gave man dominion, power and authority over all things on the earth (Genesis 1:20). God made man the keeper of the earth. He could do that because man was in His likeness. Then man sinned; his heart became wicked. Since then Satan, through man, has corrupted the world. Satan became the prince of the world. Paul gives a sobering description of the forces the devil has unleashed in this world in Ephesians 6, "For we wrestle not with flesh and blood, but against the despotism, against the powers, against world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness..." (Amplified Bible). Now one would assume that Christians would crowd into churches for prayer meetings more than for preaching or gospel concerts or Sunday school. For nothing is better than God's will, and prayer ushers in that will. There is no greater guarantee for success and fulfillment than in the will of God. One would think that Christians would spend more time on their knees than watching television. One would think that every church would have at least one REAL prayer meeting—packed out. But such is not the case.

The reason why prayer is not popular or well attended to, is because most Christians do not want God's will to be done, except when it coincides with their own wills. Thus we pray for relief from sickness, but not for God's will to be done on our vacation. Thus we pray for our ten percent to be used correctly by the church, but we will not let God's will enter into the ninety percent we keep.

## STUDY 2 INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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Carnality does not want God's will to be done except when that will agrees with its own preferences—which leads me say that if we do not covet all of God's will all of the time, we can have no confidence to have some of His will some of the time. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16).

Now then, let us look at the nature, the character and the method of the intercessor.

"And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?" (Luke 11:5-6). The intercessor is a man who has two friends. The one is rich; the other is poor. The one has everything; the other lacks in essentials. The intercessor has one friend in heaven, and he, in the story mentioned here, has many needy friends on earth. The intercessor stands between the one who has and the one who has not, and he, through believing, and through persevering prayer, transfers the goods from the all-sufficient, abounding one to the destitute one. The intercessor brings God's will down to earth.

He is called upon at an inconvenient time. As we see, the intercessor is called upon at any time of the day. Yet he does not mind, for his life is "thy will be done." Consequently, his life is prayer. Our text says that "he had nothing to set before him." He could have used that as an excuse for sending the traveler on, but the law of the kingdom is as the Middle Eastern law of hospitality which allows for no excuses. The intercessor is compassionate. The intercessor is self-denying. The intercessor is industrious. The intercessor waits on God.

This intercessor had been without food. We don't know for how long. He had "nothing to set before him." Yet, despite the fact that he had nothing to eat for a day or two, the intercessor did not have courage to petition his wealthy friend. He simply waited on God until he had a promise that would give him certain passage to the heart of his prosperous friend. For the promise, the petition that pleases the Father is never "give me day by day my daily bread," but rather "give us our daily bread!" The intercessor knows that in petitioning he must never think of his needs apart from the needs of others. He must have a larger end in mind than just himself. For the law of deliverance is found in "he that loseth his life... shall find it." (Mathew 10:39). The coming of the friend at midnight to his home, which was a place of waiting on God, a place of trusting, a place of love, a place of compassion, and a place of self-denial, was the beginning of the answer to everyone's need in the house. If your home is such a place, God will never be far from it.

Being now able to lose his life for a friend, being now able to pray the divinely blessed petition, "Give us our daily bread." with courage, excitement and thrill, the intercessor launches into the dark, cold night. While the village is sound asleep, while his guest is now comfortably settled in his bed, the intercessor, although physically exhausted from the lack of food, suddenly finds new strength. He finds the strength that comes from doing the will of God even as he has learned that strength from his rich friend who said, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me." (John 4:34).

## STUDY 2

# INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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So we see this shadowy figure making his way swiftly through the streets and alleys, disregarding the dangers lurking in the dark. The intercessor has a petition that cannot be denied: "Give US this day our daily bread!" Hallelujah! He does not hesitate on his way to his friend for he has walked this path to the door of mercy more than any other way.

He positions himself at the door of his rich friend. It is now midnight. It is cold, it is dark, and he is the only one awake, but awake with excitement, faith, determination and anticipation. The intercessor thrusts his knuckles against the door, yet his repetitive thrusts bring no answer. Undeterred from the lack of response, he renews his efforts with greater diligence. He knocks, and he knocks, and he knocks. To him it is not a question of 'if' but of 'when' for he has a promise from the one he is trying to rouse. "Every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Luke 11:10).

The intercessor cannot be denied once he prays the Father's will, for we read that "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." (Mark 11:24). He also knows that to doubt is to lose (v. 23). He remembers the words of his rich friend which he had heard him say so often, "Have faith in God." (v. 22). And if the delay is long, he knows it is only to strengthen his character, his will, his faith, his steadfastness, and his self-denial for other matters that are yet ahead.

Finally, the answer comes from within, "I cannot come..." The night goes on. Even though he hears the words of his friend, "I cannot come," the intercessor knows better. He knows the heart of his friend which says: "Keep asking, keep knocking, keep coming, keep pressing."

1. What is the primary means by which God's will is done on earth?

List the four main characteristics of an intercessor?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Are you an intercessor?

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." Ezekiel 22:30





**STUDY 2**  
**PRAYER & FASTING**

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GOAL: I AM PRAYING AND FASTING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PRAISE REPORT:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

SCRIPTURE VERSES I AM USING AS MY SWORD ARE:

FAST BEGINNING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAST ENDING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS RECEIVED:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

### STUDY 3

## SIGNIFICANT PRAYERS

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Once you weep, or the Holy Ghost in you, you are the very one to touch the Throne. -- Rees Howells

Review Quiz #2 The Power of Prayer by RA Torrey

### JESUS THE INTERCESSOR

The Lord's Prayer which is also known as the Disciple's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) is a very popular prayer. Read this prayer from your Bible (Matthew 6:9-13) and answer the following questions. To help you have a better appreciation of this prayer, you might consider reading several different Bible translations.

1. What are the distinguishing characteristics of the Lord's Prayer?
2. Did Jesus use the armor, or any part of the armor as mentioned in Ephesians 6?
3. What did Jesus ask? Was He vague or specific when talking to His Father?
4. Can you use this prayer and how can you use it?
5. Elijah prayed for rain (1 Kings 18:36-39) and you will find his name listed in the Significant Prayers of the Old and New Testament Handout #8. Faith is the unshakable confidence that what God says is, even though we do not see the evidence.

Did Elijah have faith?

Did he have a vision?

Did he pray once or more than once?

What did you learn from reading about Elijah's prayer?

### STUDY 3

## I BOW MY KNEES CASSETTE REVIEW

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“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...” Ephesians 3:14

1. What are the three things that destroy faith?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

2. Do your “feelings” deter or hinder your prayer walk?

3. What did you find helpful from this tape?

4. What can you do to strengthen the inner man, your soul, so that you will have faith?

**STUDY 3**  
**Homework Quiz # 3**  
**The Power of Prayer... by R. A. Torrey**

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Please read chapters 5 & 6 in The Power of Prayer... by R. A. Torrey and answer the following questions:

1. List the key verse in chapter 5?
  
2. Dr. Torrey lists two things which will help you to get answers to prayer? What are they?
  
3. What have you done today that is pleasing to God?
  
4. List the key verse in chapter 6?
  
5. To whom is the promise made? Does God promise to answer the prayers of everyone?
  
6. What does it mean to believe on Jesus Christ?

## STUDY 4 HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

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Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees. And looks to that alone, laughs at impossibilities and cries it shall be done. -- Charles Wesley

Review Quiz # 3 The Power of Prayer... by R. A. Torrey

Disobedience is the mother of the carnal nature. Carnality is the child of disobedience. Carnality is our enemy. Carnality is killing the church, is envious, and brings distress. Review the list below and circle 3 characteristics that you struggle with, and that you know hinder your walk with God.

1. Upheavals
2. Complains - faultfinding
3. Worry
4. Covetous
5. Angry
6. Hostile
7. Creates uproar
8. Impatient
9. Wants a lot of blessing
10. Wants it easy
11. Dishonest
12. Succumbs to temptation.
13. Is nasty
14. Carnality asks why
15. Always figuring
16. Talks about the preacher
17. Stubborn
18. Judges
19. Sees faults and weaknesses
20. Excuses
21. Easily discouraged
22. Easily offended
23. Has no compassion
24. Loves to argue.
25. Never satisfied
26. Harsh
27. Disobedient
28. Resentful
29. Rebellious
30. Joking – jesting

## STUDY 4 HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

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31. Gets upset with most everything
32. Quick to give counsel
33. Will not submit
34. Deceitful
35. Wickedness

Paul said: “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. For ye are yet carnal...” (1 Corinthians 3:1,3)

In “A Voice in the Wilderness,” it says:

At a place of prayer, God meets us; and in His presence we become aware that it is expedient for us to be crucified. With great agony of soul we acknowledge that all carnal traits must be removed, obliterated, and cleansed out of our heart and mind by the blood of Jesus. We are not able to do this ourselves. We cannot arrange this or accomplish this on our own. God can only perform this through individuals who are willing to remain in His hand, willing to wait in His purpose until He is able to cleanse from them these weaknesses; until He is able to take from them all things that mar, deter, hurt, crush, and cause the Holy Spirit to be grieved with us. (pg.231-232)

Notice that we in ourselves cannot remove these carnal traits, but we cannot excuse them either. As we wait on God in prayer and remain in His will, we are cleansed. Take time to pray right now and ask Jesus to cleanse you of these carnal traits you circled. Self-denial is essential in the elimination of these traits. Example: As I go to work one morning, I am caught in a very bad traffic jam. Within my heart, I become irritated and angry. At this point, I must crucify the selfish nature that wants to become angry and irritated. I can immediately ask Jesus to help me and to cleanse me. Or I can become angry, irritable, honk the horn, and have a bad day. Pray that God will give you the grace to resist responding in a carnal and selfish way. Pray that God will give you a new heart.

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” Ezekiel 36:26-27

## STUDY 4 STRONGHOLDS

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“For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh and using mere human weapons, for the weapons of our warfare are not physical (weapons of flesh and blood), but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and the destruction of strongholds, (inasmuch as we) refute arguments and theories and reasoning’s and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the (true) knowledge of God: and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into obedience of Christ (The Messiah, The Anointed One), being in readiness to punish every (insubordinate for his) disobedience, when you’re own submission and obedience (as a church) are fully secured and complete.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 Amplified

What are strongholds?

1. Strongholds are anything and everything that prevents the Word of God from advancing.
2. Strongholds are those things that cause suffering.
3. Strongholds are whatever denies Christians their rights to worship, to meet together, and to pray.
4. Strongholds are that which deny the Sonship Jesus Christ.
5. Strongholds are what keep people in darkness and in ignorance.

We must be careful not to have any strongholds in our own life. We also must realize that we cannot break down all strongholds with our own strength. We need to pray and ask God what strongholds we are to attack and once we know God’s will, then we pray and pray and pray until that stronghold is broken.

1. What strongholds did Jesus face during His ministry?
  
2. How did He overcome these difficulties and struggles?

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7



**STUDY 4**  
**Homework Quiz # 4**  
**The Power of Prayer by R. A. Torrey**

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Please read chapters 7 & 8 in The Power of Prayer... by R. A. Torrey and answer the following questions:

1. List the key verse in chapter 7?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. We need to “believe to receive” but what other item does Dr. Torrey mention that is so important? (p. 124)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What is the key verse in chapter 8?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What is Dr. Torrey’s greatest secret of holy living?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What is Dr. Torrey’s greatest secret of effective service for Jesus Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What is Dr. Torrey’s greatest secret of profitable Bible Study?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What is Dr. Torrey’s greatest all inclusive secret of prevailing prayer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What is Dr. Torrey’s description of praying in the Holy Ghost?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What are the 7 characteristics of praying in the Holy Ghost?

**ELECTIVE: Corporate Fast.** You have been praying over your goals, but now, if you choose, you may fast and pray. Remember the promise in Isaiah 58: 6 “Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? “The promise is: to loose the bands, to undo the burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke. Sometimes it takes prayer and **FASTING** to bring about an answer from Heaven. This is just another form of Asking, Seeking, and Knocking. You may use the fasting prayer sheet on the following page.

**STUDY 4**  
**PRAYER & FASTING**

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GOAL: I AM PRAYING AND FASTING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PRAISE REPORT:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

SCRIPTURE VERSES I AM USING AS MY SWORD ARE:

FAST BEGINNING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAST ENDING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS RECEIVED:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

## STUDY 5 IMPORTUNITY

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Will you rise up and put on the fighting garments of prayer? They are neither beautiful nor brilliant, but they are absolutely powerful in the tearing down of the strong-holds of Satan. -- G. D. Watson

Review Quiz # 4 The Power of Prayer... by R. A. Torrey

### PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Luke 18:2-8 "Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Have you ever "prayed a prayer of importunity" in your Christian walk? (Importunity is persistent praying until the answer comes)    Yes                      No

If yes, please list below what the petition was and the answer received.

How long did it take you to receive this answer to prayer?

Few Weeks      6 Months      1 Year      Over 1 Year      Other      Please describe

What did you learn from your prayer of importunity?

## STUDY 5 IMPORTUNITY

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### GEORGE MULLER

In November, 1844, I began to pray for the conversion of five individuals. I prayed every day without a single intermission, whether sick or in health, on the land or on the sea, and whatever the pressure of my engagements might be.

**Eighteen months** elapsed before the first of five was converted. I thanked God and prayed on for the others.

**Five years** elapsed, and then the second was converted. I thanked God for the second, and prayed on for the other three.

**Day by day** I continued to pray for them, and **six years** passed before the third was converted. I thanked God for the three and went on praying for the other two.

These two remained unconverted.

“The man to whom God in the riches of his grace has given tens of thousands of answers to prayer in the self-same hour or day in which they were offered has been praying day by day for nearly **36 years** for the conversion of these individuals, and yet they remain unconverted. But I hope in God, I pray on, and look yet for the answer. They are not converted yet, but they will be.”

This was the faith that carried him through every difficult place. He met emergencies by asking and in due time God supplied whatever the need might be.

Were those prayers unanswered you ask? In 1897, those two men, sons of a friend of Mr. Muller's youth, were not yet converted, after he had entreated God in their behalf for **52 years** daily. But after his death, God brought them into the fold. -- *George Muller* by Basil Miller pg. 146

**STUDY 5**  
**CONTINUE IN PRAYER**  
**CASSETTE REVIEW**

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

This verse admonishes us to continue in prayer and to with with thanksgiving. This verse also encourages us to pray for “us” (ministers, teachers, missionaries, etc.) so that a door of utterance might be opened.

1. Do you realize that you have a responsibility to pray for your pastor, for church leaders, and for missionaries? Do you know their needs? List their needs below:

My pastors' prayer needs are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

My Sunday school teacher prayer needs are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

My missionary friends' prayer needs are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What other ways can you help them in prayer? (Example: start a special prayer meeting focusing on their needs. Choose a prayer partner and agree together for their needs.) Put on the whole armor!



## STUDY 6 INTERCESSION

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At the judgment seat, the most embarrassing thing the believer will face will be the smallness of his or her praying. -- Leonard Ravenhill

Review Quiz # 5 The Power of Prayer... by R .A. Torrey

The characteristics of intercessory prayer in the Holy Spirit are:

- a. Intense Earnestness. (p. 138 The Power of Prayer... by R .A. Torrey)
- b. Intelligent Praying. (p. 140 The Power of Prayer... by R. A. Torrey)
- c. Complete Assurance that God has heard and answered our prayer. (p. 140)
- d. Determination in our praying, the determination to get what we ask from God, a persistence in asking until we do get it. (p. 141)

To intercede, one must:

1. We must surrender our wills and ourselves absolutely and unreservedly to God. (p. 141)
2. We must scrupulously obey God in every department of our lives. (p. 141-142)
3. We must realize and keep in mind our own utter inability to pray aright, and our entire dependence upon the Holy Spirit. (p. 142)
4. We must definitely ask God to guide us by His Holy Spirit as we pray. (p. 143)
5. We must count Upon God's answering our prayer to send His Holy Spirit to teach us to pray; we must count upon His sending His Holy Spirit to teach us to pray. (p. 143)
6. We must keep getting filled with the Holy Spirit. (p. 144)
7. We must study the Word of God daily and earnestly. (p.144)

It is so important that we pray effectively. "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." Matthew 6:7 The above list is an excellent resource for review.

## STUDY 6 SUMMARY

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What has helped you the most in this prayer study?

Has God answered prayer?

What do you feel you still need help in?

What strengths have you gained?

Any other comments?

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