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Free Prayer: Next Steps

Originally Published as: Welcome to the Kingdom

ISBN: 1-931810-04-4

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Daniel King

King Ministries

PO Box 701113

Tulsa, OK 74170-1113 USA

1-877-431-4276

Table of Contents

Introduction	04
Chapter 1: God Loves You	07
Chapter 2: Sin Separates Us from God	11
Chapter 3: Jesus Died for Your Sins	13
Chapter 4: You can be Saved	17
Chapter 5: You can Be Healed	23
Chapter 6: You can have Faith in God	27
Chapter 7: You can be Filled with the Holy Spirit	32
Chapter 8: You can Live Abundantly	39
Chapter 9: Life in the Kingdom of God	43
Chapter 10: Questions about Prayer - Evan Herrman	53

Introduction

Welcome to the Kingdom Of God

There are two kingdoms on this earth. The kingdom of God is full of light, life, joy, health, abundance, and love. The realm of Satan is characterized by darkness, sin, shame, sickness, lack, and hate. Each person must choose which kingdom to serve.

Congratulations! If you have made Jesus the Lord of your life, you have become the child of a King. God is your Father, Jesus Christ is your brother, and you have become a citizen of the kingdom of God. **“For [the Father] has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13-14).**

There are many great truths which new members of the kingdom must learn. This book is designed to help you discover what it means to be a member of the family of God. You will learn how to live an abundant life!

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CHAPTER 1

God Loves You

“God is love” (1 John 4:8). The magnificent story of God’s love for you starts at the dawn of time. The Bible says, **“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).** God wanted a friend. He wanted a companion who would walk and talk with Him. He decided to create a special friend who would share His experiences and who would love and worship Him.

God began to prepare a beautiful home for His friend. He created the earth, the sun, the moon, and the stars. He created the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, the wide variety of animals and plants. He lovingly shaped huge mountains, and scooped out deep valleys. He placed beautiful gemstones and gold within the earth as treasures waiting to be found. When each piece of God’s creation was perfect, He created his masterpiece, human beings. All the creatures were birthed by God’s imagination, but God made us in His own image (**Genesis 1:27**).

The first human was named Adam and his wife was named Eve. As a gift, God gave them the entire world. He told them to rule over the

fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground. Adam was King of everything he could see. Every thing God created has a purpose. The birds were made to fly, the fish were made to swim, the plants were made to provide food, and air was made to breath. You were created to rule and to be God's friend.

Every day, Adam and Eve walked and talked with God. God taught Adam how to be King. He explained to Adam the duties and privileges of ruling. As King, Adam must protect and love his wife. He must take dominion over creation. He must live in peace and harmony. He must use the resources God gave him to the best of his ability. Most importantly of all, as King, he must always obey his creator, God Almighty.

Unfortunately, there was another being who wanted to be king. His name was Satan. He was an angel who had rebelled against God (**Isaiah 14:11-15**) and as punishment, he was thrown from heaven along with all of his followers (**Luke 10:18**). Because Satan was jealous of Adam, he decided to steal the kingship from him.

God gave Adam and Eve only one instruction. In the middle of their garden, God placed a tree. **“And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die” (Genesis 2:16-17).** The innocent looking tree was a test of their obedience. To eat from the tree would mean spiritual death and eternal separation from God.

One day, Satan appeared as a serpent in the garden. He lied to Eve and convinced her to eat from the tree. Eve took the fruit to Adam

and he also ate it (**Genesis 3:6**). At that moment, Adam lost his kingship because he had disobeyed God. That evening, when God walked in the garden, Adam and Eve hid because they were afraid and ashamed of what they had done. God called them and was greatly saddened when His friends did not come out to walk with Him.

Finally, Adam and Eve told Him what they had done. They sinned by disobeying God. By listening to the serpent, they lost their kingship. Now, Satan would have authority in the world. Sin separated man from God (**Genesis 3:22-24**).

With great sadness, God removed Adam and Eve from the garden He had created for them. He did leave them one ray of hope by promising them that one day, a new King would come who would destroy Satan's authority and save them from their sin of disobedience (**Genesis 3:14-15**). This Savior would restore God's fellowship with humans by making them kings again.

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CHAPTER 2

Sin Separates Us from God

Sin created a wide chasm or barrier between God and humans. Throughout history, people have tried to build a bridge across this gulf in many different ways (religions, good works, philosophy, morality, etc.) but without any success. Despite the common misperception that there are many ways to God, in reality there is only one way for us to regain fellowship with God. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, said, **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).**

For centuries, Satan has attempted to destroy humankind. He caused poverty, sickness, pain, and death. Men and women began to lie, and cheat, and steal. Huge wars were fought and millions died and went to hell, **“the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41)** where there is darkness and **“weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 8:12).**

Yet, despite the great chaos, humans held on to the promise of a Savior who would destroy the horrible effects of sin. Jesus said, **“The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10).**

Just like Adam, all people are sinners. **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).** Every single person on earth has disobeyed God’s commands (**Exodus 20:3-17**) by lying, cheating, stealing, hating, speaking evil words, committing adultery, and even murdering. Each person is separated from God because of this disobedience.

The result of human sin is eternal separation from God. Since all life comes from God, eternal separation from Him is the same as eternal death. **“Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12).** The price which must be paid for sin is death. **“For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).**

Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.

CHAPTER 3

Jesus Died for Your Sins

The Life of Jesus

Ultimately, only the promised Savior could defeat Satan and restore the kingdom. This Savior was God's only Son. When the perfect time had come, God sent his Son to earth. **"But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. (Galatians 4:4-5).** This baby was born to a virgin named Mary in the town of Bethlehem just as the prophets had promised. Mary named her little boy, Jesus Christ.

Jesus was God's love gift to the world. **"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).**

God gave His best to us, hoping that we would give our best to Him.

Jesus was both God and man. He was King of the Universe, yet because of God's great love for humans, he laid aside his heavenly splendor and came to earth to teach us how to be kings again.

Once again, God walked and talked with humans in the person of Jesus. At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus said, **“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor” (Luke 4:18-19).**

Jesus came to destroy the works of Satan. **“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and...he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him” (Acts 10:38).**

Jesus healed the blind, the deaf, the lepers, and every kind of disease **(Matthew 8-9)**. He also raised the dead and cast out demons.

Jesus taught people how to live in the kingdom of God. He used many wonderful parables and stories to communicate eternal truths. His greatest teaching was **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30)**. He also taught us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves **(Luke 10:27)**.

Jesus also preached the Good News of the kingdom. The heart of his message was, **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near” (Mat-**

threw 4:17). He asked people to repent (turn away) from their sins and reenter the kingdom of God.

Jesus trained his disciples how to be kings. He proclaimed the truth of the kingdom through his preaching, he taught the ethical principles of the kingdom through wise sayings, and he demonstrated the power of the kingdom by healing the sick.

Jesus died on the cross for you.

Jesus healed many people from physical diseases, but his main reason for coming to earth was to heal a much bigger problem. Jesus said, “I have come to **‘seek and to save what was lost’**” (Luke 19:10). Jesus came to restore the fellowship of humans and God. He wanted to destroy the barrier of sin which prevents us from walking and talking with the Father.

The only way to accomplish this was by dying. The price which must be paid for sin is death. Jesus was perfect because he never sinned so he did not deserve to die. Even though Jesus was completely innocent, Jesus decided to give his life in order to pay the price for everyone else’s sin. **“For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous”** (Romans 5:19).

Some evil men falsely accused Jesus and condemned him to death. They beat his back with a whip and placed a crown of thorns upon his head. They nailed his hands and feet to a cross and left him to die. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins. As he died he cried, **“It is finished”** (John 19:30). This meant he completed

everything necessary for your salvation. Some disciples took Jesus off the cross and buried him in a tomb.

But Jesus did not stay in that tomb. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead! **“Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit” (1 Peter 3:18)**. Jesus came back to life and he is still alive today. He ascended into heaven and he is seated at the right hand of his Father (**Ephesians 1:20**). Right now, he is watching you and waiting for you to get saved from your sin.

CHAPTER 4

You Can Be Saved

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13). No human is perfect. Each person needs to be saved from sin. The Bible says, **“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).** God made a way for us to be saved when he sent His Son to die for our sins. **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).**

God is holy and no sin can appear in His presence. Before we can enter His kingdom, we must be cleansed of all sin. Jesus said, **“Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3 - KJV).** We must turn from a life of sin and begin living for God. Just as children are very trusting, we should have a childlike trust in God. He demonstrated

His love for us by sending Jesus even though we did not deserve to be saved. **“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).**

Jesus is the only way to get to God. The Bible says, **“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men” (1 Timothy 2:5-6).** There is no human effort which can save us. It is impossible for us to earn our salvation. It is only through our faith in Jesus Christ and the grace of God that we can be saved. **“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).** Salvation is a gift from God. When you receive a gift, you do not have to beg for it or pay for it, you simply receive it.

Whoever accepts Jesus as Lord will be saved. Jesus said, **“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved” (John 10:9).** Jesus said, **“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).** You can have a relationship with God simply by opening the door of your heart to Jesus. The moment you answer his call you will be saved from sin.

Being “born again” is synonymous is being “saved.” One of the Jewish religious leaders named Nicodemus came to Jesus one night. Jesus told him, **“I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again” (John 3:3).** Nicodemus was confused and asked, “How can a man be born again? Is he supposed to reenter his mother’s womb?” Jesus explained that it is the spirit of man which

must be born again. Our spirits are dead because of sin, but through Christ our spirits can become alive.

It takes a miracle to transform something and make it new. If an automobile is broken, a mechanic can repair it, or if there is a tear in a piece of clothing, a seamstress can patch it up but only God can put a damaged human back together again. You can have a fresh start with God.

When you are born again, you become a brand new creation. **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17).** All the ugly sins from your past are washed away and you become clean in the sight of God. You become a child of God. **“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).**

It is faith in the word of God that guarantees our salvation. **“For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God” (1 Peter 1:23).** It is our faith in the promises of God which gives us the victory over the sin of the world. **“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:1,4).**

You can have assurance of your salvation. **“This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of**

the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:11-13). You can know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are saved if you fully meet the conditions of salvation given in the Word of God. **“The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:24).** You must base your belief on God’s Word, not on emotions, circumstances, church membership, or high morals. “

The Bible promises, **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).** In order to be saved, all you need to do is confess your sins to God and confess that Jesus is Lord. You must also believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. **“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved” (Romans 10:9-10).** If you will do this, you will be saved.

If you want to be saved, pray this prayer with me.

“Dear Heavenly Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus. I want to live with you in your kingdom. I ask forgiveness for all my sins. I believe Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sins. I believe Jesus rose from the dead and today I invite him to be Lord and Savior of my life. Thank-you for making me a child of God. Amen.”

Congratulations! Christ now lives inside of you (**Colossians 1:27**). Jesus will be walking beside you from now on. **“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).** Whenever you experience troubles, Jesus will be there to help you.

Now that you are a Christian (follower of Christ) you will dwell forever in God's kingdom. God **"...has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins"** (Colossians 1:13-14).

Right now, Jesus is preparing a kingly place in heaven just for you! **"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am"** (John 14:2-3).

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CHAPTER 5

You Can Be Healed

One of the benefits of living in God's Kingdom is supernatural healing. God does not want you to be sick. You can live in divine health. God promised, **"I am the Lord, who heals you"** (Exodus 15:26). He is the God **"who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases"** (Psalm 103:3). His Word says, **"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well"** (3 John 1:2).

Once we are saved, we are set free from sin and from all the evil effects of sin. Sickness is the result of Adam and Eve's sin in the garden. But Jesus died on the cross to completely destroy every work of sin. As the prophet Isaiah prophesied, **"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought**

us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:4-6).

Healing is part of the work Jesus did on the cross. Jesus was beaten with a whip, by the stripes he took upon his back we are healed. “... **by his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24).** Jesus bore our pain, so we would not have to. Jesus already did everything necessary for your healing, all you have to do is accept it.

When Jesus walked on earth, he healed many sick people. “**Many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases” (Matthew 8:16-17).**

One day, a religious leader named Jairus fell down at the feet of Jesus and begged him to come to his house saying, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” Jairus loved his daughter very much and he had faith that Jesus could heal her.

As Jesus began walking towards the house of Jairus, a huge crowd pressed around him. There was a women in the crowd who had been bleeding for twelve years. She was a desperate lady because she had spent all her money on doctors, but none of them could heal her. Her last hope was Jesus.

She said to herself, “If I can just touch the edge of his clothes, I will be healed.” She pushed through the crowd until she was next to Jesus,

reached out her hand and touched him. Immediately her bleeding stopped and she was completely healed!

Jesus sensed that healing power had left his body and he stopped and asked, “Who touched me?” His disciples thought that was a weird question because there was a big crowd and many people were touching Jesus. But Jesus asked the question because someone had touched him with faith. The woman who had been healed came up and confessed what she had done. Jesus said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

Meanwhile, some men arrived from the house of Jairus and told him, “Your daughter is dead. Jesus can do nothing for her now.” Jesus heard what they said and he told Jairus, “Do not be afraid, only believe.”

When Jesus arrived at the house of Jairus, he asked why everyone was crying. He told them, “The child is not dead, but asleep,” but they laughed at him because they knew the girl was already dead. Jesus told them all to leave, and took the mother and father with him into her bedroom. He took the dead girl by the hand and commanded, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!” Immediately the twelve year old girl stood up and walked around. Everyone was amazed at the miracle power of Jesus.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). If Jesus healed people two thousand years ago, he will heal you today. Just as the bleeding woman reached out to touch Jesus with her faith, you need to reach out with your faith to the Healing Savior.

You can be healed by asking the leaders of your church to pray for you. **“Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective”** (James 5:14-16).

CHAPTER 6

You can have Faith in God

Faith is the currency of the kingdom of God. **“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours” (Mark 11:22-24).** According to this verse, you can have anything you ask for in prayer if you have faith.

What is faith? Faith is trusting God when there is no one else to trust. Faith is relying upon God in the midst of trouble. Faith is having confidence in God’s promises. Faith sees the invisible and believes the impossible. Faith is a conviction that no matter what the circumstances look like, God will fulfill His word. Faith is knowing

beyond a shadow of a doubt that God will take care of you. Faith is believing in God more than you believe in your problems.

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1 - KJV). Recently, I purchased a plane ticket. When I bought the ticket, I did not demand to see the plane I would be riding in. I had faith the plane would be at the airport when the time arrived for me to leave on my trip. The ticket represented the promise of the airline. Faith is like that ticket, it is the substance which guarantees God’s promises will come true.

We should **“live by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).** Faith is similar to the title deed to a property you have never seen. Once the title of a property belongs to you, the property also belongs to you. You can say with assurance, “I own this land” even though you have never seen it.

Where does faith come from? Jesus is both the **“author and the finisher”** of our faith (**Hebrews 12:2**). Jesus is the source of our faith, he is the object of our faith, and he is the guarantor of our faith. The Apostle Paul wrote, **“faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17).** Faith is ignited when we hear the word of God. God has already given a measure of faith to every person (**Romans 12:3**), but the more we hear God’s word, the greater our faith grows.

We absolutely need faith. Repeatedly, the Bible drives this point home with this simple verse, **“The righteous shall live by faith” (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38).** Those in right standing before God must live by faith. You will reign in heaven or

rot in hell based on your level of faith in God. Because **“...without faith it is impossible to please God...anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).**

God always moves in response to faith. God is no respecter of persons, He is a respecter of faith. The Centurion told Jesus, **“Just say the word and my servant will be healed.”** Sure enough, Jesus met him at the point of his faith when he said, **“It will be done just as you believed it would” (Matthew 8:5-13).** The man’s servant was healed that very hour. Just as Jesus responded to the faith of this desperate man, the power of God will meet you at the point of your faith. God will move heaven and earth because of faith.

If you do not work your faith, your faith will not work. Faith is like a muscle, the more you use it, the greater it grows. Faith is not faith until you take action. **“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” (James 2:17).** Faith without works is dead. “Workless faith” is an oxymoron. As a matter of fact, faith without works can not even be called faith. When the four men lowered their friend through the roof, Luke says Jesus **“saw their faith.”** In other words, he noticed a physical action which demonstrated their faith. They acted on their faith, and Jesus took notice **(Luke 5:17-26).**

It is vital to act on your faith. You can put action to your faith by moving your body in a way you could not move it before. If you have a paralyzed arm, try moving it. If you could not walk, stand up and begin walking. If you have a tumor on your body, place your hand on the tumor and begin praying. Act on your faith right now by reaching out towards Jesus.

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CHAPTER 7

You can be Filled with the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third member of what theologians call the “Trinity” which is made up of God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. They are three distinct personalities, yet they are still one God. The Spirit has been a vital member of the Godhead since before creation. **“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters” (Genesis 1:2).** Right now, God’s primary interaction with humans on earth is through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was on the earth for a season of thirty-three years, but once he returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit became God’s representative among humans. John the Baptist prophesied the coming of the Spirit when he said, **“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after**

me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire” (Matthew 3:11).

Jesus promised his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit to be with them. **“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you” (John 14:16-17).** As you can see from this verse, the Spirit lives with us and lives in us.

The Spirit is the source of living water for all those who are spiritually thirsty. Jesus said, **“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”** By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. **Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified” (John 7:37-39).**

After Jesus rose from the dead, he commanded the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the arrival of the Spirit. **“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:4-5)** and again Jesus said, **“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49).**

One hundred and twenty disciples gathered together in an upper room to pray for the coming of the Spirit. **“When the day of Pen-**

tecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:1-4).

This mighty outpouring of the Spirit fulfilled the prophecy of Joel, “I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days” (Joel 2:28-29). The gift of the Spirit was for all flesh. The old and the young, the men and the woman, the fathers and the sons were all filled with the Spirit that day.

Immediately, Peter began preaching and over 3,000 people were saved that day (Acts 2:41). The Spirit worked so mightily in the church that soon another 5,000 souls were saved (Acts 4:4). Thereafter, saints were added to the church daily (Acts 2:47).

What does the Holy Spirit do?

The Holy Spirit is our comforter, our helper in times of trouble, our teacher, our advocate with the Father, our counselor, and our friend. Additional tasks the Spirit performs on our behalf.

1. No one can be saved except through the work of the Spirit. “No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:3). It is through the work of the Spirit in our lives that we are saved. “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal

by the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5). The Spirit is the one who gives us assurance of our salvation. **“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children” (Romans 8:16).**

2. The Spirit gives us the boldness to tell others about God. **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).**

3. The Spirit testifies to our hearts concerning who Jesus is. **“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me” (John 15:26).**

4. The Spirit guides each believer into all truth. Our primary standard for truth is God’s Word, but it is the Spirit who reveals the truth of God’s Word to our hearts. It is the Spirit who leads us to the Scriptures which best speak to our current needs. **“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you” (John 16:13-14).**

5. The Spirit is the giver of supernatural gifts. **“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in**

different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines” (1 Corinthians 12:7-11).

The Spirit gives a variety of gifts for the edification of the saints. Of course, no one person operates in all the gifts. The Spirit allows the gifts to manifest as the body of Christ has needs. **“So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully” (Romans 12:5-8).** It is important for each member of the body to be willing to be used and at the same time to yield to the timing of the Spirit **(1 Corinthians 14:32)**. Remember, everything in the church should always be done **“decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40)**.

Be filled with the Holy Spirit

It is God’s will for every believer (including you) to be filled with the Holy Spirit. **“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is...be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:17-18)**. This means it is God’s will for you to be filled with the Spirit.

You can ask with complete confidence for God to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Know that it is His will for you to have the gift of the Spirit. **“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if**

we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him” (1 John 5:14-15).

You do not have to beg for the Holy Spirit, but you do need to specifically ask.”**So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:9-13).** The Holy Spirit is a gentleman, he will not force Himself upon you, He will only enter your life at your invitation.

How can you tell if someone is full of the Spirit of God? Jesus said, **“By their fruit you will recognize them” (Matthew 7:20).** What are the fruit of the Spirit? **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).** I believe that when you find a believer who has all these fruits manifested in his life, you have found someone who is full of the Spirit of God.

You can pray in a spiritual language.

The Spirit is continually praying to God on your behalf in a special language which is only understood by God. You can pray in this new tongue by opening your mouth and allowing the Spirit to speak us-

ing your vocal cords. Jesus promised, **“These signs will accompany those who believe...they will speak in new tongues” (Mark 16:17).**

Isaiah prophesied this new tongue would bring refreshing to weary believers, **“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear” (Isaiah 28:11-12 - KJV).** This new tongue is like a **“well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14).**

On the day of Pentecost, one hundred and twenty disciples began to speak with other tongues when they were filled with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:4**). Cornelius and his entire household spoke in tongues when the Holy Spirit came upon them (**Acts 10:44-48**). When Paul laid his hands on the believers in Ephesus **“the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke in tongues” (Acts 19:6).**

Paul was originally filled with the Spirit when Ananias laid his hands on him (**Acts 9:17**). Later, he wrote to the church in Corinth **“I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you” (1 Corinthians 14:18).** Paul said that praying in the Spirit edifies (builds up) the believer (**1 Corinthians 14:4**). Paul specifically commanded the church in Corinth **“...Do not forbid speaking in tongues” (1 Corinthians 14:39).** Exercise builds your muscles, in the same way, praying in tongues builds your spirit. Jude told us, **“But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit” (Jude 1:20).**

freePRAYER
next**STEPS**

CHAPTER 8

You Can Live Abundantly

God has a magnificent plan for your life. You were not born by chance or accident. God thought of you before the world was even in existence (Ephesians 1:4). **“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”** (Jeremiah 29:11). You can not even imagine all the good blessings God has in store for those who love him. **“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”** (1 Corinthians 2:9).

You do not need to live in fear. No hardship or adversity you are facing is bigger than God or greater than His power. **“Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go”** (Joshua 1:9). Trusting in God will destroy your fears, **“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind”** (2 Timothy 1:7- KJV).

You do not need to worry. **“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear...But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:25; 33).** As you trust your loving heavenly Father, He will provide for your earthly needs.

You can live your life in victory over sin, fear, disease, poverty, and every evil work of Satan. **“All who have been born of God have victory over the world through faith in Jesus Christ. for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God” (1 John 5:4-5).** The victory Jesus achieved on the cross belongs to every believer. Victory over life’s circumstances is God’s gift to you. **“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57).**

You are created to be more than a conqueror over problems, obstacles, and enemies. **“In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Romans 8:37).**

It is not through your own strength or ability that you overcome but through the power of Jesus Christ inside of you. As the Apostle Paul said, **“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13 - KJV).**

The kingdom of God inside of you is far more powerful than the kingdom of darkness which surrounds you. **“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).**

God has given you powerful weapons in your battle against Satan. **“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests”** (Ephesians 6:13-18).

These weapons give you the ability to defend yourself against every plan of the evil one. **“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”** (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

Jesus came so you could live an abundant life. **“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”** (John 10:10 - KJV). You can live an abundant life spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially. God wants to bless you at home, in your family life, in your relationships, in your job, and at school. Total abundance in every area of your life is the will of God for you, **“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth”** (3 John 1:2 - KJV).

God will freely give you all good things. **“He who did not spare his**

own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32).

When you become a member of the kingdom of God, all the blessings of heaven belong to you. You can have peace, joy, prosperity, hope, health, and abundance. **“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).**

The main motivation for receiving from God should be to give to others. God wants to bless you with more than enough so that you can bless those around you who have needs. God blesses you so that you can be a blessing (**Genesis 12:2**) and so you can be **“fruitful in every good work” (Colossians 1:10 - KJV).**

CHAPTER 9

Life in the Kingdom of God

Now that you are a Christian, here are some steps which will help you grow closer to God and which will teach you how to reign in life. Know that **“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6).**

1. Read the Bible

The Bible is God’s Word for your life. Just as the physical body needs nourishment from food, your spiritual life needs nourishment from the Word of God. Through the Bible, God speaks to your heart and reveals His plan for your new life. As you study the Scriptures, you will grow in your Christian walk. **“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).**

The Bible is God's love letter to you. Contained in this book are God's laws for living, the history of God's dealings with humans, wonderful psalms and proverbs, prophetic warnings and encouragement, the life of Jesus, an explanation of Christian doctrine, and a look at the future when Jesus returns as a reigning king. It is a living and powerful book. **"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart"** (Hebrews 4:12).

The truth of the word of God is everlasting. **"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever"** (Isaiah 40:8).

You will experience victory over sin as you read God's Word. **"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word...I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you"** (Psalm 119:9,11).

I encourage you to read at least one chapter of the Bible every day. The best place to start reading is the gospel of John. This book will introduce you, in a simple yet powerful way, to the life of Jesus.

2. Memorize Scripture

You will find great comfort, encouragement, and help in times of trouble if you will memorize some Scripture verses. The Bible says, **"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful"** (Joshua 1:8).

Here are some great scriptures for you to start memorizing this next week.

Day #1: John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Day #2: 1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Day #3: James 4:7

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Day #4: Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Day #5: John 14:21

“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

Day #6: 1 John 5:14-15

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we asked of him.”

Day #7: Mark 11:24

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

Do you find it difficult to memorize Bible verses? Here are some tips which will help you.

1. Say the verse out loud. According to Romans 10:17, **“faith comes from hearing.”** As you repeat the scripture loud enough for you to hear it with your ears, it will build your faith and it will become easier for you to remember.

2. Say the verse one phrase at a time. If you feel the verse is too long to memorize, repeat it one phrase at a time until you have the whole verse.

3. Say the verse over and over again. **Joshua 1:8** tells us to meditate on Scripture. The word “meditate” means “to chew on.” Just like a cow chews its food repeatedly, we need to mentally chew on the truth of God’s Word. Repetition will firmly cement the verse in your spirit and it will begin to change your life.

4. Confess God’s word over your life. Your life will be raised or lowered to the level of your confession. The words you speak with your mouth reveal the condition of your heart, **“Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your**

words you will be condemned” (Matthew 12:34-37). Confession of God’s promises brings possession of God’s promises. The words you speak will either help you or hinder you. **“The tongue has the power of life and death” (Proverbs 18:21).**

3. Pray Every Day

Prayer is your lifeline to God. You should form a habit of praying every day. **“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16).** This promise means that God hears your prayers and He answers your prayers.

Prayer is simply talking to God from your heart. Tell God what you are feeling. Let Him know what you are going through. Take your problems to God because He is interested in helping you in every area of your life. **“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).** Thank Him for His goodness in your life. Tell Him how much you love Him.

Prayer is a two way conversation. **“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know” (Jeremiah 33:3).** After you talk to God, be quiet and listen to Him. A radio station is continually broadcasting, but unless you tune your radio to the proper frequency you will not pick up the signal. In the same way, you will find that God is always willing to talk with you but you must be tuned into what He is saying. The way to do this is to spend time in prayer.

If you do not know what to say when you pray you can use ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ as an example. When the disciples asked Jesus how

they should pray, Jesus told them to pray this way: **“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.”** (Matthew 6:9-16).

4. Fellowship with Believers

You need to go to church. It is impossible to be a strong Christian on your own. The Bible says, **“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching”** (Hebrews 10:25). As the time comes closer for Jesus to return, it becomes even more important to go to church which is the visible manifestation of God’s kingdom on earth.

You need support, encouragement, and training from other believers. This means you need to be a part of a church. If you are not already a member of a church, find a church where the Word of God is faithfully proclaimed. Look for a pastor who preaches the Bible and who believes in God’s miracle power. Find a church where people are getting saved and healed. Go to a church where you can feel the presence of God when you walk into the building.

5. Get Baptized in Water

Being baptized in water is an important part of the Christian life. It symbolizes the death of our old man and our resurrection as a new

creation. Jesus told his disciples, **“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16)**. Jesus commanded his disciples to **“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19)**. Jesus was baptized in the Jordan river at the beginning of his ministry **(Matthew 3:13-17)**.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached a mighty sermon, then he told the people who responded to the message, **“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38)**. All those who **“accepted his message were baptized” (Acts 2:41)**.

Peter baptized the entire household of Cornelius after they had received the Holy Spirit **(Acts 10:44- 48)**. Paul was baptized after he was saved **(Acts 9:18)**. Throughout his ministry, he continued to baptize people **(Acts 19:1-6; Acts 16:31-33)**.

6. Be a Giver

Jesus said, **“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (Luke 6:38)**. Giving is like planting seed in a field. When a farmer sows seed, he expects a harvest. When you give to God you should expect to receive a harvest.

We all love receiving a gift from a friend. Imagine how much God

is pleased when you give Him a gift. Jesus said, **“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35)**. It is impossible to out-give God, He will always exceedingly bless you.

Be happy when you give to God. **“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7)**.

7. Tell Others About Jesus

Jesus told his disciples, **“Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19)**. Every Christian is called to be an ambassador of Christ **(2 Corinthians 5:20)**. There are many people in your circle of influence (neighbors, co-workers, family members, and friends) who desperately need to hear about God. **“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?” (Romans 10:14-15)**. Now that you are a Christian, God will send you to tell others about Jesus.

The best way to be a witness is to live a life that is different. You demonstrate your new faith by your actions, habits, and lifestyle. Jesus said, **“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16)**. As people see you living for God, they will notice how Christ changed your life and you will be able to share the good news with them.

Witnessing is like one starving beggar who found bread going to tell other beggars where they can find the same bread. Just tell oth-

ers what God has done for you. If God has healed you, share that testimony with those around you. If God has delivered you from the oppression of Satan, tell someone your story. Begin to pray for opportunities to share Christ with other people and you will find many occasions when you can be a witness.

In Acts 1:8, witnessing begins with the disciple's hometown but it does not stop there. It continues to their entire country, to the countries nearby, and ultimately to the uttermost ends of the earth. Jesus commanded the disciples, **“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15).**

CHAPTER 10

Questions About Prayer

BY EVAN HERRMAN

How do I pray?

You can have a conversation with God in the same way that you talk to people. Sometimes I have light-hearted discussions with my friends, and my prayer can also be light-hearted. Other times I have deep conversations with my friends, and in a similar manner I have a deep religious expression in prayer. But ultimately, praying is a conversation with God.

Prayer is a two-way street, not a one-way conversation. Prayer is where you talk to God and sit and listen for His small still voice. Sometimes it's a thought you have in your head. Sometimes it is scripture. But God does talk back to us when we pray. So like any conversation, spend time talking and spend time listening.

Look at how God spoke to Elijah, *“And he said, Go forth, and stand*

upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:11-13 - KJV).

Why should I pray?

Prayer is not so much about what you say as much as it is about connecting with God. There is a lot that life and even our negative thoughts throw at us. Connecting with God is often a way to focus and recenter your life and mind on the most important thing, a relationship with Him. Out of that relationship with Him produces the character, endurance, and love that we want to go through life exhibiting. “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

What should I pray for?

There are many things that we can pray for. A great starting point is learning to pray the Scripture. There are many different scriptures that you and I can pray that relate to specific problems we are facing in life. For example, “*The righteous cry out and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit*” (Psalm 34:17-18).

God promises to be close. If you are in pain from grief, loss, sorrow, or failure, He is our source of comfort and healing. Pray for people. Pray for God's presence in your life. Praying can be sitting in silence alone, connecting with God.

When you pray focus on quantity, not quality. The more you pray, the better you will get. We are told to, *“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Another Scripture to make this point is Psalm 1:2, *“but whose delight is in the law of the Lord and who meditates on his law day and night.”* It is good to set time aside to pray but sometimes it is hard to make a special time for prayer. Come on! I have four kids. I have learned how to pray while driving the kids to school and have them participate in it. I pray over my food before a meal. When I have a friend going through a hard time, I pray for them there on the spot. I look for ways to add prayer throughout the day in every area of my life. Prayer takes time and practice. I start by setting myself a reminder on my phone.

Prayer is not a religious duty that God is disappointed with us if we miss. Prayer is an invitation from God to spend time with Him and to connect. We live out a transformed life through our connection, relationship, and encounters with God.

For More Information Please Visit:

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