

Michael Murphy

How To Pray Prayers God Always Answers

**“A simple, practical guide to
answered prayer”**



How To Pray Prayers God Always Answers

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Michael Murphy

Michael Murphy is also the author 'Powerful Attitudes'
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Introduction

Since 1976, my constant life passion is to find out how to pray in such a way that I can get what my heart and head desires. In my search, I wanted to find out if most people, who regular engage in prayer, really expect to get the answer to their prayer, physically manifested in their lives.

Is prayer just a means to soothe anxiety or worry? Do people really believe that unseen spiritual dynamic forces can and better yet, ‘will’, intervene on their behalf when they make their requests through prayer? Does one have to live up to a certain standard of moral conduct in order to get their prayers answered?

Is there a form or formula for prayer that somehow leverages God to answer? Does the person who prays, have to possess some kind of special clout or divine favor with God? Does God answer prayers of unspiritual or unrighteous people as well as those who are seemingly righteous and spiritual? Do people of certain religions get their prayers answered while others of different religions not get their prayers answered? If a person does have to possess a certain righteous status, how ‘good’ or righteous does a person have to be in order to get their prayers answered consistently?

These are valid and very fair questions. They are questions that should and can be answered.

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I want to assert at the very outset that you can pray prayers that God answers. You deserve to have your prayers answered. You deserve to know how to get your prayers answered. What else is prayer for if not to get prayers answered?

I prayed for something huge in my life back in 1976 that wasn't answered until 1993. I was starting out in a public ministry in 1976, just one year after I received a major spiritual awakening at the ripe old age of 17. I prayed that I would someday become the senior minister of the church that I was raised in. It was my only focus and goal for my future.

It was a thriving church. Growing from a mere 80 people to 1,800 in less than 10 years. From time to time, I was afforded the opportunity to speak in that church. I spoke during the main Sunday morning services to a packed auditorium, which would seat nearly 1,000. There were two Sunday morning services. I would speak in both, back to back.

I felt a spiritual leading to go to college in Oklahoma. I applied for admission but was quickly turned down from this very popular school. They were accepting only 25% of the freshman applicants. My grades in high school and qualifications didn't come close to meeting the requirements demanded for entrance into this college.

I prayed and asked that I would get a sign from God, a supernatural, yet physical leading, to show me if I was to attend this particular university. I sent for and received an admissions application. I applied and was

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promptly turned down. I wasn't the caliber of student that they were looking for. My entrance exam scores and high school grades were less than desirable, especially for entrance into this institution. Nonetheless, I still kept my prayer alive and had no inner leadings to apply or attend any other university. I stayed focused in my actions, thoughts and faith.

While I continued to stoke the fire of my prayer and my faith for my future, I happened into a religious bookstore one day. I saw a book titled, 'Don't Limit God'. I said, 'that's the book I need to read'.

Having asked for a leading through prayer, it turned out that the third chapter of the book was about the author's daughter who also had applied to go to college. In fact, it was the same university where I wanted to attend. She, like me, had been turned down and through incredible and miraculous circumstances, was accepted at a later date. (I call this 'leadings'. They are encouraging signs that your answer is coming to you. I will talk more about this later in this book.)

I didn't need any more 'leading' than this one. It was as if, God was writing me a letter in answer to the very prayer that I had prayed. I kept my faith high on the basis of my asking in prayer and by the encouragement and support of this leading. It was the summer of 1977.

I spent that summer as a pastoral aide in the church where my family had attended all of my life. Classes started at this university in mid August. I received a phone call at the church office, during the last week of

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July. It was the director of admissions at the university where I wanted and believed I would attend. He told me that I was going to be accepted on the grounds that I maintain a 'C' average. I told him that I could do that and would be there for freshman orientation.

I prayed for what I wanted. I refused to apply for any other college or university. I asked for a 'leading' and received one. I stood firm in my prayer and my faith with the support of the leading. My parents and other authority figures in my life didn't want me to be let down after they knew that I had first, not been admitted to the school. They didn't want my faith in God to be crushed through 'hopeful or wishful thinking'. I stood my ground on the prayer I had prayed, even though I was only 17 years old. I didn't give up, give in or give out but stayed strong, believing in my prayer and in my faith.

Through it all, I still saw my acceptance and ultimate graduation from that university as a miraculous answer to the prayer that I prayed. Not only did I get to attend that university and graduate from it, but I also was afforded the opportunity to travel to Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, and several Caribbean Islands during my college days there. In addition, during my third semester, I was offered the opportunity to spend 3 months of study with one of the foremost memory experts in the world. This is another aspect to expect from answered prayer. That is that 'God will do at least what you've asked'.

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My prayer was not only answered but answered in abundance.

How can you pray prayers that God always answers? I am going to share with you not theory but how I have watched God answer prayers that I've prayed over the past 3 decades. I am going to lead you through the process of not only the spiritual wisdom which serves as keys to getting prayers answered, but tried and proved practices that have always accompanied my prayers that have produced my desired results.

WHAT PEOPLE BELIEVE ABOUT PRAYER

Barna Research Group recently did a nation-wide survey of the prayer habits of Americans. The conclusion they reached, as a result of their findings, is rather interesting. Note these statistics:

six in ten Americans pray one or more times per day;

1. prayer is a regular part of the life of 82% of Americans (including 63% of those who do not attend church);
2. women are more likely to pray than men (95% women to 85% men);
3. women are more likely than men to be certain that prayer makes a difference in their lives (64% women to 56% men);
4. men are more likely than women to be hopeful that prayer makes a difference, but are unsure it does (23% men to 15% women);

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5. Baby Boomers are less likely than the average American to consider prayer a regular part of their lives;
6. 1 in 4 unchurched Americans pray only as a "last resort," while overall 1 in 10 adults do so;
7. almost all people who consider themselves Christians pray (99%);
8. of Christians, 75% are absolutely certain prayer makes a difference, while only 43% of others in the population feel that certain;
9. people who pray the most are the ones most certain that prayer makes a difference;
10. of those who pray, 95% thank God for what He has done for them, 76% ask forgiveness for specific sins, 61% make specific requests, and 46% listen silently for God's response to them in prayer (older adults do this more than young adults).

Most people in the world, believe in prayer. I believe that prayer needs to be a daily habit that each of us engage in. I believe that we should be able to pray with confidence that our prayers can and will be answered. Prayer needs to be more than a place where we get a 'feeling' of safety, peace and assurance. It needs to have direct results. It is intended to have direct results in your life.

You are soon going to learn how to make prayer your 'first priority' and your first action when faced with

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even the smallest decisions of your life. Prayer is going to become for you like oxygen is to everyone on this planet. You won't stop and think that, 'I need to pray now'. You will do it automatically with even the minute details of your life.

I love what one of many mentors says about you. I know that it is true. Zig Ziglar says that, 'you were designed for accomplishment, engineered for success and endowed with the seeds of greatness'. I not only 'believe' that is true about you, I 'know' it is true about you.

Your life is a miracle. The statistical chances of you being born were not 'one in a million'. I know someone along the way may have said that about you or you thought it about yourself. They were wrong. Statistically, you aren't 'one in a million'. You are at least 'one in six to seven million'. That's right. The chances of you being born were one in several million. It is a miracle that you are here!

When your parents came together and you were conceived, there were six to seven million 'seeds' racing to fertilize the egg that would eventually become you. Six to seven million 'potential human beings' were racing to become a human being. Only one made it. YOU! You were born a winner! You were conceived as a winner.

Congratulations! I know you always felt that you were special and a bit different from other people. YOU WERE RIGHT! You were born by the choice of God.

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You are still here by the choice of God. You are going to fulfill your purpose for being here through prayer.

God still wants you to win all throughout your life. You got started on the right track. Some have argued that 'I wasn't planned by my parents' or 'my parents told me that I was accident'. Not True! You weren't an accident. You were and are a miracle. The scriptures say that you were 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. You are a miracle!

An accident happens when someone isn't paying attention to what is going on. There is a huge difference between an accident and a miracle. Someone was paying attention when you were conceived and ultimately born. God was paying attention.

That is why you have felt so special all of your life. Go ahead and admit it. You feel special even if you've allowed shame and guilt and feelings of inferiority to drag you into the stupor of low self esteem and low self worth. Friend, as long as you're alive, down deep inside, you are going to feel that there is something very special about you.

I want to talk to you about that feeling. I want to let you know something about how you've felt in this regard. **YOU ARE RIGHT!** You are special. You were and are created in the image of God. You were created by the choice of God. By God's design, you were conceived and are alive today. You are still alive right now because of God's choice.

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You know, the entire conception process is never an accident. It is a plan. You aren't just another development of protoplasm that took shape and is taking up space on this planet. YOU ARE A PLAN! Think about it for a minute. Don't simply think of yourself as another average person taking up room on this planet. Think of yourself, as a plan. Michael Murphy is a plan. You (call out your own name) are a plan. Designed, engineered and constructed by God. You were born at the right time and in the right place. You were chosen by God from before time began. (Are you beginning to understand and see how your life is a miracle?)

I've got a friend, Danny, who owns a huge plumbing, air conditioning and electrical contracting company. He has become wealthy and has been very successful in serving his community. Danny doesn't like to put on airs or pretend to be anyone special. He plays his role in his life and community, down a lot.

He and I were in Las Vegas once and walked into an antique store. This young man approached us in a suit and tie and very eloquently asked if he could help us. We told him that we were just looking around. He told us that if he could help us in any way, just to let him know. This young man continued to follow us around, yet without being annoying or bothersome.

Danny is successful enough to buy whatever he wants in this antique store. However, as he walked through, he continued to comment on how he wished he could buy this work or that one. The young man called me

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aside and asked me what Danny did for a living. I told the young man, ‘if you ask him what he does for a living, he will tell you that he is a plumber’. That is how Danny got started in his business.

Sure enough, when the young man asked Danny what his profession was, Danny replied, ‘I’m just a plumber’. In reality, Danny actually has dozens of licensed plumbers, licensed electricians and air conditioning repair men in his employment. In fact, Danny is without doubt the largest contractor of his kind in North Texas.

A lot of people that I’ve met are like Danny. They are rich beyond imagination. They may not have the bank account that Danny has but they do have astronomical potential lying dormant inside of them. I’m talking about you!

I travel to Russia often. Though capitalism has been established to some extent in Russia, it is still in its infancy there. Each time that I go, in my mind’s eye, I look back across that huge pond (most commonly known as the Atlantic Ocean) at America. It is amazing that what I see is a land that is still filled with abundant opportunity. In comparison with the limited opportunities of the Russians, it is amazing the opportunities that we have in the West.

The greatest opportunity that we have is the freedom to dream, to believe and to accomplish what we were put on this planet to do.

The Life of Jake

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Jake, long before he was born, was the object of a great plan in heaven. God was thinking one day and decided to create a man who would later be named Jake. God called together the angels and began to collaborate on what Jake's purpose would be in the life that God was about to give him.

God chose a young couple (who God also saw from before the creation of the universe) who would become Jake's parents. Through generation upon generation, babies were being born, boys and girls, so that they could be born, grow up, marry and have other babies so that Jake could someday be born.

Though, seemingly by chance and happenstance, people married, wives got pregnant and children were born just so that someday Jake could arrive and begin his journey through this world. However, God had made a plan.

Just as every ingredient in the recipe of a scrumptious chocolate cake is measured and added at the right time, God allowed every person in Jake's ancestry to be born at the right time. God allowed them to be in the right place so that they could meet the right spouse, fall in love and conceive a child so that one day Jake could arrive and began living out his awesome purpose and destiny.

God had a plan for Jake from long before Jake's great, great, great, great, great grandfather and grandmother were even born. You see, Jake's birth was significant to God, for God had made a plan long, long ago. God wanted Jake to be born in a specific

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period of history so that Jake could touch the world, live out his fullest potential and make his life impact other's lives.

God would put into Jake's heart certain dreams of becoming whatever Jake chose in his life. God would put into Jake's heart the longing to live a life of incredible value, significance and meaning. All Jake had to do was to take the hand of God and follow leadings, desires and opportunities that would present themselves throughout his life.

It doesn't matter whether Jake was born into the affluence of the Hamptons or the ghettos of Harlem. Jake was 'designed for accomplishment, engineered for success and endowed with the seeds of greatness' long before he was born. Jake was 'chosen'.

Life would present challenges, struggles, disappointments and setbacks for Jake. Each of these too were planned by God to develop Jake in such a way that he could fully live out his life and be all he was intended to be. God wanted Jake to become more than he or anyone else, ever thought he could be.

Life would happen to Jake along his journey. Trials, tribulations and obstacles would be put in his path. Discouragement, negative people, 'un-enlightened people' (which by the way, you are not one these kind of people; even if you 'have been', that is going to change for you while reading this book), jealous people and the like, would all be placed in Jake's pathway to challenge and strengthen him. Those

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people would help develop Jake into being able to accomplish all that he was destined to accomplish.

The key factor that would determine whether Jake would do all that God had planned was his choice of 'inner vision' and attitude. God would strategically place opportunity, tools and resources in Jake's path in order to equip him for the mission that was chosen for him. The trials would become tools. All of Jake's setbacks would be 'set-ups' for his success. The challenges would become necessary strengthening weights to build the required muscle for Jake's success.

Now, let me spring this secret on you right now. YOU ARE JAKE! That's right. I've been talking about Y-O-U this entire time. I'm not talking about theory here. I am talking about what God allowed you to be born for. You are amazing! You are incredible! You were designed and chosen by God to fulfill an incredible destiny.

You are more than you have ever thought. You are far more able to achieve great things than you ever imagined. You have gone through or are going through, trials, setbacks, tragedies, failures, disappointments, discouragements, harassments, oppositions for the purpose of refining you into being all and more than you've ever dreamed. You are remarkable!

I don't know you but I know a whole lot about you. I know that you've had dreams. I know that likely, your dreams have at times, almost haunted you. I know that you may have given up on your dreams a long time

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ago. I know that you have been hurt along the path. You might very well be hurting right now. Your pain may feel like that it is more than you can bear.

You may be like I was for many years and just feeling like you're wandering through life and can't ever seem to get just that right opportunity or fall into that right place where you fit. I spent a few decades like that. In fact, at 46 years old, I'm still trying to find out exactly how I fit. That's o.k. That is part of the process. That is part of the plan of life.

There is something else I know about you, whether you know this or not. You're reading this, right now, because of a divine appointment that you and I had to keep. I know that you can change just a few thoughts right now in order to effect massive change in the results that you are getting in your life. I know that you still have something deep in your heart that is waiting to come out.

Think about this. You are sitting there, at this very moment, with the potential and capacity to do 'anything that your heart desires'. It is 8:36 a.m. as I am writing this. It is May 20, 2005. I just got down and did 300 stomach crunches. I know what many of you are thinking. 'I couldn't do that' (maybe you can do far more). Let me tell you something. I'm going to let you in on a little secret. 'I couldn't do that either, 3 months ago'. I was 23 lbs. Heavier than I am right now. I possessed little to no energy or motivation at that time to do 300 stomach crunches.

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The secret is, I didn't start with doing 300. I started with 15. I did 15 crunches the first day. I did 15 crunches the second day. I did one set of 15 the morning of the third day and then 10 more, later that day. I imagined that a drill sergeant was hovering over me. In fact, I was that drill sergeant. I would tell myself, 'Michael, drop down and give me 10'. Then, I would say, 'o.k.' and then do it. I built up my strength day by day. I added a little more each day.

As you follow these steps to praying prayers God always answers, your faith is going to build more and more each day. Your 'prayer muscles' are going to get stronger and stronger each time that you pray in the way that I am going to teach you. Your expectation of results and answered prayers, will increase. Your results will multiply.

You are going to build your prayer power. I am going to show you how. You are going to learn the process of how to pray prayers God always answers. Then, you are going to start praying those prayers and start seeing results in your life.

God wants you to have results. Why would God have given us such a promising gift (to engage in prayer and ask for things), if he didn't intend for you to get your prayers answered? Let me say plainly, 'God wants you to get your prayers answered'. God wants you to get your prayers answered every time. I know that is a bold statement, but I have never read where God answers prayers part of the time, or every once in a while or only on rare occasions.

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I am going to lead you through the process of learning to pray effective prayers that get the desired outcome that you seek. We are going to take a journey and follow a process that I have followed for years to get my prayers answered. I am going to be your ‘prayer coach’ for this period of time that you and I are together. I’m going to teach how to make prayer an ‘all the time’ natural activity that you engage in.

I’m going to show you what continuous prayer is and how it can become part of your daily thinking. I’m going to show you how to get focused so that you can literally document your prayers and prayer needs and their resulting answers. It can be done. You can and will pray prayers God always answers.

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Praying With Faith

Faith is an essential ingredient in getting your prayers answered. Faith is the expectation that what you ask for, you will get. Faith is built up and strengthened by practice and the accumulation of knowledge.

Think of anything that you do well now in your life. Was there a time when you had little or no knowledge in doing what you now do so well? There was definitely a time when you had no experience. You didn't know that you could do it, much less, do it well.

I like to illustrate the process of the exercise faith (and prayer) with the process of learning to walk as a toddler. You take one step and fall down. You take another step and fall down. You take two steps and fall down. I love how Anthony Robbins describes this process. He says that as a toddler, we are told to get back up and try again. Tony says, 'so how long do keep getting up and attempting to take more steps?' You take as many steps that it takes until you can walk. You keep getting up no matter how many times you fall down.

The same principle can be applied to faith. You try it once and then keep on trying until you are strengthened until you have faith for many things in life.

For some reason, in adulthood, we get the idea that we should be able to try something and if we aren't

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successful with one try, we label ourselves a failure. Tony says, 'it is good that we don't do this as toddlers. If we did, no one would walk.'

I started writing poetry about 6 months ago. I have never attempted to write poetry in my life. I never had a desire to do so. I just started writing one day. After I read what I written, I was a little surprised that I could do what I had just done. So, I wrote another poem and then another and another. I finally figured out that I was pretty good at writing poetry. My confidence seemed to grow the more I took action upon what I didn't know I could do.

Did you see the movie titled 'Three Kings' with George Clooney? As he was daring to do something that took an enormous amount of courage, he made a statement to someone who wasn't as brave as him in attempting daring things. He was a soldier who was going back into Iraq to get some gold after 'Desert storm', the first attack there back in the early 90s.

His statement was his definition of how courage is acquired. He said, 'Courage doesn't work the way that most people want it to work. It is not something that you get 'before' you need it. Courage comes 'after' you attempt something that you were once afraid to do.'

Faith comes 'after' you begin learning to converse with God and asking for desired outcomes through prayer. Faith comes by hearing yourself exercise and verbalize and act upon faith.

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Have you ever joined a gym only to find yourself too sore to go back after your first visit or two? If you are like me and most other people (which I bet you are), you go join the gym and get in there your first time and tell yourself that you are already strong enough to do heavier amounts. You then pay the price of sore and aching muscles the next several days. Then you get discouraged and quit. (O.k. Ladies, most of the time it is MEN who do this. *Smile*).

The great thing about prayer and asking God for things is, you won't get sore muscles if you over do it. However, prayer is a discipline that you commit to for life. It takes persistence to see the results that you expect. Why? Because faith is built through exercise and knowledge. Confidence is soon built through asking and receiving.

I heard someone say recently that you have to have faith in God and not in your prayer. I believe that you need to get a mindset that is going to give you faith in God and in your prayer. In fact, it is fair to say that you also need to have faith in your faith. You need to believe that your prayers, through faith, are going to work and bring the desired results. That you are going to ask and receive.

Faith is built by learning that God wants to bring massive blessing into your life. You must get this spiritual, eternal truth in order to get results. Here it is loud and clear.

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GOD WANTS YOU TO BE ABUNDANTLY BLESSED IN YOUR LIFE

It will not hurt you in any way to go ahead and set your heart and mind, right now, to the truth that God wants you to be blessed and blessed with more blessings than you can imagine. God takes pleasure in you receiving blessing in your life.

Our culture and society has had this backward. I get pleasure when I see my kids happy and fulfilled. It makes me feel good to see my daughters do good in school and also to see them enjoy things that I buy them and give to them. I want my kids to know that their dad loves them and lives to see them do well, be happy and have many things that they want. This is no less true with God.

Let's establish another truth here.

GOD LOVES YOU AND WANTS ABSOLUTELY THE BEST FOR YOUR LIFE

I grew up in church listening to stories about Abraham, Jacob, Issac, Joseph, King David, Job, Daniel, Nehemiah, Esther and Ruth. One common thing among them, always puzzled me. All of these people were rich and influential in their lives. Yet I was taught that money was the root of all evil. People thought that having money and being prosperous and wealthy was somehow evil. Yet all the examples in the Bible of great people revealed that almost all of them had abundant wealth. I later learned that it was the

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love of money, when money becomes a god to you, that it becomes detrimental to your life.

I was visiting a lady in prison yesterday. She told me that she had been reading a devotion to several other women in the jail about money becoming your God. The problem is, none of the women in there had ever had much money. She asked them if drugs had ever come before God in their lives. She asked them if partying and alcohol had ever become a god in their lives? She said that the light came on in many of them and they started talking about how important these things had become in their lives.

I've met men who almost worship sports. I've met women who almost worship shopping (I know, I know, I'm treading on thin ice; I'll be careful). Whatever becomes more important to you than the things that are truly necessary and most beneficial to you, can become your God. I've watched men all but worship hunting, fishing and golf.

God has to be the center of your faith. He doesn't 'have to be' because you are somehow afraid that he might do something bad to you. That isn't a reason for being motivated to have faith in God. God wants to bring blessing to you. He has to be the source of your happiness, joy, money, material possessions and fulfillment. That's where all these things originate.

Put your confidence and trust in God. That is exercising your faith. Learn to discipline yourself to get a consciousness of God in your daily life. Don't

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wait until Sunday to start thinking about God. Learn to think about God all day long, every day.

There used to be, (what has now become), a trite expression about people who put their thoughts upon God much of the time. It was stated that these kind of people were 'so heavenly minded that they were no earthly good'. I think that the opposite is true much more of the time. We become so limited in our exercise of faith that we forget about the source of our lives. We get so earthly minded that we forget about believing in anything that is bigger than what we can see or touch.

Get a 'God focus' in your life and watch your faith in prayer grow. Watch your faith grow. Watch your confidence in God's interaction in your life, grow.

I've had people tell me that 'Michael, you don't face reality'. Let me give you something that I believe will be of enormous help to you about 'facing reality'. It might be true right now, at this very moment, that you have desperate needs in your life. You might be sick, or broke or have had your life to fall apart at some level. You might be facing bankruptcy or have been given a report by your doctor that leaves little room for hope, much less any place for faith. This may be your present 'reality'.

Let me make a distinction for you here between 'facts' and 'truth'. Facts may very well identify how things are right now. However, 'truth' is able to determine the 'ultimate' condition of how things turn out. Faith is based on truth. Truth is what will ultimately set you

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free. Truth is what God says about your life, problems or situations. When truth is acted upon, then reality changes. That is worth repeating (I knew you were going to go back and read that again anyway. That's good. You need to. I'll just repeat it for you.) WHEN TRUTH IS ACTED UPON, YOUR REALITY CHANGES.

Truth never changes. My grandmother used to tell me, 'Michael, prayer changes things'. When prayer is based on truth, then your reality changes. That's the way that it works.

WHAT GOD WANTS FOR YOUR LIFE

Now let's talk about what God's eternal truth for your life really is.

God wants you blessed beyond your own desire for blessing

1. God wants you to be happy now and eternally
2. God loves you and wants great things for your life
3. The prayer that is prayed in faith gets the desired results
4. You can pray and get your prayers answered every time

These are eternal truths. I started to tell you that you need to accept them as absolute truth. You do need to if you are going to see your prayers get the targeted

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reward. However, these are all true whether you believe them or not.

Several years ago, there was a bumper sticker that said, 'God said it, I believe it, that settles it.' Then someone else responded with one that said, 'God said it, that settles it'. I think that the creators of the second bumper sticker were really saying, 'If God said it, then it is a foregone conclusion that I am going to believe it'. That is at least how I understood it and took it.

If I know something is God's will for my life then, my faith says, that I'm going to accept it as truth and then act upon it. Trust me friend, if God promises something to you, it is always in your best interest to believe it without hesitation and act on it as soon as possible.

Get this locked into your heart and mind. Say it out loud right now. 'GOD IS FOR ME ALL OF THE TIME'. That is truth. That is truth that will set you free to get all of your prayers answered, all of the time.

Prayer has to be offered in faith. Faith is the assurance that your prayer is going to solicit intervention from supernatural forces beyond your control. Faith is required to getting the desired object of your requests.

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Praying With Confidence

“Abraham believed God and didn’t once, change his mind”

Have you heard the ancient story of Abraham, the father of faith? I have always been amazed by this Biblical character. Abraham was one of the first businessmen ever written about in history. He was a nomadic rancher. He is often mistaken as a preacher or a prophet. He may have qualified for those roles as well, but predominantly, he was a businessman.

God made a promise to him that he was going to bless everything that he put his hand to. The one thing that wealth and riches couldn’t buy him was a heir to receive his inheritance. He became extremely wealthy in livestock, silver and gold.

In fact, Abraham became so wealthy that he and his nephew, Lot, literally had to go their separate ways because their livestock was so numerous, the animals were devouring the land. The land that they lived in, didn’t replenish itself quick enough to continue providing grass and grain to feed their livestock year after year.

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The scriptures say that Abraham became the wealthiest man on the earth in addition to being considered the friend of God. Yet, at 75 years old, he had no heir. God gave him a promise at 75. God promised that he would have heirs as numerous as the stars of the night sky and as plentiful as the grains of sand on the seashore.

When God gave him the promise, little did Abraham realize that it would be 25 years before it would be fulfilled. (Do you think that God knew what he was doing in not telling him that it would take that long? Would Abraham have remained full of faith during that time? Come on now. It took **25 years**) It was not until Abraham was 100 years old that his promised son was born.

I want you to know something else about Abraham that he did, during the time that he was waiting for his promise to be fulfilled. Abraham took it upon himself to ‘help’ God in trying to get the promise fulfilled. He knew that God would do what he said, but over time, he felt as if God might need his help. (Have you ever done that? You decided that God might need your help? I hope you are at least smiling right now if not laughing. You’ve likely tried to help God out as I have.)

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I don't want to move too quickly over the point I want you to get here. Abraham was as human as you and me. He wasn't this man who had some kind of super-power ability to never doubt. He obviously felt that God needed his help.

He feared a king once so much that he lied about his wife and told the king that she was his sister. You see, his wife, Sarah, apparently was a really good-looking woman. Abraham was afraid that if the king found out that she was his wife and not his sister, the king would have him killed so that the king could take Sarah as his own wife. This very act itself, almost got Abraham killed. Abraham did this, not just once, but twice. Whoa! You would think that the guy would have learned.

Abraham was not super-human. He experienced the same emotions that you do and that I do. Let me remind you now, this guy is called the 'father of faith' and the 'friend of God'. Abraham's first evidence of seeing any heirs at all, didn't show up for 25 years. His promised son wasn't born until Abraham was 100 years old.

Now God had told him that he would have heirs as numerous as the stars of the night sky and the grains of sand on the seashore. At 100 years old, he finally has this heir of promise. Now I don't know about you, but

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I don't want to wait until I am 100 years old to see the beginning of God's destiny and promise for my life, begin.

I want you to know that you don't have to wait. The key here is to get consumed with God, his guidance and his sovereign control in working it out. It is a matter of deep trust and belief in what God will do. He 'will do' whatever you ask.

'But Michael, what if I ask God for something, I get it and it really isn't what I wanted'. I will share more about that later with you. That is a very valid question and should be dealt with. However, for now, allow yourself to believe that God will do whatever you ask. Then allow yourself to get totally absorbed in believing that God will bring it to pass.

Russell Conwell, the renown author of the classic book, *Acres of Diamonds*, (which I recommend that you read, by the way), mentions a place deep in our subconscious mind where we totally connect with God (see his book, 'Subconscious Religion'). He believed that place was deep in our psyche somewhere. He may very well be right.

Nonetheless, wherever it is, there is a place where you can make that unmistakable connection with God. It is

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through faith, with trust and by total confidence in seeing God do whatever you have asked.

I want to specify here that your confidence is best placed in concentrating on God doing the thing that you have asked versus you attempting to ‘will it into being’. There is a distinct difference.

I got to a place at one point in my life’s journey, that I thought that if I ‘willed something hard enough’, then I would see it happen. That same intensity of putting your faith in your ‘will’ (or willpower), needs to be focused upon God doing what you’ve asked and not the power of your will. Some people have called this ‘willpower’, the latent power of the soul. You can get a lot done with ‘willpower’.

However, bigger things can happen to you when you put your faith in something bigger, something that is sovereign (meaning that God is in total control). Someone who can do what you don’t have the power to do through your limited physical means. Namely, put your focus and concentration upon God doing it.

I want you to see the distinction that I’m making here. One focus is placed upon ‘willpower’, which is very powerful; the other focus is upon God’s ability, God’s desire, God’s ‘want to’ and God’s control in getting

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the thing done. God can do it quicker, better and faster than you can. Not only that, but God can do it in such a way that it doesn't do harm to you (I'll talk more about this later).

Now, if you understand this distinction that I've just made, say out loud right now, 'O.k., Michael, I got it!' Good. I feel better that you are getting this. These things, as you follow the process here, are going to change your life and start you down the path of getting answers and results to your prayers rather than just 'hoping and a-prayin', as my sweet grandmother used to say. You aren't just 'hoping and a-prayin'. You are praying prayers that God answers. You expect results and answers. You should expect results. You have that right to expect God to do what he has promised you.

Some well intentioned people have told me that 'God isn't a bellhop or an errand boy' to do whatever you command him to do. Have you ever thought that or heard that from someone? Growing up under the buckle of the Bible-belt, I heard it many times. I think that these people miss the whole point. We could never expect, ask or believe God for anything unless we know that he is willing to do what we ask. God wants us to ask him so that we can know that the source of our answers are coming from him. He made the offer of answering your prayers to begin with.

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God has promised to answer your prayers. He has said that you can ask ‘anything’ and he will do it. I’ve heard folks who adhere to this same understanding, yet continually warn, ‘But you have to be careful what you ask; you might just get it’. I want to tell you that you ‘will’ get whatever you ask from God as you follow the principles that I’m sharing with you here. This isn’t a roll of the dice. God gave you and I a promise that he ‘will do’ whatever we ask. There is no ‘might just get it’. You ‘will’ get it.

So what do we do about having the confidence that we are asking for those things which are going to be ultimately going to prove good for us and not bring harm to our lives? Well, I’m glad you have asked that question. I want to give you an answer.

When you ask God for whatever you desire, with confidence, learn this little phrase right here. Learn to always close or tag your prayers with this. Say, ‘Father, I ask you, believe and expect to receive (insert the target of what you want). I ask you and believe you to do this OR SOMETHING BETTER AND BIGGER ACCORDING TO YOUR DIVINE PLAN FOR MY LIFE’. Learn that phrase and add it to every prayer just like you add an ‘amen’ to each and every prayer. ‘Amen’, by the way, means ‘so be it’. This little tag will transform what you experience and receive from God. By praying this way, you are leaving the results

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up to God so that he can give you the very best for your life.

Now understand this. Count on this. Expect this. ‘God will do what you have asked or better’. This is another part of the nature and offer from God to you. He wants to do more than you asked. He has made the promise to do more than you’ve even thought or asked of him. God wants to do more for you so that he can startle you with his abundant generosity. Not only that, but he also wants you to know where it came from. It wasn’t coincidence or happenstance. It was God who brought you the answer to your prayer.

A short time ago, I was asking God for a certain amount of money that I desired. I made a confession and affirmation regarding it (you will learn more about this later). I allowed myself to go to the place of total confidence, trust and faith that he heard me and would do at least what I asked. I stood firm in my request and didn’t give up, give in or give out. When the answer came through, I received just over \$75,000 more than I asked for.

Not only that, I asked that it be given to my ministry. That was my desired intent. God did better than that. He gave my ministry over ten times what I asked for and gave me ‘personally’ the amount that I asked for plus \$75,000 more. My ministry benefited by a few

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million dollars while I received, personally, what I asked for plus this sizable bonus. I know this works.

Before you allow those numbers to blow your mind, let me share another truth with you about this situation. I was nearly dead broke when I received this huge blessing. I'm not going to go into how broke I was due to my concern that it might scare you. All I can tell you is, God came through with far more than I even thought or asked for. Not only that but when this blessing came into my life, it afforded me the time and the financial freedom to write this book. Otherwise, you wouldn't be benefiting right now.

Friend, this is one of the coolest things that I love about God. I love for God to surprise me by doing it better even than I asked. I love the truth that he knows what is ultimately good for my life. I love it that God is extravagant when it comes to dealing with his children (with me and you!). This is God's nature. I like how my teenage daughter says it. She says, 'God's cool like that'. He is.

Learn to tag or close your prayers with what I've shared with you. Learn to get into the habit of saying, 'do this or something bigger and better according to your divine will for my life'. Leaving it up to God's divine will is not some kind of cop-out for not getting what you want. Live with this confidence. 'YOU

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WILL GET BETTER AND BIGGER THAN WHAT
YOU WANT' as you follow this process of prayer.

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Praying With Expectation

“In the morning I will make my requests to you and will wait in expectation”

This principle is essential and exciting in praying prayers God always answers. In the business world, there is a lot of talk about ‘vision’. The scriptures says that, ‘where there is no vision, the people perish’.

I spent a number of years in the commercial construction business. The last project I completed was a hospital addition to a Veteran’s facility in Texas. It was an 18 month, \$14 million project. I was the chief estimator in compiling the bid and then became the Senior Project Manager directing and leading the team that constructed the building.

There are several things that the government required before we began the project. They took their needs to an architect who would survey the property that was available for the project. They would design a building on that land which would meet the needs that the Veteran’s Administration had. They drew floor plans, a footprint (an aerial view of the shape and perimeter dimensions of the over all building) and they made a

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rendering (an artist's drawing) of what the building would look like when finished.

The architect, cast a visual concept of the project. They cast a vision of what the building would be like when completed. From the huge piers that went into the foundation to the finishing paint that would go on the walls, every detail was scoped out before the project ever began. Eighteen months later, the building looked and functioned exactly as that original vision was cast.

When I first looked at the blueprints and began calculating quantities, procedures and schedules for building this facility, I got excited. I saw how it was all to come together and one day serve our most deserving veteran's in their medical and health care needs. Though there are many elements of this illustration from which I can share principles, I want to focus on one.

When I saw the blueprints and began to formulate this building in my mind's eye, I begin to get a sense of expectancy of how this building would go together. I started pre-planning how the different stages in which it would all happen. I saw, in my mind's eye, myself walking through the almost completed hallways. I saw myself walking through the completed hallways. A sense of expectancy grew inside of me.

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You have the capacity to allow a sense of expectancy to fill your inner being. Vision and expectancy are closely connected with each other. Vision is often a more objective thing that we experience within while expectancy is more emotional and often, more spiritual.

Do you remember how you felt as a child on Christmas eve? Do you recall the excitement that you felt? Living in the warmer climate of the south, we didn't have a chimney. Nonetheless, I had a sense that Santa was going to show up and bring me toys.

I remember one Christmas quite vividly. I was going to get this little go-cart type thing that you peddled rather than have an electric or gas motor. It was bright orange. I formulated the excuse in my mind that I needed to go the bathroom in the middle of the night on this Christmas eve. I couldn't stand the anticipation and needed to go get a peek at what Santa had brought.

I remember lying in my bed and debating whether I should get up and at least, pretend to go to the bathroom. I was scared that I might get caught, by my dad. I had to go on and find out what my little imagination was screaming to find out. I got up as quietly as I could and prayed that my sweaty feet

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wouldn't make too much noise as I walked across the linoleum through the kitchen.

I got to the living room and through the darkness, I saw that little go-cart. Now I was faced with a bigger dilemma. I wanted to go touch it. Maybe sit on it. I walked ever so close to it but was battling with the fear that my dad was going to hear me. I resisted the temptation.....until, I came out from the bathroom. **Smile**

Expectation and anticipation flooded my little heart. Have you ever set up an appointment to meet a 'potential' significant other? Your expectation soars by stimulating your imagination. Your heart may pound a bit but the curiosity gets the best of you and actually pushes you on to show up.

Do you expect your boss to give you your check for the work you do? Don't you have a day of the week and a time of the day that you expect your boss to give you your check? Your expectation becomes automatic. In fact, if you have worked in the same job for a long period of time, you really don't give it a lot of thought because you almost know that you are going to get your check by a certain time.

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Let me tell you a story that illustrates this best. I did a once-a-week morning radio program back several years ago. This particular morning, I was facing the end of a consulting job that I had been doing for a couple of years. The work I was doing for this company was my primary source of income. On that day, my program was going to be on the subject of faith.

As I was getting out of my car, I felt God speak to my heart and say, ‘Michael, do you expect this lock on this car to keep thieves out?’ My inner response was obviously, ‘Yes’. Then I thought, if I expect this lock to keep thieves out of my car, how much more should I expect God to come through for me in everything that I’ve asked him to do?’

Think about the things that you take for granted. You have a subconscious sense of expectation. In fact, you have a subconscious sense of expectation most of the time. I’m just bringing it to your awareness right now.

I want to help you make the connection between your conscious and subconscious sense of expectation. The sense of expectation that you need to have toward your prayers which you submit to God.

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I went to a university where one of the major themes that you heard over and over again was ‘expect a miracle’. Friend, there are miracles happening all around you and I, much of the time. Expect God to show up in your life. Live with a sense of expectation. Expectation is a powerful gift.

I remember the quote of Henry Ford that has been repeated time and time again. Mr. Ford said, ‘Whether you believe or not believe that you can do and achieve a certain thing in your life, you are right’. I want to say to you now that if you expect God to show up or not, you will experience what you expect. If you live mindlessly without any thought of God showing up and doing anything for you, then you will likely see nothing spiritual, supernatural or miraculous. If you do get your expectation to a level of believing that you can, will and do pray prayers that God always answers, then you will get what you expect.

As many people have discouraged you through warning you not to get your expectations up, I’m going to do the opposite. I’m going to tell you to ‘get, not only your hopes up, but get your expectation up as well’. Activate that part of mind and your soul that I will call ‘your expecter’. You have the power to activate it right now.

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Make some demand upon your expecter. You are the captain of your own soul. Right now, if I told you to stand up, you have power and control over your body to stand up if you are physically capable of doing so. Why can you do this? Because you have complete authority and control over it.

Well, you also have control over your mind, your heart and your soul. Send a command to that part of you psyche that makes demands upon your sense of expectancy, your expecter. Get your expectations up when you are thinking about, brooding on, what you've asked from God. As you do, you will make a huge step in adopting and adapting the habit of praying prayers God always answers.

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Praying With Action

Noah had a choice when God foretold him what was going to happen. He had a choice to start building the ark when the sun was shining and there was not a cloud in the sky. (Noah, by the way, was not a perfect man. After the flood, Noah got drunk and apparently ended up naked. The scriptures record this event.) Nonetheless, God spoke to Noah and Noah obeyed God by building an ark.

All the great people whom God has used and who have been remembered for great deeds throughout history, did what they did because they were willing to take action upon what they were destined to do.

I graduated from high school back in the late 70s. I wasn't a very good student. I loved to party, hang out with my friends and do whatever I could do to show the rebellion that I felt inside. It wasn't until mid-way through my junior year that I had a spiritual epiphany and really started looking to God to lead my life instead of me.

That last year-and-a-half of high school wasn't enough time for me to get my grades up high enough to get accepted into the college I wanted to go to. As I shared

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previously, I made application anyway and was promptly turned down. Upon getting turned down, I wrote and sent a certified letter to the president of that college. I requested an opportunity to prove the commitment I was willing to make in order to attend his college.

I sought out alumni and others who I knew could have some influence over whether I would get accepted to this college. I left no stone unturned. I obviously prayed and asked God to let me go to this college. I did what a mentor of mine advised me to do several years ago. I prayed and believed like it all depended upon God and took all the action I could as if it all depended upon me. I got into that college and graduated from there a few years later.

There is something powerful that happens when you pray, believe, expect and act. I want you to get this. Look again at the process. Pray, believe, expect and act. I've met a lot of people who will over-spiritualize getting their prayers answered to the point that they don't believe that they should do anything after they have asked God. Let me give you a straight warning here. I don't believe God operates that way.

My experience and all of my study of praying prayers God always answers has taught me that 'since I believe God will do a certain thing, then by my show

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of faith, I go and do what I can to learn more or simply go do the thing that I've asked God for. My action is my faith displayed, reflecting my trust and confidence in God. My action, in no way, minimizes my prayer and my faith in God doing what he has promised me.

I can tell you this. All the actions in the world cannot produce what God can produce in your life. Nonetheless, God wants you to take some steps toward what you have asked for. I did what I could do to get accepted into that college. Did my actions get me in and God have nothing or little to do with it? I certainly don't believe so. I honestly believe that my actions coupled with my prayer, faith, confidence, expectation and trust in God, is what got me in. If all I had done was take the action, I don't believe for a minute that I would have ever succeeded.

Taking action in the direction of what you have prayed is not a lack of faith. It is a show of faith. In the story of Abraham, God spoke to him about his future and he set out on a journey. He didn't know exactly where he was going but he got started anyway. You are not always going to know where exactly you are going but God sees your faith by the actions that you take.

Start doing something that shows that you expect your prayers to come to pass. Take a step in the direction of what you are asking for. Even if you aren't at all sure

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what step to take, take a step anyway. I think God loves it when he sees us ask and then act upon what we have asked. It doesn't have to be 'the right' step. It just has to be 'a step'.

Just a few years ago, I was seeking direction on making a major change in my life. I was about to go in a new direction than any I had been before. I sought out what 'might' be the answer to my prayer. I spent a few months acting in the direction that I thought 'could' be my answer. It turned out not to be my answer at all but through my action, I opened myself up to allowing God to do what he wanted to do in the situation.

God's way always keeps your life exciting. He usually doesn't do it the way that you and I expect. Nonetheless, we should still expect it to happen. The means by which your answer comes is really God's doing. Not yours or mine. I believe that God does things this way to let us know that we didn't do it alone. God wants you to know that he was right in the middle of what happened. That way, we will always live with an attitude of gratitude and always look to him as our source for answered prayer.

God is your partner in life. If you haven't made him your partner in life, you should make a decision that he is going to be your life partner. I've heard a lot of

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people tell me why they don't believe in God. I'm always reminded of a documentary type interview I once saw with the renown psychologist, Carl Jung.

When ask if he believed in God, Dr. Jung responded emphatically, 'No'. He said that there are some things that you 'believe' and some things that you 'know'. Dr. Jung was stating that he no longer 'believed', but now he knows. He further stated that our brains are designed and created in such a way that we 'need to believe in God'. Our lives are going to be happier, more blessed, more peaceful and full of all that we dream when we choose to believe in God.

Now let me state here that I don't just think that we 'need to believe in God'. In other words, believing in God is not something that is just a good thing to do. God is real! God is not just a good idea. God really is there. God is really there all the time. God is really there to help you through life's struggles as well as the source of all that you dream of and desire. He is there to give you the very desire of your heart.

I do feel, though, that for those who have a hard time believing in God, that they should at least begin in a place of realizing that they have an inner need to believe in God. They should at least start from a place of realizing that their life is going to be far richer and

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more fulfilling if they will believe in God. This is at least, a place for them to start.

I want to also say at this point, that what most people associate with God is what they see in so-called religious people or church people. They see the hypocrisy of religious people and associate that with belief in God. Make no mistake about this. BECAUSE A PERSON IS RELIGIOUS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY ARE ACCURATELY REPRESENTING WHO GOD IS AND WHAT HE WANTS TO DO FOR YOU IN YOUR LIFE. I believe that this is the biggest hindrance to people receiving what they ask God for.

Religion has depicted God as this gray haired old man who is bitter and who delights in casting bolts of lightning by bringing tragedy, misery and the like upon people. They may depict God as the universal power that is looking for ways to punish people, keep people in fear and make their lives miserable.

Friend, don't allow yourself to have this concept of God. This is not at all who God is or what he is about. God is loving, merciful, forgiving and compassionate. I think when people begin to understand the true nature of God then, they set themselves up to getting prayers answered. They also get in a position to receive all that God wants them to have. I also feel that

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a concept of God as one who delights in punishment and the like, is a major hindrance to getting your prayers answered.

You should allow yourself to believe that God loves you and wants the very best for your life. There is plenty of evidence that God wants good things for your life. All throughout the scriptures, there is evidence that God blesses people and answers their prayers. You need to adopt an accurate concept of God.

God loves you and wants to do good towards you. God wants to bless you more than you want blessing. I really do believe that. He wants you to be happy. He wants you to be fulfilled. He wants to meet your needs and your wants. God is your partner in life. God is the greatest partner you'll ever have. Adopt this view of God and you will open up your life for more blessing, love and true satisfaction than you've ever imagined.

When you adopt this view of God, you will find that acting upon your desires and prayers, is far easier. It opens the way for you to truly step out in faith and let God know that you trust him and believe that he will bring your blessings to pass in your life.

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Praying With Specifics

Something very powerful happens when you pray with laser-like precision with your targeted results clearly identified. It is essential to ‘know what you want’ in order to get what you pray for’. In scripture, God tells us ‘whatever you desire’ you can have through prayer. You must know what it is you desire.

Now, I want to give a most needed ingredient in every prayer that you pray. This is a warning to pray in this prescribed manner in order to get the very best for you life. I have already given this warning once and will do so again. It is *that* important to praying prayers God always answers.

I am so convinced that as you follow the profound and effective secrets of prayer that I’m sharing with you, that you will get what you’ve asked for. This is why I give this warning. Let me first illustrate it with a story of something that happened to me.

When I had one of my most profound awakenings in my spiritual life, back in 1975, I got a ‘leading’ that I was going to become the senior minister of a certain church here in Texas. This church was a very dynamic

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church, making a huge impact upon the North Texas region.

From 1975 until the late 1980s, this church grew from around 80 people in average weekly attendance to around 2,000 people. It was an exciting and rapidly growing congregation. As a young man in my late teens, I secretly prayed that I would someday be the senior minister.

I prayed and asked God if I could someday be their senior minister. Well, as you know by the title of this book, I became the senior minister there in 1993. What I didn't count on was the utter failure (in health and effectiveness) of the senior minister that so greatly admired and considered my mentor.

The other thing I didn't count on was that the church had faced a catastrophe in the late 80s and had all but fallen apart by the time I got it in 1993. There were 50 people left from the nearly 2,000 that had once been there. There were 50 people left to support an enormous debt and a facility that was built for over 1,500 people. I was facing a \$750,000 debt, a substantial financial obligation to the former senior minister and less than 5% of the people to support the church.

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We rebuilt the church and got it back to a reasonable level of support to pay off the facility and to make a lot of renovations to the building. However, it was not without tremendous struggle, personal sacrifice and a lot of asking God for wisdom and knowledge on how to administrate such a huge task and undertaking. I spent years getting the church back in to the black financially and getting the property paid off.

My lesson was learned. Here it is. PRAY SPECIFICALLY FOR WHAT YOU WANT GOD TO DO. Also, as I've already advised you and taught you, TAG YOUR PRAYS WITH 'ACCORDING TO YOUR DIVINE ORDER AND WILL'. This is so very important and I will remind you again.

Now, I will tell you that it was certainly my wish and my hope and even my presumption that the church would still be thriving and growing even larger than what it was back in the 1980s. However, God doesn't answer 'wishing, hoping, intentions or presumption'. God answers prayer. I didn't pray for all that I wanted. You don't need to make the same mistake that I did.

'Whatever' you desire means telling God exactly what you want and how you want it. In other words, what kind of condition should it be in. Another thing I would strongly urge you is to pray with specifics but also always tag your prayers with this simple phrase, 'I

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ask for this or better'. In fact, compound these to phrases in praying, 'I ask for this or better according to your perfect and divine will and order'. Praying this way covers everything, yet leaves the ultimate results up to the wisdom and purpose of God for your ultimate destiny and success.

The process and faculties used in praying prayers that God always answers, is very important for you to learn. You are learning it even as you continue to read this book. God has given you the inner ability to visualize and pre-play the outcome that you desire. I want to talk to you now about your ability to visualize the outcome and pray for specifics.

I heard a man say one time, when facing the question of the viability of visualization, that only people who are brain-dead, don't visualize. Visualization does nothing at all to take away the role that God plays in answering your prayers. In fact, it enhances God's role in delivering what you have asked. I've heard people talk about visualization as if it were only the power of the soul to make something happen (as mentioned earlier).

Visualization is a powerful tool that God has given each us to do. God wants you to use it. God gave it to you as a tool. Just as God gave you a voice to ask with, he gave 'inner vision' to see with.

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Growing up in the Bible-belt, I heard a lot of people talk as if visualization was evil. Again, let me reiterate. The only people who do not visualize are people who have no brain waves left. They are ‘brain dead’. So, that would not include you. You are alive. Check your pulse right now. Go ahead and check it. I’m serious. Prove to yourself that you are alive. Since you are alive, then you need (and will) use the power of visualization.

(Note: I make this point, not to try to contend with anyone about how God works through prayer and uses our abilities in order to get our prayers answered. I just want to debunk any thoughts you might have or questions or contention that you might face with some who do not understand this.)

Visualization helps you clarify what you have asked God for in prayer. It takes a vague concept of what you want in your life and turns it into a very specific target of your prayers. You need to experience as much as you can of the target of your prayers ‘before’ they are answered.

I like what one of mentors said. He said, ‘you have to see the invisible in order to do the impossible’. He built a major university with real estate now worth over a billion dollars starting with no money and no

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knowledge on how to do it or get it done. What is invisible, is only so to the physical eye. It is not invisible to the 'inner eye'. I like to say that, 'you need to see it before you see it'. You've got to 'see it' inwardly before you will ever see it outwardly. This is an ability that God has given us and wants us to use.

Allow yourself to see it with your inner vision, as often as you can. This is beyond daydreaming. It is a disciplined choice to see the invisible with your inner eye. No building is built without a blueprint. Architects, designer and engineers have to 'see it' inwardly before they can ever make it come to pass outwardly.

Bill Gates saw a personal computer on the desk of every business in America. He 'saw' personal computers in every home in America. Henry Ford 'saw' the masses driving cars. Mr. Ford and Mr. Gates, 'saw it' before they saw it.

You have even greater power to see your dreams become a reality. I don't know what either Mr. Gates or Mr. Ford felt or believed about God, but I do know something about you. You will not only use your inner eye to see the invisible in order to do the impossible. You also have the powerful tools of faith and belief to see your prayers answered.

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I believe that God saw the world before it was created. In fact, I believe that the world was ‘inside’ of God before it ever came to be ‘outside’ of God. I’ll talk more about that later. It is a very interesting and stimulating understanding especially when we get to the point of how what we say effects what we get in our lives. God saw the world, you and me and all of mankind, before he created it all.

If you are about to leave and go to the local ice cream parlor and get something yummy to eat, you will at least get a glimpse or a feeling of doing it before you ever get your feet moving in the direction of seeing yourself doing it. If you are planning a trip to the mall and plan to go shopping, your ‘plan’ involves at least a feeling of seeing yourself doing it. Whatever task you are going to undertake, a trip to the convenience store, a trip to Italy or a new business venture. All of these require that you see something inwardly before you see it outwardly. It is part of how we think and plan for the future.

This same activity, when done by choice and conscious effort, will make your prayer focus more vivid and greatly assist you in seeing it come to pass. Visualization, when consciously done, brings you into the living reality of your wants, needs and desires. It allows you to live it inwardly before you see it outwardly. This is a powerful tool and ability that God

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has given each of us. It is an essential tool in praying prayers that God always answers.

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Praying With Focus

The scriptures say that the great people of prayer and faith, prayed with incredible focus. They knew what they wanted. They knew what God wanted for them. They acted in faith, expectation with specifics. They were people of vision.

Praying with specifics, praying with vision, praying with expectation and praying faith, all begin to come together when you start to get a clear focus of what you want. You ‘inner vision’ must become focused in order for you to see the desired outcome of your prayers.

Several years ago, I served on the local school board. I was attending a meeting one bright and sunny afternoon. Arriving at the building at the very time the meeting was to begin, I walked into the boardroom with my sunglasses still in place. I was extremely near-sighted in my physical vision and was squinting my eyes to see what the leader of the meeting was writing on a white board.

There also happened to be a very well known and respected ophthalmologist and surgeon who served on this board. He looked over and observed my squinting.

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After the meeting was adjourned, he asked me if I wanted to get my vision repaired. I told him that I had just left my glasses in my car while hurrying into the meeting. He told me that I could get my vision repaired and do away with the need for glasses.

Now, in my present state of not being so bold in faith, I asked him how much it would cost to get that done. He said, 'It will cost you nothing. I would be honored to do this for you for free.' I said, 'how soon can I get into to see you?' (Now, I don't know about you but when I get an offer like this one, I want to get it done as soon as possible. I know when God is trying to bless me and I'm going to act on it immediately.) I went in the next Monday and got the full examination and set the time for my surgery.

About a week later, I got the surgery done and my eyesight went from 100/20 to 20/20 in about an hour. He did the lasik surgery that has become so popular and I could see perfectly when I walked out the door. I saw things I had never seen before.

Now, let me tell you how to get your vision clear and how to adjust your focus in prayer.

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1. Acknowledge that you don't use your inner vision in a disciplined way presently if that is true.
2. Decide that you are going to change this and begin to allow yourself to take the time to allow your dreams, visions and heart's desire to be tuned in through your 'inner eyes of faith'
3. Begin to rehearse your inner visions of what you desire through your prayers and from God, several times a day. Do it so much that it becomes habit.

The power of your focus in prayer can make the difference in whether or not you receive what you want from God.

Listen to my warning here. Most people ask God for something and get quickly distracted and forget what they've asked within minutes of asking. One way to remedy this and get you focused is to write it down. I'm going to deal with this later when I talk to you about getting a prayer journal started.

I don't know why we forget things so quickly, that can potentially change our lives. I remember the story of a minister who was driving home from church one Sunday with his wife. He was commenting to her

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about how he wondered how many of the congregation really listened and really understood his messages.

His wife, wanting to be an encouragement to him, said, ‘Oh honey, I am sure that they get it as well as I do.’ Smiling, he thanked her for the encouragement yet wasn’t through wanting to talk about this subject.

He had preached that morning on forgiveness. She commented to him that it was such a great message and one that people really needed to hear. He asked her if his message this Sunday was as good as last Sunday’s. She said, ‘Dear, today’s was even better than last Sunday’.

Still feeling a bit insecure about how much he was being heard, he asked his wife what she like most about last week’s message. She said, ‘well honey, the whole thing was so good, I don’t know if I could pick out just one part.’ Realizing that she likely didn’t remember what he had preached on, he smiled and said, ‘Sweetie, what did I preach on last week.’ Embarrassed, she replied, ‘Baby, I’m so sorry. I can’t remember’.

It got real quiet in the car the rest of the way home. Both of them not knowing what to say to each other. When they walked in the house, she asked him, ‘Honey, what did you like most about your message

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last week.’ Stammering and stuttering, he finally admitted that he too didn’t remember what he had spoke on last week.

Folks, I find this same dilemma in prayer. We are sincere about prayer. We are intense and fervent in prayer. But for some reason, we never get focused on what we want from God through prayer. We ask and quickly forget even what we asked God for.

You must add this discipline into your prayer life. You have to get the power of focus and concentration in order to pray prayers God always answers. As I shared earlier, Abraham kept his focus for 25 years. That is powerful focus. It isn’t that he didn’t have greater times of faith and believing the God would deliver. He had his strong times and his not so strong times, just like you and me. Nonetheless, he kept a focus upon what he desired from God.

Get focused upon what you want from God. God needs, wants and requires your participation in getting the results that you want.

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Pray All Of The Time

You can develop the habit of continuous prayer. I've had many people tell me that they wished that they knew how to pray all the time. As you make God an, all-the-time companion, then conversation with him becomes easily achievable.

My very best advice to give anyone who seeks to pray all the time is this. Take on an attitude of prayer. In other words, make it part of your thinking. Seeking God's help and counsel can be an automatic practice in your daily life.

I had a man who I knew well tell me once, "Michael, I seem to feel God's presence some days and other days, I don't. On the days that I do, I can pray easily. Then on days that I don't, I don't feel worthy of asking him for anything because I didn't put him first on those days."

I believe that what you do on a daily basis will determine what level of communication that you have with God. What I always encourage is to set your heart and mind right now, to walk with the continual acknowledgment of God with you and you will find it easy to talk with him.

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Some people have trouble in the discipline of their mind due to a chemical imbalance in their brain. For most of my life, I had a condition known as ‘hypothyroidism’. Simply put, my thyroid was under active. I discovered this when I went on a very high protein diet and was not losing the weight that most experience when choosing and implementing such a diet. I lost 4 pounds in a month.

I didn’t eat sweets and had less than 30 grams of carbohydrates a day. Yet my weight loss was very slow compared to most who chose such a diet.

My doctor did tests on the activity of my thyroid. He then diagnosed this condition. He put me on a medication and not only did I gain tremendous control over my appetite, but the medication got several other things in balance in my body chemistry. I started feeling better emotionally every morning when I woke up. I always fought my own body and brain chemistry to endeavor to stay positive. I did a great job at it. However, when the doctor got my thyroid balanced out, I woke up naturally with a more positive attitude about life and things in general.

What I am saying to you is that if you have difficulty with obsessive negative thoughts, pessimism and a sense of hopelessness, then you might very well have a chemical imbalance in your brain. This is nothing to be

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ashamed of. Millions of people are on some incredible medications that help balance their body and brain chemistry. You may not have the same condition that I have had, but there may be something else that your medical doctor can give you that could help you tremendously. Talk to your doctor if you have a mental challenge to stay focused or to be positive and hopeful about your life.

Nonetheless, choose to experience God's presence on a daily basis. I've had people raise the objection that they can't sit around and pray and meditate upon God all day long. That is not what I am suggesting by encouraging you to pray continuously.

Adopt an attitude that you are going to acknowledge God and his presence while doing your work. You will do your work better. Adopt an attitude that you are going to acknowledge God while driving your car. You will drive better and more safely. Adopt an attitude that you are going to acknowledge God's presence while doing anything. You will do it better.

Live with an attitude of gratitude towards the blessings that you have. I am grateful especially when I go into other countries and see how difficult life can be for people. I am also grateful as I sit here right now. Let me illustrate what I mean.

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I am sitting here right now, with my laptop on my lap, in my bed, writing this. Now I don't spend all day in bed but right now, it happens to be 3:40 a.m. *(Note: I decided long ago that if I couldn't sleep, I was going to allow myself to enroll in 'God's night school'. I read an article several years ago titled, 'Insomnia: God's Night School'; I would rather develop my relationship with God than frustrate myself in not being able to sleep).*

It is near the end of May and it is beginning to get hot here in Texas. My central air conditioning in my home just kicked on. I remember as a child that all we had was an 'attic fan'. This monster was placed in the hallway of our home and sucked air in from outside. I won't go into this huge story about how hard we had it. However, I am very grateful that I have cool air blowing on me right now that it has gone over refrigerated coils.

I am grateful and, as of this writing in 2005, I am amazed, that I can take this little computer and be connected to the entire world while I sit here in my bed. By the time that some of you read this, you will be laughing because you will have in your hands a means to do far more than what I can do now. You will have tools in your hands that haven't even been thought of yet. Nonetheless, I am very grateful for what amazing tools I have in my hands at this time.

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I am thankful that as of this writing, I can go outside and get into my luxury automobile and drive less than 5 minutes and arrive at a restaurant or grocery store and get almost anything I want to eat. I am grateful that I have clean air to breathe. At this very moment, there are 16 million Russians living in the cities of Saint Petersburg and Moscow. They can't go to their water faucet and get clean water that is drinkable. I can walk just few feet from bedroom and get clean water.

I am thankful that I am healthy at this moment. Not only that, I live a few blocks away from a very modern medical facility and hospital if I need medical care. My point is, gratitude is something that will place you in the presence of God faster than anything I know of.

The ancient writings say that 'God lives in the praises of his people'. Praise doesn't always have to be in a song, though it can be. It is simply the attitude of my heart as I sit here right now. I am grateful for where I am in my life, that I am happy in spite of all situations and circumstances not being ideal.

Gratitude will facilitate continuous prayer faster and more effectively than anything. I love to both silently and verbally, thank God for what he has done in my life and what I have yet to see come about in my life. God is fulfilling part of my destiny right now. He is

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inspiring me to write these words. He has given me the desire and the tools to do it. I feel God's presence right now, just by writing about these things.

When I was a child, we would sing a song called, 'Count Your Blessings.' It said, 'Name them one by one. Count your blessings and see what God has done'. This is an amazing practice when you not only sing this little song but also, you do it. Make a list of what all God has done in your life. Make a list of when God showed up in the past. Look around you right now and begin to make a list of the things that you may usually take for granted.

Pray about everything and worry about nothing. It is a choice that you make in your life. Don't go at life alone. Go at it with help from God. Make prayer and conversing with God an attitude that you adapt in your life and that you adopt as a continuous discipline. It will change your life and draw you ever so closer to praying prayers God always answers.

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Praying With Leadings

There are subtle things that God puts into our paths that let us know that prayer is working and is bringing us to our answer. They are signposts along the road that let us know that our destination is assured. I call these ‘leadings’. They are letting us know that God has heard our prayers and that the answer is on the way.

Not only does God use these leadings to let us know that our answer is on the way, he uses them to let us know that he is with us on the journey. His promise to you and I is that he will never leave us and will always be there when we need him. The scriptures say that he is in us and that we are one with God.

When I read the book that gave me the direction and assurance that God was opening the door for my college education, God was giving me a leading to encourage me in my faith. If we recognize that these leadings are from God, they will show up more and more in our lives. In fact, it has been my experience that these leadings are there all of the time. Some people acknowledge them and others don’t.

You must be spiritually awake in order to recognize that God is with you all of the time. Several years ago,

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I saw a not so fantastic movie called 'Joe Vs. The Volcano' with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. Tom Hanks was a regular guy who was wrongly diagnosed as being terminally ill. Meg Ryan was the daughter of a very eccentric multi-millionaire, played by Loyd Bridges.

Bridges character wanted to extract and exploit certain mineral deposits from a tropical island. The island was inhabited by a primitive people who believed that unless a human sacrifice was offered in the local volcano, it would erupt and destroy the island.

Bridges character knew about their belief and was looking for someone who would be willing to be thrown into the volcano in exchange for a massively luxurious and opulent life up until the time of being sacrificed in the volcano. Tom Hanks was dying anyway, or so he thought about it, and was willing to take on the task.

Some time before the actual sacrifice was to take place, there is a scene where Hanks and Ryan are sitting on this fabulous yacht being served by several servants. Hanks, being a regular guy, is amazed that Ryan and her family live in such affluence.

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He asks her, 'how do you all live like this? Most people are barely getting by and here you are living like royalty.' Ryan responds with, 'My father says that some people on this planet are awake while most are not. We happen to be awake.'

Friend, I'm challenging you to live your life fully awake. Do I believe that everyone who reads this will in fact 'wake up' to life? I believe that it is up to you. God is all around you all of the time.

I had a guy tell me once that he didn't believe in God. I told him that 'God still believes in you'. I don't believe in worshipping worms. Nonetheless, they still exist. God is still there whether you believe in him or not. Your belief is what will change your life.

Leadings are often seen as coincidences. To see things as coincidence is to have faith in luck or a type of fate. Living by luck or fate puts the odds of ever having your prayers answered way beyond any likelihood that you will get them answered. I don't believe in coincidence. I believe in leadings. I show up in the right place, at the right time, with the right perspective and the right belief. That's why things happen positively for me.

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I was away on a trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma some time back. I decided to take advantage of my time away and put my faith in allowing God to give me some leadings, just for practice. I went into a music store near where I was staying and ran into a man who started talking about guitars with me. I play and love guitars. We talked for 15-20 minutes and he left.

After he walked out of the door, the employees came over to me and asked me if I knew this man or knew who he is. I told them that I just met him and had never heard of him before. They told me that he was one of the most renowned guitar players in the world. That he had not only taught guitar to some of the greatest players in the world but that some of the great guitar players acknowledged his talent as being far superior to anyone.

He had invited me to show up at a local venue to hear his band play. That night, I went and heard him. He was an awesome guitar player. One of the best I'd ever heard. I walked into the place where he was playing with the acknowledgment that God was with me and a very definite sense of his presence.

I was sitting there listening to this man and his band when he walked up and introduced me to the entire audience as being a new friend of his whom he had invited to the show. He then asked for requests from

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the small audience. I was sitting there thinking about a song I would like to hear when a lady near me blurted out the very name of the song I was thinking about it.

Later, I was sitting there thinking of another song when suddenly the band started singing the song I was thinking about. I left soon afterward and wanted to stop by a bookstore that I knew closed at 11 p.m. I was thinking about a question regarding how God hears the prayers of everyone who will pray. This thought was pressing hard upon my mind.

In the book store, I found an old book that had been written in 1921 by Russell Conwell, the famous author of *Acres of Diamonds*. I bought the book and in the very first chapter, he started discussing and proving how God hears the prayers of everyone. It was the very thought that I was having and had been meditating on all day.

Why did God allow these seemingly small, subtle ‘leadings’ happen to me? I believe that God is loving and so kind that he simply wanted me to know that he is with me.

God gives us leadings along life’s path to let us know that the answer is on the way. Don’t make the mistake of getting so excited when a leading comes that you

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mistake it for the thing that you've asked for. I've seen many people make this mistake and have made it myself.

Leadings are signposts to the bigger answer or miracle that you've asked for. I've seen people settle for the leading and quit believing for the bigger answer that God wants them to have.

The leading comes to let you know that the bigger answer is on its way. The leading comes by God's grace to encourage you to keep believing and not to ever give up. God wants to answer all of your prayers. Remember, he wants you to have every desire of your heart.

I saw a church marquis the other day that said, 'Make sure it is God and then go after it'. Most people can get bogged down in the 'making sure' stage. They don't want to make a mistake. I would rather step forward in faith and let God correct me than get bogged down making absolutely sure that I won't make a mistake. In fact, I can guarantee that you will make mistakes. It is part of being human. The only people who don't make mistakes are those in the local cemetery.

God can and will take your mistakes and turn them into working for you ultimate good in your life. It is

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his promise to you. Don't get paralyzed by having to have fifty jaw dropping miracles in order for you to step forward in faith for the things that you've prayed for. Learn to notice subtle leadings that God puts in your path. Let them build your faith and your confidence.

As you allow leadings to encourage you and lead you towards what God has promised and you have prayed for, you will be well on your way to praying prayers God always answers.

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Praying With Gratitude

One of the most powerful acts of faith you can ever develop to use in your prayers is the discipline of showing gratitude. Most people think that gratitude only means being grateful for all the things that they already have. This is very important and vital to living and experiencing a happy life. However, I want to share with you something that is even more powerful than just recounting all that you've been blessed with and being thankful for it.

I want to challenge you to make a part of your discipline response in prayer to 'give thanks BEFORE you ever see the answer to your prayer'. This will give you a practical, tangible way of 'acting in faith'. In other words, when you pray and ask God with faith, confidence, specifics, focus and expectation, go ahead and thank him that it is already done.

There is a powerful principle that I will share with you in the chapter on prosperity about 'sowing a seed before you reap the harvest'. It is a tangible way of giving back even before you see the fulfillment of your prayer. It is a practical and powerful discipline in receiving what you desire from God.

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Gratitude works much the same way. You are seeing something clearly complete with your inner eye before you see it with your physical eye. You are fulfilling the need of possessing and exercising faith, confidence, trust, focus, specifics by seeing it all done and giving thanks for it.

I met Jennifer after giving a message on prayer one evening. She told me that she ‘prayed really hard’ for something. I’ve heard this expression many times in my life and I understand the intent when someone uses this phrase regarding something that they’ve prayed for or about.

Most of what I’ve seen, however, is that they did a lot of begging God to do whatever it is that they wanted or needed. They pleaded with God as if they would appear to be desperate enough, God would do whatever they wanted. Let me warn you. God doesn’t respond to need or pleading. He doesn’t respond to begging or desperation. God responds to faith, confidence, expectation, action and specifics.

If God responded to needs, then there would be no needs in anyone’s life. God wants to get you involved in the process. That is why he requires action from you to get your prayers answered. You may think that God ‘should’ respond to desperation and need, but that is

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not how God works. He wants you involved in the process.

I like what one of my mentors from afar has said for several years. Jim Rohn says, ‘God does the hard part. He grows the tree. You plant the seed. If you had to grow the tree, then that would keep you up late at night trying to figure out how to get that done.’ I totally agree with the great Jim Rohn.

God has the hard part. He has to answer the prayer. All you have to do is provide the things I’ve shared with you here including ‘showing gratitude before you get your answer’.

Let me ask you what picture develops in your imagination when I describe the following? Remember, Bill Gates imagined a personal computer on every desk of every business in America, BEFORE there were personal computers. Bill did what Dr. Stephen Covey told us in ‘7 Habits of Highly Effective People’. Dr. Covey said, ‘begin with the end in mind’.

This is what I’m sharing with you right now. This is a secret of prayer and of dealing with God in your life. Give God thanks for everything including things that you have yet to see with your physical eyes. Say it this way, ‘Father, I thank you that you have heard my

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prayer and you will do at least what I've asked or better, according to perfect order and your divine will.'

Friend, I am giving you every essential ingredient that you will ever need your entire life in order for you to pray prayers God always answers. You can have all of your prayers answered. God wants you involved. All of the principles of prayer and how God works that I'm sharing with you, get you actively and intricately involved with God in the process.

Make it a habit to always show your gratitude to God for what you've asked, when you ask. Thank him before it happens. Leave room for him to do more. That is his nature. And leave it up to his divine will and order on how he is going to get it done. You will see your answers come quicker and without any doubt that it was indeed God who answered them.

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Developing A Prayer Journal

When I started keeping a prayer journal, I started seeing my prayers become very effective and began seeing the things manifest in my life which I had asked from God. My advice in keeping a prayer journal is this; ‘Only keep a prayer journal IF you want to pray prayers that God always answers.’

You are going to start keeping a prayer journal. How do I know that you are? Because I know that you are reading this book in order to pray prayers God always answers. There is nothing more important and more essential than keeping a prayer journal. Remember how I said earlier that most people pray prayers that they forget five minutes after they are prayed? Well, a prayer journal is going to solve that problem for you.

Let me take a sidebar here for just a minute. I want to say something to you about discipline. I know that it is the most desirable word that we can utter. However, it is necessary in many areas of your life. None more important than in your life of prayer. You are going to develop discipline in your life. Notice that I didn’t say that you are going to ‘have to’ develop discipline? I’m just saying right now that you are going to do it.

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I don't want you to have wasted a penny in buying this book. I believe and pray (and I get my prayers answered; **smile**) that everyone who buys and reads this book will do what it says. I want you to get your prayers answered. I believe that is why your life's path has now crossed with mine.

Discipline is a choice. It is easier for some than it is for others. Nonetheless, I believe that you are going to hear my words and heed my advice.

Now back to the prayer journal. All you need is an inexpensive steno pad or spiral notebook. I use very nice leather and wood journals. These are books that have nothing written on their pages. A lady asked me once, 'why would you buy a book with nothing written in it (a journal)?' I told her that I spend good money on a book that had no writing in it so 'I' could fill its pages with lessons, connections with God, answers to prayers and goals for my life.

The most important book that you will ever own is a journal. A blank book that you may spend little or a lot of money on in order to live your life in such a way that your life becomes interesting enough and important enough that you want to remember certain things.

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What should you put in your journal? You should have topical headings including,

1. The date and time you made your request and prayed to God
2. What are you asking God for? Remember to be specific and allow yourself to feel expectation of receiving it.
3. Write out your entire prayer to God.
4. Write out your statement of faith and that you believe that God will do what you've asked or better according to his divine order and divine will for your life
5. Then make a place for the answer. Put the date and time that you are writing. Leave more lines than you think that you'll need. I usually leave twice as many lines than I think I'll need. I get excited and my faith is built up when I write in the answers.

What we know about God is what we find written in holy script. All of the prophecies and the stories about God and what he has done for people are written down.

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In addition to your prayers, write down things that you have heard someone say, maybe a speech, maybe a sermon which encourage your faith. Just put this under a heading called, 'Quotes' or 'Sermons'. This will encourage you in your prayer life.

Also, go back and reread any or every part of this book. Write down what you've learned from it. This will help you building the principles taught here into your thoughts and daily habits.

Again, let me say that it doesn't matter whether you use an inexpensive steno pad, spiral notebook or a nicer leather and/or wood journal like I use. Go to your local bookstore and ask for their journals if you want a bit nicer one. I buy nicer ones because I value what God does in my life. I think it is one more show of faith to God that you are serious about what your prayer life and his involvement. I feel like, 'if it is significant for me in my life to do and to live, then it is important enough to write down'.

Also, your journal will be left to your children and grand-children as part of your heritage. I think we should leave a positive heritage when we depart from this world. I want my kids to get my journals, read them and know what kind of a person I was. I want them to know how I overcame obstacles through prayer and perseverance. I want them to know who I

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was. Even my grandchildren and subsequent generations.

Start a legacy of prayer in your family. Let it start with you. It will not only give you a solid place where you will remember and stand in faith for getting your prayers answered. It will also have incredible meaning and significance to those who survive you.

I have already established for you the basic principles for praying prayers God always answers. The only way that you are going to get your prayers answered is to do what I've shared with you. These are spiritual and eternal truths. They will work for you as you adopt them and adapt them in your life.

First of all, 'adopt' them. Make them your own. Decide that you are just going to take the step of faith, get your hopes and dreams up and you are going to own these principles. Right now is a great time to make a major change in your life and your thinking. Books can and will change your life as you let them. So adopt what I've shared so far and do it. Do it all.

Adapt them into your daily life. Make your prayer journal your constant companion. I remember when I was in Europe during a speaking tour with my daughter. I saw all of these men carrying what some

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called a ‘man purse’. I kept teasing my daughter that I was going to get one and start carrying it. She thought I was being ridiculous for even suggesting such a thing.

I finally found a daily planner and organizer that served the same purpose. It is my constant companion everywhere I go. I put my driver’s license in it just so that I would be prompted to take it everywhere. I also take my prayer journal with me. I never know where I might see God doing something great for me and want to write it down.

So not only do I encourage you to adopt what you've read so far. I also want to urge you to adapt what I've shared with you. Adapt into you daily routine. You are becoming a person who prays prayers God always answers.

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Recognizing Answers

When I was a child, we lived on the side of the tracks that most people didn't consider even upper middle class. It was a good neighborhood and I still go back to visit there from time to time for the purpose of reflection. Nonetheless, it was a little less than ideal.

One of the kids in my church lived on the west side of town which was where the more affluent families lived (I now live on that side of town). He went to an elementary school that I always wished that I could go to. I wanted to live on the side of town where all the 'rich kids' lived. I wanted to attend Wakefield school because that was where the rich kids went to school.

I prayed a prayer, even as a child, that my dad would move us to the 'rich side' of town. My dad worked with a man who wanted to sell his house. I remember going with my dad to make the deal and sign the papers on that house. My dad paid \$19,500 for the house (in the mid-seventies). It was directly across the street from the school that I had wanted to go to and where I had asked God to let me live.

Was that an answer to my prayer? I believe it was a very straight and definite answer to my prayer. How

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could it have been any more obvious than the way that it turned out?

I spent a lot of time ‘wishing’ that I could live on that side of town but God didn’t answer my ‘wishing’. God answered my prayer.

I want you to get this specific point about prayer.

“Recognize the answer when it comes”

Prayer journaling will definitely help you with this. You need to know when the answer has come.

Most people get so caught up in life that they don’t remember that they asked God to do something. Then they don’t recognize that ‘God’ is the one who did it when it happens. We get too engaged in the challenges and oftentimes, battles, of life that we miss an answer when it comes.

When you live your life with an awareness of God, then you will know when he does what you’ve asked him to do. Now, let me be totally candid with you here. I didn’t recognize that God had answered the prayer of allowing us to live on the west side of town, until much later in my life. Nonetheless, I can look

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back now and see the incredible events that had to take place in order for it to happen.

My father never knew that I had prayed this prayer. I never expressed to him my desire to live where we ended up. My family was just not that way. Kids didn't tell parents where they wanted to live. It was unthinkable. But I did ask God for what I wanted and God gave it to me.

I've met a lot of people who will find fault with the answer God delivers to them. Sometimes, I've watched them do this even when the answer is an obvious miracle. Their attitude will cause them to find fault with some of the biggest blessings that they could ever experience. I'm not going to analyze these kind of people, but I am going to tell you forthrightly, 'don't be one of them'.

Friend, God works through people and circumstances to bring blessing and even miracles into our lives. Be awake in your life enough to know when he is bringing you an answer to your prayer. Recognize it and show gratitude for it. When you recognize and show thankfulness to God for showing up in your life, you set yourself up for more and even greater blessing.

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I want to add another point here in this understanding. Remember that God sometimes closes doors in order to open a window to pour out more than you have asked for.

Did you ever hear the song by Garth Brooks titled 'Unanswered Prayers'? In the song, he was thanking God for prayers that weren't answered. Although I think Garth is a great musician and talented singer/songwriter, I have to say to you that there is no such things as unanswered prayers.

When it appears that God didn't answer your prayer, it doesn't mean that the matter is closed. It isn't. God has something bigger and better for you. This is why I've encouraged you to pray the 'or better' part of all your prayers.

I've heard people tag the end of their prayers with, 'if it be thy will'. Let me tell that God gives you the very 'desires' of your heart. It is God's will for you to prosper, for you to be healthy and for you to experience spiritual prosperity and peace in your life. Prayer is not a gamble. Prayer is a sure thing with God. Some of the time? No, all of the time.

God is involved in your life 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. He promised to never leave

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your side. God's promise to you is that he will always be there for you. God shouldn't be an 'every once in a while' force or presence in your life. God lives in you and is with you continuously. God is there to answer all of your prayers either in like manner that you have asked him or better.

God is doing things and acting on things on your behalf all of the time. Start recognizing it. Start showing gratitude for it. Wake up and find ways that he has answered your prayers. Those answers are not coincidence. They are fulfilled promises that God has made to you.

Make a list of all the times that God has answered prayers. We usually spend a lot of time replaying events that 'went wrong' in our lives. Let me ask you, 'what has gone RIGHT in your life'? Now, look back and see if God and prayer had a role in it. Wake up to God's actions and answers in your life.

As you do this, you are setting your mindset for greater answers to prayer in your life. You are putting yourself into a mindset of praying prayers God always answers.

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Prayer For Healing

“He sent his word and healed them”

The scriptures tell us that God wants us to be healed in our lives. There are so many accounts throughout history and in the Bible of people who received healing as God intervenes in their health situations.

The majority of people are born healthy and whole. Not 100% but most are. I don't know of anyone who has embraced sickness as a welcomed punishment or vindication from God. We want to be healthy and whole in our physical bodies.

We are appalled at sickness intervening in our lives. When we hear that someone has cancer or some other dreaded condition, our spirits seem to sink inside of our hearts. We want to be well. We want to feel good and be healthy.

I know that God still heals people today. It wasn't for just a certain period of time and then it suddenly stopped. God never changes. He is love and part of his expression of love is physical, bodily healing.

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I have a close friend who was diagnosed with cancer a few years back. He combined medical treatment with faith and prayer and got completely well in his body.

I will never forget a man who attended the church where I was once the senior minister. His name was Larry King. Larry went to the doctor and had a blood disorder that the doctors diagnosed quickly. They gave him the prognosis of certain death without a miracle happening.

Larry came to me and asked for prayer for healing. We had no long drawn-out prayer for his healing. We simply prayed for what we wanted from God and stood in faith that it was done and would soon manifest as healing and wholeness in his body.

Larry stood in faith in his own heart and mind. Honestly, I had forgotten about our prayer until he came in one day and asked to talk to me. Larry told me that he never doubted that God ‘could’ heal him. He said that he did doubt whether or not God ‘would’ heal him. Nonetheless, he stood in faith because he had no promises for living except the promise of our getting our prayers answered.

Larry was startled with great excitement, thankfulness and joy when he told me that our prayers worked and the

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doctors had just told him that he was completely well with no sign of the disease or any kind of sickness in his body.

I too was surprised even though I know 'how' and know 'that', I can and do pray prayers God always answers. This is a remarkable thing in our human condition. We pray. We ask God. We believe. We follow what we know God wants us to do but we are still always overwhelmed when we see it come to pass.

It has been my experience that when we learn to pray for ourselves, we will get the best results. However, when we pray for others, we can still have a phenomenal impact in their lives. Prayer for others is an expression of love. It is a gift that we can give others. Our prayers for others can and will have miraculous results. However, I love to get into agreement with another person regarding their healing or answer that they seek from God.

God's greatest command is that we love him and each other. It isn't a suggestion. It isn't a recommendation. It is his command that we love. When we pray for each other, encourage each other in faith and through prayer, we can be highly effective in getting our prayers answered. It serves a two-fold purpose that God has for us. It serves the purpose of caring about others and of asking and receiving from God in prayer.

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God wants you to healthy and happy in your life. I will soon deal with having the prayer of peace answered in your life. God wants you to fulfill your purpose on this earth. Remember the story of Jake that I gave you earlier. Jake (nor you) cannot fulfill all that God wants if he is in great pain physically. God wants you healed and healthy so you can do what he put you here to do.

The many numerous stories in scripture prove to me that physical healing is a priority with God. Your physical health and healing (if you are sick) is a major priority with God. God wasn't more loving thousands of years ago than he is now. God wasn't more powerful thousands of years ago than he is right now. He is still the same. He hasn't changed his mind about healing, health and physical wholeness. He wants you to be healed.

Now, let me say this regarding your health. Sickness is not a punishment from God. This again is dealt with in scripture. You must get this thinking out of your mind in order to be able to have the confidence, trust and faith that God wants you to be well. God even said once that the reason a man was sick so that his (God's) glory could be revealed. You need to adopt and adapt the truth about what God wants towards you regarding every area of your life including your health.

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When you believe that punishment has come upon you through sickness, then you miss the whole point of who God is and what he is about. Why would the creator destroy his incredible creation through the suffering that comes from sickness and disease? You can sit around and ask many questions regarding why there is sickness in the world or you can start praying and believing for healing. It is nearly impossible to do both. They are in contradiction with each. One cancels out the other.

A lady told me a story of how her daughter had died who had cancer. She said that when the doctor told them that she wasn't going to make it, they changed their prayers from one of healing to one that they wanted her to go quickly. Each individual situation and person has to do what they want in such a situation. However, when it comes to whether I was sick or in that situation, I want someone praying for me who will believe in the healing of the body. This young girl was 19 years old. I don't know God's full plan for her life but I would have never stopped praying for healing.

Living a life of faith isn't something that is optional for me. It is imperative for me. I want to live out every day that God has planned for me. I told a friend recently that if I am ever in the situation that this young girl was in, keep praying that I will be healed up until a few minutes after my heart stops beating.

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I'm not afraid of death. I just want to make sure that I live out all I was put here to do and experience. I encourage you to take the same attitude. Don't be afraid of death. You are going to die someday. Don't welcome it either. I like this short poem.

'Death, death, come it will,
I will live my life out still'

"My father, I thank you today that you are a healer. That you are my healer. You have sent your word to me today and have healed me of all of my dis-ease and sickness. You are the one who heals me today. I am thankful and give praise with a heart filled with great joy that I am healed, I am healthy and I am whole in my body. I thank you for perfect health and incredible vitality beyond all of my expectations. You are the God who is willing and able to do all that I ask and even more than I ask. Amen. So be it. It is done."

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Prayer For Spiritual Peace

Most people are living their lives out in confusion and stress. You don't have to do that yourself. The number one killer in America today is the heart complications that come as a result of stress. There is no amount of money that can remove the stress that life sometimes dishes out to us.

The prayer for spiritual peace is a mindset that will turn into the practice of spiritual peace. The Master said, 'Peace be still' to the winds and the waves. We need to speak a word and prayer of peace over our hearts and our minds.

I met Thomas at a convention I was at in Atlanta. Thomas worked as an engineer for a construction company that built commercial buildings throughout the southwest. He made a salary plus bonuses that afforded he and his family a very comfortable lifestyle.

He worked diligently for 'his' American dream only to find himself without any spiritual peace or peace with himself. He lived in the proverbial mindset that states, 'I know I need to slow down, take a vacation and take things easier. But, I have a mortgage to pay, car payments, credit cards, etc.'

Too many people are living at this level in their lives. Spiritual peace brings you to complete peace with God and with yourself. In fact, you can't have one without the other. Peace with God means that you automatically have the inner peace that so many seek.

Spiritual peace means that you are free from guilt, shortcomings, failures and sin. It is a place where you realize that your life is free from the shame that so many live with. It means that you live in a mindset that when you think about God, you aren't picturing a judge, a gray haired old man who is angry and throwing down lightning bolts to every one who is doing wrong.

You are thinking about God with a smile and with pleasant thoughts and feelings. You know that you are loved, accepted and approved of by God.

To pray for spiritual peace, you must once again, adopt and adapt it to your life. God wants you to be at peace in your heart, your soul, your emotions and your mind. The ancient scripture records God's words when he says, 'I will keep you in perfect peace when you keep your mind stayed upon me.' Perfect peace is what each of us wants in our lives. God wants you to have it and fully experience it.

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You can pray with confidence that God will answer you when you ask him for his peace.

The essence of God is peace. One thing that is beginning to happen to you as you follow the principles I have set forth here in this book is, you are developing a relationship and closeness with God. God is the ruler who rules in peace.

‘Worry about nothing and pray about everything. Let your mind be set on things above and upon God. Meditate and think on things that are good. When you hear someone talking, pick out the good and leave the bad. Don’t involve or engage yourself in it. When you do this, the peace of God will surround your life, your mind, your emotions and your heart.’

Learn this little affirmation and prayer. ‘Peace be still’. If God calmed the storms and the seas with such a prayer and command, so can you. The psalmist wrote, ‘I will say to my soul, be at peace’. His soul included his mind, his psyche, his conscious and subconscious mind and his emotions. He demanded peace. He prayed for peace.

A very good friend of mine says that ‘God will bless you material things, with money and with things

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money can't buy'. Spiritual peace is one of those things that money cannot and will not ever be able to buy. It is valuable. You need it in your life. You can have it in your life. Spiritual peace will help you cultivate your love relationship with God.

Jessie is a middle aged lady that I met over a decade ago. My sister saw her recently and conveyed a message to me about Jessie that I didn't know.

Jessie had been, what many would deem, a 'hopeless alcoholic'. She was so bad when she started drinking that she would have 'alcohol induced black outs'. She would forget things that she had done over several days.

Jessie had experienced a spiritual awakening in her life prior to me meeting her. She came to me for counsel regarding her problem with alcohol. She was a bit taken aback at my suggestions of what she should do. I told her something that was much different than what traditional counselors and therapists had told her.

I got Jessie focused upon the love and grace of God. I started teaching her that her 'cure' from alcoholism was in direction relationship with her closeness to the goodness of God. I didn't panic when she drank. I

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loved her and God loved her right out of her problem with alcohol.

I taught Jessie how to pray for spiritual peace and then live it. I taught her that spiritual peace can be an ‘all the time’ thing in her life. I taught her that the love of God was and is powerful. It can accomplish quickly what other means, to live free from life destroying habits, couldn’t do. She learned to practice the presence of God. She learned the joy and peace that come with praying all the time.

Most of what you are facing now in your life, needs to be saturated and covered in spiritual peace and prayer. With spiritual peace comes answers to all of life’s heartaches, setbacks, addictions, trials and tribulations. Learn to pray the prayer for spiritual peace. God will answer you and show up in his most loving, compassionate and powerful way.

“God, you are my peace today. I embrace you with my heart and mind. When I embrace you, I embrace the very essence of peace. Your peace passes all knowledge, understanding and comprehension. By the words of my mouth, I release peace to my body, mind and spirit. I speak to the rolling waves of my life and say, ‘Peace, be still now’. I thank you that you flood my soul with your mighty peace today. Amen. So be it. It is done now.”

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Prayer For Prosperity

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord; plans to prosper you, to do no harm to you, to give you hope and a future”

“No good thing will God withhold from those who he loves”

“Beloved, I want for you, more than anything else, that you prosper, that you stay in good health and that these happen in congruence with the maturing and prospering of your soul”

Abundance is all around us. As I was driving down the freeway the other day, I was noticing a field full of sunflowers. There were at least ten acres of sunflowers. I also noticed how the trees had filled in after not having their leaves throughout the winter.

You nor I, could count the leaves even on a single tree. The sky is filled with stars. How big is the universe? No one knows. God is displaying his abundance everywhere you look. As I was taking a walk the other day, I was wondering how many blades of grass were in the small park I was in. God only knows.

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I heard a pilot for American Airlines give a talk recently. He talked about the beauty of the heavens. He gets to enjoy this beauty often.

He also talked about God's abundance. He said that if you hold one grain of wheat up to the night sky, that behind that one grain lies thousands of galaxies. That's how big the universe is. That's God show of abundance.

God has filled this world with shows and display of his abundance. It is his message to you and I that he wants us also to live in abundance. It is God's desire for you to prosper. He has said so and he has shown us.

Prayer for prosperity must follow the same pattern of prayer as you have already learned. There has to be faith, there must be expectation, there must be specifics, action and focus. I am going to share with you the process of praying for prosperity and getting your prayers answered.

Let me first share with you the nature of God.

“The most that you pray for is the least God will do”

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When you pray as I've taught you here, and asked God for anything with the tag, 'according to your divine will and order' and when you add, 'I ask this or more', God's nature is to do more than you ask.

"He is able (and willing) to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all you ask or think". This is the nature of God. God will answer your prayers with greater things than you ever imagined.

Six months ago, I found myself in a situation that was less than desirable, financially. In fact, I needed something to give me some relief and some breakthrough. I asked God for \$280,000. I reasoned that this amount would give me everything that I needed plus a little left over. However, I tagged my prayer with the 'or more' tag.

I had no idea how or where this money would come from. I had never prayed for or had that much money just show up in my life. Within a few short months of that prayer, God blessed me with \$355,000. Again, I had no idea where it was coming from or how it was going to get to me.

Not only did God do that but took me out from under the incredible pressure I was under at the time professionally. In fact, the reason that I have had the

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time to write this book is because of this enormous “God arranged windfall” in my life. And if that wasn’t enough, God took care of the obligations that I had to pay a completely different way so that I didn’t have to use a single penny of this answer to my prayer to pay any of them.

My friend, I know from experience that God does answer prayers that are prayed in the way I have prescribed for you here. I know that you may be thinking (as I have done in the past) that God did that for you but he wouldn’t do that for me. I’ve battled those same thoughts over and over again in my life.

Don’t allow doubt steal from you what God has promised to you. God wants you to be prosperous.

Let me tell you why God wants you to be prosperous. He wants you to be prosperous so that you can be generous. I want to make sure that you get this understanding.

“God wants you to be prosperous so that you can be generous”

God has a very definite purpose for your prosperity. He wants you to spread your wealth around.

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Now, let me share with you the action part of this prayer for prosperity. Just as those trees bear many leaves, the field brings forth the thousands of sunflowers, the park produces the millions of blades of grass, none of this started without a seed being planted. A seed must always precede a blessing for prosperity.

This is your faith in action. God has set things up in such a way that giving always precedes receiving. Sowing a seed always precedes the gathering of a harvest. God didn't make this complex. He has set up this entire planet for times of harvest and times of sowing. This principle is taught all around you and I.

It is everywhere in nature. Even in human reproduction, there is always a seed that precedes a harvest. Go talk to a farmer. He will explain this concept of God better than any minister, preacher or theologian. The farmer knows that if there is no seed, there is no harvest.

Make no mistake about this. God wants you to be prosperous. He wants you to trust him for prosperity. There is an action that you must take. It is the planting of a seed. Giving of your time, your money, your resources. God wants to see your faith in action. He then knows that you are serious.

Now, what I didn't tell you was that before I received this miraculous answer to my prayer for the specific amount of money I asked God for, I gave away a lot of money. I gave to people who had nothing. I filled up people's gas tanks who had no means to do it themselves. I wrote checks that at times, were definitely beyond my means and at times a little beyond reason. I'm not saying that you need to do exactly what I did. In fact, you don't. Nonetheless, you are going to have to give something in order to receive much.

I love what Charlie 'Tremendous' Jones says about this. He says, 'give in order to increase your capacity to give'. I've never heard anyone say it better than that. When give a gift of faith and plant the seed, God will give you more so that you can plant ever more seeds. My motivation for giving is certainly to have more than enough for me and my family. But I also am highly motivated to give in order to increase my capacity for future giving.

Does God want you to be rich? I want to say again here that God does want you to be rich. Not only with money but also with things that money can never buy for you. Let that sink down into your mind right now. He wants you abundantly supplied so that you can be a

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greater blessing to others who do not know nor have what you have.

Friend, I've watched people take this spiritual and dependable principle and do things that are astounding. I've watched them build universities on this understanding. I've watched them build businesses. I watched some build empires based on this principle.

I have a life-long friend who started out in my hometown with little of nothing. This man wasn't a preacher or minister but a businessman. Paul built a construction empire upon this one principle. Last year, he did almost \$200 million in construction. Paul started out with nothing but God, an incredibly supporting wife, Judy, faith and a dream.

I'm not sure why but I have seen this prayer answered more than any other I've seen prayed. God loves to bless his children. You are God's child. I can name ten people who I know who built successful businesses in this same prescribed manner. All ten of them are millionaires many times over.

All of the people of old who had relationships with God were abundantly blessed. God wants total prosperity in your life. Money alone cannot and will not produce a happy, healthy, fulfilled life. It takes

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more. But let me also say along with my friend Paul, mentioned above. “I’ve been broke and I’ve been rich. Rich is better”. Zig Ziglar, one of my mentors from a far, says, “Money isn’t everything but it does rank right up there with oxygen”. That is funny but not far from being true.

I believe that the reason that I’ve seen so many people so abundantly blessed is because it is easy for God to bless us financially. This part of answered prayers may be hard for you to believe but it isn’t hard for God to do.

We seem to be able to accept that God can care for our eternal souls but not our health and our finances. That amazes me. It seems to me that it would be far more powerful of an act if God would be able to make you live forever in the life hereafter. How much more does he want you to be healthy, happy and healthful now?

Once you pray for prosperity with all the essential steps I’ve shared with you here, stay in faith. In other words, fight to not let doubt or unbelief over come your heart and mind. Let me give a very big caution here.

“Don’t not hinder your prayer by planning for failure”

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I was counseling a woman who needed several thousand dollars to complete an obligation regarding a partnership, business investment that she had entered into. She needed it by the last day of the month.

She came to visit me and asked me to pray for her that she would get this money. I did. She then wanted me to counsel her on what she could say to her business partners if the money didn't come. I refused to enter into such a conversation with her. I told her that since we had asked, we need to expect. She was hunting a place of safety and security in case it didn't come through like she had asked.

You cannot expect a miracle and plan for failure at the same time. One contradicts and cancels out the other. It takes faith and a lot of courage to step out of the boat.

Saint Peter stepped out of the boat to walk on water. The other 11 disciples sat in the boat without the courage to get out of it. You are one who will step out of the boat. How do I know that? Well, you've stayed with me this long. Add some courage to your faith.

Most of the time we have nothing to lose except our pride when we choose to stand in faith. I've seen miracle after miracle happen for people who were at

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their proverbial ‘end of their rope’. Why does this happen? It happens because they have no other options. They are out of the mindset of scheming and planning in case there is failure. God has to come through for them.

Have you ever heard anyone who said, ‘All I’ve got left to do now is pray. I can’t do anything else. Nothing else can be done.’ When someone shares this perspective with me, my response is always, ‘Good! Now something big can happen.’ It might seem tortuous to your pride to be in a place where it has all come down to prayer, but that is the best place you can be. If you could get it done, then you don’t need God or prayer.

Friend, God doesn’t want to torture you. He just wants you in place of seeking him first with situations in your life. This is why I’ve encouraged you to make prayer a part of your lifestyle. Financial setbacks seem like torture. Our finances effect so many other areas of our lives. It effects our relationships, our peace of mind, our opportunities, almost everything.

Have you ever sat in church and felt the uneasiness that happens when a collection is taken? It is because many people feel that they are about to be asked to do something that they don’t want to do. They know that

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they ‘should’ do it, but somehow it is just hard for them to do it.

We need to grow in the area of prayer for prosperity and finances. This is why I am spending so much time on this subject. We have been taught that you can’t be prosperous or wealthy and still be spiritual. My prayer is being answered that this kind of thinking be eliminated for our lives. People are waking up to the truth that money is not the root of evil, rather, the love of money is.

Begin today, praying with faith and expectation that God is bringing prosperity into your life. Pray the prayer of prosperity as you pray prayers that God always answers.

“God, I know that it is your divine purpose, order and will that I prosper in my life. You do not and will not withhold any good thing from my life. As you have always done with those who love you, you will also prosper me in my finances beginning right now. I set my heart in expectation of your great power to prosper me in every way in my life. I open my heart, my mind and my hands now for prosperity to pour into my life. I know that you will do this and even more than I expect or ask. Amen, So be it. It is done”

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Prayer For Companionship

I have spent a lot of time on the subject of prosperity because it effects so much of the other areas of your life. Financial problems are the number one reason for most domestic violence, frustration, arguments, conflict and divorce. However, financial abundance is not the cure all that the media, Hollywood or Wall Street might represent.

We are not made to live our lives alone without some kind of companionship. We are made to co-habit this earth with other people. No one can live a fulfilled life without the interaction of others in their lives. From the beginning, God made us that way.

God wants you to be happy and fulfilled in every part of your life. He wants you to contribute positively to the lives of others and others to contribute into your life. Even animals are made in the same way.

You can pray a prayer for companionship and God will answer that prayer when you pray as I've shared with you here. I've seen God answer this prayer many times.

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Rich attended the church where I was senior minister. His life was upside down. Rich was one of those people who always had something bad going on in his life. He became a challenge for me.

Every time I saw Rich coming towards me I could count on hearing about something bad that had happened. An ex-wife, an employer, a family member or a neighbor had done something that was making his life more miserable. I was his sounding board.

I've been blessed to be around those who often had more hope and patience with others than I have. Wayne was a man who had the love, consideration and patience that was often needed with people like Rich. He complemented me in many ways where I came up short. I always wanted to help people and to help them fast. I wanted to see a quick turnaround and really didn't know what to do if there wasn't a quick resolution to a person's problem.

The thing that I discovered about myself is that I was afraid that these kind of people would influence me and drag me down. I needed to grow more and be strengthened more in my resolve for living a powerful, positive life in order to effectively help people like Rich. Wayne already possessed the attributes needed to help people like Rich.

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What Wayne realized about Rich (and I didn't) was that Rich was unfulfilled in the area of companionship. Wayne encouraged Rich to meet and date a lovely young lady by the name of Barbara. I watched Rich's life be transformed when he started praying and seeking this new relationship with Barbara.

It seemed at the time, that nothing was ever good in Rich's life. Everything always seemed to be upside-down in his life. I would have said that Rich was suicidal from time to time. I prayed for him.

What I really didn't understand was that there was someone close by that Rich was to connect with. Wayne prayed for him in faith (and while looking out for that right person) that Rich would be fulfilled in his life. God answered that prayer.

I worked for uncle, Stan, for a period in my life. Stan lived on the edge of true financial prosperity most of his life. However, Stan could never find the person who was to be at his side in order to walk out the destiny that God had for him. God had placed a very special gift and talent for the marketing business in Stan.

Stan went through two marriages early on in his life. Both ended up in disaster. Like Rich, Stan lived in

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complete disarray until he found Nancy. When Stan prayed a prayer that God was soon to answer and Nancy walked into his life, everything else changed for him.

Nancy was a bookkeeper for the marketing firm that Stan was employed at. She knew how to budget her finances and had that special knack for holding on to money. With Stan's ability to make money and Nancy's knack for hanging on to it, the two together became quite wealthy and have retired comfortably in a place of their own choosing. God answered Stan's prayer and gave him the companionship that he sought and needed in his life.

I want encourage you to look to prayer and to God to supply companionship if you are lacking it in your life. A single guy asked me one time to give him a good reason for looking to prayer and God for his answer to his prayer for companionship. I told that God knows way more women than he does. That was reason enough and so he started praying and believing God to supply his companion. He got that prayer answered much quicker than if he had stayed at it alone.

God wants you to be fulfilled in the area companionship if you aren't presently. No matter what nationality, race or creed, God made us male and female. He designed us and created us for each other.

Start asking God for companionship if this is lacking in your life. Pray with faith, confidence, specifics and expectation. If there is a certain someone whom you feel would be the ideal soul mate for you, ask God to work it out or to bring you better into your life.

Pray for what you desire. Don't settle for just anyone. Pray for that special someone to show up in your life. And then watch God bring to pass what you desire and need in your life.

“God, I know that you are love. You know my need for love and companionship. You have designed me for someone and someone for me. I am going to start trusting and believing that you will cause my path to cross with their path, soon. You said that you will give me my heart's desire. I believe that you will and now ask for a companion according to your divine will, your divine order and your divine plan for my life. I expect you to answer me because I know that you can never lie to me. I expect (give the name or the description of the kind of person that you desire) to come into my life or someone even better than I can imagine. Thank you now even before I see them for I know that they are on their way into my life right now. Amen. So be it. It is done”.

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Prayer For Children

I know the temptation to worry about children. I have two girls and there are a thousand different things that our non-spiritual minds can imagine happening to them that would be bad. If you have children, nieces, nephews, step children, etc., you must learn to make it a practice to pray for them and trust God for their welfare.

Children can be your greatest source of joy and personal pride in your life or they can be your source of great heartbreak and disappointment. That is why you need God in your life and prayer that is prayed in the way I've prescribed here in order to see them turn out or turn around in the way that you want for them.

Children are given to us as a blessing from God. The statistical miracle of birth amazes me. When a child is conceived, there is a several million to one chance that you are going to get the exact child that eventually is born.

When I look at my two girls, their personalities, their demeanor, their special quirks and their physical appearances, I am amazed at God's creation. There was a time when these incredible human beings did

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not exist in my life physically. They were in my thoughts and my heart before they were born, but only obscurely.

I know that if you have children, that you too are amazed at their diverse personalities, strengths, weaknesses, interests and tendencies. God made them that way just for you. They are challenging, at times, frustrating and fascinating.

If you believe in prayer for no other reason, you will come closer to believing in your need for prayer when it comes to your children.

A few years ago, I was in Russia on one of my regular trips there. I met a wonderful Russian couple by the names of Xenia (Gene in English) and Kostia (no English equivalent that I know of). They came to hear me speak about the power of prayer.

Xenia, the wife, asked me to pray that she would get pregnant and have their first baby. I prayed in the way that I have taught you here and asked God to allow them to have a baby.

I left Russia and honestly, forgot about praying for this miracle that they had such difficulty having the faith for, previous to my prayer for them. The next year,

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when I returned, Xenia was pregnant. They had tried to have children for over a decade without any success at all. On my subsequent trip, after learning that she was pregnant, I got the honor of holding their little baby boy.

God answers prayers for those who have children. I have a lot of faith for believing for the birth of children due to my experience with my oldest daughter being born. My wife and I too had asked a friend to pray for us to have a child. Pregnancy was long delayed before Courtney was conceived. It wasn't happening.

I should clearly let you know that when my wife had asked a minister friend to pray, at that time in my life, for whatever reason, I really thought that it was a little weird to be praying that she would get pregnant. I was a bit closed minded (o.k., I was a lot closed minded). Nonetheless, he prayed and within two months, Courtney was on her way to us.

God answers prayers for couples who desire children. Sometimes it is a miracle prayer for an adoption. I've watched this happen over and over again. Sometimes it is the birth of a child. Sometimes it is a birth following an adoption. I believe that this phenomenon happens because the couple suddenly have this adopted child and what I call, 'the deservability factor' goes way up

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in their lives. They feel that they deserve to be parents and end up being doubly blessed with a child.

From conception, through infancy, adolescence, teenage years and through adulthood, we need the power of prayer in our lives for our children. I'm not trying to convince you if you are already a parent. You already know this.

I met a lady once who said that she was an atheist most of her life. I asked her what changed her mind to start believing in God. She smiled and simply said, 'I had children'. You need God's help in every aspect of parenthood. Your children can and will help you develop a life of prayer even if you have never had one before.

Whatever stage, age or condition that your children are in, you need God's help in dealing with them and their lives. My mother, until this day, says that she can't quit being my mother, concerning herself with my welfare and well-being. I'm nearly 50 years old.

I believe that parenthood is so dear to our hearts because of our relationship to God. God is our father. God knows what is ultimately best for us in our lives. He is our loving, caring, doting and an ever present parent in our lives. I want you to know also, that God

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is the very best parent. He is a better parent than you and I. He takes care of his children.

This is why I believe so much that we need to pray prayers that we know God will answer over our kids. We want them to turn out exactly as we have hoped or better and precisely how God has planned for their lives.

Now is the time to begin praying prayers God always answers over the lives, safety and futures of your children. When they are young, pray for their futures. Start now praying for the mate that they will find someday. Start praying prayers over their financial future (this could save you a lot of money down the road ****Smile****). Start praying for every aspect of their lives.

Put these prayers of faith and confidence in your prayer journal. Leave them a legacy that when you are no longer around, they know that you really did pray for them. Not only that, they will know how and exactly what you prayed for in their lives. Pray prayers that you expect God to answer in what you have asked or better.

“Father, I pray for my children today. I have confidence that you will meet every need of their lives.

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They are in the palm of your hands. They are in safe keeping. I have faith, confidence and expectation that they will succeed in every area of their lives. You can and will turn things around for them in order to bless them with abundance in every way. I trust my children in your great care. You love them even as much as I do and maybe more if that is possible. I pray specifics in every area of their lives. They are secure, happy, healthy and fulfilled by your hand upon their lives and your abundant blessing in their lives. I thank you for hearing my prayer now. Amen. So be it. It is so.”

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Prayer for a Job

God allowed you to be born because he had a specific purpose for your life. God wants to make your life work and he wants you to go over the top in every area. He wants you in a job where you are going to be happy and fulfilled. If you are not in that place right now, then the time has come for you to start getting your prayer life focused on getting in the right place for your purpose.

I've prayed with thousands of people to get a job and to get the right job for them. There is a place that God wants you to fill where you can be effective in doing a task and having positive, powerful spiritual influence over other people's lives.

What I see in most situations is people in jobs where they are miserable, discontent and sometimes despising their employer, co workers and even the physical building that they work. They hate it and are really doing themselves no good, much less the company that they work for. God wants more for you than simply getting a paycheck, longing for the weekend and hoping that you can stay there long enough to draw a retirement that you won't starve death on.

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This is no way to live your life. You don't have to live your life counting the days, shifts, months, years or hours until you 'get out of there'. Your life is far more significant than living an existence like that.

There is a place that only you fit in. It is a place where you will be fulfilled in doing what you love instead of doing what you 'must do'. It is the place of your passion. It is something that you are gifted to do and what you either are good at or can become good at.

God's plan for you is all about vision. It is about making a difference. It is about fulfilling your destiny. When you are on the path of your mission in life, you will be fulfilled in achieving the very desires of your heart.

There is one thing I love doing. I love helping people. I love making a difference in someone's life. God put it in my heart to help others and make their journey a bit better while they are here. He has given me two primary means to get that mission done. Through public speaking and through writing. I never knew how good I was at either of these until I stepped out and took the risk that is often associated with faith and tried doing them both.

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I found out that I was pretty good at both. I work at it and get better in developing my skills every day. But I got started. I have been amazed at the results.

What is your passion in life? I have met many people who hold a certain job or are involved in a certain career, just so that they can do other things that is really their life passion.

I have a close friend who is involved in a business that takes only about 3 and sometimes 4 days per week in order for him to be involved in his local church. His business affords him the time to do what he really wants to do.

I met a lady in Dallas that is a very successful financial analyst. She is at the very top in her company and highly respected and revered in her industry. She also has earned a substantial amount of money as she has climbed and achieved phenomenal success in her company.

Ann, told me, 'I do what I do business-wise in order to afford me the true passion of my heart.' Ann's true passion is helping sick and sometime dying children in their lives. She even established a foundation, for helping and caring for these children. Her true heart is

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for sick children. She has become a ray of hope and sunshine in their lives.

Ann told me once something I'll never forget. She said, 'Michael, I live in the presence of God.' Wow! What a statement to make. More so, what a life to live.

Ann earns substantial amounts of money and then uses her resources and talents to help sick children. She is the living essence of what I've been sharing with you here in this book.

Ann prospers in order to help others. She doesn't just 'write the check'. Ann goes in her bunny costume and makes these children smile and laugh. She is an exemplar example of what I'm sharing here in this book.

God wants you to have the job, the career or the business that is set in your heart. He wants you doing what fulfills you. He wants you helping others. Some people find what they are looking for in living this out. Many do not.

You need to make the decision today that you are going to be one who does. After you pray and set your heart upon the process that I've shared with you here,

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you are going to walk into the job, career or business that fulfills you in every way.

Let me reiterate something that I want to make very clear to you. You must take action upon your prayer. Your prayer isn't finished when you say amen. Get your feet moving doing something. It is a show of your faith. I've always noticed that God blesses people who's feet are moving. People like Ann in Dallas. They are active. They are doing something.

Note one other thing here. God usually shows up in some unexpected way. God wants to do what you have in your heart only, he wants to do it bigger than you've imagined. He also wants you to know that it is him. When God does things bigger and better and we acknowledge that it was indeed him doing it, then we can have greater confidence and faith the next time we ask.

I want to make another side note here. 'Get ready for the answer'. God will use human circumstances, most often in a way that we never imagined. God works 'through' our lives. He also works through other people in our lives. You need to be ready for the answer and recognize it when it comes.

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I was the senior minister of a great church for 12 years. We spent several of those years asking God to allow our congregation to grow to one thousand people. We always had intuitions and leadings that these people would all show up at once. We didn't know how but that wasn't what God wanted us to be concerned about. He would take care of the 'how'.

Circumstances were such that I started seeking a connection with other larger churches less than a year before I resigned my position. The first church I tried to connect with, was a large church out of Dallas, Texas. Everything moved right along in the process of our exploration of officially connecting. We progressed in connecting with them for about 3 months.

It didn't work out. There were huge roadblocks that put in the way that screamed out 'No!' to what we were pursuing. Within 5 days after realizing that this wasn't our answer, I called my friend, Paul who I mentioned earlier. He attended the third largest church in Dallas. He called his senior minister to see if he had any interest in making a connection.

There had been three things that we had prayed for. We prayed for one thousand people. We prayed for a financial miracle. We had always made our budget but we knew that God wanted us to do more than just

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make it. I prayed that God would expand my horizons and allow me to help people beyond the walls of the church.

Within three weeks, all three of the prayers were answered and all three bigger than we imagined. The church got a renovation that it was needing. The renovation was far more extensive and elaborate than we had imagined. Within 4 weeks, the attendance went from around 200 to becoming a part of a church with over 8,500. Lastly, I got the financial blessing that I needed to finish my two books (including this one) that I needed. I also resigned my position to pursue greater things that God had for me. All three were truly huge, miraculous answers to our prayers.

Nonetheless, some people who had helped me pray for these three things, didn't recognize them as answers to prayer when they came. They complained about 'all these new people'. They didn't like the changes that the larger Dallas church was making. And through feedback that I received, they became jealous that I was now in a place to work on my passion for writing without any other distractions.

The thing is, all three were massive answers to prayers that these very people had helped me pray. Friend, get ready for God to do what you've asked him to do. Let

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me say again, 'he is going to use people to do it'. He always does and he always will.

Still, keep your eyes and heart open to recognize when it is God doing something. God disguises himself as human beings much of the time. But it is still God doing it. Get ready for answers to your prayers.

Start now, asking God for what it is you want regarding your job, career or business. God wants to do what you ask and more. God wants you to be happy. God wants you to be healthy. God wants you to be prosperous in every way in your life. I love to say that God wants us to be 'whole'. Complete. Fulfilled.

This is without question, God's will for your life. Start asking him to lead you and guide you. Ask him to let you meet the right people and have favor with them. It doesn't matter if it is the owner of a business, a manager, a worker, a potential business partner or a mentor who is going to teach you a skill or business. Ask God to direct your steps. He has promised that he would.

He leadings take us in steps. Sometimes there are huge leaps that he causes us to take. Most of the time it is simply steps. He does it that way so that you have the opportunity to grow and mature along the way.

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God's divine order won't put you in a place where you are overwhelmed with responsibility and can't perform the task. He will put you in a place to be challenged but not so much that it is incredibly painful later. He will take you step by step. You will build up to incredible strength bit by bit.

Start asking God now to take you in the direction of your passion and your heart's desire. Then follow the process until you find yourself in the very place where you are happy and fulfilled.

“Father, I now come to you in confidence and trust. You are in control of my life, my finances and my destiny. I ask you boldly, as your child, for the perfect job that you have for me. I have faith to believe that you will cause my path to cross the path of those who are looking for me even as I look for them. I believe that you will meet and exceed all of my expectations for the perfect job you have in store for me. I ask for this job according to your divine order and plan for my life. Amen. So be it now. It is done.”

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Prayer for a Business

Since ancient times, God has placed people in businesses and prospered them beyond imagination. I would never presuppose God's plan for your life, however, I do believe that many people do not enter into business simply due to the fear that has gripped their lives.

God may want you in corporate America, a trade, or serving a corporation. However, be sure that you are working for someone else because you know that it is God's direction for your life. Not simply because you're afraid of going into business for yourself and need the security of someone else to bear the burden of risk associated with owning a business. This is my best and I believe, fair advice regarding your life path and what God has in store for you.

With that said, if you believe and/or know that God has put a certain kind of business in your heart, I want to teach you how to pray for that business and see God do astounding works in it and through it.

First, like Ann I mentioned earlier, make sure that your desire to prosper has more meaning and values attached to than simply you buying a European sports

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car or living in a huge mansion. I believe that God will allow you to live where ever you choose when have your intentions in line with with helping others while you're helping yourself.

Second, decide you are going to allow integrity to rule your business life (as well as your personal life). Anyone who believes that to 'get ahead' you have to hurt others, step on others or do anyone any harm, are those who don't understand how God works.

There is plenty for everyone to prosper. This not the mindset of conventional thinking. However, it is the way God thinks and works. There is more than enough resources in this world for you, your competitors and your employees to all prosper.

I was talking to a man recently who I knew worked for Michael and Natasha, immigrants from the Ukraine. I told this man that I had met Michael and his lovely wife. We talked about our amazement that they came here from the Ukraine and built a very successful motorsports business. I am always fascinated to hear such stories and then to get to meet the people.

One of the first things that this man told me was how generous Michael and Natasha were to their employees. He said, 'I guess it is out of gratitude to

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have come to the United States and have done so well.' This man's exact words was, 'Michael shares his wealth with those who help him make it.'

I already had tremendous respect for Michael and Natasha for coming to the United States and doing what they've done. I didn't know that he treated his employees so well.

The secret that I believe Michael and Natasha know, is that generosity is a lifestyle. I know that they will continue to prosper in everything that they do because of how they believe and the action that they take.

The third aspect of building your own prosper business with God as your partner is, pay your bills on time. Again, this is your 'faith in action'. I realize that there are good business practices in holding a payment in an interest bearing account until it is paid. Nonetheless, pay the bill on time.

Gain the reputation that you 'pay your bills'. It is a much better way to live your life in peace with God and yourself.

The fourth aspect is, have a vision for 'making a difference' instead of just making a fortune. I believe that God puts it within the nature of mankind that you

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know you are here for more than making a lot of money.

Many people that I've met who have become massively wealthy, understand that they are here for a bigger purpose than making money. They are here to make a huge difference. They are here to make a mark on this world that will outlive them. It is far beyond pride or some kind of ego trip. They want to touch the world.

A man wrote me recently and told me that I was 'changing the world' through my books and all the other things that I do associated with that. I told him, 'I don't know if I can change the world, but I do want to touch the world.' At that moment, that man 'was the world'. If I touch his life, then I will indeed touch other's lives as well.

Apply these principles in building your business. Pray accordingly. Watch God answer prayers that you've prayed in building your business and living out your destiny.

“Father, I thank you for putting dreams and visions into my heart. I now set my will and purpose in line with everything you want me to do and accomplish in this life you've given me. I have faith to believe that

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you will not only bless me with money, but indeed, with more things than money can ever buy. I know I'm here to make a difference in other people's lives. I ask for your divine guidance in everything that I do. I pray and know that you will lead me to exactly the place, with the right people and right opportunities that I'm suppose to encounter. I believe that you will do this and more according to your divine purpose, plan and will for my life. Amen. So be it. It is done.”

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Praying for Miracles

Any answer from God is a miracle. When things happen that are quite likely to have never happened without prayer, then you have a miracle. I love it when people tell me that an event that I know was an answer to prayer, was indeed a coincidence.

To every one of those who have suggested to me that something I have labeled a miracle, is coincidence, I tell them, ‘Don’t you wished coincidence worked that much when you bought a lottery ticket?’ I know I do. We might change our attitude towards the lottery as it being a blessing from God rather than a sin *SMILE*.

(Since I brought up the subject of gambling, I'm going to share with you the only reason God would be against gambling. Ah, now I have your attention. The only reason God would be against gambling is, because God wants everyone to win all of the time. I'm confident that the odds are still stacked against your in Las Vegas, the lottery or any other thing that involves that kind of risk. Just my opinion.)

Answers from God are indeed miracles from God to us. God answers prayers and does miracles because he loves and cares so much about our lives.

I heard a skeptic say once, ‘You don’t really believe that when the sea rolled back for Moses that it was some kind of ‘divine intervention (a miracle)’. He went on to explain how that the ancient script says that the wind came and drove the sea back. I told him, ‘the miracle might not have been in the event itself, but wasn’t the timing phenomenal?’

Emerson said, ‘Miracles come to the miraculous, not the arithmetician.’ In other words, miracles come to those who believe in, pray for and expect miracles to happen. Suffice it to say that anytime we receive something from God it is indeed a miracle.

Some people believe in luck. Jean Cocteau said, “We must believe in luck. For how else can we explain the success of those we don t like?” Seriously, believing in luck takes more faith than believing in God.

George Bernard Shaw said, “I don't believe in circumstances (luck). The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them, make them.” There is no symmetry to luck. No consistency.

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Fate is another word people claim that they ‘believe’ in. The human mind says that there must be a reason, a cause of every effect. Miracles are the effect. Prayer is the cause. Faith is the action.

I know that God does miracles. Miracles require faith. They require the steps that I’ve shared with you here. For those who have no faith, they will have no miracles. For them to deny my experience would require them taking on a ‘god-like’ status and power that would truly be unnatural (or supernatural). They don’t know my experience nor what has happened to me in my life.

God does miracles today. The order of the universe proves it to me.

I was contemplating recently why when a solar eclipse takes place, the sun and the moon look to be almost identically the same size except for the aura that we see. I knew that the moon was much smaller than the sun. In fact, the sun is 400 times larger than our moon. It so happens that the moon is 400 times its width from the sun.

Why is that so? Just coincidence. Just luck or fate. I don’t think so. I believe, rather, I know, that God made it that way simply for our fascination and enjoyment.

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I heard a quote from Albert Einstein regarding miracles. He said, 'Either everything is a miracle or nothing is miracle.' I say that everything is. I look around and see the beauty of this world. I look at people and see that massive potential that lies dormant in their lives. We are all 'miracles in the waiting room of life'.

I saved miracles for the last part of this book. The reason I did is that you can't live your life without miracles. Some people never get out of the waiting room of life. They never follow their vision. They never 'believe in the invisible in order to see the impossible.'

My friend, you must step out into the living a miraculous life. Since you've come this far with me in this journey, you can never go back to where you were before you started reading this book.

God wants to bring about the miraculous in your life beginning now.

Believe in God. Believe in God's great power in your life. Believe in yourself. Believe that God is at work in you right now. Believe that God wants to bring about the miraculous in your life. Believe in the power that

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he has given you to imagine, to dream, to have, to do and to accomplish.

Now you know how to pray prayers that God always answers. The biggest miracle in your life is the miracle of going and doing what you've learned here. This book is a starting point . God loves you and has a massive plan for your happiness, success, prosperity, peace, love and much more.

Don't ever look back. Get up and start living it today!