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MARY K. BAXTER
with *GEORGE BLOOMER*

A DIVINE
REVELATION
of
PRAYER



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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A DIVINE REVELATION OF PRAYER

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CONTENTS

Preface	7
Introduction by Mary K. Baxter	13
Introduction by George G. Bloomer	19
1. Is God Really Listening?	25
2. The “How” Is Up to God	49
3. Seeking Answers in False Gods.....	63
4. Communing with the Father	79
5. Lord, Help Me to Pray!.....	101
6. Overcoming Hindrances to Answered Prayer	121
7. A Sacrificed Life	153
8. Attitudes and Qualities of Intercessors.....	169
9. Visions of Deliverance and Answered Prayers.....	193
Epilogue: Changed by His Presence, Ministering through His Power.....	223
Appendix: Your Strategic Plan for Prayer	229
About the Authors.....	252

PREFACE

Do you realize how important you are to God? Your existence is so vital that it says in the Scriptures:

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:26–27)

You have made [man] a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands. (Psalm 8:5–6)

Even though God honored human beings and entrusted them with dominion over the things that He created, humanity’s ability to have dominion was disrupted when the first man and woman disobeyed His command and rejected His ways. We therefore need a restored relationship

with God through Christ in order to exercise true authority in the earth. In addition, our effectiveness and walk of faith are only as strong as our prayer lives and commitment to God.

PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR LIVES

When you begin talking to God and fellowshiping with Him, He responds and gives you His wisdom and knowledge. He shows you who you really are in Christ, and He gives you the power and boldness that you need to intercede for a change not only in your own life, but also in the lives of those around you. Why? Because His powerful anointing affects all who come into its presence.

Today, many people are looking for spiritual enlightenment and a renewed way of thinking about life in general. Most do not know that they are really seeking a restored relationship with God, the heavenly Father, through the Lord Jesus Christ. The harvest of spiritual seekers is great, but many of God's laborers have grown tired and fallen by the wayside. More than ever, prayer is essential for our lives and the lives of others. Without prayer and God's Word, which connect us to the heart and mind of God, we are left to our own imaginations and self-destructive habits.

God longs for us to come to Him for divine guidance. He seizes opportunities to answer us

because in doing so, He is glorified. The Lord does not want us to be left to our own devices. Instead, He admonishes us to seek Him in all things. *“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths”* (Proverbs 3:6). We need to recognize God’s sovereignty and omnipotent ability to give us the answers that we seek.

Many times, we are so busy trying to figure out if God is going to answer our prayers that we unknowingly become hindrances to them by getting in the way and trying to “help” God bless us. He longs to be the Supplier of all our needs. So God does not need our help in blessing us, but He does need us to become obedient vessels, fit for the Master’s use, ready and willing to carry out His commands for the work of His kingdom.

GOD HOLDS THE KEY

Prayer has the ability to show us both our weaknesses and God’s strength. As we are open and honest before God, prayer reveals the real “us.” Nothing is hidden—not even the things we wish He couldn’t see. He sees and knows everything about us, yet prayer will reveal our weaknesses to us so that we will look to Him for His strength.

Despite our weaknesses and failures, God loves us. When we rely on Him, trusting in the

work of Christ to save and empower us, He enables us to be what He has created us to be. Sometimes, we rely on our own words rather than God's power. It is time to let go of religious jargon and embrace the Spirit and omnipotence of God. As we rest in the knowledge that He is our Supplier and lean on His strength and provision, we begin to experience His miraculous works.

A Divine Revelation of Prayer will give you the reassurance of knowing that God has your best interests at heart, even when it seems as if your prayers are not being answered. Continue to “acknowledge Him” and believe in Him as the all-powerful Father. He holds the key that unlocks the door to provision for your every need. Not only does God have the means to meet your need, but also, amazingly enough, if you have sought His will in prayer, with faith, your prayers have already been accomplished in the spiritual realm. (See Mark 11:24.) You are simply waiting for the manifestation of what you have prayed for to appear in the physical realm.

There is no reason to be intimidated by circumstances when you have been given access to the wisdom and power of your God. With a regular prayer life, you can have peace instead of panic in the midst of turmoil. A 2003 Gallup poll revealed that only 35 percent of American Christians have

Preface

“inner contentment even when things go wrong.”¹ How can we get this percentage to increase? By obeying this instruction from the Word of God and encouraging others to do the same: always pray and don’t lose heart. (See Luke 18:1.)

¹ George H. Gallup Jr., “How Are American Christians Living Their Faith?” <http://www.gallup.com/poll/9088/How-American-Christians-Living-Their-Faith.aspx> (accessed March 7, 2008).

INTRODUCTION

by Mary K. Baxter

Some of the most intimate times that I have had with God have occurred during periods of great travail in prayer. It is during these times that God reveals Himself to me in visions, and I am so grateful for having the opportunity to share these mighty visions throughout the world to set the captives free. I am always grateful to God when He reveals to me His secrets through prayer. I rejoice in knowing that He trusts me to engage in spiritual warfare against the kingdom of darkness and to intercede for His mighty acts to be fulfilled. I have learned that everything God reveals to us is important and has a purpose—including the things that are written in His Scriptures, which we often take for granted.

THE NATURE AND POWER OF PRAYER

Prayer Helps Build a Relationship with God

Many of the things that God showed me during my visions did not actually come to pass in

the natural until years later. That is why I always like to stress the nature and power of prayer. Unless we talk to God and learn to recognize His voice, we become impatient when things in life do not go as we had planned. As we build a relationship with God, however, we learn to live in a place of contentment where, regardless of what is going on around us, we can see beyond the natural sphere and into the spiritual realm. God always has a bigger picture and a better plan than we can fathom.

Prayer Has No Boundaries

I have also learned that prayer has no boundaries. I have often called upon intercessors to agree with me in prayer, and whether they were sitting beside me or miles away on the phone, the result remained the same: God heard and answered. Once, while praying with an intercessor whom I'd recently met, I realized that she was the person I'd had a vision about years prior to our meeting! This and other miraculous occurrences are included in the chapters that follow, along with divine revelation of what is actually taking place in the spiritual realm while we pray, so that you can build your faith and have your own amazing experiences with God through prayer. For instance, we don't realize how pleased God is when we submit ourselves as living sacrifices

to Him, and how He receives us upon His altar in heaven.

Prayer Needs to Be Combined with a Pure Heart

God is holy, and it is vital to approach the Lord in prayer with a pure heart. This does not mean that you will never wrestle with issues, because God gave us the gift of prayer as a means to communicate with Him and to receive His help and healing in the midst of our many personal struggles. Going to God with a pure heart means that your intentions are without guile or bitterness. For instance, you wouldn't want to go to the most holy God just because you were angry at your brother or sister and ask the Lord to bring misfortune in that person's life. This displeases God, and it is not what God designed prayer to accomplish.

Prayer Needs to Be Combined with God's Word

The Word of God is truth. It is to be respected, and it is to be the basis of our prayers. It is the spiritual Manual that He has given us as a weapon against the kingdom of darkness. Again, God has a purpose for everything He has written in His Word. He wants us to include His Word in our prayers, in order to show Him we are trusting in His promises and are expecting Him to fulfill them. We also must know His Word so

that we can counteract the accusations the devil brings against us. (See Romans 8:1; Revelation 12:10–11.) Finally, the Word helps us to become familiar with God’s ways so we will not become vulnerable to the deception and false teachings of others, who can be wolves in sheep’s clothing. (See Matthew 7:15.)

Prayer Reveals God’s Will

Not only that, but as we learn to talk with God, we also find out what we are meant to be and do in our lives. Perhaps you have wondered, *God, what is my calling; what is my purpose? Why have You placed me on this earth? What is the larger picture for my existence?* The answers to these and many other questions can be found by diligently seeking the Lord in prayer. God has a purpose for our existence. Though we may not always understand Him, He is always ready to lead us, even in our reluctance to follow. I want you to know that God loves you and continually has your best interests at heart. When you know your purpose and become diligent in fulfilling it, you allow nothing or no one to get in the way of accomplishing what God has shown you by His Spirit.

Diligence is a must because, again, God does not always manifest answers to prayer right away. He allows us to go through certain experiences

Introduction by Mary K. Baxter

in life so that when He does present us with an answer, we are capable of handling what He says and does. God knows that we are not yet ready to handle some of the things that we *think* we can handle. Therefore, He shields us, just as a parent shields a child who is learning to take her first steps into a new stage of life. Prayer equips you with the ability to receive God's divine guidance and not to become weary in doing good. (See 2 Thessalonians 3:13.)

My prayer for you as you read this book is that you will be filled with the anointing of God, that you will gain a greater revelation of God's omnipotence, and that you will receive an outpouring of His Spirit as never before. I praise God that *A Divine Revelation of Prayer* will go all over the world and set people free. I thank the Lord that I can share with you the nuggets He has given to me. God bless you. I love you very much.

Dear Heavenly Father,

May Your power touch the person who is reading this book. May he or she feel Your anointing with every page. I pray that whatever strongholds have been binding this individual and his or her family will be loosed in the name of Jesus. May this book be a weapon to transform lives for Your glory and honor. May Your peace,

which passes all human understanding, fill Your people, and may we find Your sanctity in our hearts. Father, I come against the kingdom of darkness, against the principalities and powers that have been blinding Your people from seeing You in all Your glory. May we be continually enlightened, and may our growth in You increase as never before!

In Jesus' name, amen.

—*Mary K. Baxter*

INTRODUCTION

by George G. Bloomer

As a pastor, I am often confronted with the question, “Bishop Bloomer, why hasn’t God answered my prayers?” While there may be a number of reasons for a seeming delay in answered prayer, these truths are very clear: (1) God wants us to pray, (2) He desires to reveal Himself to us, and (3) He wants to answer our prayers:

This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it—the LORD is his name: “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:2–3 NIV)

Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. (Mark 11:24)

This book explores reasons why your prayers don’t seem to be answered, so you can move past

doubt and confusion and strengthen your faith in God and His purposes. It also reveals what occurs in the heavenly realm when you pray, and how God wants to use your prayers to effect His will in the world.

PRAYER BRINGS SPIRITUAL HELP AND CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

We hear so much about “the power of prayer” that many Christians have become complacent about it. Yet this phrase is not a cliché. The power of prayer is real. God is so intent on answering our prayers that He has gifted us with a direct path to His heart. For Jesus promised, “*If you ask anything in My name, I will do it*” (John 14:14).

I often pray and intercede for individuals who seem shocked when the answers to their prayers finally arrive. We have become so accustomed to saying words that we sometimes forget that we are communicating with an all-knowing and all-powerful God. When you pray, your prayers are heard in heaven, and God sends His angels to do His bidding on your behalf. You must realize that prayer is not a ritual. It is not just talking to yourself. It is a powerful vehicle for personal spiritual help as well as cultural transformation.

PRAYER STRENGTHENS US FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

When you pray and commit your concerns to God, you become an awesome threat to the devil's kingdom because he knows that you will not go down without a fight. The devil realizes that he is no longer fighting a mere man or woman, but instead One within you who is infinitely greater than he. (See 1 John 4:4.) He knows his strategy must become much more cunning and deceptive to accomplish his purposes. He wants to cause you to walk away from God long enough to inflict his demonic damage. He attempts to put more on you than you think you can bear, in hopes that you will begin to question your God, give up, and even renounce your faith. Don't fall for it! *"Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 15:58). God recognizes perseverance and is a Rewarder of those who continue to diligently seek Him in prayer. (See Hebrews 11:6.)

The spiritual battle we are engaged in is much like a boxing match. Once a boxer sees his opponent's weakness, he uses it to his advantage. He begins pounding at the spot where he has already inflicted the most damage because he knows that it will be only a matter of time before his opponent buckles to his knees.

The devil has the same strategy. Whether it's your health, your family, your career, your finances, or another aspect of your life, he will study the area where the most damage seems to have been inflicted and continue pounding it, waiting patiently for you to surrender to him. Your job is to tell the devil that the only person to whom you will surrender is God, and for Him only will you fall to your knees!

My prayer for you is that you will have faith, perseverance, and power:

Father God,

I come against every demonic distraction that will attempt to hinder Your revelation from going forth to the reader of this book. I pray that even now his or her life will begin to change. May Your people gain a greater knowledge of Your power, and may their faith be built up. I pray that You will open their spirits to You, and that they will begin to see the manifestation of Your Word in action. Lord, cover them and give them a deeper revelation of the power of prayer. Anoint them with power, not only for themselves, but also for others, so that they may lay hands on the sick and see them recover, rebuke the devil and bring deliverance

Introduction by George G. Bloomer

to the oppressed, and proclaim the gospel for the salvation of many. May the anointing of Your Holy Spirit be “contagious” to all who come in contact with Your people from this day forth.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

—*George G. Bloomer*

Chapter 1

IS GOD REALLY LISTENING?

Do you ever feel as if God isn't listening? Do your prayers seem to have gone unanswered? Many Christians who are seeking a deeper relationship with God, as well as more effective service for Him, secretly struggle with an inner battle between faith in God and uncertainty that He will answer their prayers. We wrestle with our sinful nature, the attacks of Satan, and life's trials. If we continually expect to see physical results as soon as we rise from our knees in prayer, the tendency to doubt God can become a recurring habit. Yet we can be encouraged by knowing that even though we do not visibly see God at work, He is actively answering our requests in the spiritual realm.

Time and distance are no match for Almighty God. Some of the prayers you prayed years ago are just beginning to manifest.

Beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise. (2 Peter 3:8–9)

A STARTLING DISCOVERY

There is a world beyond what we can see physically. And there are spiritual activities going on in the earthly realm that are totally invisible to those who live in the finite world of humanity. Some years ago, I was praising the Lord while going about the day's business when suddenly the Lord spoke to me and said, "Start praying." I started praying and praying in the Spirit. I asked God, "Lord, what is this?" and again I continued interceding. A vision appeared before me of an airplane circling over the ocean. I watched and said, "Oh, my God! Something is wrong with the plane." I didn't understand all of this. I just prayed and prayed for almost four hours, and then the vision lifted. I continued going about my daily chores, and then my children came home from school. After that incident, every once in a while, I would think of that prayer, so I wrote it down.

Years went by, and we eventually moved to another state. There I met a dear friend of mine,

Is God Really Listening?

and we were talking about experiences with God and having a good time in the Lord. I shared with her, “Once I had a vision, but I never got an answer to it. I did not hear anything about it on television or anything, but in the vision I saw a plane circling over the ocean, and I knew the plane was in danger.” All of a sudden my friend looked startled. “What did you say? What did you say?” she kept asking. So I told her again and she said, “I was on that plane.”

“What do you mean?”
I asked.

“My husband was in the military. We were stationed overseas, and I had to fly on this plane with one of the children coming back into America. In flight, we were told by the pilot that there was a problem with the plane and we had to circle over the ocean because we couldn’t land until they let us. This went on until they finally let us land and we got off the plane, but we never knew the amount of danger we were in. They told us later that there had actually been a bomb on that plane. When they finally found it in a suitcase, they took it out over the ocean and dropped the suitcase in the water and the bomb

*Even when we
don't visibly see
God at work,
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our requests in
the spiritual
realm.*

went off. I was so afraid when I was on that plane, and I was praying to God to spare my life.”

I responded, “This happened twenty years ago, and even though I was in Michigan and you were flying back from in Saudi Arabia, God connected us to pray because you called on the Lord to help you. He saw an intercessor who prayed, and because of that, not only was your life spared, but the lives of everyone on the whole airplane.”

*What the devil
meant for evil,
God turned
around for
His glory.*

“Yes,” she answered, “an entire airplane filled with people.”

All I could say was, “What a God we serve!” Only God could hear—and answer—the prayers of His servant. What the devil

meant for evil, God turned around for His glory.

This is the same God you serve. Think of Him as the Great Physician. He has already diagnosed your ailment and prescribed the cure for whatever your needs and concerns are. All He asks in return is that you trust Him and follow His instructions. In the physical world, when your medical doctor prescribes medicine for an ailment, you do not always know what ingredients you’re taking. However, you trust in the expertise

Is God Really Listening?

of the physician and take your daily dose as instructed. You believe that you will be healed, or at least relieved, of your malady. You may not immediately feel the results, but you know that as you continue taking the medication according to the instructions, your body will eventually begin to respond and heal.

Exercising this same patience and diligence regarding the things of God, however, can sometimes seem much more challenging. Why is it so easy to trust natural physicians yet seemingly so hard to trust the Healer of the world—our Lord and Savior—so that we continually doubt Him?

REASONS PRAYERS DON'T SEEM TO BE ANSWERED

The Season Has Not Yet Come

One reason our prayers may not seem to be answered is that the season has not yet come for God to reveal the full manifestation of the answer. Some prayers are answered more swiftly than others. God does not make mistakes in His answers or His timing: *“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven”* (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

There is a time and a season for everything—God’s appointed time. A seeming delay in an

answer to prayer does not indicate that He hasn't heard us, nor does it mean that He has not answered. We can rest assured that He has heard every word. Yet He is not pressured to "hurry up" and show us a sign in order to prove His presence and power to act on our behalf. We just have to trust Him and know that when we pray according to His will, what He has already completed in the invisible realm will be manifested upon the earth, as well.

Though the "vision" sometimes tarries, you must still wait for it because, at its appointed time, it will surely come. (See Habakkuk 2:3.) In other words, the things that God has shown you, the things that He has promised, and the things that are ordained by Him will come to pass.

Demonic Interference

Just because we do not see the physical manifestation of our prayers in action does not mean that God has not answered. A classic example of this truth is revealed in the book of Daniel. Daniel was humbly praying to God for three weeks as he sought understanding and guidance about a vision he had been given about the future of the Israelites. His answer came after those weeks, and the angel who brought him the answer explained that Daniel had been heard the first day he had begun to pray. The angel also said that he

Is God Really Listening?

was sent in response to Daniel's prayer, but that he had been held up while fighting against strong demonic forces that were resisting him. (See Daniel 10:1–14.)

Therefore, we may not receive an immediate answer to our prayers because of demonic resistance, and we must continue to pray and perhaps engage in spiritual warfare before seeing the answer. As you pray and intercede, you will receive a breakthrough. No demon or principality from hell can stop God's purpose from being fulfilled.

*What God has
promised and
ordained will
come to pass.*

I remember getting up bright and early one morning to intercede for one of my sisters, who lived in Oklahoma at the time. Again, this was years ago when my children were still young, so after getting them off to school, I went into prayer. I was holding my stomach and praying like a woman having a baby, and I just kept praying and praying for hours. The phone would ring or someone would knock on the door, but I wouldn't allow anything or anyone to distract me. I just kept pressing and travailing for her in the Lord. I made up my mind that nothing was going to hinder me from interceding until I received a breakthrough.

I went to the top of the stairs and sat down. I put my hands over my eyes, hung my head, and said, “God, my sister needs prayer so bad.” All at once, I had a vision. I saw her home, and inside it I saw a big, thick, black blanket-like covering in her bedroom hovering over her and her husband. As I continued looking at it, it began to descend upon them and try to smother them. Suddenly, I saw angels come in the room with swords drawn and fire coming out of the swords. The angels began removing that dark shadow, and it disintegrated. The angels were praising the Lord, and I felt relief from the prayer. Later, she shared with me how it felt as if something had attempted to smother them to death. God had used me to pray against this demonic attack.

Ill-conceived Prayer

Some prayers are not answered at all in the sense that we do not receive what we specifically ask for. However, this does not mean that God has not heard us and that the Spirit is not interceding on our behalf. (See Romans 8:26.) When you pray with the mind-set that God’s will is going to be fulfilled in your life, you thank Him for caring about you so much that He does not answer requests that would be bad for you in the long run. God generously answers the prayers that promote our good, not our harm.

Is God Really Listening?

Praying without Expecting

Another reason prayer may not show results is that when you continue to pray without expectation of an answer, you eventually develop doubt, and a lack of faith blocks answers to prayer.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

(Hebrews 11:6)

God is concerned about our needs being met, and He rejoices when we exercise our faith in Him through prayer. In Matthew 7, the Lord reminds us that when we earnestly seek Him, He does not ignore us, but He gives us the desires of our hearts, according to His perfect will.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much

*more will your Father who is in heaven
give good things to those who ask Him!*

(Matthew 7:7–11)

I have learned that when I seek the Lord, He answers me. He may answer in a still small voice. (See 1 Kings 19:11–12.) He may show me in a vision, or I might get a telephone call and receive my answer from God through one of His chosen vessels because I pray in expectation. “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*” (Hebrews 11:1). If you are not receiving anything, it may be because you’ve stopped asking—or stopped believing.

FAITH MUST LEAD THE WAY

The conduit between prayer and manifestation is *faith*. When it seems as if God is not listening, faith must lead the way until the manifestation of what you have been praying for becomes a visible reality. This is why the devil plays tricks with our minds to make us think that God does not care: Satan wants us to become so frustrated that we begin to doubt the Lord. The result of our doubting is that we often try to self-medicate our spiritual wounds with earthly alternatives, such as escapism or taking action on impulse, which unfortunately may yield temporary relief but long-lasting bad results.

Is God Really Listening?

Yet Matthew 6:8 reminds us, “*Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*” Without a doubt, God is listening. If God knows what your needs are before you even ask Him, then surely He hears both your inner thoughts and those that are outwardly vocalized through prayer. You need spiritual discernment and faith to believe that He will manifest your answer in the natural world.

Jesus did the works of God on a consistent basis, and He said something astounding in John 14:12–14:

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

The role of faith is to transfer us from a human way of thinking to a spiritual mind-set, so that we no longer think or act based upon our physical limitations. Rather, we accomplish seemingly impossible feats as we are led by the Spirit of God. God can't wait to answer your prayers. Many of us have heard the above words of Jesus

recited on numerous occasions, but now we must truly receive them as applicable to our lives.

What is the requirement for experiencing God's divine manifestations? Believe in Jesus Christ.

What happens to those who believe? The works that Jesus did, you will be able to accomplish, also.

Because Jesus returned to God, our heavenly

*Can you
imagine what
would happen
if we really
believed the
Word without
wavering?*

Father, and gave us the gift of the indwelling and empowering Holy Spirit, we who believe will continue to carry on His mission. We will do even greater works in His name, for the glory of the Father.

Whatever you ask in Jesus' name, the Lord will fulfill according to His will. Jesus loves it when we call upon His name to answer our requests. He receives it as worship, and as if we're saying, "Lord, You are sovereign, and only You can fulfill my need. I believe in You and have the faith that You are answering my prayers as only You can." Jesus repeated His desire that we use the authority of His name in

Is God Really Listening?

prayer: “*If you ask anything in My name, I will do it*” (John 14:14).

Can you imagine what would happen to us if we really believed the Word of God without wavering? Miracles would increase in our churches; more of us would lay hands on the sick and see them recover; people would begin to take Christians seriously; and even those who hate us would not be able to deny the anointing that would reign in our lives.

This is the type of faith that David had, even before he became king of Israel. He didn’t flee from challenges. David often got into trouble with his elders for coming against problems that were much bigger than he but much smaller than the God whom he served. Despite the constant criticism, David did not waver in faith when faced with adversity.

In 1 Samuel 17, David encountered the Philistine giant, Goliath, whom even the armies of Israel feared. David was just a boy at this point. Yet when he was rebuked by his oldest brother, Eliab, David did not even acknowledge the risk associated with such a challenge. Instead, he insisted, “*What have I done now? Is there not a cause?*” (1 Samuel 17:29). In other words, David demanded to know the nature of his brother’s problem with him. His way of thinking was, *There is a cause*

that needs to be fulfilled. I don't see anyone else volunteering to take out this Philistine, so why shouldn't I just go down there and take care of him myself?

Despite his small stature, David had faith in God. So great was his faith that he became offended by the fact that anyone would have the audacity to come against God's servants: "*For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?*" (1 Samuel 17:26). All too often, when we undergo spiritual battles, our anger is misdirected. Instead of becoming angry at God for the circumstances we face, we should be like David and direct that anger toward God's enemy by defeating the devil with the Word of God. David was able to have faith in God because he had spent much time with Him in worship and in meditation on God's Word. In response, the Lord had already revealed and proven to David the power that he possessed through faith in Him.

Through God, therefore, David had the power to overcome obstacles much greater than he. When King Saul brought to David's attention that he was only a lad and the Philistine had been "*a man of war from his youth*" (1 Samuel 17:33), David simply responded, "*The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the*

Is God Really Listening?

paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine” (1 Samuel 17:37). No one—not even the king—could dissuade David from operating by the power of God.

When you are possessed with power from on high, and you know it, there is nothing that anyone can say or do to convince you to doubt God. You don't go into prayer with wishful thinking but with great expectation. You understand that although things in the natural look impossible to defeat, God is limitless in power and might. With Him on your side, you are operating not by your own strength but by His power. “*Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,*” says the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6).

DON'T LOSE HEART!

We all go through phases where we question whether or not God is going to show up on our behalf to defeat the giants that confront us in life. But 2 Corinthians 4 gives us the hope that we need to continue persevering:

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of

glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

(2 Corinthians 4:16–18)

This passage tells us...

- Don't lose heart.
- Regardless of what it looks like on the outside, our strength is being renewed by God within.
- The things that we face are not as big as they appear, for there is always an even greater picture of hope.
- Don't focus so much on what is going on in the natural. It's what is going on in the spiritual realm that counts.
- The things that we can see (our circumstances) are temporary, but the things that we cannot see (God working on our behalf and transforming us into the image of the Lord Jesus) are securing our eternity in glory.

It's always discouraging to see someone suddenly give up when he or she is very close to a miracle. Even when you are weak and perhaps feel as if there is a breach between you and God, the Lord will still give you what you need to persevere. To

Is God Really Listening?

the weak who trust Him, God gives power. To those who feel that they have utterly no might at all, He continues to increase strength. (See Isaiah 40:29.) God loves it when we talk to Him and come to Him for strength when we feel weak. God wants you to lay everything that is bothering you at His feet. “Cast...all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). You have to take quality time with God and put Him first. And if you will put God first, He will replenish you.

Regardless of what is taking place in your immediate surroundings, never give up on God, because He will never give up on you.

“He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’” (Hebrews 13:5). Wait on God, and you will soon possess the power to fly over every hindrance that has restrained you from rising to fulfill the call of God—the call that He has entrusted you to carry out according to His will.

Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

(Isaiah 40:31)

MIRACULOUS EXPERIENCES WITH GOD IN PRAYER

It's time for men, women, boys, and girls to turn back to God and pray. I have had many miraculous experiences with God in prayer, and He has proven His love for me time and again. Talking to the Father and relying upon Him for guidance helps to build a stronger relationship with Him. In addition, not only will God give you spiritual insight for your own trials, but He also will anoint you through prayer to intercede for others.

There are so many wonderful benefits in talking to our Father. I have learned that everything God reveals to us is important and has a purpose. As a servant of the Lord, my calling is in visions and revelations. Seeking God in prayer has brought forth these spiritual manifestations. I often arise early in the morning to seek His face, and I look forward to being used as His vessel to bless others and spread His gospel.

I want to encourage you and build up your faith by sharing some remarkable experiences that I have had with God through visions and the power of prayer. I get very excited when I share with others the relevance of prayer because talking to the Lord and listening to Him has transformed my life.

Is God Really Listening?

A type of vision that has special significance for me is one in which I have seen beams of light. These light beams were small at the bottom, but they expanded as they neared the heavens. I realized that what appeared as bright lights were actually the prayers of the people, and they were very beautiful. Angels gathered the words of these prayers onto scrolls and placed them in specific areas in heaven.

Sometimes, I saw prayers that resembled thousands of sheets of paper stacked to the height of a large monument. The Lord told me they were a memorial to the intercessors of the earth who were praying with pure hearts.

*God wants you
to build positive
experiences
with Him
in prayer.*

Again, Satan wants to fill you with frustration and anger over the circumstances in your life, so that you not only neglect to pray for yourself, but you also refuse to pray for anyone else. He wants to keep you from seeking God for answers. I really believe that if people would turn back to God, many of the situations of this world would be forced to change. God has everything that we need, and He is prepared to bless us abundantly when we put Him first.

LETTING GOD TAKE OVER

You may feel as if you have been through so many heartaches and sorrows that you are at the brink of utter despair, but don't give up on God. He will cushion you as He leads you out of the thorns and thickets of the devil's snares. God will walk you through the storms. He has never failed, and He has never forsaken us. He wants you to begin building positive experiences with Him and to overcome things in your life that have been bogging you down. Perhaps you are experiencing trials, sadness, abandonment, uncertainty, confusion, or doubt. Perhaps you have certain habits that you would like to overcome, such as drug addiction, drinking, swearing, anxiety, anger, or gossiping. Our mighty God can help you overcome all of these things and more! Just talk to Him and ask Him. He has power beyond any other power on earth to deliver you if you call upon His name.

Psalm 145 expresses God's love for us:

The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.

(Psalm 145:17-19)

Is God Really Listening?

The Lord is righteous and gracious “*in all His works*” (verse 17). He works in ways that are “*exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think*” (Ephesians 3:20). He hears and answers. When you humbly turn to God like a little child (see Matthew 18:3), you attract His blessings. He will enable you to mature in Him as you reach out to Him in prayer. That is why the devil uses whatever distractions that he possibly can to keep us from reaching out to God.

If you are away from God or have become discouraged, turning back to Him is only a prayer away. You may not know how to pray or understand everything about prayer, but that’s all right. You will learn. In the meantime, pour out your heart to God and give your life completely to Him for His direction and protection.

Of course, it’s vital for you first to be born again. Ask Jesus to come into your heart, forgive you of all your sins, wash you in His blood, and save your soul. Share your heart with Him. You can say, “Lord, here I am today. I’ve made mistakes, and I’ve sinned. Please forgive me through Jesus’ sacrifice for me. I know You are here to help me overcome. And I know that as I draw closer to You and receive Your strength, these things will fall away and I will no longer continue to do them.”

This is all God wants—earnest and honest communication. Don't stop praying to God just because you have made a mistake. As you turn to Him and He continually strengthens you, He will eventually make you an overcomer.

When you invite the Lord Jesus Christ into your life, you begin to change by the power of His presence. You begin to exude the presence of your future residence—heaven. You don't have to wait until you get to heaven to experience its tranquility; you can have the peace of heaven right here on earth. (See John 14:27.)

OPEN DOORS TO UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

Prayer is a door opener. If we would only believe the Word of the Lord without wavering, we could experience the fulfillment of many of our hopes and dreams. If we would only take a stand and talk to God, not only when we are in trouble, but also for the purpose of ongoing fellowship with Him, then our faith would be strengthened and we would not be moved easily by the devil's intimidation and deception.

The only way to see the type of positive change that many of us need in our lives is to build a stronger prayer life. I believe that as we turn back to God and begin to pray to Him as never before,

Is God Really Listening?

God will send us a great blessing from heaven. He will deliver our children from drugs, mend our families, and intervene for us, because He is our God, and He loves us. I pray that God will use this book to help millions overcome their hindrances and come closer to God by building a deeper relationship with Him through divine communication.