

Prayers
that get
RESULTS

Prayers
that get
RESULTS

Tom Brown



WHITAKER
HOUSE

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*®, NIV®, © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the *New King James Version*, © 1979, 1980, 1982, 1984 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. Scripture quotations marked (AMP) are taken from the *Amplified® Bible*, © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org). Scripture quotations marked (PHILLIPS) are from *The New Testament in Modern English*, © 1958, 1959, 1960, 1972 by J. B. Phillips, and © 1947, 1952, 1955, 1957 by The Macmillan Company. Scripture quotations marked (TLB) are taken from *The Living Bible*, © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.

Note: The bold emphasis in the Scripture quotations is the author's. Some definitions of Hebrew and Greek words are taken from the electronic versions of *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (© 1980, 1986, and assigned to World Bible Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.).

PRAYERS THAT GET RESULTS

Tom Brown
P.O. Box 27275
El Paso, TX 79926
(915) 855-9673 / www.tbm.org

ISBN: 978-1-60374-562-8
Printed in the United States of America
© 2012 by Tom Brown

Whitaker House
1030 Hunt Valley Circle
New Kensington, PA 15068
www.whitakerhouse.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data (pending)

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical—including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system—without permission in writing from the publisher. Please direct your inquiries to permissionseditor@whitakerhouse.com.

Contents

Introduction	7
--------------------	---

Part I: Different Types of Prayer

1. The Prayer of Submission	13
2. The Prayer of Faith	22
3. The Prayer of Petition	33
4. The Prayer of Agreement	44
5. The Prayer of Release	53
6. The Prayer of Praise	62
7. Prayer in the Spirit	75
8. The Prayer of Intercession	86
9. The Prayer of Binding and Loosing	100

Part II: Principles of Answered Prayer

10. A Universal Principle of Prayer	120
11. Why Some Prayers Go Unanswered	128
12. Common Mistakes Praying People Make	131

Part III: Steps to Answered Prayer

13. Step One: Think Big with God	146
--	-----

14. Step Two: Depend on Christ's Merits.....	157
15. Step Three: Stand on God's Word	168
16. Step Four: Ask and Receive.....	181
17. Step Five: Forgive/Repent	188
18. Step Six: Engage in Spiritual Warfare.....	199
Conclusion: How to Pray the Lord's Prayer	215
About the Author	224

Introduction

I can't claim that every prayer of mine has been answered, but I have learned enough from the Bible and experience to be able to rejoice greatly for the many answers my prayers *have* received.

I think of Julian, a nine-year-old boy who had been born blind. His mother brought him to the Good Friday service at my church in El Paso, Texas. As I prayed for him, I used a prayer found in Scripture: "*Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus*" (Acts 4:30). As soon as I said that prayer, God opened Julian's eyes. He could see! His mother brought him to the platform and wept as she testified to her son's healing. I talked with Julian, and I asked him, "Can you really see?" Julian nodded and began to cry with joy, because God had opened his eyes. There was not a dry eye in the entire church. The people there had witnessed a real miracle of biblical proportion.

I also remember Ron. He had recently gotten saved and had been attending our church for several weeks. He came to me after a Sunday service and said, "Pastor Brown, I want so much for my wife, Margaret, to experience what I have with the Lord. But she doesn't seem interested."

I showed him Matthew 18:19, "*If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my*

Father in heaven,” and we began to pray. I felt led by the Lord to pray that Ron’s wife would be saved the following Sunday. After our prayer, I asked Ron to tell his wife that Pastor Brown had prayed for her salvation and that she was going to become saved the very next Sunday. He did exactly what I asked him to. The following week, I saw Ron come into church for the Sunday service, accompanied for the first time by his wife. Margaret was saved that day. She later told me that she had been curious about attending church because of my boldness in announcing that she would get saved. Since that day, Ron and Margaret have served faithfully as leaders in our church.

Through my prayers, I have seen incurable sicknesses healed, witnessed the hardest of sinners saved, received wisdom in the most confusing of situations, won favor with my adversaries, been given unexpected money to meet a need, watched the demon possessed return to their normal minds, and observed intimacy restored to loveless marriages.

Nothing is impossible with God when we pray effectively. The key word is *effectively*. Anyone can pray, but far too few Christians know how to pray effectively. The Bible says, “*The prayer of a righteous man [or woman!] is powerful and effective*” (James 5:16). The word “*powerful*” means “mighty, without limits.” Nothing is too difficult or beyond God’s ability to change. And the word “*effective*” means “able to produce the intended results.” *Results* are what we are after in this book.

A Primary Purpose of Prayer

Carl had just received news from his doctor that he had a malignant tumor and that he had only six months left to live. Carl needed God to miraculously heal him.

Betsy found out that her husband was seeing another woman and was planning to divorce her. Betsy needed God to change her husband.

John and Mary had discovered that their son was taking drugs. They needed their son to be freed from the bondage of addiction.

Ralph had been laid off and didn't know how he was going to provide for his family. Ralph needed a job.

Cecilia discovered the reason for her mood swings when she was diagnosed with manic depression. Cecilia needed God to break the spirit of depression.

Lauren had been presented with an opportunity that had the potential to either make him a great deal of money or bankrupt him completely. Lauren needed wisdom.

Pastor Jacob was crushed because the city wouldn't give his church the building permit it needed to expand. Pastor Jacob needed God's favor with the city council.

Angelina was devastated to hear that she was not able to bear children. Angelina needed her womb healed.

These people may remind you of situations in your own life. It is troubles like these that drive us to pray. While trouble should not be the only thing that compels us to pray to God, let's not fool ourselves; trouble in life has a way of bringing us to our knees. As the Bible says, "*Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray*" (James 5:13). One of the primary purposes of prayer is to ask God to deliver us from trouble.

How This Book Is Arranged

This book is divided into three parts. Part I explores a variety of prayers in depth, showing how they relate to specific

circumstances and cover certain needs. Not all prayers are the same. One prayer may work better for health, while another one may work better for marriage. You need to know what kind of prayer to pray for each situation. Part II examines why some prayers go unanswered and details common mistakes Christians often make when they pray. Part III deals with the steps you can take to receive answers to your prayers. The book concludes with an overview of the Lord's Prayer. In a matter of just a few chapters, you will be on your way to praying effectively. In its entirety, this book is meant to help you develop a deeper prayer life characterized by longer, more meaningful prayers.

Perhaps you have not enjoyed praying; it feels more like a chore. Of course, that's only natural when you are not seeing results. But, once you begin to see your prayers answered, it will be hard for you *not* to pray. You'll be praying as much as physically possible once you understand how to pray in a way that receives answers. Again, this book is all about results.

If you are interested in praying only out of a desire to sound religious, this book is not for you. But, if you are longing to see your prayers answered, you have found the right resource. Let's embark on this exciting journey to the limitless realm of prayer!

Part I

Different Types of Prayer

Chapter 1

The Prayer of Submission

“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

—Mark 14:36

The end was near. Jesus had finished His teaching and healing mission; now, it was time to complete His sacrificial mission. The cross was before Him. He knew it meant that He would be separated from the Father. But He also knew that this was the reason He had come to earth. He had to take the sin of the world upon Himself. Could there be any other way? Maybe salvation could be achieved without a sacrifice. His wish for another way gave Him some hope that, perhaps, one existed. The only thing for Him to do was to pray. And pray He did.

Imagine what this scene must have been like. He asked three of His disciples to pray with Him. He felt the weight of the world on His shoulders. His spirit was in agony. He could take it no longer; He fell to His knees. Before He uttered anything too quickly, He paused for a moment and considered God’s love for Him. God was His Father! He knew that. Then, He began to contemplate the power of God. Anything was possible with Him—He knew that, also. With these

two great truths, He opened His mouth and asked God for a contingency plan: “*Abba, Father, he said, ‘everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me’*” (Mark 14:36). There was still some hope that God would make another way. Yet, His mind was pressed by the nagging thought that the cross was God’s only way. Then, He prayed a prayer of submission, saying, “*Yet not what I will, but what you will*” (Mark 14:36).

This single prayer did not satisfy Jesus. He prayed the same words again with slight adjustments. Nothing changed, other than His disciples’ falling asleep, despite His request that they keep watch with Him. (See, for example, Mark 14:37–41.) The disciples did not sense the urgency of the moment. Christ alone knew what was about to happen. After realizing He had been left alone to pray, Jesus prayed a second time, but, in this case, His words suggested resignation: “*My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done*” (Matthew 26:42). After this, a third time He prayed, “*saying the same thing*” (Matthew 26:44). With those final words, His prayer was answered—not in the removing of the cup but in His receiving the strength and comfort He needed. An angel appeared and gave Him the power He sought to fulfill the will of God. (See Luke 22:43.)

The prayer of submission is the most important type of prayer because it is the foundation of all other kinds of prayer. Unless you learn to pray the prayer of submission, none of the other types of prayer will work for you.

A Life Submitted to God

Jesus’ prayer in the garden of Gethsemane was not the only time when He submitted Himself to the Father. In

fact, His entire life was an act of submission. The writer of Hebrews recorded what Jesus said regarding His entry into the world: “*I have come to do your will, O God*” (Hebrews 10:7). Jesus did not come to the earth for Himself; He came to serve the Father. Thus, the purpose of prayer is never to accomplish human will but always to bring God’s will to fruition. If you approach prayer as a means to an end—the meeting of your personal desires—you’re missing the point. You must see prayer as a process of linking yourself with God so that He can work through you. Any other understanding is inferior and even erroneous.

In fact, the reason God answered every prayer of Christ’s—prayers to heal, prayers to raise the dead, prayers to calm storms, prayers to drive out demons, prayers to save the lost—was that Jesus was submitting Himself through prayer. As the writer of Hebrews explained it, “*During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission*” (Hebrews 5:7). You can ask God for anything, and He will give it to you, but only if your life is submitted to Him.

Learning to Submit

The main purpose of the prayer of submission is to overcome personal temptations and sins. So often, believers pray for more money or for healing, forgetting that the most important thing to pray for is help in overcoming sin. The prayer of submission was designed for this request.

In this fallen world, all of us are continually tempted to go our own way, to do our own thing. The disciples did just this after Jesus was arrested. Peter struck the ear of the servant of

the high priest, who was among those who had come to take Him, while the others scattered in fear. They responded in the flesh because they had failed to pray along with Christ that they would not fall into temptation. Prayer could have kept them in the Spirit. We fall into temptation not because we are weak or the temptation is too strong but because we have not prayed as we should have. Effective prayers, especially prayers of submission, keep us walking in the will of God.

Listen to the Lord, Not Man

I was teaching at a Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship meeting where I shared my story of salvation and being called into ministry. As I did, I noticed one man who seemed to be especially affected by my message. He was tall, with thinning blond hair, and he was hanging on my every word. After the meeting, he came up to me and introduced himself. "Hello, I'm Barney Field," he said. "Your story touched me. I am a businessman, and I'm totally dissatisfied with what I'm doing. I feel a call into ministry, but, to obey God, I would have to sell my business and lose a steady income. I don't know what to do."

Many people would have advised Barney to stay in business, because, after all, there is a need for Christian businesspeople, just as there is a need for more Christian pastors. Other people might have cautioned Barney, asking him if he was not mistaken that he had heard God's call into ministry. But I know that God often calls us to do difficult things, just as Jesus called all of His disciples to leave everything and follow Him. (See, for example, Matthew 8:19–22.) I said to Barney, "You have to pray and tell God that you are willing to obey Him, no matter the cost. God will give you the strength and provision you need to obey." Then, we prayed together.

I am so glad I gave the response that I did. He was obedient, and today, Barney Field is a leading minister in our city, a man who encourages fellow pastors and other churches to emulate godliness. Together, he and I have been instrumental in opposing the radical gay agenda our city's politicians have been promoting. Barney Field is a great example of the power of the prayer of submission.

Society does not encourage submission. Instead, our culture says, "Be your own person!" and "Do your own thing!" The prevailing mind-set does not make God a priority or view Him with reverence.

Prioritize God's Agenda above Your Personal Desires

To really pray the prayer of submission, you must see most of your desires as they truly are—opposed to God's. You have to admit that your flesh is weak. Too often, we think we are strong in our own power, and we assume that we are naturally prone to do the right thing. The Bible begs to differ. It tells us that mankind is in opposition to God. Thus, left on our own, we do the wrong things. We commit fornication and adultery. (Be honest—how many of you waited till you got married before you had sex?) Left to our own plans, we think of reasons to rob God of our tithes. We steal hours that should be spent working for our employers. When faced with "unwanted" pregnancies, we opt for abortion. If someone hurts our feelings, we harbor resentment instead of extending forgiveness. If we hear of some juicy scandal, we can't help but gossip about it. Then, there is drug addiction, alcohol abuse, pornography, overeating...the list goes on. The flesh is weak, indeed.

I bring up this point not to condemn you but to emphasize how selfish we are because of our weak flesh. Of course, we are good at spotting weaknesses in others, but rarely do we acknowledge our own.

I once received an e-mail with the following message: "I love your Internet site, with all the articles and TV shows, but I challenge you, Brother Tom, to offer your books free of charge."

I wrote back to the sender, saying, "I have another idea. Why don't you tell your boss that you will work for free?"

I haven't heard from him since. We love to think we are superior to others, but, in reality, we are just as weak as they are. This is why everyone must first learn to pray the prayer of submission in order to strengthen his prayer life and make it more effective.

Acknowledge and Repent of Disobedience

Jonah got himself into a whale of a mess. Like Jonah, you, too, may find yourself in a huge mess, whether your marriage is crumbling, your children are out of control, your finances are a bust, your body is sick, or your mind is confused. Imagine the deepest pit, and you'll get a sense of how Jonah must have felt. To make matters worse, he had only himself to blame for his position. Disobedience was the reason he found himself in the belly of a fish. Disobedience is costly! You can claim God's promises, rebuke the devil, and try to pray the prayer of faith, but no prayer will work until you have prayed the prayer of submission.

This is the prayer Jonah prayed in the belly of the fish: "*But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good*" (Jonah 2:9). Once God had heard

his prayer, the fish “vomited *Jonah onto dry land*” (Jonah 2:10). The prayer of submission will get you where you need to go.

God gave us His Word—the Bible—as a road map to navigate the winding path of life. Oftentimes, however, we find ourselves drifting off course because we fail to read the directions. It’s like trying to assemble a piece of furniture without reading the instructions. It will take longer, and you will probably end up having to dismantle your work and start all over again. Is that how your life feels? Does it seem like you are trying to build your life, only to have it come crashing down, so that you have to begin again? Try consulting the divine road map—the Bible! There is no point in attempting the prayer of faith or the prayer of petition until you have prayed the prayer of submission. Everything begins there!

Submit to the Lord above All Else

Beto joined our church when our congregation was very small. He’d been saved while serving time in prison, and he’d been ordained in the ministry. He had moved to El Paso to do some mission work across the border in Mexico. He and his wife offered to serve us in any way they could. We enjoyed their company and often had dinner with them. During one of our visits, Beto handed me a hundred dollars and told me that God had instructed him to give us this money for personal use, not for ministry. We thanked him for his gift.

A week later, I received a call from Beto. He screamed hysterically, “Pastor Brown, come to our house right now and cast out the devil from my wife!”

I assured him that we would be there as soon as possible. Then, I told Sonia that we needed to visit Beto and his wife.

As I reached for my keys, the Lord spoke to me and said, *Tom, take the hundred dollars with you.*

"Why?" I asked.

After you finish talking to them, Beto will ask for the money back. Give it back to him as a sign.

I put the hundred dollars in my pocket.

When we arrived at the house, Beto was pacing back and forth, shouting at the top of his lungs, "Cast out the devil from my wife!"

I tried to calm him. "What's wrong, Beto? Why do you think your wife needs deliverance?"

"Because she won't obey me! She won't listen to anything I tell her!"

I turned to his wife. "What's going on?"

She explained that Beto wanted her to sign a bank loan for a big purchase. He had a poor credit history and needed her higher score to secure the loan. "I don't think this purchase is wise," she added. "We do not have the money to make the payments."

Beto interrupted her, "It doesn't matter if we have the money or not; God said you must obey your husband. Do what I tell you to do, or else!"

"Or else what, Beto?" she asked.

He clenched his fist. "So help me, I'll put you in the hospital."

I reached out a hand to stop him and said, "Beto, you can't threaten your wife like that. Now, let's reason together about this."

"I don't want any discussion on this. I want my wife to sign the loan, period!" He continued his ranting and raving.

I tried my best to calm Beto, but he said, "Pastor, either you believe in wives obeying their husbands or you don't. Tell my wife she must obey."

"Beto, I can't just tell your wife she must sign her name on something without considering the wisdom of the purchase."

"Ah, so you don't believe in submission. Well, I don't want to go to a church that doesn't tell wives to obey their husbands in everything." Then, he looked at me angrily and added, "Pastor, I want you to give me back the hundred dollars I gave you."

As I reached into my front pocket and pulled out the money he had given me, I said, "Beto, God spoke to me and told me you would ask for this money back, because your heart is hard. Here is the money you gave us. This money will serve as a sign to you of your disobedience to God." We never saw Beto or his wife again.

Beto's wife did not need someone to pray a prayer of deliverance for her; rather, it was Beto who needed prayer—he needed to pray the prayer of submission.

You may be in the same position as Beto, thinking you need this prayer or that prayer, this money or that money; meanwhile, what you really need is to *submit* to the Lord. Why don't you do it right now? Kneel down, bow your head, and confess your disobedience to the Lord. Tell Him that you are ready to obey Him. Once you have prayed the prayer of submission with a sincere heart, you will find the strength to obey God.