

POWER TO PRAY

WITH CONFIDENCE



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Power to Pray with Confidence

A Black Mans Prayer

I read a story of a pastor - preaching at a revival - Who told about a story of a pastor calling on a black man to pray:

His Prayer:

God you are the great fixer

We are in fix

Fix us!

It is not my practice to analyze somebody's prayer, but I was so intrigued with this one, I thought I would try and dissect it to see what he may have been saying deep down but not voiced.

God as the **"Fixer"**: Acknowledging God's power to repair what is broken, whether it be a relationship, a community, or a person's spirit.

The Human **"Fix"**: Admitting that humanity is in a "fix"—a state of trouble, confusion, or sin—and requires divine intervention.

A Plea for Transformation: The request **"fix us"** often shifts the focus from fixing a situation to fixing the person first.

Prayer is not mindless activity; it is focused concentration.

Prayer Gains Strength When it is Shaped by Scripture

John 15:7 - If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

“If” – maybe you will, maybe you won't - it's a volitional choice (what will you do)

“abide in me” - this is referring to being filled with the Holy Spirit, staying in fellowship

The minute you accept Christ as your personal savior you start a relationship with God, you have fellowship with God. Relationship cannot be broken but fellowship can. When you sin, you break fellowship.

“My words abide in you” - this is referring to usable doctrine, all that you believe does not make it truth. Only the absolute truth of God's word. If you abide in me I will abide in you. (have fellowship with you)

“Asked what you desire” – you are benefited by asking. Don't ask don't expect results. (a answer)

And it will be done – from your prayer, you are benefited, and the reality of the prayer is answered.

You get back in fellowship by using 1 John 1:9 (confession of the sin committed)

To know the will of God, you must know the word of God.

The word of God empowers prayer by:

1. Aligning our desires with God's will.
2. Strengthening our faith.
3. Providing promises God has made, that we can – claim.
4. Correcting selfish motives
5. Successful prayer flows from a heart filled with Scripture.

Prayer

I. Prayer is a grace provision whereby we have the privilege to communicate directly with God.

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own **special people**, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

We represent ourselves to God. We do not have to go through any human being to go directly in the presence of God with our prayers. In the Old Testament, the people of Israel had to go through a priest to make the request known to God.

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

It does not mean disrespect. It means you, as a child who knows, the door is open to our heavenly father.

You don't have to hide your weakness from God.

You don't have to earn your way into His presence.

You don't have to fear rejection when you come.

“Come boldly” carries the idea of:

Confidence - the freedom to speak openly without fear.

Assurance - knowing you are welcomed, not merely tolerated.

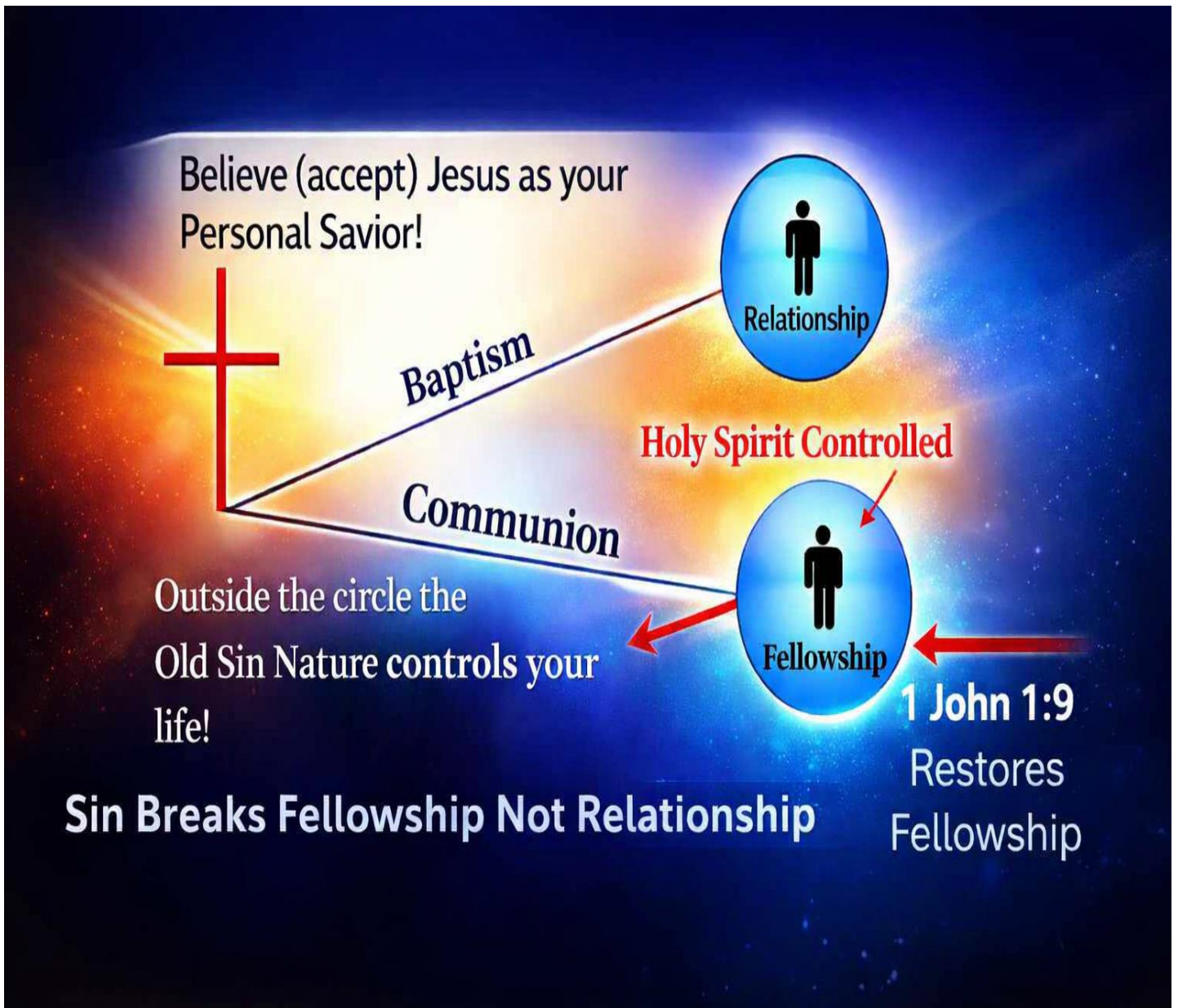
Boldness shows up in moments like:

Coming to God immediately after you fail, instead of hiding.

Asking for help when tempted. Bring your real emotions—fear, anger, and confusion without polishing them first.

Remember, the prayer line to God is always open - if your fellowship has not been broken due to some sin committed.

The two circles (Illustration) can help us understand how important prayer is: And how important is to pray Biblically.



A Simple Explanation of the Two Circles

1. Relationship: What God Establishes

The believer's **relationship** with God begins at the moment of salvation. It is **permanent, secure, and unchanging** because it is the work of God, not the work of man.

- **Baptism of the Spirit** — We are placed into Christ.
- **Union with Christ** — His life becomes our life (Gal. 2:20).
- **New Creation** — We are made new from the inside out (2 Cor. 5:17).
- **Sealed by the Spirit** — Our salvation is guaranteed (Eph. 1:13–14).

Relationship never changes.

2. Fellowship: What We Experience Daily

Fellowship is the believer's **daily closeness** with God. Unlike relationship, fellowship can be **strong, weak, or broken depending on whether we walk in the Spirit or in the flesh.**

Fellowship is strengthened by:

- **Communion with God**
- **Walking in the Spirit**
- **Obedience and Dependence**

Fellowship is broken by:

- **Sin**
- **The Old Sin Nature taking control**
- **Carnality** (1 Cor. 3:1–3)

Fellowship changes based on our walk.

3. How Fellowship Is Restored

When sin breaks fellowship, God provides a clear path back:

- **Confession of Sin** — Agreeing with God about our sin (1 John 1:9).
- **Dependence on the Spirit** — Returning to His control.
- **Renewed Walk** — Restored closeness and spiritual vitality.

Confession restores fellowship.

4. The Two Circles Diagram

- Left Circle: Relationship — Permanent, unchanging, secured by God.
- Right Circle: Fellowship — Daily experience, influenced by our walk.
- Sin breaks fellowship.
- Confession restores fellowship.

These simple visual captures the entire Christian walk: secure relationship, variable fellowship, Spirit-empowered living.

5. Final Summary

- Relationship is permanent.
- Fellowship is daily.
- Sin breaks it.
- Confession restores it.
- The Spirit empowers it.

“Walk in the Spirit.” — Galatians 5:16

II. Steps (continued)

A. It is to acknowledge our sin and God is not obligated to answer our prayer when living in sin. This is why it is so important when we do sin to immediately acknowledge it to God.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

“If” - maybe you will maybe you want

“we” confess our sins - to agree with, to say the same thing as, do not deny that you have sinned. Immediately confess it to God.

“He is faithful and just” - to forgive us our sins - the result of naming, omitting the sin we committed. God is always faithful to forgive our sins.

“cleanse” - to purge to purify. It means from the guilt, not the penalty.

“us from all unrighteousness” - when we confess known sins, all sins are covered that we fail to even mention, because they did not come into our memory.

This does not give us an excuse to sin. With sin in our life, we are not serving and pleasing Him. This is God's way of helping us grow up spiritually. God does not want you to fail in the Christian Life, but to be successful.

B. To express admiration and praise to God, thanking him for who he is. It is an expression of honor and gratitude for what God has done, doing and going to do in our life.

C. To give thanks for how much God has blessed your life. For what God is doing now, will do, and continue throughout our Christian life.

D. To intercede for others, to pray for others, those we know personally and those we do not know.

E. To convey our personal needs, praying for ourselves.

F. And to have an intimate conversation with God, to express what's on your mind. It means speaking with God in a way that reflects closeness, trust, and relational depth, not distance or formality. Intimacy and prayer marked by:

- Honesty - bringing your real thoughts, emotions, fears and desires without pretending.
- Closeness – approaching God the Father, not as a distant deity.
- Vulnerability – letting God see the parts of you that you usually hide from others. And remember God already knows.
- Listening – giving space for God to speak through His word, through the Holy Spirit and through the Absolutes of His Word.
- Alignment – wanting what he wants, not trying to persuade him to what you want.

This kind of relationship in Scripture describe in **James 4:8** - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

III. Prayer should be the highest priority in your life after learning the written Word of God. It is to be habitual, as needs arise, stop and pray.

Psalm 138:2 - I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

God has exalted His Word, His promises, His truth, His faithfulness so that his reputation is tied to the reliability of what he is spoken. In other words, God's character and his promises are inseparable.

He keeps His Word because His Name is Faithful. But if you do not learn to pray biblically, how will God honor your prayer.

IV. Our prayers often fall short not because God is unwilling, but because we are spiritually out of alignment, we don't understand his plan or His Will well enough to pray in harmony with it.

V. Prayer must be compatible with God's Way, not our will and our way.

Prayer is not about getting God to endorse our plans, preferences or emotional concerns.

Prayer is about bringing our thoughts, desires, and decisions into harmony with His character, His purposes and his timing.

James 4:2–3

2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

VI. We pray or should pray because we are commanded to.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 - pray without ceasing.

This verse refers to a person who has a intermittent cough. He may not be coughing every instant of the day, but there is always that little tingle at the back of the throat. Remember, prayer is not optional but a mandate, and all official order as part of our priesthood.

Prayer should be a regular part of your life and it is in your best interest to make prayer a habit. A new behavior becomes a habit when your brain has repeated it enough times that it shifts from effort to automatic. Most need about sixty-six days of consistent repetition, but the real range is much wider – 18 to 254 days, depending on the person. It places the emphasis on your volition, a reflection of your thinking, when you do not pray you are failing to solicit God's help to take advantage of it.

Make sure you are in fellowship, so if you have to pray in a moment's notice, you will be ready.

VII. Right or Wrong

A wrong thing done in a right way is wrong.

Only a right thing done in a right way is right..

All believers should pursue their prayer life with an intensity that overcomes all obstacles.

Does God Always Answer Prayers

1. Yes — God grants the request

This is the answer we love, and Scripture is full of it.

A “yes” is God’s affirmation that the request aligns with His will, timing, and purpose.

2. No — God denies the request

A “no” is God saying, *“I love you too much to give you that.”*

3. Wait — God delays the answer

Delay is not denial. It’s development.

Waiting seasons grow faith, patience, and dependence.

4. Grow — God shapes you before He answers

This answer is about spiritual formation.

5. My grace is enough — God gives Himself instead of what we asked for

This is not a “no,” but a **better yes**.

Sometimes God doesn’t change the situation—He changes the strength within you.

6. Not now — the timing is wrong

This is different from “wait.” “Wait” is about *you*. “Not now” is about *God’s timing*.

God’s timing is perfect even when ours is impatient.

7. I have something better — God redirects the request

Sometimes God answers by giving something different—and better—than what we asked. (A deeper understanding of number 7)

Here are the four methods which God uses to answer prayer.

1. Petition Granted Desire Not Granted

Psalm 106:15 - So He gave them their request, But sent a wasting disease among them.

In *Numbers 11* is the story of the Israelites wanting meat to eat. Their petition for meat was granted; but their desire for a pleasant experience was not answered.

In *1 Samuel 8*, the children of Israel asked for a king. They did not want to continue under God’s personal rule. Their petition to have a king was granted. Their desire to be like other nations and to have peace was not granted. Instead, they had strife and civil war as long as Saul was their king.

2. **Petition Not Granted** **Desire Granted**

In *Genesis 17:18*, Abraham asks that Ishmael might be his established heir. His petition was denied; but his desire for a son and heir was later granted in the birth of Isaac.

In *Genesis 18*, Abraham prays for God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah. His request was denied; but his desire that Lot and his family be safe was granted.
2 Corinthians 12:7-8

3. **Petition Granted** **Desire Granted**

In *1 Kings 18*, Elijah prayed that God would destroy the altar on which offering had been made to Baal. His desire was that God would be glorified. His petition and desire were granted.

Samson asked God to strengthen him so that he could have vengeance on his Philistine enemies. Both petition and desire were granted. But God had already decided to judge the Philistines.

One of the thieves on the Cross petitioned Christ, "Remember me..." His desire was for salvation. Both his petition and his desire were granted.

4. **Petition and Desire Denied**

God sometimes does not grant either the petition or the desire. *John 16:23-24*

The Lord uses a variety of means to bring about those things we desire for ourselves and for others. However, His responses take into account His knowing all there is to know about every situation and what is best for everyone concerned. God does not wait to come up with a solution to our problems! He already has a solution! His answers are sometimes obvious, but at other times they are quite subtle. When the believer is aware of the various ways God answers prayer, he is better able to recognize the answers to prayer.

God's "better" often exceeds our imagination.

8. Confess first — God pauses until the relationship is restored

This is not punishment; it's relational integrity.

God answers the prayer of repentance immediately (1 John 1:9).

9. Silence — God is working even when He seems quiet

Silence is still an answer.

Silence is often God saying, "*Trust Me in the dark.*"

What Repetitious Manner Means in Matthew 6:7

The key Greek word Jesus uses is (*battalogēsēte*). It's rare, almost certainly chosen for its vividness. It carries the idea of:

- **Empty repetition.**
- **Mindless rambling.**
- **Mechanical phrases with no heart.**
- **Piling up words thinking God is impressed by volume.**

It's not about *repeating* words; it's about **repeating words without meaning.**

What Jesus *is not* condemning?

Jesus is **not** forbidding:

- Repeating a prayer (Jesus repeats His own prayer in Gethsemane)
- Persistent prayer (He commands it in Luke 18)

The issue is not **repetition** but **emptiness**.

What Jesus *is* condemning

1. Pagan-style Prayers

Gentile religions often believed the gods responded to:

- Long, elaborate formulas
- Magical phrases
- Repeating names or titles to “activate” divine attention

2. Prayer without thought

The word suggests **saying things without engaging the mind or heart**—like spiritual autopilot.

3. Trying to manipulate God

The Gentiles believed the gods were reluctant, distracted, or forgetful. So, they used many words to get their attention.

Jesus says: *Your Father already knows. You don't have to convince Him.*

Why this matters for us today

This verse invites believers to pray:

- **Simply**
- **Honestly**
- **Thoughtfully**
- **Confidently**
- **As children, not performers**

It's less about the *form* of prayer and more about the *spirit* of prayer.

As we conclude this study on prayer, let us remember that prayer is not merely a ritual or a set of words - it is a living conversation with the Creator of the universe.

It is where our thoughts go to the Throne Room of Grace. Where our burdens are exchanged for His peace, and where our weakness is met with His strength. Prayer is both our lifeline and our compass, guiding us through seasons of joy and valleys of challenge.