

## Excerpt: Fervent Prayer

By: Patricia Marlett

### CHAPTER ONE

#### A FERVENT PRAYER

*The effectual fervent prayer of a  
righteous man availeth much.*  
James 5:16

The most sought after answer for the number one question asked among Christians today is why are prayers not always answered? Why is it when we pray and sometimes even gather prayer warriors, family, and friends to assist, there seemingly remains no answer from God?

Could our methodology to praying in actuality be in opposition to what God instructs; and thus, hindering our receiving an answer. Is it possible we are obstructing our own prayers. Are we more mindful to pray as we think we should rather than following the instructions given by our heavenly Father. Something to seriously ponder.

Surely, our ceaseless praying should render a response. After all, we have brought forth a plethora of people to make sure our prayers are heard. If we pray long enough, hard enough, and with much deliberation, it should garner God's attention and He will have to oblige because we show such diligence in our efforts. This is man's way, not the Father's instructions. Our prayers are important to God; however, more is not always better especially when it comes to the principles concerning the Kingdom of Heaven. It doesn't place us any closer to God.

We are missing a vital element of God's Kingdom precepts when we think our way is better than what God has said. If our thought is to help God with a gathering

of people, we are seriously misunderstanding His Word. Is it wrong to ask others to pray on our behalf? Not at all; however, their prayers should be spoken as God instructs, privately. Webster's dictionary defines prayer as a solemn request for help, or expression of thanks addressed to God or an object of worship. Therefore, a prayer is a means of communicating to God for the expressed purpose of asking, thanking, and also in daily fellowship with Him.

Our Father informs us exactly how we may come to Him, and He is very specific on this matter. God only requires one thing concerning prayers. He tells us to find a quiet place and speak to Him personally; an intimate time alone with Him. *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.* Matthew 6:6 These are the very words Jesus spoke to His disciples before He would leave them. His command is very straightforward and remains true today, for God's Word is constant, unchanging. God, Himself, is telling us how to approach Him; therefore, Jesus was speaking the Father's Word.

It appears the problem is within man, for we have an innate tendency to manipulate the Word of God to satisfy our perceived expectations. With our human thought and reliance on our fellow man, we adhere to the belief that the more people we gather together in prayer, the better the opportunity of an answer. Our traditional doctrines teach of implementing *prayer warriors* which is not the Father's spoken Word, but man's attempt to show faith.

If we continue to abide by man's specifications and not God's Word, then we need to be prepared for not receiving that which we ask. God already knows what's in our heart, what we have need of; therefore, the prayer isn't to gain His attention but is for our benefit. *Be not ye therefore like unto them; for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.* Matthew 6:8

Prayer is teaching us how to be dependent on God, to trust and rely solely on Him. Remember, He already knows what we will present; therefore, how we approach God is crucial to receiving. Our Father doesn't want us begging and pleading but rather find a quiet place when we speak with Him. He wants His children to come to Him with a trustworthy heart and mind thoughtful to His Word with steadfast faith knowing He is the One who has the answers we seek.

Once we have spoken to God about our problem, we are to leave the matter with Him and not interfere by attempting to handle the situation. We do not worry or become anxious, but have a heart of peace accepting that the problem has been resolved. All we are required to do is wait for the manifestation. When we rest in God's promise with a stance of letting go and letting God's power flow, we have manifested our faith. Any other position is one of unbelief and will negate His power. We can get in the way of our prayers.

For example, when people came to Jesus, they asked of Him personally, and typically, it was for a healing or a raising of the dead. In most cases, there were others present to hear the plea; however, they weren't gathered in prayer pleading and coercing Jesus to render a miracle. He answered the *one fervent prayer of the person in faith doing the asking*. There are many instances but consider the Centurion, or the woman with the issue of blood.

There were times when Jesus had to leave the town in order to heal, for the unbelief of the people therein. *And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.* Mark 8:23 Though we may think others are praying in faith on our behalf, if there is doubt (unbelief), then it has voided the results. It can be detrimental to the prayer which is why God instructs for a private meeting with Him.

How does God answer our prayer? God's answer is through His Spirit, the very omnipresence of His power. Nothing is created without the power of God. It was God as the Word who fashioned the heavens and the earth. God spoke and the Word manifested all that is. When God designed man of His Spirit, He presented Himself as Christ and as the Holy Spirit that He would always be with His children. God has never left His people, not the Israelites, nor the Gentiles in the four-thousand years depicted in the Old Testament, nor the remaining two-thousand years in the New Testament since Christ. We are the generation living in the remaining years of the six-thousandth year since the foundation, and God is still with His children. If you are not aware of what has been given to you in Christ and in the Holy Spirit, then you will remain without the promises that God provided when He created man.

What does God say? We are instructed to know what God has done on our behalf, what He gives and how He administers His blessings to His children. One of the obstacles to receiving is our *lack of knowledge* which leaves us void of His promises. *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee.* Hosea 4:6

This verse is in the Old Testament when the Israelites rejected God as their King. They whined and complain-ed about everything, but never praised Him as the God who took them out of bondage, loved them, and had a homeland prepared for them. They were a prideful people who didn't understand the love of God.

Today, we are still a prideful people who complain and accuse when God doesn't come forth with our desires. Just like the Israelites who refused God, we blame Him for our shortcomings. We hold Him hostage with our unbelief and assault Him with accusations of withholding His power when our prayer isn't answered.

As a people, we have failed miserably in our understanding God which has hampered an intimate relationship with Him. This is evident throughout the generations since Adam in the Garden of Eden, for we continue to be prodigal children. Even with God giving us a birth in His Spirit, we have not turned away from our old carnal self and accept the Spirit of God. We wander aimlessly searching for God, wanting His power, and in desperate need of His intervention not realizing He has been with us all along, never forgotten. In fact, so close, we don't see Him, nor feel His presence, never forsaken.

What has happened? We continue to reject rather than accept. We hold to the old, rather than seek the new; meaning, we are still living under the law of Moses, rather in the grace given by Jesus Christ. We admire biblical history as entertaining stories, but don't acknowledge the reality that God is exemplifying His Word through the lives of generations past. We are more comfortable with the proclamation of man's gospel than speaking with God personally, and then we wonder why we aren't receiving His blessings. We are modern day Israelites.

As a believer in the Son of God, we know Christ died on the Cross for our sins, and we agree salvation is eternal, but what does this mean in terms of God's promises? You are born of the Spirit of God and you are given the power of God, the Holy Spirit, who lives in your heart. Your natural body is now the temple of God. *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 1 Corinthians 6:9*

Simply stated, you have the power of God in you. The Holy Spirit responds to the person professing in prayer and supplication. In the Old Testament era before Christ, the Holy Spirit came upon someone and left. They did not have the Holy Spirit within them. Christ was the only person to have the Holy Spirit; and thus, could heal and perform miracles. Upon Jesus' baptism in Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended from the Kingdom of Heaven as a dove. *Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall show judgment to the Gentiles.* Matthew 12:18

When Jesus returned to the throne, He gave another Comforter to His disciples, for He explained He would no longer be with them but would send someone in His place. They weren't able to receive the Spirit of Christ after His crucifixion but were empowered with the Holy Spirit to continue His ministry. *And I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.* John 14:16-17 We know this was fifty days after His resurrection, the Day of Pentecost in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. As God placed His Spirit in His Son, and Christ sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples, so is the gift of the Holy Spirit given to you when you are born into the Kingdom of Heaven.

You now possess the Spirit of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. You are a new creation born of Spirit into God's spiritual Kingdom. At the birth of your spirit person, the first responsibility is to pray to the Father that you acknowledge His gift by asking for the Holy Spirit to be quickened, or awakened. The Holy Spirit, who is God, performs many functions in our life. The first is to teach about the Kingdom principles.

Unfortunately, many have not been taught about the Holy Spirit and are without His power; thus, it would be a challenge to have a prayer answered when the source hasn't been acknowledged. God is always providing to His children, but our carnal efforts will not release supernatural power. God has set forth the method to come before Him. It must always be your *spirit person* through the *Holy Spirit* to the *Spirit of God* to enter His *spiritual* Kingdom.

This is a key factor in prayers being answered. The Holy Spirit must be a participant to receive the blessings, gifts, and all the promises of the Father. Jesus performed no miracles or healing until He was baptized with the Holy Spirit, and it is the same for us today. We must also be baptized with the Holy Spirit that the power of the Kingdom of Heaven comes to Earth on our behalf.

This remains a reason why believers are without answered prayers. Here is a true story. A young couple's first child was born with an unknown condition that had doctors baffled and because they had no remedy, they pronounced the infant had a very short time to live. Being a couple of faith, they went to their pastor and asked that he and the elders of the church pray for their baby girl. They obliged and were so certain the child was healed, the pastor made a proclamation to the congregation that God had healed the baby. Within the week, the infant died. The following Sunday morning, the pastor made another announcement to the congregation and his words were: *I don't know why God didn't heal the baby, I was so sure he had, but it must have been His will that she not live.*

People accept this belief about God, but it is not His truth. God isn't taking your loved ones from you, ever. As long as you choose to believe a false perception, why would you expect Him to give you answered prayers when you believe it is His will to place harm in your life? God is a sovereign King; however, He is not dispensing ill-will upon you for any reason but rather grace flows whereby all His blessings are supplied. This is a perfect example of living under the law whereby wrath is dispensed rather than accepting all that Christ gave upon His death on the Cross.

There are factors in this story as to why the baby wasn't healed but the most prevalent is the lack of God's power through the Holy Spirit. It seems apparent that Kingdom supernatural power wasn't operating among anyone praying for this infant.

Another incident of prayers that were answered. A young couple whose baby boy was born with a heart condition and would eventually need open heart surgery. They also brought many to pray over their baby along with their own ongoing diligent prayers for three years, and yet, no answer was forthcoming. They didn't understand why God had not healed their son's heart. However, once they realized and accepted that it was God's will to heal and that God had not given them a child with a defective heart, they opened themselves to the truth of His Word.

They learned that what they believed was actually grounded in unbelief which restricted the power of God. The *lack of receiving was within their belief*, and they repented of their unbelief and accepted God's truth, whereby the one fervent prayer held in faith gave them the answer they sought. The young couple learned how to pray appropriately in belief and the power of God flowed through the Holy Spirit rendering their miracle. The next medical report taken on their son showed a perfect heart.

There are numerous stories of individuals healed of cancer; one report they have it and the next there is no evidence. What is the variance in these stories? The power of God released through the Holy Spirit to those who trust with unwavering faith. The truth in these stories is God never withholds His power from flowing into our life; however, we restrict the flow by what we believe. Anything other than believing He is always providing through what His Son did on the Cross is a restriction placing us in an unbelief status and will always negate belief. As believers, we think our faith is steadfast; however, if our faith isn't rendering results this is the moment to reevaluate for unbelief. Unbelief can manifest in many ways, and typically, unknowingly.

Therefore, acknowledge that God does not withhold from His children. His promises are in place and re-leased by living according to the principles of His Kingdom. Prayers are answered by aligning our belief according to His Word, so the answer is forthcoming. When praying for a situation and finding you aren't hearing from the Father, this is the juncture to seriously review what you hold to be your truth. Believing a false gospel presents unbelief which will void receiving an answer. The Holy Spirit, the very essence of Kingdom power, will not respond to erroneous belief.

The authority to approach the throne is in the Son, and the power flows through the Holy Spirit. *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.* 2 Peter 1:21 The Holy Spirit is with you at all times; therefore, God is always supplying. His blessings are within you because you have the provider of those gifts within you. Otherwise, how can a supernatural gift be given in your natural circumstance without an avenue to make it possible? Your Kingdom provision is within you!

Many doctrines do not teach of the Holy Spirit, so it renders pause in the first story to strongly consider that the Holy Spirit wasn't present in either the young couple nor the church affiliates, for if He was, there would have been a different outcome. Healing and miracles are gifts and the Holy Spirit does not withhold to those who seek Him in truth.

You can be a believer in Christ and have unbelief. Recall the disciples had an incident when they were unable to remove a demon spirit and asked Jesus privately why they could not. He answered and told them it was because of their unbelief. Though it may seem an oxymoron, but unbelief is prevalent in the believers' realm. Many Christians profess their belief, not realizing unbelief is present. Unbelief negates anything that belief provides.